

# Arthur D. Little Papers

## A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



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<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms004010>

LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lccn.loc.gov/mm79030312>

Prepared by Joseph Sullivan with the assistance of Brian McGuire and Susie H. Moody  
Revised by Michael W. Giese

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Arthur D. Little Papers

**Span Dates:** 1886-1973

**Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1900-1935)

**ID No.:** MSS30312

**Creator:** Little, Arthur D. (Arthur Dehon), 1863-1935

**Extent:** 5,500 items ; 309 containers ; 84 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**Summary:** Chemical engineer, inventor, and entrepreneur. Register of clients, financial records, technical reports, laboratory notes and summaries, photographs, and other records of Arthur D. Little, Inc., pertaining primarily to chemical analysis of products or materials. Also includes correspondence, writings, speeches, biographical material, and other papers relating to Little's career in industrial research.

## 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

Little, Arthur D. (Arthur Dehon), 1863-1935.

### Organizations

Arthur D. Little, Inc. Arthur D. Little, Inc., records.

E.I. du Pont de Nemours & Company.

General Electric Company.

General Motors Corporation.

Lever Brothers Company.

### Subjects

Chemical industry--Massachusetts.

Chemicals--Analysis.

Research, Industrial.

### Occupations

Chemical engineers.

Entrepreneurs.

Inventors.

## Administrative Information

### Provenance

The papers of Arthur D. Little, chemical engineer and cofounder of the firm Arthur D. Little, Inc., were given to the Library of Congress in three installments. Little's nephew, Royal Little, donated a two volume set of personal papers in 1964. The firm of Arthur D. Little, Inc., donated additional personal items in 1964 and a large number of business records in 1980.

### Processing History

The papers of Arthur D. Little were arranged and described in 1994. The finding aid was revised in 2004.

### Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Arthur D. Little is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

## Access and Restrictions

The papers of Arthur D. Little 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, Arthur D. Little Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1863, Dec. 15	Born, Boston, Mass.
1885-1886	Attended Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass.
1886	Chemist (later superintendent), Richmond Paper Co., Rumford, R.I. Started Griffin and Little, analytical, consulting, and research chemists, in partnership with Roger B. Griffin, Boston, Mass.
1893	Death of Roger B. Griffin in laboratory accident
1894	Published with Roger B. Griffin, <i>The Chemistry of Paper-Making</i> . New York: Howard Lockwood and Co.
1900	Formed partnership with William H. Walker
1901	Married Henrietta Rogers Anthony
1909	Incorporated firm as Arthur D. Little, Inc.
1912-1914	President, American Chemical Society
1916	Organized national resources survey of Canada for the Canadian Pacific Railway
1917	Moved Arthur D. Little, Inc., to Cambridge, Mass.
1917-1918	Firm of Arthur D. Little, Inc., served as a consultant to the Chemical Warfare Service and Signal Corps
1919	President, American Institute of Chemical Engineers
1920s	Instrumental in founding school of chemical engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass.
1928	Published, <i>The Handwriting on the Wall</i> . Boston: Little Brown, and Company
1928-1929	President, Society of Chemical Industry, London, England
1931	Awarded Perkin medal by special <i>ad hoc</i> committee composed of members from five chemical societies

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Arthur Dehon Little (1863-1935) span the years 1886-1973, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1900-1935. The papers consist mainly of business records and reports relating to Arthur D. Little, Inc., a chemical firm founded in 1886 by Little and Roger B. Griffin. Included in the series of [Arthur D. Little, Inc., files](#) are [client lists](#), [financial records](#), chemical reports, technical analyses, and related matter. Also in the collection is a small [Personal Papers](#) file containing letters received, correspondence and [tributes](#) on Little's death in 1935, newspaper clippings, biographical material, and drafts and reprints of [speeches and articles](#).

Arthur D. Little came of age during the industrial expansion of the United States following the Civil War. After studying chemistry at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1885-1886, he was hired by a sulfate wood pulp mill in Rhode Island and a short time later became its chief engineer. Following Roger B. Griffin's death in 1893, Little incorporated the firm of Griffin and Little as Arthur D. Little, Inc., in 1909. The Little firm developed into a leading research, consulting, and chemical engineering organization with offices worldwide.

