

# **Philip Hauge Abelson**

## **A Register of His Papers in the Library of Congress**

**Prepared by Donna Ellis**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**

**Washington, D.C.**

**2003**

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## Collection Summary

**Title:** Papers of Philip Hauge Abelson

**Span Dates:** 1939-2002

**Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1970-1989)

**ID No.:** MSS84803

**Creator:** Abelson, Philip Hauge

**Extent:** 16,100 items; 46 containers; 18.4 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

**Repository:** Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**Abstract:** Nuclear physicist, chemist, and editor. Correspondence, notes, reports, speeches and writings, and other papers documenting Abelson's contribution to scientific policy-making through committees, organizations, and publications.

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### Names:

Abelson, Philip Hauge

American Association for the Advancement of Science

American Geophysical Union

Bio-energy Council

Carnegie Institution of Washington

International Union of Geological Sciences

Jet Propulsion Laboratory (U.S.)

National Academy of Sciences (U.S.)

### Subjects:

*Science*

Science

Science--Societies, etc.

### Occupations:

Chemists

Editors

Nuclear physicists

## Administrative Information

### Provenance:

The papers of Philip Hauge Abelson, nuclear physicist, chemist, and editor, were given to the Library of Congress by Abelson in 2001 and 2002.

### Copyright Status:

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Philip Hauge Abelson in these papers and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress has been dedicated to the public.

### Preferred Citation:

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Philip Hauge Abelson Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1913, Apr. 27	Born, Tacoma, Wash.
1935	M.S., Washington State University, Pullman, Wash.
1936	Married Neva Martin (died 2000)
1939	Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley, Calif. Identified products of uranium fission
1940	Codiscoverer with Edwin M. McMillan of Element 93 (Neptunium)
1941-1945	Associate physicist, physicist, senior physicist, and principal physicist, Naval Research Laboratory, Washington, D.C.
1945	Awarded U.S. Navy Distinguished Civilian Service Medal
1946-1953	Chairman, Biophysics Section, Department of Terrestrial Magnetism, Carnegie Institution of Washington, Washington, D.C.
1953-1971	Director, Geophysics Laboratory, Carnegie Institution of Washington, Washington, D.C.
1959	Elected to National Academy of Sciences
1960-1963	General Advisory Committee, Atomic Energy Commission
1962-1984	Editor, <i>Science</i> magazine
1968-1981	Council member, National Academy of Sciences, with a seven-year absence from 1971 to 1978
1971-1978	President and trustee, Carnegie Institution of Washington, Washington, D.C.
1972	Awarded Kalinga Prize, UNESCO
1978-1980	Chairman, Board of Trustees, Bio-Energy Council
1984	Received Distinguished Public Service Award, National Science Foundation

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Philip Hauge Abelson (1913- ) span the years 1939-2002, with the bulk of the material dating from 1970 to 1989. The papers are organized in the following series: [Committees and Organizations](#), [Science Magazine](#), [Speeches and Writings](#), and a [Miscellany](#) consisting of awards, biographical material, general correspondence, photographs, and printed material.

The [Committees and Organizations](#) series contains correspondence, financial records, grant proposals, minutes, publications, and reports relating to Abelson's participation in scientific professional organizations and advisory committees. Notable organizations include the American Geophysical Union, Bio-Energy Council, Carnegie Institution of Washington, International Union of Geological Sciences, Jet Propulsion Laboratory at the California Institute of Technology, and the National Academy of Sciences.

The *Science Magazine* series consists of texts of editorials written by Abelson during his tenure as editor of the chief publication of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. An index to the editorials is included. The correspondence primarily contains reactions of the general public and the scientific community to opinions voiced by Abelson in his editorials. As editor of this important publication, Abelson visited both foreign and domestic research laboratories. His notes and correspondence regarding these trips are included.

The *Speeches and Writings* series contains chiefly texts of speeches given by Abelson to educational institutions, private companies, and scientific organizations. Also included are articles written for publications other than *Science* and correspondence regarding two of Abelson's books.

## Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in four series:

- *Committees and Organizations, 1946-2001, n.d.*
- *Science Magazine, 1962-2000, n.d.*
- *Speeches and Writings, 1950-1999, n.d.*
- *Miscellany, 1939-2002, n.d.*

## Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1-24	<p><b><u>Committees and Organizations, 1946-2001, n.d.</u></b></p> <p>Correspondence, financial records, grant proposals, minutes, publications, and reports relating to Abelson's participation in scientific professional organizations and advisory committees. Arranged alphabetically by name of committee or organization and therein chronologically.</p>
BOX 25-36	<p><b><u>Science Magazine, 1962-2000, n.d.</u></b></p> <p>Texts of editorials written by Abelson, correspondence in reaction to his editorials, and notes taken on business trips. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and therein chronologically.</p>
BOX 36-42	<p><b><u>Speeches and Writings, 1950-1999, n.d.</u></b></p> <p>Articles, books, and texts of speeches along with related correspondence and administrative material. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and therein chronologically.</p>
BOX 42-46	<p><b><u>Miscellany, 1939-2002, n.d.</u></b></p> <p>Awards, biographical material, general correspondence consisting primarily of invitations to speak, photographs, and printed matter. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and therein chronologically.</p>

# Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-24	<b>Committees and Organizations, 1946-2001, n.d.</b> Correspondence, financial records, grant proposals, minutes, publications, and reports relating to Abelson's participation in scientific professional organizations and advisory committees. Arranged alphabetically by name of committee or organization and therein chronologically.
BOX 1	Ad Hoc Geological Committee on Remote Sensing from Space, 1975-1976 Advisory Committee, American University, Washington, D.C., 1973 Advisory Panel on the Documentation, Dissemination, and Use of Research and Development Results, 1963-1964, n.d. American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1965-1966, 1972-1979, 1990 (4 folders) American Chemical Manufacturers Association, 1980 American Council on Education, 1978 American Geophysical Union 1973-1979
BOX 2	1980-1983 (6 folders) American Philosophical Society, 1973-1979 Bio-Energy Council Correspondence 1977
BOX 3	1978-1979 (7 folders) Financial records, 1978-1980, n.d.
BOX 4	Grant proposals, 1979-1980, n.d. (7 folders)
BOX 5	Meeting minutes, 1978-1979 Miscellany, 1979-1980, n.d. Brookings Institution, Washington, D.C., 1964-1966, 1977-1983 Carnegie Institution of Washington, Washington, D.C. Correspondence, 1967-1970, 1980-1982 News releases and printed matter, 1962-1963, n.d. Reports Director of the Department of Terrestrial Magnetism, 1946-1954 (2 folders) Director of the Geophysical Laboratory 1953-1963 (2 folders)
BOX 6	1963-1969 (6 folders)
BOX 7	1969-1971 (2 folders)

## Committees and Organizations, 1946-2001, n.d.

### Container

### Contents

---

	General Electric Corporate Research and Development, 1977-1978, n.d. (4 folders) President 1946, 1956-1961 1964-1977 (2 folders)
BOX 8	Specialized Conference on the Application of Science and Technology to Latin American Development, Brasilia, Brazil, 1972 (3 folders)
BOX 9	<i>Studies of Biosynthesis in Escherichia Coli</i> , 1963 Chemical Abstracts Service, 1976-1980 Chemical Industry Institute of Toxicology, Research Triangle Park, N.C., 1979, 1985 Council on Science and Technology for Development 1977-1979 (5 folders)
BOX 10	1980-1981, n.d. <i>Encyclopedia of Bioethics</i> , 1973-1974 Energy Information Administration, 1979 Geological Survey of Canada, 1979 International Geological Correlation Program, 1978-1981 International Union of Geological Sciences 1972-1979 (3 folders) 1980 Jan.-Mar. Apr.-Nov. (2 folders)
BOX 11	Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, Calif. Correspondence, 1976-1984 (3 folders) Notes, 2001 Photographs, 1978-1980 Printed matter 1978-1980
BOX 12	1981, n.d. National Academy of Public Administration, 1978-1984 (4 folders) National Academy of Sciences Awards, 1981-1982 Committee on an Aging Society, 1982-1983 Committee to Review the Office of Information, 1982 Congressional endowment proposal, 1980 Correspondence 1978
BOX 13	1979-1980 (7 folders)

## Committees and Organizations, 1946-2001, n.d.

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 14	1981-1984 (4 folders) Finance Committee, 1974-1979 Geology Section, 1979-1983 (2 folders) Institute of Medicine, 1973-1982 Meeting minutes 1978
BOX 15	1979-1981 (6 folders) National Research Council Advisory Committee on International Investment, Technology, and Development 1980
BOX 16	1981-1983 Biomass Substitutes for Liquid Fuels Symposium, Campinas, Brazil, 1981-1982 (2 folders) Climate Research Board, 1980-1984 (3 folders)
BOX 17	Commission on International Relations, 1976-1981 Commission on Natural Resources Board on Mineral and Energy Resources, 1975-1980 (4 folders) Miscellany, 1979
BOX 18	Committee on Abiogenic Methane, 1979 (2 folders) Committee on Geology, 1979 Committee on Internal Management Structure, 1981-1982 Committee on International Human Resources Issues, 1979 Division of Earth Sciences, 1973-1975 Division of Medical Sciences Committee on Radiation Cataracts, 1949-1955 Subcommittee on Shock, 1950-1953 (2 folders) Geological Sciences Board, 1979-1983, n.d. Geophysics Research Board 1973-1978
BOX 19	1979 (6 folders)
BOX 20	1980-1984, n.d. (8 folders)
BOX 21	Governing Board meeting, 1979 (2 folders) Miscellany, 1973, 1979 U.S. National Committee for the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics, 1973-1974, 1981-1983 Printed matter, 1978-1983 (3 folders)

