Albert Szent-Györgyi Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2024

Contact information: https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact

Catalog Record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm81042184

Additional search options available at: https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms008092

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2009
Revised 2024 February

Collection Summary

Title: Albert Szent-Györgyi Papers
Inclusive Dates: 1908-1986
Bulk Dates: 1947-1986
ID No.: MSS42184
Creator: Szent-Györgyi, Albert, 1893-1986
Extent: 1,400 items
Extent: 7 containers
Extent: 2.8 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English and Hungarian
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
LC Catalog record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm81042184
Summary: Biochemist and Nobel laureate. Correspondence, writings, biographical material, Hungarian legal documents, immigration papers, notebooks, musical compositions, newspaper clippings, printed matter, and photographs, relating mainly to Szent-Györgyi's research.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People
Szent-Györgyi, Albert, 1893-1986. Crazy Ape. 1970.

Organizations
Institute for Muscle Research.
Marine Biological Laboratory (Woods Hole, Mass.)
National Foundation for Cancer Research.

Subjects
Biochemistry.
Biological laboratories--Massachusetts--Woods Hole.
Cancer--Research.
Medicine--Awards.
Muscle contraction.
Muscles--Research.
Nobel Prizes.
Physiology--Awards.
Vietnam War, 1961-1975.
Vitamin C.

Occupations
Biochemists.

Acquisition Information

The papers of Albert Szent-Györgyi, biochemist and Nobel laureate, were given to the Library of Congress from 1964 to 1970, and in 1988 by Albert Szent-Györgyi and by his widow, Marcia Houston Szent-Gyorgyi.

Processing History

The papers of Albert Szent-Györgyi were arranged and described in 1972 and 1988. The collection was expanded and revised in 1997, and additional revisions were made to the finding aid in 2009 by Karen Linn Femia. The finding aid was

updated in 2024 by Maria Farmer as part of a division-wide remediation project by the Inclusive Description Working Group.

Transfers

Some photographs have been transferred to the Prints and Photographs Division where they are identified as part of the Albert Szent-Györgyi Papers.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Albert Szent-Györgyi is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Albert Szent-Györgyi 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, Albert Szent-Györgyi Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1893, Sept. 16	Born, Budapest, Hungary
1917	M.D., University of Budapest, Budapest, Hungary Married Cornelia Demeny (divorced 1941)
1919	Researcher, Pharmacology Institute, Elizabeth University, Pozsony, Hungary, and studies in Prague, Czechoslovakia, and Berlin, Germany
1920	Institute for Tropical Hygiene, Hamburg, Germany
1921-1922	Researcher, Pharmacology Institute, University of Leiden, Leiden, Holland
1922-1926	Assistant to the professor of physiology, Laboratory of Physiology, University of Groningen, Gronigen, Holland
1927	Ph.D., University of Cambridge, Cambridge, England
1927-1930	Fellow, Rockefeller Foundation, Biochemical Laboratory, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, England
1930	Researcher, Division of Chemistry, Mayo Foundation, Rochester, Minn.
1931-1945	Professor of Medical Chemistry, Institute of Medical Chemistry, University of Szeged, Szeged, Hungary
1937	Nobel Prize in medicine and physiology for isolation and synthesis of vitamin C
1941	Married Marta Borbiro (died 1963)
1945-1947	Institute of Biochemistry, University of Budapest, Budapest, Hungary
1947	Emigrated to the United States
1947-1973	Director of Research, Institute for Muscle Research, Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, Mass.
1954	Lasker Award, American Heart Association

1973-1986	Scientific Director, National Foundation for Cancer Research, Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, Mass.
1980	Award of the International Society for Quantum Chemistry
1986, Oct. 22	Died, Woods Hole, Mass.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Albert Szent-Györgyi (1893-1986) span the years 1908-1986, with nearly all of the material dating after his immigration to the United States in 1947. They consist of correspondence, writings on scientific and political topics, biographical material, news clippings, notebooks, musical compositions, photographs, printed matter, Hungarian legal documents, and American immigration papers. The papers are in English and Hungarian. The collection is arranged in three series: Correspondence, Writings, and Miscellany.