The first series, [Personal Papers](#), focuses on Little as an individual and entrepreneur. Included are two volumes of scrapbooks entitled "[Tributes](#)" containing personal correspondence, notices of awards, messages of gratitude, other biographical data, and a small subseries of [speeches and writings](#). Featured in the [speeches and writings](#) are talks, lectures, and presentations Little gave around the country and various publications regarding the efficient use of chemical processes and the importance of industrial research to economic growth and development. Topics range from commentary on the role of chemistry in society, as reflected in titles such as "The Chemist's Place in Industry" and "The Romance of Chemistry," to many of the technical expositions of the processes Arthur D. Little, Inc., developed and patented in the areas of papermaking, use of wood and wood waste, vitreous cellulose or artificial silk ("On the Making of Silk Purses from Sow's Ears"), gasoline refining (cracking), and airplane dope (antiknock gasoline additive) and filter development for military use in World War I.

The [Arthur D. Little, Inc., Files](#) treat the business and research aspects of the company from its founding in 1886 until after Little's death. Included are [case registers](#) of clients, 1909-1934, documenting the names of clients and subjects of inquiry; [financial records](#), 1907-1939, consisting of journals and ledgers; [laboratory notes on experiments](#), 1886-1911, containing analytical reports of calculations, drawings, and other information relevant to the firm's technical work on behalf of clients; and [laboratory procedures](#), 1909-1942, reports compiled for staff use which recorded the exact methods employed while determining the chemical composition of substances during experiments and investigations.

The largest and most comprehensive section of the [Arthur D. Little, Inc., Files](#) consists of more than 250 volumes of [certificates of analysis](#), [miscellaneous technical reports](#), [special reports](#), and [other reports](#) containing the findings and conclusions the company submitted to clients following the completion of various projects. Included in the reports are technical descriptions of problems studied, the methods and procedures used in investigating them, the outcome or final analysis, and recommendations and suggestions regarding possible implications for individual clients or for industry in general. Among the businesses and corporations which contracted with Little to undertake chemical analyses of products or materials were the E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Company, General Electric Company, General Motors Corporation, and Lever Brothers. Among the products, methods, and materials which the firm specialized in studying and developing were wood products, wood-waste recovery, new methods for gasoline cracking, papermaking, industrial alcohols, viscose products, foodstuff, and cost management.

## Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in two series:

- [Personal Papers, 1894-1936](#)
- [Arthur D. Little, Inc., Files, 1886-1973](#)

## Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1-6	<b><u>Personal Papers, 1894-1936</u></b>
BOX 1-2	<b><u>Tributes, 1900-1936</u></b> Two volumes of correspondence, condolences, thank-you notes, messages of congratulations, awards, interviews, testimonials, certificates, photographs, newspaper clippings, biographical material, and printed articles and speeches. Volume one contains testimonials and tributes; volume two includes messages of condolences upon Little's death.
BOX 3-6	<b><u>Speeches and Writings, 1894-1934</u></b> Holograph, typed, and printed speeches, lectures and articles by Little. Arranged chronologically by year and thereunder by name of speech, article, or lecture.
BOX 7-309	<b><u>Arthur D. Little, Inc., Files, 1886-1973</u></b>
BOX 7-9	<b><u>Case Registers, 1909-1934</u></b> Register of clients organized by case number, including information relating to subjects of research, assignees, dates received and reported, and remarks. Arranged in numerical order from 1,001 through 50,000.
BOX 10-18	<b><u>Financial Records, 1907-1939</u></b> Journals and ledgers. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 19-29	<b><u>Laboratory Notes on Experiments, 1886-1911</u></b> Mainly bound volumes of notes on laboratory experiments and tests. Set A consists of two volumes organized chronologically. Set B consists of one volume relating exclusively to experiments performed for the Carbon Electric Generator Co. and seven volumes organized chronologically. Included with Set B is a small amount of unbound notes.
BOX 30-34	<b><u>Laboratory Procedures, 1909-1942</u></b> Typed summaries reporting the procedures used in the chemical analysis of materials furnished by clients. Arranged by control number assigned by the company.
BOX 35-308	<b><u>Reports, 1890-1948</u></b>
BOX 35-43	<b><u>Certificates of Analysis, 1893-1901</u></b> Bound typed copies of one-page summaries of certified chemical analyses addressed to clients. Arranged by case numbers assigned by the company. An index is in the front of each volume. Certificates of analysis for the years 1918-1928 were bound with miscellaneous technical reports for that period.

