Rockefeller University Archives

Record Group 450 M786

Stanford Moore Papers

Scope and Content

Size

Approximately 56 cubic feet.

Restrictions

None.

Dates

The collection contains materials ranging from 1881 to 1984. The majority of the materials were generated during the lifetime of Stanford Moore – 1913 to 1982.

Biographical Note

Stanford Moore was born on September 4, 1913 in Chicago, Illinois, to John Howard and Ruth Fowler Moore. Moore grew up in Nashville, Tennessee, where his father was Professor of Law at Vanderbilt University. After attending Peabody Demonstration School, he enrolled at Vanderbilt, graduating with a B.S. in 1935. That same year, he began graduate studies in Chemistry at the University of Wisconsin. Under the supervision of Karl Paul Link, he produced his Ph.D. thesis, "The Identification of Carbohydrates as Benzimidazole Derivatives" in 1938. After obtaining his degree, Link recommended Moore for a research assistantship in the Max Bergmann Laboratory at the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research. Moore joined the Bergmann Laboratory in 1939, where he met his colleague and research partner of forty years, William H. Stein, a member of the laboratory since 1937.

During World War II, Moore served as a Technical Aide with the Office of Scientific Research and Development from 1942 to 1945. When the war ended, Herbert Gasser, then Director of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, offered Moore and Stein laboratory space at the Institute (Bergmann's laboratory no longer existed, as he had died in 1944). In

1945, Moore and Stein returned to the Institute to form the Moore-Stein Laboratory. For over forty years, until his death, Moore was a member of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research (later the Rockefeller University). Moore primarily researched in the areas of chromatography and chemistry of carbohydrates, proteins, and amino acids, and had a keen interest in the development of scientific equipment.

In 1950, Moore accepted an invitation to the University of Brussels to be a visiting professor (Chaire Franqui/Francqui Chair), and followed up that appointment with a 6-month stint as an investigator at the University of Cambridge. He became a full Member of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research in 1952. Moore, together with Stein, worked to develop quantitative chromatographic methods through which proteins, peptides, and amino acids could be separated.

In 1972, Moore and Stein were awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry "for their contribution to the understanding of the connection between chemical structure and catalytic activity of the active centre of the ribonuclease molecule." They shared the award with Christian B. Anfinsen from the National Institutes of Health.

Moore was active in various professional scientific organizations, including the American Society of Biological Chemists (he served as President in 1967 as well as a member of the Editorial Board of the Journal of Biological Chemistry from 1950 to 1960), the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (serving as president in 1971), and the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (he was secretary to the Commission on Proteins of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry from 1953 to 1957. In addition to the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1972, Moore (along with Stein) won the 1964 American Chemical Society Award in Chromatography and Electrophoresis, and the Richards Medal and the Linderstrøm-Lang Medal, both in 1972.

Stanford Moore died in his apartment in New York City on August 23, 1982 at the age of sixty-eight.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into eleven distinct series based on subject matter and media:

Series 1 Biographical and Family Material

Series 2 Correspondence

Series 3 Laboratory Files

Series 4 Subject Files

Series 5 Lectures and Speeches

Series 6 Professional Travel and Activities

Series 7 Nobel Prize

Series 8 Manuscripts

Series 9 Reprints

Series 10 Audio-Visual Materials

Series 11 Ephemera

Series Descriptions

Series 1, Biographical and Family Material, is arranged alphabetically, and includes information on Moore's life as a whole, as well as Moore's childhood, adolescence, and early adulthood. Files on Moore's parents, Ruth Fowler and John Howard Moore, are also present in this series.

Series 2, Correspondence, is arranged alphabetically by the last name of the correspondent. This series primarily contains professional and academic correspondence, and spans the years during which Moore was most active at the Institute/University.

Series 3, Laboratory Files, is further separated into two categories: Laboratory Administration and Laboratory Notes and Notebooks. Members and associates of the Moore-Stein Laboratory at the Institute/University have files arranged alphabetically by last name. Laboratory Notes and Notebooks are also arranged alphabetically, either by last name or by the title of the notebook.

Series 4, Subject Files, is arranged alphabetically and contains material collected by Moore on various topics, including people, places, events, and research subjects. These files can include articles, notes, reprints, and correspondence.

Series 5, Lectures and Speeches, is arranged chronologically by the year in which the speech or lecture was given by Moore. The files typically contain notes and text written by Stanford Moore.

Series 6, Professional Travel and Activities, contains Moore's files on trips that he took which were of a professional nature, either within the United States or abroad. These files are arranged chronologically by the year in which he visited the location. This series also contains files pertaining to Moore's professional activities which are grouped into the following categories: Conferences – General, American Society of Biological Chemists, Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology, International Congress of Biochemistry, Rockefeller University, and Vanderbilt University.

Series 7, Nobel Prize, holds materials relating to Moore's 1972 Nobel Prize in Chemistry, including congratulatory correspondence, materials on the ceremony and the Nobel Prize Festival, and a folder of clippings.

Series 8, Manuscripts, includes manuscripts submitted or given to Moore by associates or members of the Moore-Stein Laboratory, as well as one folder of Moore manuscripts.

Series 9, Reprints, contains two runs of reprints maintained by Moore: Collected Reprints and Moore Reprints. These two sets of reprints are arranged chronologically; any reprints that were not originally filed within these two series are arranged alphabetically by title.

Series 10, Audio-Visual Materials, includes photographs, negatives, slides, glass slides, audio tapes, and microfiche. All audio-visual media from other series within the collection have been removed to this series, and placed in a folder of the same name as the original.

Series 11, Ephemera, contains memorabilia and other objects from the Stanford Moore Papers, including certificates, diplomas, medals, paperweights, and other such objects.

Associated Material

For related material on Moore's work, the researcher may wish to consult the William H. Stein Papers of the Rockefeller University Archives, Record Group 450 St34.

Bethany J. Antos
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