

Albert Einstein:

An Inventory of His Collection at the Harry Ransom Center

Descriptive Summary

Creator:	Einstein, Albert, 1879-1955
Title:	Albert Einstein Collection
Dates:	1906-1979 (bulk 1906-1955)
Extent:	4 boxes (1.68 linear feet)
Abstract:	The Albert Einstein Collection consists of handwritten manuscripts, typescripts, and correspondence by Einstein and others.
Call Number:	Manuscript Collection MS-01292
Language:	Materials are in English, German, and French.
Access:	Open for research

Administrative Information

Acquisition:	Purchases and gifts, 1967-1979 (R3781, R4029, R5180, R5868, R5374, R6489, G66, R8447, G411)
Processed by:	Joan M. Sibley, 2010
Repository:	Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin

Biographical Information

Albert Einstein (1879-1955) was a German-American physicist best known for his theory of relativity, his unified field theory, and his contributions to the fields of statistical mechanics and quantum mechanics. He was the recipient of the Nobel Prize in 1921 for his work on the photoelectric effect.

Scope and Contents

The Albert Einstein Collection consists of handwritten manuscripts, typescripts, and correspondence by Einstein and others, dating from 1906-1979 (bulk 1906-1955). The materials are arranged in three series: I. Einstein Works, 1920-1955, undated; II. Einstein Letters, 1906-1955, undated; and III. Third-Party Works and Correspondence re Einstein, 1920-1979, undated. The manuscripts and letters are primarily written in German, although some English- and French-language items are present. Part of this collection was previously accessible through a card catalog, but has been recataloged as part of a retrospective conversion project.

Among works by Einstein are an undated handwritten manuscript with revisions of *Über die Grundbegriffe der Physik und ihre neuester Wandlungen*; an undated handwritten manuscript with revisions of *Über Gravitationswellen*; a typescript autobiographical statement prepared for Georges Schreiber's *Portraits and Self-Portraits* in 1935; and marginal annotations and handwritten notes in a copy of *Über die Spezielle und die Allgemeine Relativitätstheorie (Gemeinverständlich)*. Unpublished notes and calculations dating from 1950-1955 show Einstein's final work on the hydrodynamical equations in general relativity, the variational principle, and the unified field theory.

Letters by Einstein include forty-six letters written to Gustav Bucky between 1933 and 1950, fifty-six letters written to Maurice Solovine between 1906 and 1955, and one or more letters to Pascal Covici, William and Hans Lebach, Walther Mayer, Georges Schreiber, and others. A complete index of correspondents is included in this finding aid.

Also present in the collection are two handwritten manuscripts of Maurice Solovine's introduction to *Lettres à Maurice Solovine: Reproduites en Facsimile et Traduites en Français*; a reminiscent essay about Einstein by Frida Sarsen Bucky; and a typescript of *Einstein: The Life and Times*, a biography by Ronald William Clark.

Nearly all of the materials in the Einstein collection, as well as Einstein materials from other Ransom Center collections, are described in: *Albert Einstein, 1879-1955: A Centenary Exhibit of Manuscripts, Books, and Portraits Selected from the Humanities Research Center Collections* by Albert C. Lewis. Austin: University of Texas. Humanities Research Center, 1979.

Related Material

Additional Einstein letters and manuscripts are located in a number of other Ransom Center collections. These include Alfred A. Knopf, Inc.; Julian Beck; Thomas Bertram Costain; Enit Kaufman; Ludwig Lewisohn, International PEN; John G. Moore; Ilya Prigogine; Robert Haven Schaufler; Evelyn Scott; George Bernard Shaw; and Edward Weeks.

In addition to Einstein books held by the Ransom Center Library, there are portraits of Einstein by Ivan Opffer, William Rothenstein, and S. J. Woolf present in the Center's Art Collection. The Personal Effects Collection includes a cardboard box bearing the ownership stamp of Albert Einstein and containing a Molecular Model Kit manufactured by the Fisher Scientific Company of Pittsburgh, accompanied by a booklet on the model with a few handwritten annotations, possibly in Einstein's hand. Three photographs of Einstein that were acquired with Einstein's letters to Maurice Solovine are part of the Literary File Collection in the Center's Photography Collection. These holdings include portraits of Einstein alone and with others, including Maurice Solovine and Conrad Habicht. The Vertical File Collection contains a folder of general information plus two posters related to Einstein centenary celebrations at the University of Minnesota and the Ransom Center in 1979.