BOX 44-212

**Miscellaneous Technical Reports, 1890-1941**

Bound typed copies of technical reports for clients, including certificates of analysis for the 1918-1928 period.

Arranged by case numbers assigned by the company. Volumes 1-31 contain two sets of indexes, one alphabetical by client, the other alphabetical by process. Volumes 32-167 contain an alphabetical index by client. A three volume main index precedes the reports. The index volumes for the period 1918-1942 also contain listings for the Special Reports subseries.

BOX 213-308

**Special Reports, 1896-1948**

Bound typed reports, Series A and Series B, each containing technical reports for clients.

Organized as bound and received from Arthur D. Little, Inc. Reports in Series A are generally on one subject, whereas reports in Series B are on various subjects relating to the same client. Indexes are contained in the main indexes for the period 1918-1941 (Containers 45-46) in the Miscellaneous Technical Reports subseries.

BOX 309

**Miscellany, 1891-1973**

Miscellaneous reports and certificates of analysis, a lecture, photographs, chemical abstracts, and stock market material.

Arranged by type of material and alphabetically therein by subject, name of company, or type of report.

# Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
<b>BOX 1-6</b>	<b>Personal Papers, 1894-1936</b>
<b>BOX 1-2</b>	<b>Tributes, 1900-1936</b> Two volumes of correspondence, condolences, thank-you notes, messages of congratulations, awards, interviews, testimonials, certificates, photographs, newspaper clippings, biographical material, and printed articles and speeches. Volume one contains testimonials and tributes; volume two includes messages of condolences upon Little's death.
<b>BOX 1</b>	Vol. I, 1900-1936, undated
<b>BOX 2</b>	Vol. II, 1935-1936, n.d.
<b>BOX 3-6</b>	<b>Speeches and Writings, 1894-1934</b> Holograph, typed, and printed speeches, lectures and articles by Little. Arranged chronologically by year and thereunder by name of speech, article, or lecture.
<b>BOX 3</b>	Articles 1894, "Industrial Applications of Cellulose Thiocarbonates and Products Derived Therefrom" 1899, "James Mason Crafts" 1900, "Viscose" 1903, "The Durability of Paper" 1906, "Chemistry and the Generation of Power" 1909, "A Laboratory for Public Service" 1910 "The Basis of Quality in Paper" "Chemical Fakes" "Chemistry and Dividends" "The Chemist's Place in Industry" "The Paper-maker's Trouble Book" 1915, Report of the Visiting Committee of the Departments of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass. 1916 "A Five-year Course in Chemical Engineering," Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass. "Industrial Research" 1917 "Industrial Research for Railroads" Report of industrial researches 1919 "Chemistry and the Special Library" "Developing the Estate" Report of Omnibus Committee, American Chemical Society

	1920	“The Day of the Chemical Engineer”
		“The Petroleum Outlook”
	1921	“The Fuel Problem”
		“Natural Resources in Their Relation to Military Supplies”
		“On the Making of Silk Purses from Sow's Ears”
		“Science's Future with Oil”
	1922	“Are We Burning Up Our Future?”
		Chemical engineering education report of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers
		“Let the Chemists Pay Your Bills”
	1923	Department of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering report, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass.
		“Hidden Profits in the Product Itself”
	1924	“Report of Committee on Economy of Fuel and Economy of Raw Materials”
		“Physics and Civilization”
	1925	“The Contributions of Science to Manufacturing”
		“The Industrial Chemist-Advertising Partner”
	1928	“Chemical Engineering Pervades All Petroleum Technology”
		“Chemical Industry”
		“Coal Consumption as Affected by Increased Efficiency and Other Factors”
		“Migration of Industry”
		“Some Radical Speculations about Gas”
		“Progress of Chemistry in 1927”
BOX 4	1929	“Chemical Engineering in the U. S.”
		“Progress of Chemistry in 1928”
	1930	“Appreciation of Ellwood Hendrick”
		“The Value of Technological Research”
	1931, “Present Developments in Chemistry”	
	1932, “The Silver Anniversary of Chemical Engineering in America”	
	1933	“Appreciation of Mr. Everett Morss”
		“Baekeland of the '1000 Uses”
		“A Quarter Century in Industrial Service”
		“The Technocracy Bubble”
	1934, “Protean Plastics”	
	Undated	“Elements of Chemical Engineering”
		“Industrial Research in America”



