



Smithsonian
National Museum of American History
Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the American Institute
Science Laboratory Collection

NMAH.AC.1380

Alison Oswald

Archives Center, National Museum of American History
P.O. Box 37012
Suite 1100, MRC 601
Washington, D.C. 20013-7012
archivescenter@si.edu
<http://americanhistory.si.edu/archives>

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Arrangement.....	2
Scope and Contents.....	2
Biographical / Historical.....	2
Names and Subjects	2
Container Listing	3

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	American Institute Science Laboratory Collection
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.1380
Date:	1939-2006
Extent:	1 Cubic foot (2 boxes)
Creator:	Arias, Irwin M. American Institute Science Laboratory
Language:	English Collection is in English.
Summary:	The collection documents the American Institute Science Laboratory and the students who conducted research in it.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Collection donated by Irving Arias, 2016.

Processing Information

Collection processed by Alison Oswald, archivist, 2018.

Preferred Citation

American Institute Science Laboratory Collection, 1939-2006, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Restrictions

Collection is open for research. Social Security numbers are present and have been rendered unreadable and redacted. Researchers may use the photocopies in the collection. The remainder of the collection has no restrictions.

Conditions Governing Use

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

The American Institute Science Laboratory, grew out of the Westinghouse Pavilion at the 1939 World's Fair, when the "Junior Hall of Science" was moved to an IBM lab on 5th Avenue in New York. Thomas J. Watson of IBM approved it and Dr. Henry Platt ran it. It enabled young aspiring scientists (aged 13-15) to conduct their own laboratory research during after school hours and weekends. Between 30 and 40 students participated, many of them later describing the experience as one of the highlights of their lives. Most went on to have distinguished careers in science and medicine. It closed after 18 months due to World War II. A later iteration of it was started in Boston in 1998, and was named for Henry Platt.

Scope and Contents

The collection includes a written history of the laboratory, photographs of students conducting experiments, lists of students, letters, resumes, descriptions of the students' research projects, a magazine, articles about the participants, and a report written by one of them on the subject of plastics. Also included are videocassettes of interviews of some former students in a film project titled *Gifted Children*.

Arrangement

Collection is arranged into one series.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Laboratories
Science -- Study and teaching

Types of Materials:

Articles
Correspondence
Histories
Magazines (periodicals)
Photographs -- Black-and-white photoprints -- 1930-1950
Reports
Resumes
Videocassettes -- 20th century

Names:

Platt, Henry, -1999
Watson, Thomas J., 1914-1993

Container Listing

Box 1, Folder 1	Newspaper clippings, 1939-1941
Box 1, Folder 2	Laboratory participants (lists), 1981, 1990
Box 1, Folder 3	Laboratory photographs (views of), circa 1940s Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 4	Photographs of students, 1941, 1981 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 5	Arias, Irwin and Edward Silver, The Light Transmission of Modern Plastics, 1941-05-04
Box 1, Folder 6	Blumberg, Baruch (newspaper clippings), 1975, 1977, 1990
Box 1, Folder 7	Conrad, Mat (photograph), circa 1940s
Box 1, Folder 8	Golub, Seymour and Mat Conrad (photographs), circa 1940s
Box 1, Folder 9	Iannone, Anthony (photograph), circa 1940s
Box 1, Folder 10	Jastrow, Robert (photographs), circa 1940s
Box 1, Folder 11	Lederberg, Joshua, transcript of interview about science laboratory, undated
Box 1, Folder 12	Prince, Jordan (photographs), circa 1940s
Box 1, Folder 13	Rosenberg, Martin (An Electronic Film Tabulator and Selector), 1943
Box 1, Folder 14	Svaigsen, Eric (photographs), circa 1940s
Box 2, Folder 1	How Radio Works Exhibit (World's Fair), 1939-1940 Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 2	Tomorrow's Scientists, New York Electrical Society and American Institute Joint Meeting (photographs), 1941 Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 3	Henry Platt Science Laboratory (proposal), 1998
Box 2, Folder 4	<i>Gifted Children</i> (interviewee resumes), 1989
Box 2	<i>Gifted Children</i> , Part 1, 1989-11-27 <i>1380.1 videocassettes (vhs)</i> Includes interviews with Irving Lazar, Anthony Iannone, and Eric Svaigsen.
Box 2	<i>Gifted Children</i> , Part 3, 1989-11-27

1 videocassettes (vhs)

Includes interviews with Irwin Arias and Roy Glauber.

Box 2

Gifted Children , Part 4, 1989-12-04

1 videocassettes (vhs) (Total Running Time: 56:30.)

Includes interviews with Henry Platt and Irwin Arias.

Box 2

Gifted Children , Part 6, 1989-12-04

1 videocassettes (vhs) (Total Running Time: 58:00.)

Includes interviews with Joshua Lederberg and Pierre Rinfret.

Box 2

Gifted Children , Part 7, 1989-12-05

1 videocassettes (vhs) (Total Running Time: 25:00)

Includes an interview with Baruch Blumberg.

Box 2

Gifted Children, undated

1 videocassettes (vhs)

Includes Irving Lazar uncut interview.