

Severinghaus, Willard Leslie, 1882-1947.

Papers, 1895-1947.

4.5 linear ft (ca. 1,750 items in 9 boxes).

Willard Leslie Severinghaus (Columbia Ph.D., 1914), professor of physics at Columbia, 1919-1941. Elected Secretary of the Physical Society in 1929.

Organization: Selected materials cataloged; remainder arranged. Cataloged correspondence & a photograph & Arranged correspondence, by subject (Box 1); Manuscripts, documents, & miscellaneous (Box 2); Subject files & photographs (Box 3); Books, lantern slides, & card files (Box 4); & Books, glass slides, & notebooks (Box 5); Central Methodist Episcopal Church; family correspondence, diaries; diplomas, awards and printed materials (Boxes 6-9)

Summary: Correspondence, manuscripts, notes, notebooks, diaries, photographs, lantern slides, printed ephemera, and books documenting Willard Leslie Severinghaus' career in the field of physics (thermodynamics and electricity), as well as exceedingly rich documentation of a personal/business trip to Europe in 1927 with his wife, Frances Orr Severinghaus. The cataloged correspondence includes letters from: Richard Bentley; Nicholas Murray Butler; Albert Einstein; A.A. Michelson; Charles Montagu, 1st Earl of Halifax; Robert Oppenheimer; John William Strutt, third Baron Rayleigh; and August Weismann. His own correspondence files consists of letters from family and friends, professional correspondence with international colleagues; letters to his wife and the Orr family in 1927, from Europe, letters of condolence to Frances Orr Severinghaus on his death, and his last will and testament of 28 Jan. 1927.

Manuscript files include teaching notes and student lists; notebooks on physics, experiments, etc.; college notebook on biology and Willard Leslie Severinghaus notebooks and Frances Orr Severinghaus diary of their trip to Europe in 1927. Teaching materials; American Physical Society, 1939-1941; lightning; Moores Hill College, Moores Hill, Indiana; and telephotographs are included in the subject files. Biographical information includes the wedding announcement of Willard Leslie Severinghaus and Frances Orr; his obituary and letters relevant to his wife's teaching appointments. There are photographs of Severinghaus, his family, other scientists, laboratory equipment, the "Leonardo da Vinci Aircraft" exhibit, one identified group photograph of the "Cavendish Research" in 1926, 24 lantern slides (3 1/4 x 4 inches, glass) produced by the McAllister-Keller Company of New York, which appear to be a specially ordered lecture set on lightning & six slides for a lecture on thermodynamics. There is also a 75 item, A-Z student name and quiz grade card file, and 17 books from his library.

Gift of Mrs J. Walter Severinghaus, 1988.

Gift of Helen Severinghaus, 1990.

Permission to publish materials must be obtained in writing from the Librarian for Rare Books and Manuscripts.

Finding aids: Card catalog and box list (2p.) available in Library.

1. Bentley, Richard, 1662-1742 2. Butler, Nicholas Murray, 1862-1947. 3. Einstein, Albert, 1879-1955. 4. Michelson, Albert Abraham, 1852-1931 5. Halifax, Charles Montagu, Earl of, 1661-1715 6. Oppenheimer, J. Robert, 1904-

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1967. 7. Rayleigh, John William Strutt, Baron, 1842-1919 8. Weismann, August, 1834-1914 9. Moores Hill College 10. American Physical Society 11. Thermodynamics 12. Electricity 13. Physics 14. Correspondence. 15. Diaries. 16. Examinations. 17. Glass phototransparencies. 18. Itineraries. 19. Lantern slides. 20. Leases. 21. Lists. 22. Notebooks. 23. Notes. 24. Photographs. 25. Receipts. 26. Wills. 27. Physicists--United States--20th century. 28. College teachers

ID: NYCR88-A103

JHR-8/90

SEVERINGHAUS, Willard Leslie

Box 1 Cataloged Correspondence:
Bentley, Richard, (1662-1742)
Butler, Nicolas Murray
Einstein, Albert
Michelson, Albert Abraham
Montague, Charles, 1st Earl of Halifax
Oppenheimer, Robert
Strutt, John William, 3rd Baron Rayleigh
Weismann, August

Cataloged photograph:
Butler, Nicolas Murray

Correspondence (arranged according to subject):
American Physical Society
Columbia University
Columbia University/leave of absence/disability/retirement
Teacher's College, lease of apartment, 1940-41
Willard L. to/from Frances Orr
W.L.S. and F.O.S. European trip 1927, mention various eminent physicists
W.L.S. and F.O.S. to family from Europe, 1927
Letters of condolence to Mrs. W.L. Severinghaus, Sept. 1947. 2 folders

Correspondence (arranged alphabetically):
19 folders

Document:
Willard Severinghaus's last will and testament

Box 2 Examinations written c. 1901-03

Memorabilia

Notes:

Misc./Travel/Financial/, etc.
Physics, etc.
Travel

Notebooks:

Biology study at German Wallace College 1903-04
High School Studies
Mathematics, Science, Zoology
Notebook and travel diary - 1927
Physics, student lists, etc.

Receipts for equipment and lab supplies

"Scientific Laboratories the Length and Breadth of North America"-1940

Travel Itinerary - 1940

"Trial and Error" - 1932

Box 3 Subject files:

American Physical Society 1939-40

Lightning

Miller, Dayton C. "The Spirit and Service of Science" - 1936

Moore's Hill College, Moore's Hill, Indiana - Teaching Materials
Moore's Hill - Glee Club, Activities, etc.
Telephotographs

Biographical (2 folders)

Frances Orr Severinghaus - Biographical

Newspaper clippings - Physics, etc. - c. 1928-40

Photographs:

Willard Leslie Severinghaus (2 folders)

Severinghaus and family (some from childhood)

Frances Orr Severinghaus

Cavendish Research

Home and family (also includes painting)

Laboratory equipment

"Leonardo da Vinci Aircraft" exhibit

Miscellaneous

Scientists and laboratory equipment (Leyden)

- Box 4: 12 books from his library
24 lantern slides (lightning)
Card files: student names and quiz grades, 1905-06
- Box 5: 5 books from his childhood library
6 glass slides (thermodynamics?)
7 notebooks mostly from childhood and college
- Box 6: Central German Methodist Episcopal Church: Book of disbursement records, 1930-33
Central German Methodist Episcopal Church: Minutes of the Central German
C Conference, 1929
Central German Methodist Episcopal Church: Record Book: Baptisms (1890-1938);
Marriages (1889-1938)
Severinghaus, A.E.: Biographical material
Severinghaus, A.E.: Alpha Epsilon Delta award material
Severinghaus, C.E.: correspondence regarding Central German Methodist Episcopal
Church
Severinghaus family: correspondence
Severinghaus family: miscellaneous printed material
- Box 7: Diaries, datebooks, memoranda:
Severinghaus, C.E.
Severinghaus, J.F.

1902-1979
- Box 8: Severinghaus, C.E.: document: last will and testament
Photo: Central German Methodist Episcopal Church Conference, 1911
Book: Twenty Years' History of the Woman's Home Missionary Society of the Methodist
Episcopal Church
Book: Book of Psalms
- Box 9: Memorabilia
Diplomas and Awards