“The Industrial Research Opportunities of the South”

“Report of the Official Chemist”

“Science in Paper-making”

“Synthesis of Southern Wealth”

Notes and Outlines, 1911-1916, undated

Speeches and Lectures

1900, “New Cellulose Industries”

1903, “New Cellulose Industries in the U. S.”

1906, “Chemist and the Community”

1908

“Official Chemist of the American Paper and Pulp Association”

“The United Field of Chemistry”

1909, “The Cotton Fiber Substance and Its Properties”

1911, “The Earning Power of Chemistry”

1912

Algonquin Club speech for visitors to the Eighth International Congress of Applied Chemistry, New York, N. Y.

American Chemical Society, Maine section

1913

Combustion

“Industrial Research in America”

Nichols-Hesse Dinner

“Paper-making and the Properties of Paper”

BOX 5

1915

“The Dyestuff Situation and Its Lesson”

Fiftieth anniversary of the Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, Mass.

“The Industrial Resources and Opportunities of the South”

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Chemical Society, Cambridge, Mass.

“University and Business”

1916

“The Chemical Engineer As a World Factor”

“Organization, Plan and Scope of the Natural Resources Survey of Canada”

“Utilization of Wood Waste”

1917

“The Chemist”

Laboratory staff on exemption of chemists re World War I military service

“The Relationship of Research to Industrial Development”

1918

Abstract and extension of testimony before the Federal Trade Commission

“Organization of Industrial Research”

1919

“Chemistry and the South”

“Industrial Research”

“The Organization and Conduct of an Industrial Laboratory”

1920, “Natural Resources in Their Relation to Military Supplies”

1921

BOX 6

- “The Dependence of the Lime Industry upon Nature and Science”
- “Energy: Its Sources and Future Possibilities”
- “The History and Manufacture of Book Papers”
- Perkin medal award, Willis R. Whitney
- “The Place of Chemistry in Business”
- 1922, “Canada Ascendant”
- 1923
  - “Chemistry and Connecticut”
  - “The Chemistry behind the Dollar”
  - “Forecast of Chemical Development”
  - Perkin Medal Award, Milton C. Whitaker
- 1924
  - “The Chemical Engineer”
  - “The Fifth Estate”
  - “Research: The Mother of Industry”
- 1925
  - “The Application of Research to Industry”
  - “Chemistry As an Investment”
  - “The Handwriting on the Wall”
  - “Misapplied Chemistry”
  - “The Romance of Carbon”
- 1927
  - “Ethics and Ideals of the Chemical Profession”
  - Gasoline symposium report
  - “Impending Changes in Our Use of Fuels”
  - “Some Important Research Problems of To-Day”
- 1928
  - “Chemical Industry”
  - “Coal Consumption As Affected by Increased Efficiency and Other Factors”
  - “How Scientific Research Contributes to the Welfare of Labor”
  - “Industrial Significance of Some Recent Developments in Organic Chemistry”
  - “Research--And A Greater Gas Industry”
  - Society of Chemical Industry, Manchester, England, word of greeting
  - Society of Chemical Industry, Manchester, England, dinner
  - “Some Radical Speculations about Gas”
- 1929
  - “How Scientific Research Contributes to the Welfare of Labor”
  - “Process Development”
  - “Science and Labor”
  - Society of Chemical Industry, Manchester, England, reply to mayor of Manchester
- 1930
  - “Chemistry As an Investment”
  - “The Contribution of Science to the Iron and Steel Industry”
- 1931
  - “The Evaluation of Chemical Projects,” for Perkin medal award
  - “Leadership”

