



Smithsonian

*National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center*

## Guide to the Charles Townes Innovative Lives Presentation

NMAH.AC.0673

Alison Oswald

1999

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
<b>Title:</b>	Charles Townes Innovative Lives Presentation
<b>Identifier:</b>	NMAH.AC.0673
<b>Date:</b>	1998-12-02
<b>Creator:</b>	Berger, Sondra (Speaker) Jerome and Dorothy Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation. (Creator) Townes, Charles, Dr., 1915- (Interviewee)
<b>Extent:</b>	0.5 Cubic feet (3 boxes)
<b>Language:</b>	English .

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## Administrative Information

### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Created by the Jerome and Dorothy Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation, National Museum of American History, 1998.

### Ownership and Custodial History

Oral history was created by the Jerome and Dorothy Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation. Transferred to the Archives Center December 2, 1998.

### Processing Information

Collection processed by Alison Oswald, 1999.

### Preferred Citation

Charles Townes Innovative Lives Presentation, 1998, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

### Restrictions on Access

Collection is open for research but the original videos are stored off-site and special arrangements must be made to work with it. Contact the Archives Center for information at [archivescenter@si.edu](mailto:archivescenter@si.edu) or 202-633-3270.

### Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

Collection items available for reproduction, but the Archives Center makes no guarantees concerning copyright restrictions. Other intellectual property rights may apply. Archives Center cost-recovery and use fees may apply when requesting reproductions. Signed oral history releases on file.

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## Biographical / Historical

Charles Townes was born in Greenville, S.C., July 28, 1915. Graduated from Furman University (1935), Duke University (1936), and the California Institute of Technology (Ph.D., 1939). Appointed to faculty of Columbia University, 1948, where he conceived the idea for the maser. Received Nobel Prize for physics for advances in quantum electronics, 1964.

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## Scope and Contents

Videotaped interview with Charles Townes, inventor of the MASER (Microwave Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation). The interview was part of the "Innovative Lives" public program series. Videotapes include VHS and Beta Cam SP formats.

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## Arrangement

Divided into four series.

Series 1: Original videos

Series 2: Master videos

Series 3: Reference videos

Series 4; Digital images

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## Names and Subject Terms

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

### Subjects:

- Astronomy -- 1960-2000
- Electronics -- 1960-2000
- Inventions -- 1950-2000
- Masers
- Nobel Prizes
- Physics -- 1960-1990

### Types of Materials:

- BetaCam SP (videotape format)
- Interviews -- 1980-2000
- Oral history -- 1990-2000
- Videotapes -- 1990-2000

### Names:

- Inventors -- Chronological subdivision--1930-2000
- Nahory, Robert E.
- Physicists -- Chronological subdivision--1930-2000

### Preferred Titles:

*Innovative Lives Program (NMAH public program series)*

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## Container Listing

Series 1: Original Videos, 1998-12-12

*Box 1*

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## Series 2: Master Videos, 1998-12-12

*Box 1 (MV)*

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## Series 3: Reference Videos, 1998-12-12

*Box 1 (RV)*

*[Return to Table of Contents](#)*

## Series 4: Digital images

[Image\(s\)](#)

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