



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Atherton Seidell Papers

NMAH.AC.0449

NMAH Staff

1992

Archives Center, National Museum of American History

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Atherton Seidell Papers
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0449
Date:	circa 1932-1964
Source:	Tate, Vernon, Dr. (Donor)
Creator:	Seidell, Atherton, 1878-1961 (Collector)
Extent:	1.5 Cubic feet (7 boxes)
Language:	English .
Summary:	The collection documents Dr. Seidell's thoughts and processes about the subject of microfilming.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Collection donated to the Division of Photographic History by Vernon Tate in 1978.

Provenance

Collection transferred to the Archives Center from the Division of Photographic History (now Division of Work and Industry) on May 12, 1992.

Processing Information

Collection processed by NMAH Staff, 1992.

Preferred Citation

Atherton Seidell Papers, circa 1932-1964, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

Atherton Seidell (1878-1961) was a research chemist. He earned a Bachelors degree from the University of Georgia (1898), a Masters from George Washington University (1901) and a Ph.D from Johns Hopkins

University (1903). Seidell worked as a chemist for the United States Department of Agriculture, the National Institute of Health and the United States Public Health Service. He authored the *Solubilities of Inorganic and Organic Compounds*, a compilation of classification of thousands of chemical compounds. He was an early advocate of microfilm copying services and put forth efforts to encourage more reference libraries to adopt microfilm copying as an extension of their services. He also believed that all recorded scientific knowledge should be made available to researchers and that publicly supported reference libraries should provide microfilming free of charge. Seidell established the Medicofilm Service at the Army Medical Library and founded the Current List of Medical Literature.

Scope and Contents

The arrangement is original and reflects Dr. Seidell's thoughts and processes as he documented and studied microfilming. Series 1: Biographical contains a book of clippings collected by Dr. Seidell. These clippings represent his published articles and the rebuttals of others on the subject of the dissemination of information. Series 4: The Handmaiden, 1941-1961, deals with current lists of medical literature, both papers and bound proceedings and the index cards provide a detailed list of items found in each series as well as bibliographic information.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into seven series.

Series 1: Biographical Materials, 1946-1961

Series 2: Microfilming What, 1934-1959

Series 3: Microfilming How, 1934-1961

Series 4: The Handmaiden, 1941-1961

Series 5: Microfilming History, 1932-1960

Series 6: Microfilming Whither Now? 1951-1957

Series 7: Epilogue and Index, 1964

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Microphotography -- History

Names:

Tate, Vernon, Dr.

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Materials, 1946 - 1961

Box 1, Folder 1	Biographical Sketches, 1957-1961
Box 1, Folder 2	Awards, 1946-1951
Box 5, Folder 1	Awards, 1954

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Series 2: Microfilming, What, 1934-1959

Box 1, Folder 3	Newspaper Clippings, 1934-1940
Box 1, Folder 4	Newspaper Clippings, 1941-1944
Box 1, Folder 5	Newspaper Clippings, 1946-1957
Box 1, Folder 6	Articles, undated.
Box 1, Folder 7	Importance, 1941
Box 1, Folder 8	Justification, 1953-1958
Box 1, Folder 9	Place, undated
Box 1, Folder 10	Aims and Purposes, 1957
Box 1, Folder 11	Army medical Library, 1944-1945
Box 1, Folder 12	Ideals, 1944-1958
Box 1, Folder 13	Reason for, 1949-1955
Box 1, Folder 14	Application of microfilm, 1934-1957
Box 1, Folder 15	Copyright and microfilm, 1939-1959
Box 1, Folder 16	Cost, 1938-1955

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Series 3: Microfilming, How, 1934-1961

Box 2, Folder 1	Policy, 1947-1959
Box 2, Folder 2	Equipment, 1936-1957
Box 2, Folder 3	Equipment, 1958-1961
Box 2, Folder 4	Equipment, 1959
Box 2, Folder 5	Equipment—Draeger Camera, 1934-1937
Box 2, Folder 6	Equipment—SRS Camera, 1936
Box 2, Folder 7	Equipment—Flemer Seidell camera and viewers, 1957, 1959
Box 2, Folder 8	International—England, 1957-1962
Box 2, Folder 9	International—France, 1937-1960
Box 2, Folder 10	International—Africa, 1955-1961
Box 2, Folder 11	International—Asia, 1937-1961
Box 3, Folder 1	International—Australia, 1957-1961
Box 3, Folder 2	International—Europe, 1957-1960
Box 3, Folder 3	International—Middle East, 1957-1958
Box 3, Folder 4	International—England C.S. Gibson, 1938-1955
Box 3, Folder 5	International—England Chemical Society, 1957-1959
Box 3, Folder 6	International—England Libraries, 1957-1960
Box 3, Folder 7	International—Western Hemisphere, 1957-1959
Box 3, Folder 8	International—United Nations, 1934-1960
Box 3, Folder 9	Organization, 1937-1959
Box 3, Folder 10	Procedure, 1934-1960

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Microfilming, The Handmaiden, 1941-1961

Box 3, Folder 11	Current List of Medical Literature, 1941-1961
Box 3, Folder 12	Current List of Medical Literature, 1943-1951
Box 3, Folder 13	Current List of Medical Literature—Army Medical Library, 1951-1952
Box 4, Folder 1	Current List of Medical Literature—Army Medical Library, 1953-1954
Box 4, Folder 2	Current List of Medical Literature—Army Medical Library, 1955

Series 5: Microfilming, History, 1932-1960

Box 5, Folder 2	Friends of Army Medical Library, 1946-1947
Box 5, Folder 3	Friends of Army Medical Library, 1951-1953
Box 5, Folder 4	Societies/Organizations—Miscellaneous, 1944-1960
Box 5, Folder 5	Societies/Organizations—Chemists Club, 1937-1957
Box 5, Folder 6	Societies/Organizations—American Documentation Institute, 1950-1960
Box 5, Folder 7	Publications, 1932-1943
Box 5, Folder 8	Publications, 1932-1937
Box 5, Folder 9	Recognition, 1943, 1958
Box 5, Folder 10	Services—Bibliofilm, 1934-1940
Box 5, Folder 11	Services, 1934-1948
Box 5, Folder 12	Services, 1950-1959
Box 5, Folder 13	Services—Johns Hopkins University, 1953-1955

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Series 6: Microfilming, Whither Now, 1951-1957

Box 6, Folder 1 Rare Literature, 1952-1957

Box 6, Folder 2 Recommendations, 1954, 1956

Box 6, Folder 3 Responsibility, 1951

Box 6, Folder 4 Utilization, 1955

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Series 7: Microfilming, Epilogue and Index, 1964

Box 6

Box 6, Folder 5	Activities of Atherton Seidell, 1964
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Box 7	Index cards
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