

Lawrence E. Glendenin Papers
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Prepared by Kathleen O'Neill

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Collection Summary

Title: Lawrence E. Glendenin Papers

Span Dates: 1935-2009

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1945-1975)

ID No.: MSS85456

Creator: Glendenin, Lawrence E. (Lawrence Elgin), 1918-2008

Extent: 850 items

Extent: 3 containers

Extent: 1.2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm2009085456>

Summary: Nuclear chemist and co-discoverer of Promethium, element 61 on the periodic table of elements. Subject files, correspondence, writings, speeches, biographical material, newspaper clippings, printed matter, and awards documenting Glendenin's work on the Manhattan Project, the Bikini Scientific Resurvey, and his career at Argonne National Laboratory.

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

Glendenin, Lawrence E. (Lawrence Elgin), 1918-2008.

Marinsky, Jacob A. (Jacob Akiba), 1918-2005.

Smyth, Henry De Wolf, 1898-1986. A general account of the development of methods of using atomic energy for military purposes under the auspices of the United States government, 1940-1945. 1945.

Truman, Harry S., 1884-1972.

Organizations

Argonne National Laboratory.

Bikini Scientific Resurvey.

Manhattan Project (U.S.)

Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

Subjects

Atomic bomb--United States.

Nuclear weapons--Research--United States.

Promethium.

World War, 1939-1945--Japan.

World War, 1939-1945--United States.

Titles

Lawrence Elgin Glendenin papers

Occupations

Nuclear chemists.

Provenance

The papers of Lawrence E. Glendenin, nuclear chemist and co-discoverer of Promethium, were given to the Library of Congress by Charles D. Glendenin in 2009-2010.

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Lawrence E. Glendenin in these papers and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress has been dedicated to the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 Lawrence E. Glendenin 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, Lawrence E. Glendenin Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1918, Nov. 8	Born, Bay City, Mich.
1941	S.B. in chemistry, University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill.
1942	Joined the University of Chicago's Metallurgical Laboratory (code name for the Manhattan Project) as a member of Charles D. Coryell's team, Chicago, Ill.
1943-1945	Transferred to Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, Tenn.
1945	Discovered with Jacob A. Marinsky, Promethium, the 61st element on the periodic table One of sixty-seven Oak Ridge Laboratory scientists who signed the Oak Ridge petition calling for President Harry S. Truman to describe and demonstrate the atomic bomb's power and give Japan the opportunity to surrender Married Ethel Long
1946-1949	Ph.D. in nuclear chemistry, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass.
1947	Patent issued for Brady-Glendenin safety pipette Member of radio chemistry team, Bikini Scientific Resurvey, studying effects of atomic bomb testing on the Bikini Atoll (Marshall Islands)
1949-1985	Senior scientist, Chemistry Division, Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne, Ill.
1958	Visiting scientist, Metallurgy Division, Harwell Laboratory, Oxon, United Kingdom
1963	Appointed scientific secretary, United States delegation to the International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy, Geneva Switzerland
1974	American Chemical Society Award for Nuclear Applications in Chemistry
2008	Died, Nov. 22, Crystal Lake, Ill.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Lawrence E. Glendenin (1918-2008) span the years 1935-2009, with the bulk concentrated in the period 1945-1975. The papers consist of correspondence, writings, subject files, and printed matter. The collection contains material on the Bikini Scientific Resurvey, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, and Glendenin and Jacob A. Marinsky's discovery of Promethium, the 61st element on the periodic table. The collection also contains material on the Oak Ridge petition written by Oak Ridge scientists in 1945 following review and debate of a petition by Leo Szilard calling for President Harry S. Truman to describe and demonstrate the atomic bomb's power and then offer Japan the opportunity to surrender. The collection includes the Smyth report, an administrative history of the Manhattan Project by physicist

Henry DeWolf Smyth. The report was published on August 12, 1945, under its official name, A General Account of the Development of Methods of Using Atomic Energy for Military Purposes.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is grouped into a subject file and a writings file and arranged alphabetically thereunder by topic, name of person, organization, or type of material.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Subject file
BOX 1	American Chemical Society
BOX 1	Award for Nuclear Applications in Chemistry, 1973-1974 <i>See also Awards and honors</i> (3 folders)
BOX 1	Coryell, Charles D., regarding, 1974-1976 <i>See also Container 2, Coryell, Charles D.</i>
BOX 1	Symposium on the Commemoration of the Discovery of Fission, 1978-1979
BOX 1	Symposium in memory of Ellis P. Steinberg, 1992 (3 folders)
BOX 1	Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne, Ill., 1955-1958, 1977-1981, 1995 (2 folders)
BOX 1	Awards and honors, 1935-1941, 1949, 1974, 1989-1992 <i>See also same container, Award for Nuclear Applications in Chemistry</i> (3 folders)
BOX 1	Bikini Scientific Resurvey, Bikini Atoll (Marshall Islands), 1947 (2 folders)
BOX 1	Biographical information, 1976, 2000-2001, 2008
BOX 2	Conferences, various, 1953-1960
BOX 2	Coryell, Charles D., 1954, 1968-1971 <i>See also Container 1, same heading</i>
BOX 2	Gest, Howard, 1990
BOX 2	International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy, Geneva, Switzerland, 1955
BOX 2	Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass., 1946-1949, undated (3 folders)
BOX 2	Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, Tenn.
BOX 2	Certificates, 1945
BOX 2	Smyth report, 1945
BOX 2	ORNL Review, 1976 <i>See also same container, Promethium</i>
BOX 2	Printed matter, 1945-1946, 1967
BOX 2	Promethium <i>See also same container, ORNL Review</i>
BOX 2	Evans, C. H., 1989-1992
BOX 2	Printed matter, 1942-1949, 1981, 1989, 1995 (2 folders)
BOX 3	Seaborg, Glenn T., 1967-1980, 1993
BOX 3	Steinberg, Ellis P., 1991-1992, undated
BOX 3	Szilard petition and Oak Ridge petition, 1945, 1967, 1995-1997
BOX 3	Youth outreach, talks and interviews, 1989-2002
BOX 3	Writings file
BOX 3	Bibliography, undated
BOX 3	By Glendenin, 1948, 1961
BOX 3	By Glendenin with others, 1946-1955, 1965
BOX 3	By others
BOX 3	Griffin, Henry C., 2003
BOX 3	Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory, Los Alamos, N. Mex.

Container List

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BOX 3	Mouze, Genevieve, Sabet Hachem and Christian Ythier, 2008-2009
BOX 3	Smyth, Henry D., 1945-1946