



# ArchivesSpace

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## Ralph S. Halford papers4078852

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This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on January 15, 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](mailto:rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu)

URL: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/rbml/index.html>

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## Table of Contents

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Summary Information .....	3
Biographical / Historical .....	3
Summary .....	4
Arrangement .....	4
Administrative Information .....	4
Controlled Access Headings .....	6
Collection Inventory .....	6
Series I: Ralph S. Halford papers .....	6

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
<b>Creator:</b>	Halford, Ralph S., 1914-1978
<b>Title:</b>	Ralph S. Halford papers
<b>ID:</b>	4078852
<b>ID:</b>	MS#0536
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1936-1975 [bulk dates: 1940-1959]
<b>Physical Description:</b>	0.83 linear feet 2 document boxes
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English .

### Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Ralph S. Halford papers; Box and Folder; Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Libraries.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Biographical / Historical

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Ralph Stanley Halford was born in Vallejo, California in 1914. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree chemistry in 1935 and a Ph.D. in 1938 from the University of California at Berkeley. He lectured in chemistry for two years at Berkeley before becoming a national research fellow at Harvard, where he later became an instructor and then a lecturer.

He joined the faculty at Columbia University in 1946 as an associate professor of chemistry and was named full professor in 1952. In that year he was awarded a Guggenheim fellowship and from 1957 to 1959 he was chairman of the chemistry department. While chairman he developed a program that permitted exceptionally able students to earn Ph.D. in chemistry in two years after graduation.

In 1959 he became vice provost for projects and grants and in 1961 he was appointed Dean of the Graduate Faculties now known as the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. In 1967 he was appointed special assistant to the president of Columbia for special projects. The following year he was named vice president for special projects, a post he held until his retirement

in 1977. At the time of his retirement the Trustees named him dean emeritus and professor emeritus.

Halford passed away in Manhattan at age 64 on December 7, 1978 after a long illness.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Summary

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Correspondence, manuscripts, typescripts, conference papers, scientific drawings, photographs, and printed material. This collection consists chiefly of Halford's manuscripts and typescripts of his writings for scientific journals and papers presented at various conferences and symposiums with related correspondence of colleagues. Also included are files on the teaching of chemistry with reference to practices at Columbia, photographs of his spectrometers, a copy of his patent for Recording Spectrometers, and a file relating to his participation in a 1959 panel discussion on the future of education sponsored by the Barnard College and Columbia Alumni Clubs of Chicago. The printed material includes reprints and accompanying bibliography of Halford's writings. Also, a photograph taken by Jack Aeby at the test site of the atomic bomb, Alamogordo, N.M., 16 July 1945 has been added to the collection.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Arrangement

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Cataloged and arranged. Folders are organized alphabetically by folder title across the two document boxes.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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### **Revision Description**

(4) folders of Quarterly Reports on Crystal Chemical Physics were added to Box 2 of the collection. Material sent to Columbia from Penn State Libraries and handed over to the RBML by Amanda Bielskas. Container list and EAD finding aid published by Jocelyn Wilk. August 2023 August 2023

### **Restrictions on Access**

The following box is located off-site: Box 2. You will need to request this material from the Rare Book and Manuscript Library at least three 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.

### **Terms Governing Use and Reproduction**

Reproductions may be made for research purposes. The RBML maintains ownership of the physical material only. Copyright remains with the creator and his/her heirs. The responsibility to secure copyright permission rests with the patron.

### **Immediate Source of Acquisition**

Source of acquisition--Halford, Mrs. Ralph S. via Chemistry Library. Method of acquisition--Gift; Date of acquisition--1980. Accession number--M-80.

### **Processing Information**

Cataloged Christina Hilton Fenn 06/--/89. EAD finding aid created by Jocelyn Wilk in August 2023.

### **Accruals**

Materials may have been added to the collection since this finding aid was prepared. Contact [rbml@columbia.edu](mailto:rbml@columbia.edu) for more information.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Controlled Access Headings

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- Chemistry -- Study and teaching
- Spectrometer
- Education
- Atomic bomb
- Drawings (visual works)
- Photographic prints
- Patents
- College teachers
- Chemists
- Columbia University -- Administration
- Columbia University -- Faculty
- Columbia University Alumni Club of Chicago
- Barnard College. Alumni Club of Chicago

## Collection Inventory

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Series I: Ralph S. Halford papers, 1936-1975 (Bulk: 1940-1959)	box 1
Title/Description	Instances
American Physical Meeting- Boston - Division of Chemical Physics, 1959 March	box 1
Androsterone Drawings, undated	box 1
Atomic Bomb Photo, 1945 July 16	box 1
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
Photograph taken by Jack Aeby at the test site of the Atomic bomb. Alamogordo, NM, 16 July 1945. Not signed or inscribed. Gift of Mrs. Ralph S. Halford, 27 June 1980.	
Biographical Data, 1940 October 24	box 1
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
Letter to Local Draft Board, Albany, California regarding his change in residence to Cambridge, MA.	
Chemistry Notebook, 1930s	box 1

**Scope and Contents**

Notes from when he was a student at University of California, Berkeley.

Chicago Alumni Trip, 1959 April-May	box 1
Conference on Microspectrophotometry of Cells at M.I.T., 1951 September 28-29	box 1
A Development of Thermodynamics, 1950	box 1
Entropy of Vaporization and Restricted Molecular Rotation in Liquids, 1939	box 1

**Scope and Contents**

Written at University of California, Berkeley.

Enumerability and the Exclusion Principle, 1947-1948	box 1
Graduate Curriculum in Chemistry (Analysis and Criticism), undated	box 1
Grating as Substitute for Littrow Mirror, undated	box 1
Growth of Crystals, undated	box 1
The Infrared Sepctra of Some Liquid Mixtures, 1956-1958	box 1
Insulin Symposium, 1949 May 16-17	box 1

**Scope and Contents**

Held at the Lilly Research Laboratories Assembly Room, Bldg. 14, Indianapolis, Indiana.

A Lower Limit for the Veocities of Formation of Trichalide Ions in Aqueos Solutions, 1940	box 1
NH4 NO3, 1946-1947	box 1
Notes on "Population Explosion and Interstellar Expansion" by Sebastian von Horner, 1975	box 1
Publications by Ralph S. Halford, 1936-1956	box 2
Quarterly Reports on Crystal Chemical Physics, 1955-1957 <u>Physical Description</u> : 4 folders	box 2

**Scope and Contents**

Reports for contract work done for the Signal Corps, Department of the Army. Report nos. 1-7.

Speculations: re Non-Specific I.R. Absorption in Moelcular Liquids and Quantized Levels for Van der Waals Interactions, 1953 August 30	box 2
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Spectrometers - Patent for Recording Spectrometers (with A. Savitzky), 1950-1951	box 2
Spectrometers - Photographs of R.S. Halford's Spectrometers, 1950s	box 2
Symposium on Instruction in Physical Chemistry (ACS - Atlantic City), 1959	box 2

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[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)