



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Albert G. Ingalls Papers

NMAH.AC.0175

Don Darroch

1985

Archives Center, National Museum of American History

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Albert G. Ingalls Papers
Date:	circa 1920-1956
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0175
Creator:	Porter, Russell W. Ingalls, Albert G., 1888-1958 (astronomer, editor)
Source:	National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Electricity and Modern Physics
Extent:	8.7 Cubic feet (27 boxes)
Language:	English .
Summary:	Collection documents Albert G. Ingallsrole as an editor for the "Scientific American" (specifically a column on amateur astronomy) primarily through correspondence and other publications.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Collection donated by Jeremy G. Ingalls and Joan V. Ingalls, July 1985.

Processing Information

Collection processed by Don Darroch, 1985.

Preferred Citation

Albert G. Ingalls Papers, 1920-1956, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Restrictions

This collection is open for research.

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Biographical / Historical

Albert G. Ingalls (1888-1958) served in World War I; later as an editor of Scientific American, he conducted a regular column on amateur astronomy. Educated at Cornell University, Ingalls was a life-time astronomy and telescope-making enthusiast. In his editorial capacity he corresponded with hundreds of amateur and professional astronomers and other scientists in the U.S. and many other countries.

Scope and Contents

The Ingalls correspondence collection, while centered on problems of telescope construction, is by no means exclusively concerned with it. Over the years, in his editorial role and through many personal contacts, Ingalls developed continuing friendships which were maintained through voluminous correspondence. The letters often dealt with non-scientific subjects, sometimes quite personal in nature. They were often very informal in style and in the case of correspondents who were particularly close friends, were sometimes conducted on the basis of private nicknames, slang and "in-jokes."

In addition to letters, the Ingalls collection includes numerous copies of publications, reprints, and clippings often related to the subject matter of the correspondence. There are also drafts and final versions of Ingalls' columns from the *Scientific American* and from other publications. The collection also includes rough sketches of telescope components as well as blueprints and many photographs of equipment and individuals.

Prominent among Ingalls' correspondents was Russell W. Porter, a versatile scientist and artist who participated in Arctic exploration in the early 1900's and later became a professional maker of telescope mirrors and the author of numerous articles on the field. Porter's greatest contribution was as a member of the team which designed and constructed the 200-inch telescope at Mt. Palomar, California. Ingalls, 17 years Porter's junior, helped to publicize Porter's writings. Utilizing Porter's material as well as information from many other sources, Ingalls published in 1926 a book, *Amateur Telescope Making*, which went through 14 printings and 4 editions by 1959.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Astronomy -- 20th century
- Telescope -- 20th century
- Telescope makers -- 20th century

Types of Materials:

- Clippings

Names:

- National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Electricity and Modern Physics

Places:

- Mt. Palomar, California

Container Listing

Box 1, Folder 1	Anti-diffraction: H.E. Copp
Box 1, Folder 2-3	Aurora: articles, clippings; photos; publications
Box 2, Folder 1-2	Barcroft, D. P.; English Mechanics
Box 2, Folder 3	James H. Barnhart
Box 2, Folder 4-5	Binoculars
Box 2, Folder 6	Binswanger - Henkin Industries (telescope mirror blanks)
Box 2, Folder 7	Braymer, Larry
Box 3, Folder 1	Camera, Sinton's fish-eye
Box 3, Folder 2	Copp, H. E., Correspondence
Box 3, Folder 3	Crystals, quartz, etc.
Box 3, Folder 4-7	General Correspondence
Box 4	General Correspondence
Box 5	General Correspondence
Box 6	General Correspondence
Box 7	General Correspondence
Box 8, Folder 1-3	General Correspondence
Box 8, Folder 4	Custer-Allyn Diagnols
Box 9, Folder 1-5	Diffraction gratings
Box 10, Folder 1-5	Diffraction grating
Box 11, Folder 1-3	Diffraction gratings
Box 12, Folder 1	Esch, Karl
Box 12, Folder 2	Feller, Robt.
Box 12, Folder 3	Filters, Spectroheliometer v. Monochromator

Box 12, Folder 4	Flying saucers
Box 12, Folder 5	Gage blocks; correspondence
Box 12, Folder 6	Gage blocks; publications, photos
Box 12, Folder 7	Galaxy: photos
Box 12, Folder 8-9	Glass: publications, clippings
Box 13, Folder 1-2	Hayward, Rodger: Scientific American article; invention; correspondence; photos
Box 13, Folder 3-5	High vacuum technique (optics filming)
Box 13, Folder 6	Ingalls, A.G. columns: "The Amateur Astronomer"
Box 13, Folder 7	Ingalls, A.G. columns: "Teleoptics", ect
Box 14, Folder 1	Kensington Stone (publications)
Box 14, Folder 2	Kingslake notes
Box 14, Folder 3	King, H. C.
Box 14, Folder 4	Kirkham, Alan R.
Box 14, Folder 5	Lens, Goodwin-Barlow
Box 15, Folder 1-2	Lens grinding and polishing: correspondence
Box 15, Folder 3	Lens grinding and polishing: publication
Box 15, Folder 3	Lens grinding and polishing: photos
Box 15, Folder 1-3	Maksutov telescope – correspondence
Box 16, Folder 1	Mathematics of curves
Box 16, Folder 2	Meteorology, publications, clippings
Box 16, Folder 3	Microscopes, reflecting: publications
Box 16, Folder 4	Microscopes, reflecting: correspondence
Box 17, Folder 1	Mirrors, astronomical: Encyclopedia Britannica article
Box 17, Folder 2	Mirrors, spherical, primary and secondary; correspondence

