

[Archives & Special Collections, Columbia University Health Sciences Library](#)

[Richard W. Clapp Papers](#)

**CLAPP, RICHARD W., 1945-
Papers, 1968-2001 (bulk 1968-1977)
.5 cubic feet (2 boxes)**

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE: Richard W. Clapp was born in 1945 in Lewiston, Maine, the son of a general surgeon. He received his A.B. from Dartmouth in 1967 and that Fall entered the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons (P&S) as a member of the Class of 1971. He was also an International Fellow at the Columbia University School of International Affairs from 1967 to 1970. He withdrew from P&S in 1970 without receiving a degree.

He later received degrees in public health from Harvard (MPH) and in epidemiology from Boston University (D.Sc.). Clapp served on the faculty of Boston University's School of Public Health for many years. As of the writing of this finding aid (2013), he remains active in a number of health activist groups, including Physicians for Social Responsibility.

SCOPE AND CONTENT: Records documenting Clapp's role as a student activist at the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons (P&S) in the late 1960s-early 1970s. Included are papers and essays on health care topics written by Clapp as a student; curriculum materials; flyers and newsletters; and records relating to his involvement in the Harlem School Health Project, an effort to provide free medical screening and follow-up medical care to students at a public school in Harlem.

Other materials are not directly related to his years in medical school but provide a good picture of leftist activity and thinking on U.S. health care issues in the late 1960s and early 1970s. These include his FBI file and publications from several leftist groups including a long run of the *Health/PAC Bulletin* (1968-77, with gaps). There is also a biographical sketch of his fellow P&S activist classmate, Alan Berkman (P&S 1971), based on an interview Clapp had with him in 2001.

ORGANIZATION: Organized in two series: I. Subject files; II. Publications.

LANGUAGE: English.

ACCESS: Unrestricted.

PROVENANCE: Gift of Richard W. Clapp, 2013 (acc. #2013.005)

Subjects

Berkman, Alan, 1945-

Clapp, Richard W., 1945-

Columbia University – Students – Political activity.

Columbia University. College of Physicians and Surgeons. Students.

Harlem (New York, N.Y.) – Social conditions – 20th century.

Health/PAC – Periodicals.

Medical care – United States.

Medical students – Political activity – United States.

Public health – United States.

Radicalism – United States.

Student movements – United States – History – 20th century.

Papers organized and finding aid written by Stephen E. Novak, 2013.

Clapp, Richard, 1945-
Papers, 1968-2001.

Box Fo.

SERIES I: SUBJECT FILES

- 1 1 Berkman, Alan: Interview, 2001; flyers & pamphlets, 1980s
- 2 Columbia University/Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center: Curriculum materials, flyers, *Iatrogenia* [student newsletter], ca. 1968-1969
- 3 Clapp FBI file, ca. 1970s
- 4 Harlem School Health Project: Proposals, reports, 1968-1969
- 5 Lectures, papers, essays, and other written material by Clapp, ca. 1968-1969

SERIES II: PUBLICATIONS

- 2 1 Printed material, miscellaneous, 1960s
- 2 *Billions for Band-Aids: An Analysis of the U.S. health care system and of proposals for its reform*, San Francisco Bay Area Chapter, Medical Committee for Human Rights, 1972
- 3 Burlage, Robb, "Toward a New Politics and Economics of Health," 1968
- 4 *Encounter: Bulletin of the Student Health Organizations*, v. 3, no. 1 (Spring 1968)
- 5-8 *Health/PAC Bulletin*, 1968-1977 [incomplete]
- 9 *HMO Packet IV: Ideology and Medicine*, ca. 1977
- 10 Lander, Louise, *National Health Insurance: A Health/PAC Report*, 1975
- 11 New York Medical Committee for Human Rights, *Medical Aid to Indochina*, 1971
- 12 Rosenberg, Ken, and Schiff, Gordon, eds., *The Politics of Health Care: A Bibliography*, ca. 1971
- 13 Rothstein, Peter, *The Closing of St. Francis Hospital*, 1968
- 14 Student Health Organizations, *Student Health Projects, Summer 1968*