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## Guide to the Chemistry Division Selected Correspondence Files, 1935-1958

Archives

California Institute of Technology  
Pasadena, California

### Contact Information:

- Archives
- California Institute of Technology
- 1200 East California Blvd.
- Mail Code 015A-74
- Pasadena, CA 91125
- Phone: (626) 395-2704
- Fax: (626) 793-8756
- Email: [archives@caltech.edu](mailto:archives@caltech.edu)
- URL: <http://archives.caltech.edu>

Processed by:

Carolyn K. Harding

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Encoded by:

Brooke Dykman Dockter

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### Descriptive Summary

**Title:** Chemistry Division Selected Correspondence Files,

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**Creator:** Chemistry Division, California Institute of Technology

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**Repository:** California Institute of Technology. Archives.

Pasadena, California 91125

**Language:** English

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### Preferred Citation

[Identification of item, Box and file number], Chemistry Division Selected Correspondence Files, Archives, California Institute of Technology.

### Scope and Content

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The manuscript material described below was selected by the Institute Archivist from the files of the Division of Chemistry, and deposited in the Archives June 2, 1975. Primarily correspondence, these papers provide some documentation of the administrative and scientific career of Linus Pauling, Chairman of the Division from 1937 to 1958.

The earliest material is in the Chemistry Division Council files, which contain a few items regarding the reorganization of the Council under Arthur A. Noyes, Chairman of the Division until his death in 1936. Later files deal with administrative matters, such as personnel, students, course curricula, and laboratory equipment. One item of general interest is a ten-page memorandum by Pauling dated August 15, 1944, "The Division of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering at the California Institute of Technology. Its Present State and Future Prospects."

In late 1945, Pauling and the new Chairman of the Division of Biology, George W. Beadle, began a joint effort to establish a long-range research program in chemical biology at the Institute and to secure financial support from the Rockefeller Foundation. The Biology Division files, especially those covering the years 1945-1946, contain a number of interesting letters between Pauling and Beadle in which they discuss their plans. This material is complemented by the Rockefeller Foundation files, which include Pauling's correspondence with Foundation officials such as Warren Weaver and George Gray regarding research proposals and grants.

The collection also includes files of two scientific meetings held at Caltech in 1953 and 1957. The first of these, an informal five-day conference on the structure of proteins, was attended by a distinguished roster of scientists. Although much of the correspondence concerns travel arrangements, letters to the following participants discuss both scientific and personal matters: F. H. C. Crick, David Harker, Dorothy Hodgkin, H. E. Huxley, John Kendrew, Barbara Low, D. P. Riley, and James Watson. A single folder of material is available on the second meeting, a one-day celebration of the 40th anniversary of the first American papers in X-ray crystallography. The file includes Pauling's correspondence with C. Lalor Burdick and Albert W. Hull, two of the three original authors, and with Dorothy Hodgkin, who delivered the main address on the determination of the structure of vitamin B-12.

The remaining files seem to be less complete. There are two folders of material from the early 1950's on a protein program sponsored by the Office of Naval Research at Columbia University. Pauling was apparently a consultant for this project, and the files contain his correspondence with Erwin Brand of Columbia's College of Physicians and Surgeons. Finally, the collection includes two folders of W miscellaneous Pauling correspondence.

--Carolyn K. Harding  
Assistant Archivist  
May 10, 1978

**Biology Division  
Correspondence**

Box 1, Folder 1.1	<b>1945</b>
Folder 1.2	<b>1946</b>
Folder 1.3	<b>1947-1951</b>
Folder 1.4	<b>1952-1953</b>
Folder 1.5	<b>1954-1955</b>
Folder 1.6	<b>1956-1958</b>
	<b>Proposals</b>
Folder 1.7	<b>Robert Emerson 1945</b> <b>Linus Pauling ca 1945</b>

**Chemistry Division Council**

Folder 1.8	<b>1935-1936</b>
Folder 1.9	<b>1937</b>
Folder 1.10	<b>ca 1936-1937</b>
Folder 1.11	<b>1938-1940</b>
Folder 1.12	<b>1942-1945</b>
Folder 1.13	<b>1946-1948</b>

**Meetings**

**Pasadena Conference on the Structure of Proteins Sept. 21-26, 1953**

**Correspondence**

Folder 1.14	<b>Astbury, W. T.</b> <b>Bear, Richard S.</b> <b>Bragg, Sir Lawrence</b> <b>Crick, F. H. C.</b>
Folder 1.15	<b>Edsall, John T.</b>

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	<b>Elliot, Arthur</b>
	<b>Harker, David</b>
	<b>Hodgkin, Dorothy</b>
Folder 1.16	<b>Huggins, Maurice L.</b>
	<b>Huxley, H. E.</b>
	<b>Kendrew, J. C.</b>
	<b>Low, Barbara</b>
Folder 1.17	<b>MacArthur, I.</b>
	<b>Patterson, A. L.</b>
	<b>Pepinsky, Ray</b>
	<b>Perutz, Max</b>
	<b>Randall, J. T.</b>
Folder 1.18	<b>Riley, D. P.</b>
	<b>Schmitt, F. O.</b>
	<b>Trotter, I. F.</b>
	<b>Watson, J. C.</b>
	<b>Wilkins, M. H. F.</b>
	<b>Wilson, A. J. C.</b>
Folder 1.19	<b>Miscellaneous correspondence</b>
Folder 1.20	<b>Programs and publicity</b>
	<b>40th Anniversary of the First American Papers in Crystallography Dec. 16, 1957</b>
Folder 1.21	<b>Correspondence and printed matter</b>
	<b>Office of Naval Research, Protein Program, Columbia University</b>
Folder 1.22	<b>Dec. 1950 -March 1951</b>
Folder 1.23	<b>April 1951 -July 1953</b>
	<b>Rockefeller Foundation</b>
	<b>Correspondence</b>
Box 2, Folder 2.1	<b>1945-1946</b>
Folder 2.2	<b>1947</b>
Folder 2.3	<b>1948</b>
Folder 2.4	<b>1949-1950</b>
Folder 2.5	<b>1951-1952</b>
Folder 2.6	<b>1953-1954</b>
Folder 2.7	<b>1955</b>
Folder 2.8	<b>1956-1958</b>
Folder 2.9	<b>Proposals and reports</b>
	<b>W miscellaneous correspondence 1945-1947</b>
Folder 2.10	<b>West, C. D. 1947</b>
	<b>Westinghouse Educational Foundation 1945-1947</b>
	<b>Wibaut, J. P. 1946</b>
	<b>Wiley, John and Sons, Inc. 1946-1947</b>
Folder 2.11	<b>Williams, J. W. 1946</b>
	<b>Wilson, E. B. 1946-1947</b>
	<b>Woo, Sho-Chow 1947</b>
	<b>Wood, Reuben 1946</b>
	<b>Wright, George G. 1946-1947</b>
	<b>Wyckoff, Ralph W. G. 1946-1947</b>
Folder 2.12	<b>Buildings - Noyes Laboratories 1963, n.d.</b>
Folder 2.13	<b>"A System for the Ultimate Analyses of Chemical Warfare Agents" 1944</b>

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