Collection Summary
Title: Philip Hauge Abelson Papers
Span Dates: 1939-2002
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1970-1989)
ID No.: MSS84803
Creator: Abelson, Philip Hauge
Extent: 16,100 items; 46 containers; 18.4 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
Summary: Nuclear physicist, chemist, and editor. Correspondence, notes, reports, speeches and writings, and other papers documenting Abelson's contribution to scientific policy-making through committees, organizations, and publications.

Selected Search Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People
Abelson, Philip Hauge.

Organizations
American Association for the Advancement of Science.
American Geophysical Union.
Bio-energy Council.
Carnegie Institution of Washington.
Jet Propulsion Laboratory (U.S.)
National Academy of Sciences (U.S.)

Subjects
Science--Societies, etc.
Science.

Titles
Science.

Occupations
Chemists.
Editors.
Nuclear physicists.

Administrative Information
Provenance
The papers of Philip Hauge Abelson, nuclear physicist, chemist, and editor, were given to the Library of Congress by Abelson in 2001 and 2002.

Copyright Status
Copyright in the unpublished writings of Philip Hauge Abelson in these papers and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress has been dedicated to the public.
Access and Restrictions

The papers of Philip Hauge Abelson are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Philip Hauge Abelson Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1913, Apr. 27</td>
<td>Born, Tacoma, Wash.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1935</td>
<td>M.S., Washington State University, Pullman, Wash.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1936</td>
<td>Married Neva Martin (died 2000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1939</td>
<td>Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley, Calif.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940</td>
<td>Codiscoverer with Edwin M. McMillan of Element 93 (Neptunium)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1941-1945</td>
<td>Associate physicist, physicist, senior physicist, and principal physicist, Naval Research Laboratory, Washington, D.C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1945</td>
<td>Awarded U.S. Navy Distinguished Civilian Service Medal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1946-1953</td>
<td>Chairman, Biophysics Section, Department of Terrestrial Magnetism, Carnegie Institution of Washington, Washington, D.C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1953-1971</td>
<td>Director, Geophysics Laboratory, Carnegie Institution of Washington, Washington, D.C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1959</td>
<td>Elected to National Academy of Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960-1963</td>
<td>General Advisory Committee, Atomic Energy Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1962-1984</td>
<td>Editor, Science magazine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1968-1981</td>
<td>Council member, National Academy of Sciences, with a seven-year absence from 1971 to 1978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1972</td>
<td>Awarded Kalinga Prize, UNESCO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1978-1980</td>
<td>Chairman, Board of Trustees, Bio-Energy Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1984</td>
<td>Received Distinguished Public Service Award, National Science Foundation</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Scope and Content Note

The papers of Philip Hauge Abelson (1913- ) span the years 1939-2002, with the bulk of the material dating from 1970 to 1989. The papers are organized in the following series: Committees and Organizations, Science Magazine, Speeches and Writings, and a Miscellany consisting of awards, biographical material, general correspondence, photographs, and printed material.

The Committees and Organizations series contains correspondence, financial records, grant proposals, minutes, publications, and reports relating to Abelson's participation in scientific professional organizations and advisory committees. Notable organizations include the American Geophysical Union, Bio-Energy Council, Carnegie Institution of Washington, International Union of Geological Sciences, Jet Propulsion Laboratory at the California Institute of Technology, and the National Academy of Sciences.

The Science Magazine series consists of texts of editorials written by Abelson during his tenure as editor of the chief publication of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. An index to the editorials is included. The correspondence primarily contains reactions of the general public and the scientific community to opinions voiced by Abelson in his editorials. As editor of this important publication, Abelson visited both foreign and domestic research laboratories. His notes and correspondence regarding these trips are included.

The Speeches and Writings series contains chiefly texts of speeches given by Abelson to educational institutions, private companies, and scientific organizations. Also included are articles written for publications other than Science and correspondence regarding two of Abelson's books.

Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in four series:

- Committees and Organizations, 1946-2001
- Speeches and Writings, 1950-1999
- Miscellany, 1939-2002
Description of Series

**Container**  
**Series**

**BOX 1-24**  
**Committees and Organizations, 1946-2001**  
Correspondence, financial records, grant proposals, minutes, publications, and reports relating to Abelson's participation in scientific professional organizations and advisory committees. Arranged alphabetically by name of committee or organization and therein chronologically.

