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Bergen Davis papers 4078681

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on January 13, 2025.

Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Butler Library, 6th Floor
Columbia University, Mail Code 1127
535 W. 114th St.
New York, NY 10027
Business Number: (212) 854-5153
Fax Number: (212) 854-1365
rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu
URL: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/rbml/index.html>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
Creator:	Davis, Bergen, 1869-1958
Title:	Bergen Davis papers
ID:	4078681
ID:	MS#0327
Date [inclusive]:	1898-1960
Physical Description:	1.83 linear feet 2 manuscript boxes and one record carton
Language of the Material:	English .

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Bergen Davis papers; Box and Folder; Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

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Biographical Note

Professor of Physics, Columbia University, 1903-1939 (Columbia University A.M., 1900; Ph.D., 1901; D.D. Sc., 1929). Married Marie Clark in 1927.

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Summary

Professional papers of Davis, including correspondence, manuscripts, photographs, memorabilia, and printed materials. The correspondence consists chiefly of Davis' typescript carbons of his letters to Columbia colleagues, other physicists, and other individuals at various manufacturers of equipment. The topics covered deal with Columbia students, faculty, course

and research work, and his life long interest in the study of x-rays. The majority of these files cover the years 1914 to 1921 and 1932 to 1936. The cataloged letters include one each from Michael I. Pupin, Isidor I. Rabi, and Robert Simpson Woodward, one lengthy letter from Davis, and ten letters from Nicholas M. Butler. Also included are letters from Marie Clark Davis relating to the research of Lucy J. Hayner and Harold Webb for Webb's biography of Davis that appeared in the National Academy of Sciences' BIOGRAPHICAL MEMOIRS (v. 34, 1960) along with extensive notes, bibliographies and manuscript and typescript versions of Webb's article. There are also manuscripts, typescripts, and notes by Davis relating to his research and writings, photographs of Davis and of his x-ray spectograph, and clippings and memorabilia of his life and work.

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Arrangement

The collection is arranged into two series.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Revision Description

xml document instance created by Judi Zupnick EAD was imported Spring 2019 as part of the ArchivesSpace Phase II migration. Added Series III. Addition, formerly part of the University Archives' Department of Physics records (UA# 0021). 2012-05-22 2019-05-20 2020-10-29

Restrictions on Access

The following boxes are located offsite: Boxes 2-3. You will need to request this material from the Rare Book and Manuscript Library at least two business days in advance to use the collection in the Rare Book and Manuscript Library reading room.

Restrictions on Access

This collection has no restrictions.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Source of acquisition--Physics Department. Method of acquisition--Gift; Date of acquisition--1978. Accession number--M-78.

Ownership and Custodial History

Gift of the Columbia University Physics Department, 1978; transferred from the Pegram Papers, 1979.

Processing Information

Cataloged Christina Hilton Fenn 06/--/89.

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Accruals

Materials may have been added to the collection since this finding aid was prepared. Contact rbml@columbia.edu for more information.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Physics -- Study and teaching
- X-rays -- Research
- Photographs
- Pupin, Michael, 1858-1935
- Rabi, I. I (Isidor Isaac), 1898-1988

- Woodward, Robert Simpson, 1849-1924
- Butler, Nicholas Murray, 1862-1947
- Hayner, Lucy Julia, 1898-1971
- Webb, H. B (Harold B.)
- Columbia University -- Faculty
- Columbia University -- Students
- Pegram, George Braxton, 1876-1958

Collection Inventory

Series I: Correspondence, 1914-1954

Subseries I.1: Cataloged Correspondence

Title/Description	Instances
Davis, Bergen	box 1
Butler, Nicholas Murray	box 1
Pupin, Michael Idvorsky	box 1
Rabi, Isidor Isaac	box 1
Woodward, Robert Simpson	box 1

Subseries I.2: Uncataloged Correspondence

Title/Description	Instances
Incoming, 1926-1954	box 1
Outgoing, 1914-1936 <u>Physical Description</u> : 11 folders	box 1
Marie Clark Davis (Mrs. Bergen Davis)	box 1

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Series II: Documents and Photographs

Title/Description	Instances
Manuscripts	box 2
Biographical	box 2
Memorabilia	box 2
Photographs	box 2
Printed Materials	box 2

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Series III: Addition, 1901-1955

Scope and Contents

The records in this series were transferred from the Rare Book and Manuscript Library to the University Archives in 1997. In Fall 2020, they were reunited with the rest of the collection. These records include photographs, articles, correspondence, and writings by Prof. Davis.

Title/Description	Instances
Blueprints for scientific instruments, 1927-1933	box 3
Scope and Contents	
(Condenser plates and generator)	
Cavendish Physical Laboratories	
Photograph of a group of scientists including Bergen Davis, 1902	box 3
Scope and Contents	
(Names included)	
Post-prandial proceedings (poems/song lyrics), circa 1907	box 3
Scope and Contents	
(Sent to Bergen by O.W. Richardson)	
Correspondence	
Compton, Arthur H.	
The Reflection Coefficient of Monochromatic X-Rays from Rocksalt and Calcite, 1917-1921	box 3
Possible Method of Determining the Nature and Origins of Cosmic Rays, 1932	box 3
Kellogg, Jerome, 1937 September 3	box 3
Scope and Contents	
(Biographical sketch of M.I. Pupin)	
Correspondence re: Professor Davis's article on Michael I. Pupin, 1937-1938	box 3
Hallock, Professor William, undated	box 3

Scope and Contents

(Photograph)

Gottingen, Germany

Photographs, 1901-1902	box 3
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Subjects and faculty names, 1901-1902	box 3
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Scope and Contents

(Davis's notebook)

Pegram, Professor George B., 1907-1955	box 3
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Scope and Contents

(Au revoir dinner program, photograph circa 1920, obituary and Pegram lab article)

Printed Materials

Articles about M.I. Pupin, 1932-1938	box 3
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Articles by M.I. Pupin, 1920-1933	box 3
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Scope and Contents

(Offprints)

"Bergen Davis 1869-1958. A Biographical Memoir" by Harold W. Webb, 1960	box 3
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Scope and Contents

(National Academy of Sciences, reprinted from Biographical Memoirs, Volume XXXIV)

Testimonial dinner programs, 1925-1937	box 3
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Scope and Contents

(Edward Dean Adams, Charles P. Berkey, Hendrik Antoon Lorentz)

Writings by Professor Davis

Continuous X-Ray Spectrum, undated	box 3
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Scope and Contents

(Manuscript)

The Grating Space of Some Crystals, undated	box 3
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International Peace and Research in the Physical-Chemical Sciences, undated	box 3
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Minute in Memory of Professor Albert Potter Wills, 1937	box 3
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Scope and Contents

(Includes photograph of Professor Mills, circa 1920, and a list of his graduate students. Presented to the Faculty of the School of Engineering)

A Proposed Investigation into the Nature of Cosmic Rays, undated	box 3
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Michael Idvorsky Pupin memoir by Bergen Davis	
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Manuscript, undated	box 3
Scope and Contents	
(Includes lists of publications and patents)	
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Typescript, undated	box 3
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Reflectivity of Crystals for X-Rays, undated	box 3
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A Suggested Method of Determining the Nature of Cosmic Rays, undated	box 3

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