

# **Philip Hauge Abelson Papers**

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Prepared by Donna Ellis

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Philip Hauge Abelson Papers

**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

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

**Summary:** 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.

### People

Abelson, Philip Hauge.

### Organizations

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--Societies, etc.

Science.

### Titles

*Science.*

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Copyright in the unpublished writings of Philip Hauge Abelson in these papers and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress has been dedicated to the public.

## Access and Restrictions

The papers of Philip Hauge Abelson are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

## 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](#)
- [Science Magazine, 1962-2000](#)
- [Speeches and Writings, 1950-1999](#)
- [Miscellany, 1939-2002](#)

## Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1-24	<u><b>Committees and Organizations, 1946-2001</b></u> 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 25-36	<u><b>Science Magazine, 1962-2000</b></u> 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 36-42	<u><b>Speeches and Writings, 1950-1999</b></u> Articles, books, and texts of speeches along with related correspondence and administrative material. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and therein chronologically.
BOX 42-46	<u><b>Miscellany, 1939-2002</b></u> Awards, biographical material, general correspondence consisting primarily of invitations to speak, photographs, and printed matter. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and therein chronologically.

# Container List

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