## Personal Papers, 1894-1936

### Container

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“‘Making the Goods Move’ through Chemical Research”  
“New Lamps for Old”  
“New Research Objectives”  
Seventh chemical industries dinner, remarks  
1932, “The Romance of Chemistry”  
1933  
“Industrial Research”  
“Plastics”  
Talk to class of 1933, Middlesex School, Concord, Mass.  
1934  
Chemical industry metal meeting presentation  
“The Chemical Revolution”  
Undated, “Industrial Resources and Opportunities of the South”

BOX 7-309

### Arthur D. Little, Inc., Files, 1886-1973

BOX 7-9

### Case Registers, 1909-1934

Register of clients organized by case number, including information relating to subjects of research, assignees, dates received and reported, and remarks.  
Arranged in numerical order from 1,001 through 50,000.

BOX 7

Nos. 1,001-2,133, 4,501-5,000, 1909-1912  
Nos. 5,001-10,000, 1912-1914  
Nos. 10,001-15,000, 1914-1917

BOX 8

Nos. 15,001-20,000, 1917-1919  
Nos. 20,001-25,000, 1919-1922  
Nos. 25,001-30,000, 1922-1924

BOX 9

Nos. 30,001-35,000, 1924-1926  
Nos. 35,001-40,000, 1926-1928  
Nos. 40,001-45,000, 1928-1930  
Nos. 45,001-50,000, 1931-1934

BOX 10-18

### Financial Records, 1907-1939

Journals and ledgers.  
Arranged chronologically.

BOX 10

Journals  
1907-1909  
1909-1911  
1911-1912

BOX 11

1912-1914  
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BOX 12

1917-1919  
Ledgers  
1907  
1908-1909

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BOX 18	1930 1938-1939
BOX 19-29	<b>Laboratory Notes on Experiments, 1886-1911</b> Mainly bound volumes of notes on laboratory experiments and tests. Set A consists of two volumes organized chronologically. Set B consists of one volume relating exclusively to experiments performed for the Carbon Electric Generator Co. and seven volumes organized chronologically. Included with Set B is a small amount of unbound notes.
BOX 19	Set A 1886, Nov. 20-1896, June 3
BOX 20	1909, Dec. 15-1911, Apr. 4 <i>For additional material see Containers 57-61, Miscellaneous technical reports</i>
BOX 21	Set B Bound Carbon Electric Generator Co. 1896, Mar. 3-1897, Jan. 30
BOX 22	General 1886, Oct. 22-1890, May 2
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BOX 26	1900, Dec. 31-1903, Oct. 5
BOX 27	1904, Feb. 4-1906, Dec. 7
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BOX 29	Unbound, 1890, Feb. 13-Oct. 23
BOX 30-34	<b>Laboratory Procedures, 1909-1942</b> Typed summaries reporting the procedures used in the chemical analysis of materials furnished by clients. Arranged by control number assigned by the company.

## Arthur D. Little, Inc., Files, 1886-1973

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BOX 33	Nos. 211-282 (6 folders)
BOX 34	Nos. 283-339, unnumbered (5 folders)
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BOX 35-43	<b>Certificates of Analysis, 1893-1901</b> Bound typed copies of one-page summaries of certified chemical analyses addressed to clients. Arranged by case numbers assigned by the company. An index is in the front of each volume. Certificates of analysis for the years 1918-1928 were bound with miscellaneous technical reports for that period.
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BOX 43	1900, Apr. 3-1901, July 15
BOX 44-212	<b>Miscellaneous Technical Reports, 1890-1941</b> Bound typed copies of technical reports for clients, including certificates of analysis for the 1918-1928 period. Arranged by case numbers assigned by the company. Volumes 1-31 contain two sets of indexes, one alphabetical by client, the other alphabetical by process. Volumes 32-167 contain an alphabetical index by client. A three volume main index precedes the reports. The index volumes for the period 1918-1942 also contain listings for the Special Reports subseries.
BOX 44	Indexes (by subject and client) To vols. 1-31 (also vols. A1-A43 of Special Reports)
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BOX 60	Vol. 14, 1910, Jan. 3-Apr. 29
BOX 61	Vol. 15, 1910, May 2-Aug. 30 <i>See also Container 309, Hammermill Paper Co.</i>
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**Arthur D. Little, Inc., Files, 1886-1973****Container****Contents**

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