



NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Collection Name:

Lawrence R. Hafstad papers, 1919-1977

Collection Number:

P1119

Extent:

1.6 cubic feet (4 archives boxes)

History/Biography:

Lawrence Randolph Hafstad was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota in 1904 to two Norwegian Immigrants. He received his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the University of Minnesota in 1926. In 1933, he received his Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins in physics. Hafstad died on October 12, 1993.

In 1931, he earned the American Association for the Advancement of Science Prize for his research with Merle A. Tuve and Odd Dahl. He was a research scientist at the Carnegie Institution of Washington, 1938-1941. During the war he was part of a scientific team at the Applied Physics Laboratory at Johns Hopkins University which developed the proximity fuse for use in anti-aircraft weaponry. This development marked a significant improvement in ordnance for the Army and Navy.

He was awarded the Medal of Merit from the United States Navy and the King's Medal in Defense of Freedom from the British Government in 1946. Among other positions, he was Executive Secretary of the Joint Research Development Board, Office of Defense, of the Secretary of the Navy, 1947-1949; Director of Reactor Development, U. S. Atomic Energy Commission, 1949-1955; Director of Atomic Energy Division, Chase Manhattan Bank, 1955; vice president of General Motors Corporation in charge of research laboratories, 1955-1969. He traveled to Europe and Asia in 1955 on behalf of the Fund for Peaceful Atomic Development. He received the Distinguished Service Award of the United States in 1954 and the Procter Prize for Scientific Achievement from the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 1956.

Scope and Content:

The collection contains reports, clippings, pamphlets, articles, photographs, and correspondence. Hafstad's articles discuss various topics regarding atoms and nuclear energy, lectures on missiles, and more. His correspondence includes personal with his mother, and professional correspondence regarding Joint Research and Development Board, U.S. Department of Defense, and Naval Ordnance Laboratory. Travel documents regarding Peaceful Atomic Development in Japan, Australia, Philippines, India, Pakistan and Germany, also includes various photographs of his travels.



Box	Folder	Description
1	1	Biography and bibliography, 1946-1957 Includes clipping "Atom produces an 'Horatio Alger' hero" (1949).
1	2	Article by S. Flügge, 1939 "Can Nuclear Energy be Utilized for Practical Purposes," translation by E. Rabinowitch.
1	3	Joint Research and Development Board (U.S. Department of Defense) correspondence, 1948
1	4	History of proximity fuze, 1940
1	5	VT (variable time) fuze development, 1945-1948
1	6	"Spectrum" article on VT fuze, 1967 "World War II: Electronics and the U.S. Navy. Magnetic mines, acoustical and homing torpedoes, and proximity fuzes" by Gordon D. Friedlander. December 1967.
1	7	Lecture on guided missiles, 1946 December "Army-Navy Guided Missiles Familiarization Course. Introduction to Guided-Missiles Problems. Lecture by L.R. Hafstad, Applied Physics Laboratory. The Johns Hopkins University."
1	8	Undersea Warfare, 1946-1951 Includes: clipping "An Atomic-Powered Submarine will be Tough to Develop" (1951); "Summary Report on the Present and Probable Development of Torpedoes" (1946); "Summary of Anti Submarine Warfare. World War II" (undated); photos of torpedo testing in water.
1	9	Joint Research and Development Board Committee on Guided Missiles (U.S. Department of Defense), 1946-1947
1	10	Letters to Hafstad regarding Los Alamos, 1947-1948
1	11	U.S. Air Force Bumblebee Project (guided missiles), 1949
1	12	"History of Directors of Industrial Research," 1970-1976
2	1	Atomic Energy Commission, 1949-1970 Includes compiled speeches "Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy" by Glenn T. Seaborg, July 1970.
2	2	Naval Ordnance Laboratory, 1950-1970 Includes correspondence and photos.
2	3	Fund for Peaceful Atomic Development, 1955-1959 Travel for the Fund for Peaceful Atomic Development.
2	4	Japan travel for Fund for Peaceful Atomic Development, 1955 Includes a packet of photos from Dr. Asao Sugimoto, Scientific Research Institute, Tokyo.
2	5	Japan travel for Fund for Peaceful Atomic Development, 1956-1965
2	6	Japan travel for Fund for Peaceful Atomic Development, 1955



- Includes: "Proposal for Demonstrations of Peaceful Uses of Atomic Radiation in Japan," by Paul C. Aebersold (March 1, 1955); address "The Way to Atomic Electric Power"; clipping "Atoms-for-Peace Mission: Scientists urges to make the decision" (Japan News, May 13, 1955).
- 2 7 Philippines travel for Fund for Peaceful Atomic Development, 1955
Includes participant photos.
- 3 1 Australia travel for Fund for Peaceful Atomic Development, 1955
- 3 2 India and Pakistan travel for Fund for Peaceful Atomic Development, 1955-1956
Includes "Intelligence Report no. 6873: Nuclear Power Potential in India" (1955).
- 3 3 Germany travel for Fund for Peaceful Atomic Development, 1955-1967
- 3 4 Turkey, Rome, Brussels, London, Paris travel for Fund for Peaceful Atomic Development, 1954-1955
- 3 5 Report on Travel for Fund for Peaceful Atomic Development, 1955
India, Middle East, and Europe.
- 3 6 Pamphlet for Chase Manhattan Bank, 1955 January 24
Address given by Hafstad "The Industrial Application of Atomic Energy."
- 3 7 General Motors research, 1955-1969
- 3 8 Prospects of a reactor at Hallam, Nebraska, 1956-1967
Nathan Gold (Lincoln, NE).
- 3 9 Air Force Radiation Facility, 1959-1960
- 3 10 "Foundations of Sand. A Hard Look at the Soft Sciences," by Hafstad, Marianne Mele, and John Morse, 1982
- 3 11 Letters written to his mother, 1919-1935
- 4 1 "Keepsake in Honor of Vannevar Bush" at MIT, 1959 June 15
- 4 2 President's Science Advisory Committee, 1960-1961
- 4 3 Sandia Corporation, 1961-1964
Includes: drafts of "History of Sandia Corporation" by F.C. Alexander, Jr. (1961) and final published version (1963).
- 4 4 U.S. Navy "Sea Hawk" Technical Advisory Panel, 1962
- 4 5 Fund for Peaceful Atomic Development, 1962-1971
- 4 6 U.S. Navy Fuze Committee, 1962-1964
- 4 7 Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory history, 1963
- 4 8 Rand Corporation Report, "The First Fifteen Years," 1963-1963
- 4 9 Shipbuilding Study Group, 1965-1966
- 4 10 "Automobiles and Air Pollution" (Argonne Universities Association
- 4 11 Johns Hopkins University, Policy Advisory Committee for Engineering, 1976



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| 4 | 12 | Johns Hopkins University, Applied Physics Laboratory, 1976
"Reflections of the origin and early history of the Applied Physics Laboratory" by R.E. Gibson. (APL Technical Digest). |
| 4 | 13 | Carnegie Institution of Washington, Report of the President, 1976-1977 |
| 4 | 14 | Hugo Stinnes (1870-1924), 1976
Includes: "A Genius in Chaotic Times" by Edmund H. Stinnes (son); and an interview with Mr. Stanley Andrews, formerly Head of the Agricultural Food Division of the Military Government in Germany with Dr. Edmund H. Stinnes. Dec. 8th, 1975. |