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Department of Anthropology Records 5045485

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Summary Information

Repository: Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Creator: Columbia University. Department of Anthropology

Creator: Arensberg, Conrad M. (Conrad Maynadier), 1910-1997

Creator: Boas, Franz, 1858-1942

Creator: Benedict, Ruth, 1887-1948

Creator: Fried, Morton H. (Morton Herbert), 1923-1986

Creator: Greenberg, Joseph H. (Joseph Harold), 1915-2001

Creator: Holloway, Ralph L.

Creator: Murphy, Robert F (Robert Francis), 1924-1990

Creator: Skinner, Elliott P (Elliott Percival), 1924-2007

Creator: Solecki, Ralph S

Creator: Wagley, Charles, 1913-

Title: Department of Anthropology Records

ID: 5045485

ID: UA#0018

Date [inclusive]: 1930-1985

Physical Description: 3.42 linear feet 3 record cartons, 1 document box

Language of the Material: English .

Abstract: Documenting the operations of the Anthropology Department, these records reflect administrative and instructional or research functions of the department.

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Department of Anthropology Records; Box and Folder; University Archives, Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University in the City of New York.

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Biographical / Historical

The Department of Anthropology at Columbia University was established in 1902 as part of the Faculty of Philosophy, under the direction of Professor Franz Boas. At the time of its establishment, the department was also staffed by Livingston Farrand as Adjunct Professor and Joseph Hershey Bair as Assistant. Courses offered in 1902 included Anthropology, General Introductory Course, Ethnography of America, Ethnography of the Pacific Islands and of Africa, The Statistical Study of Variation, introductory and advanced course, Ethnology-Primitive Culture, Physical Anthropology, and American Languages and Research Work in Physical Anthropology, Ethnology, and North American Languages. Courses in anthropology were first offered in 1896 by the Department of Philosophy and Education, then called Philosophy, Psychology, and Education. Courses were consolidated under one department in 1897 in the Faculty of Philosophy with Livingston Farrand as Instructor and Franz Boas as Lecturer. The following year, the Department of Philosophy and Education was staffed by James Cattell and Boas, later changing its name to the Division of Philosophy, Psychology and Anthropology.

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Biographical / Historical

A renowned anthropology scholar and professor, Franz Boas was trained in Germany, immigrated to the United States in 1888, taught at Clark University, and was curator at the American Museum of Natural History. He was first appointed as lecturer in physical anthropology at Columbia in 1896. Boas attracted many students to the program during his tenure, advancing the department as a leader in the field. Students of Boas included Ruth Benedict and Margaret Mead. Benedict, Associate Professor of Anthropology, eventually served as Executive Officer for the Department.

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Biographical / Historical

The Department conducted several projects funded by Columbia's Council for Research in the Social Sciences (CRSS), a multidisciplinary organization that promoted social science research at Columbia University. Professor Benedict headed Project no. 35: "Acculturation"

Professor Franz Boas headed Project no. 19: "Race and Heredity" and Federico De Onis and Ruth Bunzel contributed to project no. 39. "Religion and Culture in Mexico." Established in 1925, Columbia's CRSS was modeled after the national council founded two years earlier, in 1923.

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Biographical / Historical

Although the field of archaeology is often found within departments of anthropology at other colleges and universities (and some archaeological expedition records are found in this collection), these courses are currently offered by the Department of Art History and Archaeology at Columbia University. Relevant courses may be found in other departments as well, reflecting the field's multidisciplinary nature. Classical archaeology courses were first offered by the Department of Greek and Latin in 1890. Prior to the founding of the Department of Fine Arts and Archaeology in 1934, courses on ancient art and architecture were offered in the School of Architecture - a department established in 1881 as part of School of Mines and housed in that school until 1902.