The bulk of Albert Einstein's papers are held by the Jewish National & University Library at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and may be accessed via the *Einstein Archives Online* at <http://www.alberteinstein.info/>, a joint project with the *Einstein Papers Project* at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena with the support of Princeton University Press, publisher of *The Collected Papers of Albert Einstein*.

Series I. Einstein Works, 1920-1955, undated

Autobiographical statement, signed typescript, 1 page, December 1935, written in German **Container**
1.1

Über die Grundbegriffe der Physik und ihre neuester Wandlungen, handwritten manuscript with revisions, 13 pages, undated **Container**
1.1

Über die Spezielle und die Allgemeine Relativitätstheorie (Gemeinverständlich) von A. Einstein. Braunschweig: F. Vieweg & Sohn, 1920

Einstein's personal copy with marginal annotations **Container** 1.2

Manuscripts removed from volume, including an untitled 1-page handwritten manuscript (formerly inserted between pages 56 and 57), and a 2-page carbon typescript entitled "Druckfehlerberichtigung" (formerly laid in) **Container**
1.3

Über Gravitationswellen, signed handwritten manuscript with revisions, 5 pages on 6 leaves, undated **Container**
1.4

Acquisition R5868, 1973: A collection of unpublished handwritten manuscripts by Einstein, circa 1950-1955 (additional descriptions from the dealer are included in each folder)

Relativity studies, 17 pages on 9 leaves **Container** 3.1

First approximation of gravitational waves, 26 pages on 14 leaves **Container**
3.2

Study of the velocity of light, 14 pages on 7 leaves **Container** 3.3

Index of inertia, 6 pages on 3 leaves **Container** 3.4

Transformations of the Ricci tensor R_{ik} , 22 pages on 11 leaves **Container**
3.5

Studies in Riemannian space, 25 pages on 13 leaves **Container** 3.6

Transformation of Bianchi's identity, 19 pages on 12 leaves **Container**
3.7

Relativity studies, 18 pages on 9 leaves **Container** 3.8

Attempt of field equations defined by gik function, 18 pages on 11 leaves **Container**
3.9

Application of Γ terms to manifolds, 20 pages on 10 leaves	Container 3.10
Thermodynamics: investigation of stability in general, 14 pages on 7 leaves	Container 3.11
Thermodynamics: investigation of stability in general, 16 pages on 9 leaves	Container 3.12
Field equations and thermodynamics, 11 pages on 6 leaves	Container 3.13
Study of Riemannian space, 16 pages on 8 leaves	Container 3.14
Further studies in Riemannian space, 12 pages on 6 leaves	Container 3.15
Further studies in Riemannian space, 19 pages on 10 leaves	Container 3.16
Miscellaneous papers, 7 pages on 4 leaves	Container 3.17
A rotating Euclidean system, 19 pages on 10 leaves	Container 3.18

Acquisition R8447, 1979: Einstein papers on unified field theory, circa 1950-1954 (more detailed descriptions by Professor Paul H. Savet are included in each folder)

Manuscript A, 23 pages on 13 leaves	Container 4.1
Manuscript B, 27 pages on 15 leaves (1 page on verso of cover for Jean Mariani, Théorie des Champs Macroscopiques, 1947)	Container 4.2
Manuscript C, 27 pages on 17 leaves (2 pages on verso of fragments of letter from Robert L. Platzman, Purdue University, 11 June 1952)	Container 4.3
Manuscript D, 26 pages on 18 leaves	Container 4.4
Manuscript E, 60 pages on 34 leaves	Container 4.5
Manuscript F, 52 pages on 42 leaves	Container 4.6
Manuscript G, 2 pages on 1 leaf	Container 4.7
Manuscript H, 1 page on 1 leaf (on verso of envelope with unidentified letter fragment enclosed)	Container 4.8

Manuscript I, 1 page on 1 leaf (on verso of letter from Elisha M. Friedman, 2 March 1947)	Container 4.9
Manuscript J, 1 page on 1 leaf (on verso of card from Simon and Schuster)	Container 4.10
Manuscript K, 1 page on 1 leaf (on verso of letter from Max Sommerfeld, probably 7 April 1953)	Container 4.11
Manuscript L, 1 page on 1 leaf (on verso of envelope from Rev. Jose _____ Watkins, postmarked 3 June 1953)	Container 4.12
Manuscript M, 2 pages on 2 leaves (1 page on verso of deposition by John Desmond Bernal, November 1952; 1 page on verso of typescript by D. N. Pritt, The Rosenberg Case, November 1952)	Container 4.13
Manuscript N, 1 page on 1 leaf (on verso of letter to Robert Oppenheimer, 24 January 1950)	Container 4.14

