
Guide to the Papers of Edward Hutchings, Jr., 1937-1987

Archives

California Institute of Technology
Pasadena, California

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Papers of Edward Hutchings, Jr.,

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Access

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Biographical Sketch

Edward Hutchings Jr. was born in 1912 in Brooklyn and raised in upstate New York. After graduating from Dartmouth College in 1933, he worked as an editor and writer for a number of magazines, including *Literary Digest*, *Business Week*, *Look*, *Liberty*, *Collier's* and *Science Illustrated*. In 1948 he was offered the job of editor of Caltech's alumni magazine, *Engineering & Science* (E&S). Later he acquired the title of Director of Publications.

Over the course of his thirty-one-year tenure with E&S, Hutchings refashioned it into a publication that went well beyond the typical alumni magazine by reaching out to faculty, students, parents, trustees, donors, science teachers, the press, and the interested public. His philosophy was to make any science concept available to the layman. By his own admission he was careful to observe the old dictum of never underestimating the intelligence of his readers while never overestimating their knowledge. Bringing scientist and layman together was, he wrote, "like being the operator of a lonely-hearts club. I've tried to promote a match." He was scrupulous to involve students in his work and to cover student life in the magazine, as well as to present the important research that was continually taking place on campus and at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory. He taught journalism classes and was advisor to the student newspaper, the *California Tech*. In 1958 he compiled and edited the book *Frontiers of Science*, a set of the best material from E&S to that time, which contains some of the most illustrious names in science of that era, from Linus Pauling to Richard Feynman to J. Robert Oppenheimer.

Hutchings also participated actively in campus life. He was a member of the Caltech Stock Company, led by English professor J. Kent Clark, which presented original shows to mark major campus events from the 1950s into the 1980s. He retired from E&S in 1979 and from teaching in 1987.

Scope of the Collection

The papers represent a somewhat miscellaneous cross section of material touching on various aspects of life at Caltech. Of particular interest are talks about or interviews with prominent Caltech faculty. There is also interesting material on student life, as well as several sets of slides showing student pranks. Other sets of slides generated by faculty retirement dinners provide some interesting pictorial records. Researchers should also refer to the Edward Hutchings Jr. oral history.

Material Cataloged Separately

Framed watercolor by Hunt Lewis, view of Throop Hall through arches. Added to fine art collection.

Books authored by Edward Hutchings Jr. Added to landmark book collection.

SERIES I: Interviews and Manuscripts

- Box 1, Folder 1.1 **Memo on vegetable fertilizers, by Chuck Newton, 1948**
- Folder 1.2 **"Origin of Scientists," John Weir, 1957**
- Folder 1.3 **"Caltech Pranks," interview with Robert Huttenback by Edward Hutchings Jr., 28 April 1976**
- Folder 1.4 **"A Conversation with David Elliot," by Robert Oliver, 25 April 1986**
- Folder 1.5 **"A Conversation with J. Kent Clark," by Robert Oliver, 6 May 1986**
- Folder 1.6 **"To Change a University--You Don't Beat it to Death," by Edward Hutchings Jr., n.d.**
- Folder 1.7 **Miscellaneous manuscript notes, humor**

SERIES II: Talks and Speeches

- Box 1, Folder 1.8 **Retirement dinner for Ernest Swift, [1967] (script, 65 slides)**
- Folder 1.9 **Retirement dinner for Don Clark, Chuck Newton, Hallett Smith [1975] (script, 91 slides)**
- Folder 1.10 **Retirement dinner for Max Delbrück, Alan Sweezy, Olga Todd ("Talk about Presidents") [1977] (script, 77 slides)**
- Folder 1.11 **Retirement dinner for Ed Hutchings Jr., 1979 (script, 39 of 80 slides)**
- Folder 1.12 **Linus Pauling 85th birthday salute, Feb 1986 See also: Photographic Material**
- Folder 1.13 **"Kent and David [J. Kent Clark and David Elliot]," transcript of speech by Robert Oliver, 15 May 1986**
- Folder 1.14 **"Speech at the Planting of a Memorial Grove for Darlene Oliver," J. Kent Clark, 1987**

SERIES III: Students

- Box 1, Folder 1.15 ***Slime*, 25 February 1937**
- Folder 1.16 **Transcript of Parents Program, 21 October 1961**
- Folder 1.17 **"Academic Innovations," by Ed Schroeder, n.d. [ca 1970s]**
- Folder 1.18 **Statement by Michael Meo on refusing the draft, with letter to Ned Hale, 1971; letter by Meo to "Men of Lloyd" from the Federal Correction Institution in Lompoc, California, 1971 [photocopies]**
- Folder 1.19 **Article submitted to *Seventeen* by Marion Movius, one of Caltech's first female undergraduates, 1973**
- Folder 1.20 **Commune Purity Test (Phase II), n.d.
Caltech Y**
- Folder 1.21 **Interview with Abraham Kaplan by John Weir, May 1967; letter of A. H. Maslow, 1959 [both from Caltech Y's *Leaders of America* series]**
- Folder 1.22 **Angela Davis, Caltech Y talk, 1970**

SERIES IV: Printed Material

- Box 2, Folder 2.1 **Edward Hutchings Jr., miscellaneous published articles and fiction**
 "Scientists are Human Beings," *Science Illustrated*, 1948.
 "Whispering Guy," *Collier's*, 5 February 1954: 32, 52-55.
 "The Autonomous Viking," *Science*, 18 February 1983: 803- 808.
- Folder 2.2 **"High Symmetry," Lawrence R. Klein, August 1964**
- Folder 2.3 ***Frontiers in Science*, re: presentation copy to Ed Hutchings, 1979**
- Folder 2.4 **Publication correspondence, 1980**
- Folder 2.5 **News clippings**

SERIES V: Photographic Material

Box 2	Slide collections
Folder 2.6	The evolution of <i>Engineering & Science</i> magazine, January 1974 (59 slides, negatives)
Folder 2.7	Students, student activities and pranks, 1976 (31 slides)
Folder 2.8	Dinner for Max Delbrück, 1977 (60 slides)
Folder 2.9	Dinner for Robert Christy, 1978(28 slides)
Folder 2.10	85th birthday for Linus Pauling, 1986 (98 slides in 3 boxes) See also:Talks
Folder 2.11	Photos and negatives, misc See also:Talks and Speeches See also:Talks and Speeches