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Summary

Correspondence, financial reports, budgets, newspaper clippings, contracts, personnel records, flyers, supply orders and receipts, and other material document the operations of the Anthropology Department. Research projects conducted by graduate students and faculty and funded by the Columbia Council for Research in the Social Sciences (CRSS) contain research proposals and progress reports. Material includes routine correspondence regarding expenditures and disbursement of funds, salaries, appointments, fieldwork arrangements, progress reports, publications, and other research project issues. Prof. Benedict headed the project "Acculturation" and Prof. Franz Boas headed: "Race and Heredity." Correspondence for chairmen Charles Wagley, Joseph H. Greenberg, Conrad M. Arensberg, Morton H. Fried, Robert F. Murphy, Elliott P. Skinner, Ralph S. Solecki, and Ralph L. Holloway documents the Department during the 1960s-1980s, including the student strike in 1968 and the Department's participation in the subsequent restructuring of the University's governance.

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Arrangement

Arranged in two series.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Revision Description

xml document instance created by Carrie Hintz EAD was imported spring 2019 as part of the ArchivesSpace Phase II migration. 2010-07-13 2019-05-20

Restrictions on Access

Personnel and student records are restricted for 75 years after the date of its creation.

Restrictions on Access

This collection is located onsite.

Accrual

No additions are expected

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Source of acquisition--Department of Anthropology. Method of acquisition--Gift; Date of acquisition--1996.

Processing Information

Records processed Jennifer Ulrich 12/--/2004.

Processing Information

Finding aid written Jennifer Ulrich 2004.

Processing Information

Finding aid reformatted Evan Roth (SEAS 2010) 09/--/2008.

Processing Information

Finding aid edited Jocelyn Wilk 07/--/2010.

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Related Materials

Selected Related Material-- at Columbia

[Central Files, 1890-1971](#)

Selected Related Material-- at Columbia

Within the Central Files, refer to files on Ruth Benedict and Franz Boas.

Selected Related Material-- at Columbia

[Council for Research in the Humanities Records, 1926-1968](#)

Selected Related Material-- at Columbia

[Council for Research in the Humanities Records, 1926-1968](#)

Selected Related Material-- at Columbia

Columbia University Archives Historical Biographical Files (see the Ruth Benedict and Franz Boas files).

Selected Related Material-- at other repositories

[Franz Boas Papers, ca. 1858-1942](#), American Philosophical Society Library, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Selected Related Material-- at other repositories

[Margaret Mead papers and South Pacific, Ethnographic Archives, 1838-1996 \(bulk 1911-1978\)](#), Library of Congress Manuscript Division, Washington, D.C.

Selected Related Material-- at other repositories

Franz Boas Field notebooks and physical anthropological data, 1889-1897, undated, Northwestern University Library, Chicago, Illinois.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Anthropology -- Study and teaching
- Ethnology -- Study and teaching
- Human ecology -- Study and teaching
- Budgets
- Reports
- Columbia University -- Faculty
- Columbia University -- Students
- Columbia University -- Student strike, 1968

Collection Inventory

Series I: Research, 1930-1979

Scope and Contents

This series contains correspondence, reports and newspaper clippings relating to research projects conducted by graduate students and faculty of the Department of Anthropology.

Subseries I.1: Council for Research in the Social Sciences, 1930-1962**Scope and Contents**

This series contains records related to research projects conducted by graduate students and faculty that were funded by the Columbia Council for Research in the Social Sciences (CRSS). These files are arranged by project number and title for ease of access. Correspondence includes that between Ruth Benedict and CRSS administrator Thomas Hayden on the dispersal of funds, progress reports, publications, and other research project issues. The files contain research proposals and subsequent progress reports. Material includes routine correspondence regarding expenditures, salaries, appointments and fieldwork arrangements. Research data is not significant in these records.

Scope and Contents

Graduate research training in Ecological Anthropology, or "Human Ecology" was funded by the Research Training Grants branch of the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS). The principal investigator was Prof. Andrew P. Vayda. The bulk of these files contain appointments, grant proposals, and fund applications.

