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Nikola Tesla papers4079392

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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: | Tesla, Nikola, 1856-1943 |
| Creator: | Ratzlaff, John T |
| Creator: | Anderson, Leland I. |
| Title: | Nikola Tesla papers |
| ID: | 4079392 |
| ID: | MS#1234 |
| Date [inclusive]: | 1894-1931 |
| Physical Description: | 3.5 linear feet 8 boxes |
| Language of the Material: | English . |

Preferred Citation

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

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Biographical / Historical

Nikola Tesla (1856-1943) was an electrician and inventor.

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Biographical / Historical

Robert Underwood Johnson (1843-1938) was an editor and author.

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Summary

Correspondence of Nikola Tesla and Robert Underwood Johnson include letters of Tesla to Johnson's wife and daughter, clippings, photographs, and miscellaneous materials. Letters to George Scherff, 1902-1930, and others, manuscripts, printed articles, patents, and brochures. The material is of a technical nature and the letters deal primarily with Tesla's work on transformers, turbines, steam and gas oscillators, compressors, pumps, induction motors, and wireless transmitters. Also, printed materials by and about Tesla, including DR. NIKOLA TESLA BIBLIOGRAPHY (1979) by John T. Ratzlaff and Leland I. Anderson; and published selections from diary entries, correspondence, patents, and patent wrappers by Tesla published by the Tesla Book Company. There is also a videotape cassette "Nikola Tesla the Genius Who Lit the World".

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Arrangement

Selected materials cataloged; remainder arranged. Arranged by material type. Cataloged correspondence arranged chronologically.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Revision Description

PDF replaced with full finding aid, YH Added additional information on microfilm and access restrictions. CCR. April 2020 2021-05-21

Restrictions on Access

This collection is located on-site.

Restrictions on Access

Use of microfilm is required for Boxes 1-6. CCR. 2021-05-19.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Source of acquisition--07285H. Method of acquisition--Purchase on the Friends' Book Account; Date of acquisition--1961. Accession number--M-61.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Source of acquisition--Ratzlaff, John T. and Tesla Book Company. Method of acquisition--Gift; Date of acquisition--1981. Accession number--M-81.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Vidoetape cassette: Source of acquisition--Tesla Memorial Society. Method of acquisition--Gift; Date of acquisition--10/19/1993. Accession number--M-93-10-19.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

7 Tesla letters: Source of acquisition--6731B (Smith) and 4019B (Duplicates). Method of acquisition--Purchase; Date of acquisition--07/16/1996. Accession number--M-96-07-16.

Alternate Form Available

Microfilm is available for Boxes 1-6. See MN# 3840-3843.

Processing Information

Cataloged Christina Hilton Fenn 09/--/1989.

Processing Information

Cataloged Lynn A. Grove 03/--/1990.

Processing Information

Vidiotape cassette Processed HR 10/19/1993.

Processing Information

7 Tesla letters Cataloged HR 06/13/1997.

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.

Accruals

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

Custodial History

1961: purchase of Robert U. Johnson correspondence, 1894-1931, from Agnes Holden, Johnson's daughter (6 boxes, with others types of material). 1962: purchase of Tesla/Johnson letters, 1895-1903, 1930, from Walter Benjamin Autographs; Lillian M. McChesney was the source of origin (28 items). 1962: purchase of articles on Tesla from Erik Monberg. 1962: gift of 80th birthday commemoration from Richard MacGraw. 1963: purchase of letters from Walter Benjamin Autographs (15 items). 1963: gift of memorial volumes from Veljko Korac. 1969: purchase of letters to George Scherff, 1902-1930, from Walter Benjamin Autographs (142 letters, misc papers and photos). 1970: purchase of Johnson and Scherff letters from Leland I. Anderson (32 and 44 letters, respectively). 1981: Ratzlaff photographs. 1993: Videotape given by the Tesla Memorial Society. 1996: purchase of 5 letters from Swann Galleries.

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Related Materials

Related Material - at Columbia University

[Robert Underwood Johnson Papers](#), Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Electricity -- Research
- Electric transformers
- Turbines
- Compressors
- Pumping machinery
- Electric motors, Induction
- Radio -- Transmitters and transmission
- Articles
- Clippings (Information Artifacts)
- Diaries
- Memorabilia
- Pamphlets
- Patents
- Photographs
- Photographic prints
- Videotapes
- Electricians
- Inventors
- Dana, Paul, 1852-1930
- Hawthorne, Julian, 1846-1934
- Johnson, Robert Underwood, 1853-1937
- Osborn, Henry Fairfield, 1857-1935
- Scherff, George

Other Finding Aids

[Legacy Finding aid](#)

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Collection Inventory

Nikola Tesla papers

| Title/Description | Instances |
|---|---------------------------------|
| <p>Catalogued Correspondence: Nikola Tesla letters, undated, 1894-1900</p> <p>Scope and Contents</p> <p>Adressed principally to Robert U. Johnson and his family</p> | <p>box 1</p> |
| <p>Catalogued Correspondence: Nikola Tesla letters, 1901-1936</p> <p>Scope and Contents</p> <p>(to Robert U. Johnson and his family) Letters by correspondents other than Tesla (list of names in box). Miscellaneous uncatalogued letters relating to this collection.</p> <p><u>Conditions Governing Access:</u> Conditions Governing Access</p> <p>Use of microfilm required. CCR, 2021-05-19.</p> | <p>box 2</p> |
| <p>Box 1-2, Microfilm Version</p> <p>Scope and Contents</p> <p>Please note that there are two errors on reel 1 of the microfilm: 1. Tesla to Johnson, 30 March 1895 is missing page 2; 2. Tesla to Johnson, 10 June 1902 is missing the last two pages. The originals of these two letters should be consulted.</p> | <p>reel 1 (MN# 3840)</p> |
| <p>Uncatalogued Materials</p> <p>Scope and Contents</p> <p>Photographs, Clippings, Memorabilia and other printed material</p> <p><u>Conditions Governing Access:</u> Conditions Governing Access</p> <p>Use of microfilm required. CCR, 2021-05-19.</p> | <p>box 3</p> |
| <p>Box 3, Microfilm Version</p> | <p>reel 2-3 (MN# 3841-3842)</p> |
| <p>Catalogued Correspondence: Nikola Tesla letters, 1900-1905 July 08</p> <p>Scope and Contents</p> <p>Letters to Nikola Tesla and George Scherff (List of names in box) Nikola Tesla letters to George Scherff</p> | <p>box 4</p> |

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

Use of microfilm required. CCR, 2021-05-19.

Catalogued Correspondence: Nikola Tesla letters, 1905 July 10-1930 box 5

Scope and Contents

Nikola Tesla letters to George Scherff (includes: Tesla, Nikolai n.p., 10 May 1913 t.l. (carbon copy of letter from his lawyer))

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

Use of microfilm required. CCR, 2021-05-19.

Catalogued Manuscripts and Documents box 6

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

Use of microfilm required. CCR, 2021-05-19.

Uncatalogued Materials box 6

Scope and Contents

Articles by and about Tesla, brochures, clippings, patents, photographs

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

Use of microfilm required. CCR, 2021-05-19.

Box 4-6, Microfilm Version reel 3-4
(MN# 3842-3843)

Printed Materials by and about Tesla box 7

Ratzlaff & Anderson. Dr. Nikola Tesla Bibliography box 7

Published selections from Tesla's diaries and correspondence and Tesla's patents and patent wrappers published by the Tesla Book Company box 8

Videotape cassette: "Nikola Tesla the Genius Who Lit the World" box 8

Catalogued Correspondence box 8

Scope and Contents

Additions, not on microfilm.

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