



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

William G. Elliott Spectra-Span Records

NMAH.AC.1361

NMAH Staff

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	William G. Elliott Spectra-Span Records
Date:	circa 1958-1988
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.1361
Creator:	SpectraMetrics (Burlington, Massachusetts) Elliott Laboratories (Andover, Massachusetts) Elliott, William G., 1932-2014 (Creator) Elliott, Mark (Donor)
Extent:	6.5 Cubic feet (7 boxes)
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Collection donated by Mark Elliott.

Ownership and Custodial History

Donated, along with a Spectra-Span Model 210 spectrometer, to the National Museum of American History, Archives Center, in 2015, by William Elliott's son, Mark Elliott.

Processing Information

Collection is unprocessed.

Preferred Citation

William G. Elliott Spectra-Span Records, ca. 1958-1988, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Restrictions on Access

Collection open for research on site by appointment. Unprotected photographs must be handled with gloves.

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.

Biographical / Historical

William G. Elliott was an engineer who, in 1966, founded SpectraMetrics, which developed and marketed the SpectraSpan echelle spectrometer. He later sold SpectraMetrics, and founded Elliott Laboratories in 1972.

Scope and Contents

The collection documents Elliott's work in developing the SpectraSpan Spectrometer and related technologies including the use of echelle gratings and argon plasmas with the spectrometer. It also documents his companies, SpectraMetrics, and Elliott Laboratories. The collection contains correspondence; photographs, including lantern slides; business and financial records; writings; laboratory notes; internal company reports; user's manuals; patents and patent-related papers; and publications and printed materials.

Arrangement

1 series.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Argon plasmas
- Echelle gratings
- Engineers -- 20th century
- Inventions -- 20th century
- Inventors -- 20th century
- Scientific apparatus and instruments industry
- Spectrometer
- Spectrophotometry
- Spectroscope
- Spectrum analysis

Types of Materials:

- Black-and-white photographs -- 1950-2000
- Business records -- 1950-2000
- Correspondence -- 1950-2000
- Financial records -- 1950-2000
- Laboratory notebooks -- 1950-2000
- Lantern slides
- Manuals -- 1950-2000
- Patents -- 1950-2000
- Printed materials -- 1950-2000
- Reports -- 1950-2000
- Writings -- 1950-2000