Title/Description	Instances	
Project 2: Heredity and Environment, 1936-1938	box 1	folder 1
Project 19: Research in Anthropology, ca., 1940	box 1	folder 2
Project 26: Racial and Social Differences in Mental Ability, 1936	box 1	folder 3
Project 35: Acculturation, 1930-1938	box 1	folder 4
Project 39: Religion and Culture in Mexico, 1930-1936, 1953, 1930-1936, 1953	box 1	folder 5
Project 46: Research in New Guinea, 1930-1937	box 1	folder 6
Project 47: Approaches to History, ca., 1930	box 1	folder 7
Project 86: Social Isolation, 26, March 1936	box 1	folder 8
Project 87: Negro Studies in Haiti, 12, October 1937	box 1	folder 9
Project 89: Research on Aging and Heredity of Life Span, 1938	box 1	folder 10
Project 103: Caribbean Negro Studies, 12, October 1937	box 1	folder 11
Project 126: South American Ethnology, 1939 undated, 1939, undated	box 1	folder 12
Project 140: Current Culture in the Grand Chaco, ca., 1940	box 1	folder 13
Project 143: Family life in Pueblo of Zuni, undated	box 1	folder 14
Project 218: Afro-Caribbean Pidgins, 1950-1952	box 1	folder 15

Project 228L Language Variance and Divergence, 1951-1952	box 1	folder 16
Project 256: American-Indian Ethnolinguistics, 1953	box 1	folder 17
Project 264: Archeological Excavation of Zuni Pueblo, 1953-1954	box 1	folder 18
Project 272: Linguistic Acculturation in Nigeria, 1952-1962	box 1	folder 19
Assorted Projects, 1936-1940	box 1	folder 20
Assorted Projects, 1947-1958 undated, 1947-1958, undated	box 1	folder 21

Subseries I.2: Fieldwork and expeditions, 1931-1979

Scope and Contents

This series contains correspondence, reports and newspaper clippings documenting field schools and expeditions not funded by the CRSS. Material documenting a particular research project or expedition was removed from the general chronological "current expedition" file and labeled accordingly. The records document relations between the Anthropology Department and the Department of the Interior for both archeological and ethnographic field work.

Scope and Contents

Of note are newspaper clippings, telegrams, and letters documenting the death of student Henrietta Schmerler, murdered by 22 year-old Max Seymour, while conducting field research at an Apache reservation in Arizona. Correspondence includes telegrams, reports, and letters between Frank D. Fackenthal, Secretary of Columbia College, William Donner, Superintendent at the Whiteriver [Fort Apache] Indian Agency, U.S. Department of the Interior, and Professor Boas. Newspaper clippings and letters report the incident, along with editorials directed at the field of ethnography, the Anthropology Department, and Columbia University. Also included are letters authored by Henrietta Schmerler during her field work to both Franz Boas and others.

Scope and Contents

The archeological investigation of the Borough of Brooklyn was undertaken by the Department of Anthropology and funded by the National Parks Service. According to the contract, "funds were appropriated to the Service by Interior Department Appropriation Act of 1957 for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of Public Law 214, 84th Congress (69 Stat. 445) relative to the conduct of an historical and archeological investigation of the burial site of 256 Maryland soldiers who fell in combat during the Battle of Brooklyn on the 27th day of August, 1776..."

Scope and Contents

Expeditions and other projects not identified as CRSS-sponsored may still have some relation, such as the funding for Arabic language training for Kepler Lewis. He led an ethnological study group in Lebanon which was part of a larger "Middle East Research Project." Professor Joseph H. Greenberg was the faculty advisor to the project.

Scope and Contents

Photographs accompany field notes for the excavation of the MacHaffie site, Folsom culture.

Title/Description

Instances

Schmerler (Henrietta) murder, correspondence, 4 July 1931-18, January 1932	box 1	folder 22
Schmerler (Henrietta) murder, clippings, 15 July-1, August 1931	box 1	folder 23
Archeology field school – Point of Pines, Arizona, 1947	box 1	folder 24
Bahia, Brazil Project, 1949-1953	box 1	folder 25
MacHaffie site, Montana (Folson culture), 1951	box 1	folder 26
Middle East Research Project, 1949-1953 undated, 1949-1953, undated	box 1	folder 27
National Park Service Battle of Brooklyn archeological investigation project, 1952, 1956-1957, 1952, 1956-1957	box 1	folder 28
Lipkind, William – Caraja field materials, 1979	box 1	folder 29
Assorted expeditions, 1937-1954	box 1	folder 30

Subseries I.3: National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS), 1966-1973

Scope and Contents

Graduate research training in Ecological Anthropology, or "Human Ecology" was funded by the Research Training Grants branch of the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS). The principal investigator was Prof. Andrew P. Vayda. The bulk of these files contain appointments, grant proposals, and fund applications.