## Committees and Organizations, 1946-2001, n.d.

### Container

### Contents

---

	Treasurer's reports, 1979-1981
	National Association of Science Writers, 1963, 1976-1978
	National Commission on Air Quality, 1981
BOX 22	National Science Foundation, 1964-1966, 1973-1984, n.d. (2 folders)
	Phi Beta Kappa, 1979-1982, n.d.
	President's Science Advisory Committee, 1980
	Sigma Xi, 1964, 1973, 1979-1981, n.d. (5 folders)
	Strategic Arms Limitations Talks (SALT), 1979
	United States Association for the Club of Rome 1977
BOX 23	United States Association for the Club of Rome 1978-1981 (5 folders)
	United States Congress, Office of Technology Assessment, 1978-1979
	United States Geological Survey, 1979-1984 (2 folders)
BOX 24	United States Navy, Naval Research Laboratory, Washington, D.C. Atomic Energy Submarine, 1946 Liquid Thermal Diffusion, 1946, 1958, 1985-1998 (4 folders)
	Washington Gas Light Co., 1974-1975, 1981-1984
BOX 25-36	<b>Science Magazine, 1962-2000, n.d.</b> Texts of editorials written by Abelson, correspondence in reaction to his editorials, and notes taken on business trips. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and therein chronologically.
BOX 25	Correspondence 1962 (2 folders)
	1963 Jan.-Aug. (6 folders)
BOX 26	Sept.-Dec. (2 folders)
	1964-1965 (6 folders)
BOX 27	1966-1969 (8 folders)
BOX 28	1970-1972 (9 folders)
BOX 29	1973-1974 (8 folders)
BOX 30	1975-1985, n.d. (8 folders)
BOX 31	Editorials

	Index, 1962-2000 (2 folders)
	1962-1971 (7 folders)
BOX 32	1972-1973 (7 folders)
BOX 33	1974-1987 (7 folders)
BOX 34	1988-2000 (2 folders)
	Trips
	California, 1962
	China, 1978-1979 (2 folders)
BOX 35	India and Thailand, 1984 (3 folders)
	London, England, 1963-1964
	Research laboratories
	Bell Laboratories, 1964, 1979
	E.I. DuPont de Nemours and Co., 1978, n.d.
	Exxon Research and Engineering Co., 1978
	General Electric Co., 1975-1978
	General Motors Research Laboratories, 1977-1979
	International Business Machines Corp., 1978
	Miscellany, 1978-1983, n.d.
BOX 36	Texas Instruments, 1978
	3M Co., 1979
BOX 36-42	<b>Speeches and Writings, 1950-1999, n.d.</b> Articles, books, and texts of speeches along with related correspondence and administrative material. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and therein chronologically.
BOX 36	Articles 1950-1992 (7 folders)
BOX 37	1993-1999, n.d. (2 folders)
	Books
	<i>Energy: Uses, Conservation, and Supply</i> , 1974
	<i>Enough of Pessimism</i> , 1985-1987, 1993-1998, n.d.
	Speech file
	1963-1964 (4 folders)
BOX 38	1965-1973 (9 folders)
BOX 39	1974-1979 (7 folders)

## Speeches and Writings, 1950-1999, n.d.

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 40	1980-1981 (6 folders) 1982 Jan.-May
BOX 41	July-Nov. (4 folders) 1983-1990 (4 folders)
BOX 42	1991-1999, n.d. (3 folders)
BOX 42-46	<b>Miscellany, 1939-2002, n.d.</b> Awards, biographical material, general correspondence consisting primarily of invitations to speak, photographs, and printed matter. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and therein chronologically.
BOX 42	Abelson, Neva, 1991-2000, n.d. Appointment books and calendars, 1963-1979 (5 folders)
BOX 43	Awards and honors, 1962-1963, 1974-1995 Biographical material Autobiography, 1997, n.d. Miscellany, 1962-1965, 1972-1985, n.d. Oral history transcripts, 2002, n.d. Correspondence 1962-1970 (6 folders)
BOX 44	1971-1976 (10 folders) 1977  Jan.-Sept. (2 folders)
BOX 45	Oct.-Dec. 1978-1981 (6 folders) 1983  Jan.-Apr. (2 folders)
BOX 46	May-Dec. (2 folders) 1984-1991, 1997, n.d. (3 folders) Photographs, 1939, 1968, 1984, n.d. Printed matter, 1961-1975, 1982, n.d. (2 folders)