Series II. Einstein Letters, 1906-1955, undated

A-Z

Container 1.4

Bucky, Gustav, 1933-1953, undated

Container 1.5-6

Mayer, Walther, undated

Container 1.7

Solovine, Maurice, 1906-1955, undated

Container 1.8-9

Series III. Third-Party Works and Letters re Einstein, 1920-1979, undated

Bucky, Frida Sarsen. My vis à vis (Intimate memories of Einstein), carbon typescript, 15 pages, undated **Container**
1.10

Clark, Ronald William. *Einstein, The Life and Times* (1972), photocopy of typescript with handwritten revisions, with additional revisions on the photocopy, circa 800 pages

Chapters 1-8 **Container** 2.1

Chapters 9-15 **Container** 2.2

Chapters 16-22 **Container** 2.3

Einstein, Albert. Printed calling card, given to Elias Tobenkin by Einstein in 1920 **Container**
1.10

Markel, Lester (*New York Times*). Letter to Georges Schreiber re Einstein quotation, 27 April 1955 **Container**
1.10

Otto, Nathan. 4 letters to Lawrence Cranberg, 1979 accompanied by photocopies of 4 letters from Cranberg to Nathan, 1979 **Container**
1.10

Popper, Karl Raimund. Letter to J. M. Fried, 25 May 1968 **Container**
1.10

Solovine, Maurice. Introduction [to *Lettres à Maurice Solovine: Reproduites en Facsimile et Traduites en Français*], two handwritten manuscripts/incomplete with handwritten revisions, 25 pages and 11 pages, circa 1956 **Container**
1.10

Index of Correspondents

- Bucky, Gustav, 1880-1963 --1.5-6 (46 letters from Albert Einstein, plus 7 handwritten notes and worksheets, 3 handwritten poems, 1 typescript poem, 1933-1953, written in German)
- Covici, Pascal, 1885-1964-- 1.4 (2 letters from Albert Einstein, 9 June 1934 and 7 August 1934, written in German)
- Cranberg, Lawrence--1.10 (photocopies of 4 letters to Nathan Otto, 1979)
- Dukas, Helen--1.5-6 (postscript on letter from Albert Einstein to Gustav Bucky); 1.8-9 (1 letter to Maurice Solovine, 11 October 1951)
- Einstein, Albert, 1879-1955--1.4-9
- Einstein, Elsa, 1876-1936--1.5-6 (postscript on letter from Albert Einstein to Gustav Bucky)
- Einstein, Ilse--1.8-9 (2 letters to Maurice Solovine, 15 January 1921 and 14 November 1922)
- Einstein, Maja, 1881-1951--1.5-6 (postscript on letter from Albert Einstein to Gustav Bucky)
- Einstein-Marić, Mileva, 1875-1948--1.8-9 (1 letter to Maurice Solovine, 17 September 1939)
- Hersholt, _____, Mr.--1.4 (1 letter from Albert Einstein on behalf of the Emergency Committee of Atomic Scientists, 15 June 1946)
- Lebach, Hans H.--1.4 (3 letters from Albert Einstein, 1940-1954, written in German)
- Lebach, William--1.4 (9 letters and telegrams from Albert Einstein, 1938-1953, undated, written in German)
- Loeb, _____, Mr. and Mrs. --1.4 (1 letter from Albert Einstein on behalf of the Palestine Orchestra Fund, 27 November 1938)
- Markel, Lester, 1894- (*New York Times*)--1.10 (1 letter to Georges Schreiber, 24 April 1955)
- Mayer, W. (Walther), b. 1887--1.7 (1 letter from Albert Einstein, undated, written in German; typed translation included)
- Otto, Nathan--1.10 (4 letters to Lawrence Cranberg, 1979)
- Popper, Karl R. (Karl Raimund), 1902-1994--1.10 (1 letter to J. M. Fried, 1968)
- Schreiber, Georges, 1904- --1.4 (2 letters from Albert Einstein, 6 and 24 December 1935, written in German)
- Smith, Datus Clifford, 1907- (Princeton University Press)--1.4 (1 letter from Albert Einstein, 13 November 1945 and 1 letter to E. B. Tustin, 16 November 1945; removed from QC 6 E43 1950 HRC)
- Solovine, Maurice--1.8-9 (56 letters and postcards from Albert Einstein, 1906-1955, plus typed transcripts of 6 of the letters)
- Unidentified recipient--1.4 (1 form letter from Albert Einstein on behalf of the Emergency Committee of Atomic Scientists, 22 April 1947)