The material pertains chiefly to Szent-Györgyi's life in the United States. Following his arrival, Szent-Györgyi resided and worked at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, until his death in 1986. From 1947 to 1973, he conducted research on muscle contraction and directed the Institute for Muscle Research. From 1973 until his death, Szent-Györgyi was active in cancer research and served as scientific director for the National Foundation for Cancer Research. Most of the scientific writings and notes in the collection concern these two research areas as well as his continued interest in vitamin C. Also included are his political writings, particularly those expressing opposition to the Vietnam War, a draft of his book *The Crazy Ape*, and his unpublished "The Sick Ape."

A few items relating to his wife Marta Borbiro are mostly in Hungarian. Other papers and correspondence concern the immigration of family members to the United States.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in three series:

- Correspondence, 1948-1986
- Writings, 1924-1985
- Miscellany, 1908-1986

Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1-2	**Correspondence, 1948-1986** Correspondence and attachments. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 2-4	**Writings, 1924-1985** Speeches, scientific papers, articles, book reviews, musical compositions, letters to the editor, a radio script, autobiography, and book drafts. Arranged alphabetically by title.
BOX 5-7	**Miscellany, 1908-1986** Correspondence, news clippings, immigration documents, interviews, address books, biographical and financial material, notes, photographs, and printed matter. Arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-2	**Correspondence, 1948-1986**
	Correspondence and attachments.
	Arranged chronologically.
BOX 1	1948-1983
	(9 folders)
BOX 2	1984-1986, undated
	(2 folders)
BOX 2-4	**Writings, 1924-1985**
	Speeches, scientific papers, articles, book reviews, musical compositions, letters to the editor, a radio script, autobiography, and book drafts.
	Arranged alphabetically by title.
BOX 2	Autobiography, undated
BOX 2	Book reviews, 1957-1961, 1976, undated
BOX 2	*The Crazy Ape*, circa 1970
BOX 2	Letters to the editor, 1957-1961, 1971-1975, undated
BOX 2	Miscellaneous
BOX 2	Published, 1924-1925, 1937, 1947-1959, 1965-1982, undated
BOX 2	Unpublished
BOX 2	A-D, 1982, undated
	(2 folders)
BOX 3	E-W, 1960-1985, undated
	(7 folders)
BOX 4	Fragments, undated
	(2 folders)
BOX 4	"Peace March," 1964
BOX 4	"Psalmus Humanus and Six Prayers," 1964
BOX 4	Radio script in Hungarian, undated
BOX 4	"The Sick Ape," undated
BOX 5-7	**Miscellany, 1908-1986**
	Correspondence, news clippings, immigration documents, interviews, address books, biographical and financial material, notes, photographs, and printed matter.
	Arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material.
BOX 5	Address books, 1969, undated.
	(3 folders)
BOX 5	Albert Szent-Györgyi Foundation, 1985
BOX 5	Biographical material, 1957, 1974-1975, undated
BOX 5	Drawings and prints, undated
BOX 5	Financial material, 1955-1961, 1986, undated

Container	Contents
BOX 6	Horváth, István, 1941, 1973
BOX 6	"How the Soviet and Communism Ruined Hungary's Economy," Laszlo Miskolczy, circa 1956
BOX 6	Immigration, 1949-1961, undated
BOX 6	Institute for Muscle Research, 1948-1958, undated
BOX 6	Interviews, 1975-1978, undated
BOX 6	Legal documents, Hungarian, 1941-1948
BOX 6	National Foundation for Cancer Research, 1977-1986, undated
BOX 6	News clippings, 1938-1986, undated
BOX 6	Notes
BOX 6	Set A, foldered as organized by Szent-Györgyi, 1955-1959, 1985-1986, undated (5 folders)
BOX 7	Set B, unorganized, undated
BOX 7	Passport, 1969-1973
BOX 7	Patents, 1934-1936, 1950, 1961
BOX 7	Penzance Road trust, 1958
BOX 7	Photographs, circa 1935-circa 1980 (2 folders)
BOX 7	Printed matter, 1908-1912, 1922, 1939-1959, 1960-1977, undated (2 folders)
BOX 7	Research notebook, 1959-1963
BOX 7	Scientific organizations, 1961, undated
BOX 7	Szent-Györgyi, Marta Borbiro, 1957-1960, undated
BOX 7	Szent Gyorgyi Research Foundation, 1948, undated