Title/Description	Instances	
Research Training grants, 1966-1973	box 1	folder 31
Trainee Appointments, 1968-1973	box 1	folder 32
Research Supplementary funds, 1968-1969	box 1	folder 33
Research supplementary proposal (Minda Brown), 1968	box 1	folder 34
Research renewal application, 1970	box 1	folder 35
Research continuation proposal, three year, 1970	box 1	folder 36
Research continuation proposal, four year, 1970-1971	box 1	folder 37

Subseries I.4: Publication, 1931-1972

Scope and Contents

contains articles and miscellaneous manuscripts relating to departmental contributions in Anthropological literature. An annotated manuscript, along with a carbon copy, titled "Notes on Child Development at San Ildefonso," by William and Marjorie W. Whitman is included and may be a draft of their work, *The Pueblo Indians of San Ildefonso, a changing culture*, New York, Columbia University Press, 1947.

Title/Description	Instances	
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Columbia University Press: Archeological Studies in Peru (Strong, Willey, and Corbett), 1949, 1956-1957, 1949, 1956-1957	box 1	folder 38
Columbia University Press: Cultural Stratigraphy in the Viru Valley, Northern Peru, (Strong and Evans), 1949-1954 undated, 1949-1954, undated	box 1	folder 39
Columbia University Press: Early Ancon and Early Supe Culture (Willey and Corbett), 1951, 1954-1955, 1951, 1954-1955	box 1	folder 40
Contributions to Anthropology, 1931-1939, 1972, 1931-1939, 1972	box 1	folder 41
Contributions to Anthropology, 1942-1947	box 1	folder 42
Contributions to Anthropology, 1948-1953 undated, 1948-1953, undated	box 1	folder 43
Krickberg, W., translation by Ruth Stout, 1935	box 1	folder 44
Publication Problems, 1951-1956 undated, 1951-1956, undated	box 1	folder 45
Program for the department of Anthropology, 1954	box 1	folder 46
Greenberg, Joseph H. – African Linguistics, 1950-51	box 1	folder 47
Spaulding, Albert manuscript – Arzberger Site, South Dakota, 1954-1955	box 1	folder 48
Steward, Julian H. manuscript, "Area Studies", undated	box 1	folder 49
Unidentified manuscript – American Indian cultures, undated	box 1	folder 50
Whitman, William and Marjorie manuscript, 1947 undated, 1947, undated	box 1	folder 51

Subseries I.5: General A-Z, 1933-1976

Scope and Contents

This series contains correspondence and reports relating to research not described by the previous subseries.

Title/Description	Instances	
Benedict, Ruth – lecture notes, 1947-1948 undated, 1947-1948, undated	box 2	folder 1
Boas, Franz – Linguistic Society of America	box 2	folder 2
Council for Research in the Humanities, 1933-1936	box 2	folder 3
East Harlem Research Project (Foresight Family Health Study), 1955 undated, 1955, undated	box 2	folder 4
Harris, Marvin – Indo-American fellowship program, 1976	box 2	folder 5

Mead, Margaret – Russian, Soviet study, 1948-1950	box 2	folder 6
Rorshach tests, n.d	box 2	folder 7
Study of man in the tropics, 1957-1958	box 2	folder 8

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Series II: Administration, 1931-1985

Scope and Contents

This series contains budgets, correspondence, reports and appointment records relating to the administration of the Department of Anthropology.

Subseries II.1: Personnel, 1944-1985

Scope and Contents

The personnel subseries consists of appointment records and search files which are restricted 75 years after the date of creation. These records were rearranged alphabetically from chronological order for ease of access.

