

Collection #  
M 0386

**LEON GROTIUS ZERFAS  
MATERIALS, CA. 1860S–1947**

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[www.indianahistory.org](http://www.indianahistory.org)

## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

**VOLUME OF COLLECTION:** Manuscript Materials: 1 half size document case  
Visual Materials: 1 OVB photograph folder,  
1 flip top box of 5x7 acetate negatives

**COLLECTION DATES:** Ca. 1860s–1947

**PROVENANCE:** Dr. L.G. Zerfas, Camby, Indiana, 1970;  
Indiana University School of Medicine, Indianapolis, 1982

**RESTRICTIONS:** The negatives are in cold storage and must be requested four hours before viewing. Researchers may view the negatives with a light table and assistance from a Library staff member.

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**ALTERNATE FORMATS:**

**RELATED HOLDINGS:**

**ACCESSION NUMBERS:** 1970.0043, 1982.0421

**NOTES:** Visuals were formerly in P0244

## **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

Leon Grotius Zerfas was born March 7, 1897, in Frankfort, Indiana (Clinton Co). He received his B.S., 1920, and M.D., 1922 from Indiana University. He later received a Ph.D. from Cambridge University in 1941. Zerfas worked at the Thorndyke Laboratory at Harvard University and served as the first director of the Lilly Laboratory for Clinical Research. Zerfas also taught at the Indiana University Medical School and maintained a private practice in Camby, Indiana in Marion County and Merom, Indiana in Sullivan County. He died in 1978 in Indianapolis.

The Medical College of Indiana at Indianapolis was organized in 1869 and by 1908 was merged with several other medical schools into the Indiana University School of Medicine. Dr. Joseph W. Marsee was a prominent Indiana surgeon who was on the board of trustees, faculty, and an officer of the Medical College of Indiana at Indianapolis. He died in 1898 at the age of fifty.

Sources:

Thompson, Donald E. *Indiana Authors and their Books, 1967- 1980.* (Crawfordsville: R.R. Donnelley, 1981).

[www.indiana.edu/~libarch/Inst/126inst.html](http://www.indiana.edu/~libarch/Inst/126inst.html)

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The manuscript materials span the years 1927 to 1947 and contain professional correspondence, mostly between L.G. Zerfas and Eli and J.K. Lilly, Jr. Inventories of opium, coca, etc., and special tax stamps for practitioners dispensing these drugs are also present. Government publications of both the U.S. Treasury Department, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture describe food and drug regulations. U.S. Internal Revenue drug order forms show Zerfas' requests. Also included is a handwritten chemistry notebook dated 1937.

The visual materials are comprised of copy negatives of 1860s men's portraits; some are named and identified as doctors. There is also one unidentified copy portrait, and an original group portrait of students at the Medical College of Indiana at Indianapolis. "Dr. Marsee" is written across the bottom margin of the group portrait but according to the accompanying note he does not appear to be in the group. Many students in the group are identified in the note with information that was provided by the donor, Dr. Zerfas. The two women in the group are not identified.

## **SERIES CONTENTS**

### **Series 1: Manuscript Materials, 1927–1947**

#### CONTENTS

Correspondence, 1927–1933

Correspondence and Papers, 1934–1935, 1947

Tax Stamps and Drug Inventories, 1930, 1942–1946

U.S. Government Publications Regulating Opium, etc.  
1930, 1938, 1939

Drug Request Order Forms, 1942–1944

Chemistry Notebook, 1937

#### CONTAINER

Box 1, Folder 1

Box 1, Folder 2

Box 1, Folder 3

Box 1, Folder 4

Box 1, Folder 5

Box 1, Folder 6

### **Series 2: Visual Materials, ca. 1860s, ca. 1890s**

#### CONTENTS

Thomas Jones Cogley  
[copies of 19th century images]

Jos. Cravens  
[copy of 19th century image]

Robert Cravens  
[copy of 19th century image]

Dr. Samuel Follis  
[copies of 19th century image]

Portraits of four unidentified men  
[copies of 19th century images]

Copy of written text with illegible signature

Copy photograph of unidentified man, ca. 1890s

#### CONTAINER

5x7 Acetate Negatives:  
Box 1, Envelopes 1, 2, 3

5x7 Acetate Negatives:  
Box 1, Envelope 4

5x7 Acetate Negatives:  
Box 1, Envelope 5

5x7 Acetate Negatives:  
Box 1, Envelopes 6, 7, 8

5x7 Acetate Negatives:  
Box 1, Envelopes 9, 10,  
11, 12

5x7 Acetate Negatives:  
Box 1, Envelope 13

OVB Photographs:  
Folder 1

"Medical College of Indiana at Indianapolis" ca. 1890s  
[group portrait, the following individuals are  
identified]

Dave Boxwell

J.D. Nichols [John?]

Eugene Davis

C.H.C. Poucher

J. Hollingsworth [John]

John W. Sluss

???? Beard

[William B.] Craig

H.I. Jones [Homer Illiad?]

OVB Photographs:  
Folder 1