



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

## Guide to the James Mahaffey Cold Fusion Collection

NMAH.AC.1393

NMAH Staff

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
<b>Title:</b>	James Mahaffey Cold Fusion Collection
<b>Identifier:</b>	NMAH.AC.1393
<b>Date:</b>	1989 - 1992
<b>Extent:</b>	1 Cubic foot (1 box)
<b>Creator:</b>	Mahaffey, James A. National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Medicine and Science Georgia Tech Research Institute
<b>Language:</b>	English .

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

The collection was donated by the Georgia Institute of Technology and James A. Mahaffey, 2016.

### Provenance

Transferred to the Archives Center by the Division of Medicine and Science in 2016. Gifts of two separate donors, James Mahaffey and the Georgia Tech Research Institute.

### Preferred Citation

James Mahaffey Cold Fusion Collection, 1989-1992, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

### Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

### 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.

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## Biographical / Historical

Physicist at Georgia Tech Research Institute. He, and others at GTRI made efforts to replicate results reported by two scientists, Stanley Pons and Martin Fleischmann, in which they asserted they'd discovered a way to achieve nuclear fusion at room temperature (so-called "cold fusion.") Despite their high hopes at the beginning of the project, Mahaffey and his team soon concluded that they were unable to achieve cold fusion.

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## Scope and Contents

The collection contains archival materials relating to the subject of cold fusion, and experiments conducted to corroborate the supposed discovery of the phenomenon. The collection includes Mahaffey's heavily illustrated laboratory notebook, dating from the beginning of the experiment on April 8, 1989 through April 20, 1989, documenting the experiment's research plan, budget, ingredients and instruments used, the time line and Mahaffey's and his fellow scientists' observations; and a report, April 30, 1989, on the results of Georgia Tech Research Institute's experiments. These two items were donated by GTRI. Additional items, donated by Mahaffey include: letters and emails to Mahaffey, photographs and slides used in a lecture, copies of papers given and bibliographies on the subject, abstracts of accounts of cold fusion research presented at a Santa Fe workshop, audio recordings of the same conference, a patent, articles, and video recordings of press coverage.

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## Arrangement

Collection is unarranged.

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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:

- Chemistry
- Cold fusion
- Electrochemistry
- Low-energy nuclear reactions
- Nuclear reactions
- Research
- Science -- History

Types of Materials:

- Abstracts -- 20th century
- Articles -- 20th century
- Audio cassettes -- 20th century
- Laboratory notes -- 20th century
- Letters (correspondence) -- 20th century.
- Patents -- 20th century

Photographs -- 20th century  
Reports -- 20th century  
Slides (photographs) -- 20th century  
Videocassettes -- 20th century

Names:

Fleischmann, Martin  
Georgia Institute of Technology  
Pons, Stanley