



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Emilio Segre Collection

NMAH.AC.0691

Mitch Toda

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Emilio Segre Collection
Date:	1942-1997
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0691
Creator:	Segre, Rosa, Estate of (Donor) Segre, Emilio (Creator)
Extent:	0.25 Cubic feet (1 box, 1 map-folder)
Language:	English .
Summary:	Papers relating to the career of the nuclear physicist Emilio Segre, including a set of previously classified, now unclassified government documents including correspondence, laboratory reports and memoranda, relating to Segre's research; several diplomas and honorary awards and the programs from the ceremonies at which they were conferred.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Collection donated by Rosa Segre Estate, through Peggy Cabaniss, August 27, 1998.

Related Materials

Archives Center, National Museum of American History

There are numerous medals, plaques, and other objects that relate to Emilio Segre in the Numismatics Collection, and the Division of Medicine and Science (now Division of Medicine and Science). See Accession #1999.0027.

Processing Information

Collection processed by Mitch Toda, 2004.

Preferred Citation

Emilio Segre Collection, 1942-1997, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Restrictions on Access

Collection is open for research. Gloves required with unprotected photographs.

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Biographical / Historical

Emilio Segrè was born in Tivoli, Italy in 1905 and studied engineering at the University of Rome in 1922. He would later study under Enrico Fermi, receiving his doctorate in physics in 1928. Segrè was appointed as assistant professor at the University of Rome, but would later leave in 1936 to become the director of the physics laboratory at the University of Palermo. While visiting California in 1938, Segrè found himself dismissed from the University of Palermo by the Fascist government. Thus he remained in the United States and became a research associate in the Radiation Laboratory at the University of California, Berkeley. Renowned in the field of nuclear physics, Segrè was a team leader at the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratories in New Mexico working on the atom bomb.

Segrè was naturalized as a United States citizen in 1944 and went on to be a professor of physics at Berkeley from 1946-1972. He was later appointed as professor of nuclear physics at the University of Rome in 1974. Working primarily in the field of atomic, nuclear, and particle physics, Segrè's work led to the co-discovery of the elements Technetium, Astatine, and Plutonium-239, as well as of the slow neutron and the anti-proton. Together with Owen Chamberlain, Segrè received the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1959 for the discovery of the anti-proton.

He was a member of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States, the American Philosophical Society, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and received many honors from universities and governments throughout the world. His investigations in nuclear physics have increased our understanding of the production methods of nuclear energy.

Scope and Contents

This collection is divided into two series: Series 1: Manhattan Project, 1942-1947 and Series 2: Awards, Diplomas, and Other Documents, 1945-1997. Series 1 consists of correspondence, research findings, monthly reports, and patent filing documents associated with Emilio Segrè's work on the atom bomb at the Los Alamos Laboratories in New Mexico. Individuals represented in this series include: Farrington Daniels, Enrico Fermi, Marshall G. Holloway, John Jungerman, Joseph W. Kennedy, W.M. Manning, G.T. Seaborg, Edward Teller, Richard C. Tolman, and Clyde Wiegand. Series 2 contains numerous awards, diplomas, certificates, booklets, and posters related to Emilio Segrè.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Atomic bomb
- Atoms
- Nuclear energy
- Nuclear warfare
- Physicists
- Physics -- History

Types of Materials:

- Awards
- Correspondence -- 1940-2000
- Diplomas
- Government records
- Programs
- Technical reports

Container Listing

Series 1: Manhattan Project, 1942-1947

Box 1, Folder 1	Correspondence, 1942
Box 1, Folder 2	Correspondence, 1943
Box 1, Folder 3	Correspondence, 1944
Box 1, Folder 4	Correspondence, 1945
Box 1, Folder 5	Correspondence, 1946
Box 1, Folder 6	Correspondence, 1947
Box 1, Folder 7	Correspondence, undated

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Series 2: Awards, Diplomas, and Other Documents, 1945-1997