**BOX 25-36**  
**Science Magazine, 1962-2000**  
Texts of editorials written by Abelson, correspondence in reaction to his editorials, and notes taken on business trips. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and therein chronologically.

**BOX 36-42**  
**Speeches and Writings, 1950-1999**  
Articles, books, and texts of speeches along with related correspondence and administrative material. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and therein chronologically.

**BOX 42-46**  
**Miscellany, 1939-2002**  
Awards, biographical material, general correspondence consisting primarily of invitations to speak, photographs, and printed matter. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and therein chronologically.
## Container List

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Container</th>
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</table>
| BOX 1-24  | **Committees and Organizations, 1946-2001**
Correspondence, financial records, grant proposals, minutes, publications, and reports relating to Abelson's participation in scientific professional organizations and advisory committees. Arranged alphabetically by name of committee or organization and therein chronologically. |
| BOX 1     | Ad Hoc Geological Committee on Remote Sensing from Space, 1975-1976  
Advisory Committee, American University, Washington, D.C., 1973  
Advisory Panel on the Documentation, Dissemination, and Use of Research and Development Results, 1963-1964, undated  
(4 folders)  
American Chemical Manufacturers Association, 1980  
American Council on Education, 1978  
American Geophysical Union  
1973-1979  
| BOX 2     | 1980-1983  
(6 folders)  
American Philosophical Society, 1973-1979  
Bio-Energy Council  
Correspondence  
1977 |
| BOX 3     | 1978-1979  
(7 folders)  
| BOX 4     | Grant proposals, 1979-1980, undated  
(7 folders) |
| BOX 5     | Meeting minutes, 1978-1979  
Miscellany, 1979-1980, undated  
Carnegie Institution of Washington, Washington, D.C.  
News releases and printed matter, 1962-1963, undated  
Reports  
Director of the Department of Terrestrial Magnetism, 1946-1954  
(2 folders)  
Director of the Geophysical Laboratory  
1953-1963  
(2 folders) |
| BOX 6     | 1963-1969  
(6 folders) |
| BOX 7     | 1969-1971  
(2 folders) |
General Electric Corporate Research and Development, 1977-1978, undated
(4 folders)
President
1946, 1956-1961

BOX 8
1964-1977
(2 folders)
Specialized Conference on the Application of Science and Technology to Latin American Development, Brasilia, Brazil, 1972
(3 folders)

BOX 9
Studies of Biosynthesis in Escherichia Coli, 1963
Chemical Industry Institute of Toxicology, Research Triangle Park, N.C., 1979, 1985
Council on Science and Technology for Development
1977-1979
(5 folders)

BOX 10
1980-1981, undated
Energy Information Administration, 1979
Geological Survey of Canada, 1979
International Union of Geological Sciences
1972-1979
(3 folders)
1980
Jan.-Mar.

BOX 11
Apr.-Nov.
(2 folders)
Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, Calif.
Correspondence, 1976-1984
(3 folders)
Notes, 2001
Photographs, 1978-1980
Printed matter
1978-1980

BOX 12
1981, undated
National Academy of Public Administration, 1978-1984
(4 folders)
National Academy of Sciences
Awards, 1981-1982
Committee on an Aging Society, 1982-1983
Committee to Review the Office of Information, 1982
Congressional endowment proposal, 1980
Correspondence
1978

BOX 13
1979-1980
(7 folders)
Committees and Organizations, 1946-2001

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| BOX 14    | 1981-1984  
           | (4 folders)  
           | Finance Committee, 1974-1979  
           | Geology Section, 1979-1983  
           | (2 folders)  
           | Institute of Medicine, 1973-1982  
           | Meeting minutes  
           | 1978 |
| BOX 15    | 1979-1981  
           | (6 folders)  
           | National Research Council  
           | Advisory Committee on International Investment, Technology, and Development  
           | 1980 |
| BOX 16    | 1981-1983  
           | Biomass Substitutes for Liquid Fuels Symposium, Campinas, Brazil, 1981-1982  
           | (2 folders)  
           | Climate Research Board, 1980-1984  
           | (3 folders) |
| BOX 17    | Commission on International Relations, 1976-1981  
           | Commission on Natural Resources  
           | Board on Mineral and Energy Resources, 1975-1980  
           | (4 folders)  
           | Miscellany, 1979 |
| BOX 18    | Committee on Abiogenic Methane, 1979  
           | (2 folders)  
           | Committee on Geology, 1979  
           | Committee on Internal Management Structure, 1981-1982  
           | Committee on International Human Resources Issues, 1979  
           | Division of Earth Sciences, 1973-1975  
           | Division of Medical Sciences  
           | Committee on Radiation Cataracts, 1949-1955  
           | Subcommittee on Shock, 1950-1953  
           | (2 folders)  
           | Geological Sciences Board, 1979-1983, undated  
           | Geophysics Research Board  
           | 1973-1978 |
| BOX 19    | 1979  
           | (6 folders) |
| BOX 20    | 1980-1984, undated  
           | (8 folders) |
| BOX 21    | Governing Board meeting, 1979  
           | (2 folders)  
           | Miscellany, 1973, 1979  
           | U.S. National Committee for the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics,  
           | Printed matter, 1978-1983  
           | (3 folders) |
Treasurer's reports, 1979-1981
National Commission on Air Quality, 1981

