

**University of Toronto Archives
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William Hodgson Ellis Fonds
B2014-0019

K. Cohen-Palacios, October 2014

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Biographical note

William Hodgson Ellis was born in Bakewell, Derbyshire, England on November 23, 1845 and passed away on August 23, 1920. In 1867, he graduated in Arts with the Gold Medal in Natural Sciences and would complete his Bachelors of Medicine in 1870.

He returned to Toronto in 1871, following a year abroad in England, to become a Professor of Chemistry at the Medical Faculty of Trinity College. In 1878, with the opening of the School of Practical Science, Ellis became an assistant Professor of Chemistry, giving up his lectureships in Trinity College, and was promoted to Professor of Applied Chemistry in 1887. He was lecturer in Toxicology from 1892 and Professor from 1897 to 1913. In 1907, when the School of Practical Science officially became the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering, Ellis was named Head of the Chemistry department. In 1914, Ellis was promoted to Dean of the Faculty. When he resigned in 1919, he was made LLD of both McGill and the University of Toronto, and Honorary Member of the Engineering Institute of Canada.

Outside of academia, Ellis was a Public Analyst for Inland Revenue Department for over 30 years between 1876-1907. During the same period, he also helped the department of the Attorney General by analysing many criminal cases with forensic science.

Ellis participated in many societies including being a Fellow at the Institute of Chemistry and of the Royal Society of Canada, President of the Canadian Institute, and President of the Canadian Section of the Society of Chemical Industry.

Scope and content

Date range: 1846-1912

Extent: 0.13m (1 box) of publications and textual material

The fonds consists of three notebooks with handwritten notes from Ellis, a 1921 publication by his daughter titled "A Family Record", and a book, titled "The Elements of Materia Medica & Therapeutics" by Johathan Pereira, marked with inscriptions. One notebook records his career in forensic science with his handwritten notes from criminal cases and correspondence with individuals such as the attorney general and coroner's offices.

Access: Open

Boxes: B2014-0019/001

Related material: B1978-1105, B1971-1000, B1965-0007

File listing

File number	File title	Date range
B2014-0019/001 (01)	Case Book	1896-1912
B2014-0019/001 (02)	Papers removed from case book	1881-1912
B2014-0019/001 (03)	William Hodgson Ellis: A Family Record – By His Daughter	1921
B2014-0019/001 (04)	Notebook: School of Practical Science Chemistry Laboratory	1904
B2014-0019/001 (05)	Small Brown Notebook	1872-1874
B2014-0019/001 (06)	The elements of Materia Medica & Therapeutics – Johnathan Pereira	1896