Title/Description	Instances	
Appointments A-B, 1956-1970	box 2	folder 9
Appointments C, 1954-1970	box 2	folder 10
Appointments D-E, 1950-1970	box 2	folder 11
Appointments F-G, 1949-1970	box 2	folder 12
Appointments H-I, 1952-1971	box 2	folder 13
Appointments J-K, 1955-1971	box 2	folder 14
Appointments L, 1950-1970	box 2	folder 15
Appointments M, 1944-1970	box 2	folder 16
Appointments N, 1962-1971	box 2	folder 17
Appointments O-P, 1952-1969	box 2	folder 18
Appointments R, 1955-1965	box 2	folder 19
Appointments S, 1949-1970	box 2	folder 20
Appointments T, 1958-1970	box 2	folder 21
Appointments V-Z, 1950-1967	box 2	folder 22
Appointments, General, 1950-1970	box 2	folder 23
Linguistics Professor Search, 1971 May-1972 February	box 2	folder 24

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

[RESTRICTED UNTIL 2048]

Middle East Anthropologist Professor search, 1972 November-1973 April	box 2	folder 25
<u>Conditions Governing Access:</u> Conditions Governing Access		
[RESTRICTED UNTIL 2049]		
Tinker (Edward Larocque) Visiting Professor, 1983-1985	box 2	folder 26
<u>Conditions Governing Access:</u> Conditions Governing Access		
[RESTRICTED until 2061]		
Urban Anthropologist Professor search, 1973 November -1974 July	box 2	folder 27
<u>Conditions Governing Access:</u> Conditions Governing Access		
[RESTRICTED UNTIL 2050]		
Faculty Positions, general, circa 1970-1980	box 2	folder 28
<u>Conditions Governing Access:</u> Conditions Governing Access		
[RESTRICTED UNTIL 2056]		
Faculty biographical information, 1979-1980	box 2	folder 29

Subseries II.2: Budget, 1931-1976

Scope and Contents

are filed by the academic year. Information on faculty appointments, tenure, and salaries can be found in the Budget files. Departmental Chairman correspondence and information about research assistants and other staff related to the Council for Research in the Social Sciences projects are generally located in this subseries as well.

Title/Description	Instances	
1931-1954	box 2	folder 30
1957-1958	box 2	folder 31
1958-1959	box 2	folder 32
1960-1961	box 2	folder 33
1961-1962	box 2	folder 34
1962-1963	box 2	folder 35
1963-1964	box 2	folder 36

1964-1965	box 2	folder 37
1965-1966	box 2	folder 38
1966-1967	box 2	folder 39
1967-1968	box 2	folder 40
1968-1969	box 2	folder 41
1968-1969 research grant, 1968-1969	box 2	folder 42
1969-1970	box 2	folder 43
1970-1971	box 2	folder 44
1971-1972	box 2	folder 45
1972-1973	box 2	folder 46
1973-1974	box 2	folder 47
1974-1975	box 2	folder 48
1975-1976	box 2	folder 49

Subseries II.3: Executive Officers & Chairmen, 1936-1974

Scope and Contents

consists of correspondence files for the departmental chairs and executive officers and are arranged chronologically by name. Ruth Benedict was "Executive Officer." Correspondence from "Departmental Representative" is included. Files labeled by subject or correspondent's office, were maintained and filed alphabetically. Correspondence between the department and the University President concerns alumni fundraising, the "capital campaign," endowed professorships, and general accounting procedures.

Scope and Contents

Files titled "Restructuring" relate to changes in the organization of the University as a result of the spring 1968 student riots. By October of that year, the University Student Council, Executive Committee of the Faculty, Office of the vice Provost for Academic Planning, Student for a Restructured University, and the Student Representatives to the Special Committee of the Trustees announced a joint sponsorship of public hearing on proposals for a University restructuring. The formation of the University Senate, composed of students, faculty, and administrators, resulted from these efforts.

Scope and Contents

Correspondence concerning time limits for registered graduate students to complete their Ph.D degrees, and the interruption of studies due to military service during the late 1960s, coincide with the Vietnam conflict.