Box 17, Folder 3	Mirrors, spherical, primary and secondary "Teleoptics", Scientific American, June 38
Box 17, Folder 4	Mirror polishing (paper lap); publication Nelson, Walter Roy; correspondence
Box 17, Folder 5	Mirror polishing (paper lap) publication Nelson, Walter Roy; correspondence
Box 18, Folder 1	Observatories; publications, blueprints
Box 18, Folder 2	Obsidian; publication, correspondence
Box 18, Folder 3	Peabody, John J.: correspondence
Box 18, Folder 4	Personnel: correspondence
Box 18, Folder 5	Personnel: publications
Box 18, Folder 6	Personnel: photos
Box 18, Folder 7	Polaroid
Box 19, Folder 1-2	Porter, Russell W.: correspondence (Porter's)
Box 19, Folder 3	Porter, Russell W.: publication
Box 19, Folder 4	Porter, Russell W.: telescope mounting
Box 19, Folder 5	Porter, Russell W.: photos
Box 19, Folder 6	Porter, Russell W.: obituaries
Box 19, Folder 7-8	Publications, miscellaneous
Box 20, Folder 1	Notes; letter: Ingalls to Ritchey, 1936; photograph
Box 20, Folder 1	Ritchey, George W. The Development of Astro-Photography and the Great Telescopes of the Future. Public Sous Les Auspices De La Societe Astronomique De France, 1929
Box 20, Folder 1	Ritchey, George W. On the Modern Reflecting Telescope and the Making and Testing of Optical Mirror. City of Washington: Smithsonian Institution., 1904 - 1904
Box 20, Folder 1	Draper, Henry. On the Construction of a Silvered Glass
Box 20, Folder 1	Telescope, Fifteen and Half Inches In Aperature, and its use in Celestial Photography. City of Washington: Smithsonian Institution, 1904.

Box 21, Folder 1	Notes; articles; correspondence, 1936; publications by and about Ritchey; photographs.
Box 21, Folder 1	Ritchey-Chretien curves Reveue d' Optique,, 1922
Box 21, Folder 2	Rocketry and interplanetary travel; publications
Box 21, Folder 3-4	Rocketry and interplanetary travel; clippings
Box 21, Folder 5	Ronchi, Vasco (optical testing); correspondence, publications
Box 22, Folder 1-2	Schmidt, Bernhard: correspondence
Box 22, Folder 3	Schmidt, Bernhard: publications
Box 22, Folder 4	Schmidt, Bernhard: photos
Box 22, Folder 5	Schmidt, Bernhard: off-axis telescope
Box 22, Folder 6	Schmidt, super-
Box 22, Folder 7	Science Service, Inc.: feature articles
Box 22, Folder 8	Semerau, Walter; correspondence, photos
Box 23, Folder 1-2	Spectrographs; publication,
Box 23, Folder 3	Sundials; correspondence, phots
Box 23, Folder 4	Sundials; publications
Box 24, Folder 1	Telescope: drives
Box 24, Folder 2	Telescope: Herschelian
Box 24, Folder 3	Telescope: history of
Box 24, Folder 4	Telescope: Johnsonian, Sept. 1949 art
Box 24, Folder 5	Telescope: Johnson's big trick Cassegrainier
Box 24, Folder 6-7	Telescope: Ludwig Schupmann
Box 24, Folder 8-9	Telescope: Refractor
Box 24, Folder 10	Telescope: Ritchey-Chretien 40"
Box 24, Folder 11	Telescope: 16" and 20"

Box 24, Folder 12	Telescope: 120"
Box 25, Folder 1-4	Telescope: 200" (Mt. Palomar)
Box 26, Folder 1	Telescope: 200" (Mt. Palomar) publications
Box 26, Folder 2	Texereau, Jean
Box 26, Folder 3-4	Weertman, Roelof: Engineering Stress Analysis (Sci. Am. Articles)
Box 27, Folder 1	Correspondence, 1935, 1941
Box 27, Folder 2	Writings, various, 1940s
Box 27, Folder 3	Roof prisms, how to make em' and how to wreck em', 1943-05
Box 27, Folder 4	Ferson, roof prisms, 1943-05
Box 27, Folder 5	Roof prisms, notes and articles, 1940s
Box 27, Folder 6-7	Roof prism gang correspondence, 1942
Box 27, Folder 8	Brass furnace and method making bronze castings, undated