Box 1, Folder 8	Booklet – "Liceo Scientifico Gino Segrè," published by Provincia di Torino, 1963
Box 1, Folder 9	Booklet – "Profiles of Progress: The Story of 16 Nobel Laureates," published by Scientific Products, 1965
Map-folder 1	Diploma of election to membership in National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America, 1952-04-29
Map-folder 1	Diploma of election to membership in the Lynceorum Academia, 1958-08-22
Map-folder 1	Diploma associated with the award of the "San Valentino" Medal, 1972-02-14
Map-folder 1	Diploma, "Maticola d'Onove/1975," of "Assne Laureati Ateneo Ticinese," depicting the statues of Galileo and Volta animated welcoming Segrè to Italian shores, 1975
Map-folder 1	Diploma of nomination as "Socio Onorario" in the Acádemia Ligure di Scienze e Lettere, 1986-02-27
Map-folder 1	Diploma as Socio Onorario of La Società Italiana di Biologica e Medicina Nucleare, 1987-05-04
Map-folder 1	Diploma of conferral of "la Laurea 'ad honorem' di Dottore in Chimica," University of Genoa,, 1988
Map-folder 1	Posters for the Emilio Segrè Distinguished Lectureship series, University of California, Berkeley, 1987
Map-folder 1	Edoardo Amaldi, Emeritus Professor of Physics, University of Rome, "The Search for Gravitational Waves, 1987-11-11
Map-folder 1	Chien-Shiung Wu, Pupin Professor Emeritus, Columbia University, "The Discovery of Non Conservation of Parity in Beta-Decay, 1988-09-28
Map-folder 1	Herbert F. York, Professor and Director Emeritus, Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation, "The Nuclear Cold War: Phases and Transitions,, 1989-11-15
Map-folder 1	Jack Steinberger, Physicist at CERN and Nobel Laureate in Physics (1988), "First Results at LEP, 1990-10-03
Map-folder 1	Michael Berry, F.R.S., Professor of Physics, University of Bristol, "The Geometric Phase: Anticipation and Analogies, 1991-11-26
Map-folder 1	Hans A. Bethe, Professor Emeritus, Cornell University and Nobel Laureate in Physics (1967), "The Supernova Mechanism, 1993-02-10

Map-folder 1	Joseph Taylor, Professor of Physics, Princeton University and Nobel Laureate in Physics (1993), "Binary Pulsars and Relativistic Gravity, 1993-11-17
Map-folder 1	Theodor W. Hänsch, Max-Planck-Institute for Quantum Optics, Garching and Professor of Physics, University of Munich, Germany, "Hydrogen and Fundamental Physics, November
Map-folder 1	Bertrand I. Halperin, Professor of Physics, Harvard University, "Quantum Mechanics and Electrons in Strong Magnetic Fields, 1991-10-09
Map-folder 1	Wolfgang K. H. Panofsky, Professor and Director Emeritus, Stanford Linear Accelerator Center, "The Physical Heritage of the Cold War, 1996-10-28
Map-folder 1	Wolfgang Ketterle, Professor of Physics, Research Laboratory of Electronics and Department of Physics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, "When Atoms Behave as Waves: Bose-Einstein Condensation and the Atom Laser,, 1997-10-06
Map-folder 1	Certificate of appreciation from the U.S. War Department for work on the atomic bomb, 1945-08-06
Map-folder 1	Portfolio of illustrations for "Profiles of Progress: The Story of 16 Nobel Laureates, 1965
Map-folder 1	Certificate conferring Segrè as "L'onorificenza di Grande Ufficiale" in the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic, 1968-06-02
Map-folder 1	Degree from the President of the Italian Republic, 1975-06-02
Map-folder 1	Proclamation of the Mayor of San Francisco, Dianne Feinstein, naming May 24, 1986, as "Professor Emilio Segrè Day in San Francisco, 1986-05-20
Map-folder 1	Resolution of the California State Senate honoring Emilio Segrè's achievements in the field of nuclear physics, by Senator Milton Marks, 1986-05-23
Map-folder 1	Resolution of the California State Legislature honoring Emilio Segrè's achievements, by the Honorable Don Sebastiani, 1986-05-23

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