BOX 22
(2 folders)
Phi Beta Kappa, 1979-1982, undated
President's Science Advisory Committee, 1980
(5 folders)
Strategic Arms Limitations Talks (SALT), 1979
United States Association for the Club of Rome
1977

BOX 23
United States Association for the Club of Rome
1978-1981
(5 folders)
United States Congress, Office of Technology Assessment, 1978-1979
(2 folders)

BOX 24
United States Navy, Naval Research Laboratory, Washington, D.C.
Atomic Energy Submarine, 1946
(4 folders)

BOX 25-36
Texts of editorials written by Abelson, correspondence in reaction to his editorials, and notes taken on business trips.
Arranged alphabetically by type of material and therein chronologically.

BOX 25
Correspondence
1962
(2 folders)
1963
Jan.-Aug.
(6 folders)

BOX 26
Sept.-Dec.
(2 folders)
1964-1965
(6 folders)

BOX 27
1966-1969
(8 folders)

BOX 28
1970-1972
(9 folders)

BOX 29
1973-1974
(8 folders)

BOX 30
1975-1985, undated
(8 folders)

BOX 31
Editorials
Index, 1962-2000
(2 folders)
1962-1971
(7 folders)

BOX 32
1972-1973
(7 folders)

BOX 33
1974-1987
(7 folders)

BOX 34
1988-2000
(2 folders)

Trips
California, 1962
China, 1978-1979
(2 folders)

BOX 35
India and Thailand, 1984
(3 folders)

Research laboratories
Bell Laboratories, 1964, 1979
E.I. DuPont de Nemours and Co., 1978, undated
Exxon Research and Engineering Co., 1978
General Electric Co., 1975-1978
General Motors Research Laboratories, 1977-1979
International Business Machines Corp., 1978
Miscellany, 1978-1983, undated

BOX 36
Texas Instruments, 1978
3M Co., 1979

BOX 36-42 Speeches and Writings, 1950-1999
Articles, books, and texts of speeches along with related correspondence and administrative material.
Arranged alphabetically by type of material and therein chronologically.

BOX 36
Articles
1950-1992
(7 folders)

BOX 37
1993-1999, undated
(2 folders)

Books
Energy: Uses, Conservation, and Supply, 1974

Speech file
1963-1964
(4 folders)

BOX 38
1965-1973
(9 folders)

BOX 39
1974-1979
(7 folders)
## Speeches and Writings, 1950-1999

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| BOX 40 | 1980-1981  
1882  
Jan.-May |
| BOX 41 | July-Nov.  
(4 folders)  
1983-1990  
(4 folders) |
| BOX 42 | 1991-1999, undated  
(3 folders) |
| BOX 42-46 | **Miscellany, 1939-2002**  
Awards, biographical material, general correspondence consisting primarily of invitations to speak, photographs, and printed matter.  
Arranged alphabetically by type of material and therein chronologically. |
| BOX 42 | Abelson, Neva, 1991-2000, undated  
Appointment books and calendars, 1963-1979  
(5 folders) |
| BOX 43 | Awards and honors, 1962-1963, 1974-1995  
Biographical material  
Autobiography, 1997, undated  
Oral history transcripts, 2002, undated  
Correspondence  
1962-1970  
(6 folders) |
| BOX 44 | 1971-1976  
(10 folders)  
1977  
Jan.-Sept.  
(2 folders) |
1978-1981  
(6 folders)  
1983  
Jan.-Apr.  
(2 folders) |
| BOX 46 | May-Dec.  
(2 folders)  
(3 folders)  
Photographs, 1939, 1968, 1984, undated  
(2 folders) |