Title/Description	Instances	
Benedict, Ruth – Re: Franz Boas Support Fund, 1936-1938, undated	box 2	folder 50
Greenberg, Joseph H., 1961-1962	box 2	folder 51
Arensberg, Conrad M., 1958-1963	box 2	folder 52

Wagley, Charles, 1960-1963	box 2	folder 53
Harris Marvin, 1963-1966	box 3	folder 1
Fried, Morton H., 1966-1969	box 3	folder 2
Murphy, Robert F., 1969-1971	box 3	folder 3
Skinner, Elliott P., 1972-1974	box 3	folder 4
Solecki, Ralph, 1977	box 3	folder 5
Halloway, Ralph L., 1979-1980	box 3	folder 6
Ad Hoc Committees, 1959-1969	box 3	folder 7
<u>Conditions Governing Access:</u> Conditions Governing Access [RESTRICTED UNTIL 2045]		
Faculty of Columbia College, 1967-1969	box 3	folder 8
Faculty of Columbia College, 1970-1972	box 3	folder 9
Provost, Office of, 1964-1968	box 3	folder 10
Restructuring, May-September 1968	box 3	folder 11
Restructuring, 4, June 1968	box 3	folder 12
Restructuring, 1968 October-1969 May	box 3	folder 13
Student Strike, 1968 February-1968 April	box 3	folder 14
Student Strike, 1968 May	box 3	folder 15
Student Strike, 1968 May	box 3	folder 16
Student Strike, 1968 June-December	box 3	folder 17
Student Strike, 1969-1970	box 3	folder 18
University Senate, 1969-1970	box 3	folder 19

Subseries II.4: Students, 1947-1979

Scope and Contents

consists of reports, lists, correspondence and publications. Files in this subseries are also restricted for 75 years after the date of creation, except for those documenting student clubs.

Title/Description	Instances	
Anthropology Club/Society, 1958-1974	box 3	folder 20
Anthropology Now 1956, 1958, 1956, 1958	box 3	folder 21
C.U. Anthropologist, Oct-Dec, 1964	box 3	folder 22
Archeological field school, Arizona, 1947-1948	box 3	folder 23

Scope and Contents

(Information about applicants and evaluation of participants for 1947-1948)

Candidates awarded Master of Arts degree, 1949-1969 undated, 1949-1969, undated	box 3	folder 24
Candidates awarded Doctor of Philosophy degree, 1958-1968	box 3	folder 25
Candidates with "all but dissertation" Doctor of Philosophy degree, 1964-1967	box 3	folder 26
Fellowship and grant recipients, 1978-1979	box 3	folder 27
Language examination, 1960-1968	box 3	folder 28
<u>Conditions Governing Access:</u> Conditions Governing Access [RESTRICTED UNTIL 2044]		
Registered students, 1938-1968	box 3	folder 29
Ross, Jane, 1974	box 3	folder 30
Student council, 1964-1965	box 3	folder 31

Subseries II.5: General A-Z, 1938-1980**Scope and Contents**

contains administrative records not described by the previous subseries. Topics include curriculum, fees, and laboratory space. Oversized architectural plans were removed and filed with the University Archives Flat Files Collection.

Title/Description	Instances	
Curriculum, 1938, 1966-1978	box 4	folder 1
Curriculum, course changes, 1957-1975	box 4	folder 2
Degree requirements, 1956-1974	box 4	folder 3
Petersons Annual Guide to Graduate Study, 1968-1969	box 4	folder 4
Fees and Financial aid, 1968-1969, 1975, 1968-1969, 1975	box 4	folder 5
Registration extension and deferment, 1966-1969	box 4	folder 6
Schermerhorn extension, 1964-1968	box 4	folder 7
Scope and Contents See Flat Files		
Schermerhorn Extension, proposed lab, 1947, 1958-1965, 1947, 1958-1965	box 4	folder 8

Scope and Contents

See Flat Files

Photograph Collection, 1980

box 4

folder 9

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