



# **Rockefeller University records, President, Detlev Bronk, Biographical and Personal material**

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This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on March 31, 2020.

Rockefeller Archive Center

15 Dayton Avenue  
Sleepy Hollow 10591

[archive@rockarch.org](mailto:archive@rockarch.org)

URL: <http://www.rockarch.org>

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Rockefeller Archive Center
<b>Creator - aut:</b>	Bronk, Detlev W. (Detlev Wulf), 1897-1975
<b>Creator:</b>	Rockefeller University
<b>Creator:</b>	Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research
<b>Title:</b>	Rockefeller University records, President, Detlev Bronk, Biographical and Personal material
<b>ID:</b>	FA964
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1923-1976
<b>Physical Description:</b>	1.75 Cubic Feet 7 boxes
<b>General Physical Description note:</b>	7 boxes.
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English

### Preferred Citation note

Information regarding the Rockefeller Archive Center's preferred elements and forms of citation can be found at <http://www.rockarch.org/research/citations.php>

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## Scope and Contents

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This collection consists of Bronk's biographical materials, personal correspondence, memoranda, documentation of awards, memberships, lectures, etc.

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## Arrangement

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The Rockefeller University records, President, Detlev W. Bronk materials are arranged into 4 components:

Administrative papers (FA140)

General and Professional correspondence (FA914)

Biographical and Personal material (FA964)

Personal and Professional papers (FA965)

See "other finding aids" note in this guide for directly links to the other Bronk holdings.

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## File Plan note

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Former Classification: I 303-6

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

Rockefeller Archive Center

15 Dayton Avenue

Sleepy Hollow 10591

[archive@rockarch.org](mailto:archive@rockarch.org)

URL: <http://www.rockarch.org>

### Processing Information

Processed by Carolyn Kopp, July 1985

## Conditions Governing Access note

Collection is open for research. Brittle or damaged items are available at the discretion of RAC. Material in the Rockefeller family collections that provides the names, correspondence, or activities of living members of the Rockefeller family, and/or documents the net wealth of any Rockefeller family members, is restricted. Researchers interested in accessing digital media (floppy disks, CDs, DVDs, etc.) or audiovisual material (audio cassettes, VHS, etc.) in this collection must use an access surrogate. The original items may not be accessed because of preservation concerns. To request an access surrogate be made, or if you are unsure if there is an access surrogate, please contact an archivist.

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## Related Materials

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### Separated Materials

Audiovisual materials were separated from the body of the collection for specialized storage. Some formats are currently not playable inhouse at the RAC.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Biology -- Research
- Medical sciences
- Aviation medicine
- Physiology
- Operations management
- Medical research

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## Other Finding Aids

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[FA140 Rockefeller University records, President, Detlev W. Bronk, Administrative papers](#)

[FA914 Rockefeller University records, President, Detlev W. Bronk, General and Professional correspondence](#)

[FA965 Rockefeller University records, President, Detlev W. Bronk, Personal and Professional papers](#)

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## Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
Bibliographies	box 1	folder 1-6
1923-1976	box 1	folder 1
1923-1971	box 1	folder 2
1923-1939	box 1	folder 3
Additions to (those not in NAS list)	box 1	folder 4
Correspondence re: Ruth Sternfeld. re: missing reprints, 1978	box 1	folder 5
Working copy. C. Kopp., 1981	box 1	folder 6
Biographical Memoirs	box 1	folder 7-11
American Philosophical Society Yearbook. Britton Chance. photocopy., 1978	box 1	folder 7
National Academy of Sciences, 1979, Vol. 50. Frank Brink, Jr. Reprint, 1979	box 1	folder 8-10
Royal Society of London. Lord Adrian. 1976, Vol 22., 1976	box 1	folder 11
Obituaries	box 1	folder 12
Biographical Summaries	box 1	folder 13
Rockefeller University Public Information Biographies, 1972, 1975	box 1	folder 14
Bright, Mabel	box 1	folder 15
"A Bouquet for Mabel Bright", 1978 November 27		
N.A.S. Archives (Jean St. Clair), 1977. Enclosure, copy of letter from DWB/Lyman Chalkley, 1947 July 19., 1947, 1977		
Mabel Bright/Paul Cranefield (and enclosures). Re: Preben Ramlov inquiry on relation between Jonas Bronk and DWB., 1981 September 3		
Bronk, Helen. Obituary news and notes., 1983 December-1984 January	box 1	folder 16
Bronk Fund. News and Notes., 1976 March		

	box 1	folder 17
Buildings Built/Dedicated by DWB	box 1	folder 18
Honors and Awards	box 1	folder 19
List of Lectures, 1926-1941	box 1	folder 20
Memberships	box 1	folder 21
The Rockefeller Institute/University	box 1	folder 22

Appraisal:

**Appraisal**

Correspondence re: salary information removed to Confidential files.

Copy of Report on the Committee on Nomination and Review

Invitation from the Board of Trustees, RIMR, to meet Dr. and Mrs. Bronk, 1954 January 22

Edrick B. Smith/Bronk re: election as President and member of the Executive Committee, 1953 November 4 and 1954 October 21

Bronk/"Colleague", re: retirements, appointments, and changes in titles of departments/directorship, 1955 June 20

RU Memorial, 1976 February 18	box 1	folder 23
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**Scope and Contents**

Announcement; Booklet of printed recollections.

Seitz, Frederick. A Tribute to DWB. Printed copy of presentation at Annual Meeting of the National Academy of Sciences, Washington, D.C., 1976 April 25	box 1	folder 24
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Autobiographical Notes	box 2	folder 1-2
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ca. 1908-1960s	box 2	folder 1
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Processing Information:

**Processing Information**

Notes, numbered with hand-stamp in original order by Ruth Sternfeld.

**Scope and Contents**

Includes: diary.

Miscellaneous autobiographical notes	box 2	folder 2
Christmas Cards	box 2	folder 3
Clippings, 1920s, 1940s-1970s	box 2	folder 4-9
Correspondence, 1937-1939, undated	box 2	folder 10

Personal Correspondence and Letters	box 2	folder 11-14
1926-1948	box 2	folder 11
1950-1959	box 2	folder 12
1960-1969	box 2	folder 13
1970-1975	box 2	folder 14
Cranefield, Paul re: Science and Public Policy journal., 1977	box 2	folder 15
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
Includes copy of Vol. 1, No. 1, 1964 July (only issue) with DWB note on cover.		
"Dictator" article.	box 2	folder 16-18
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
Friendship sloop owned by Alan M. Chesney.		
Correspondence, c. 1952-1975	box 2	folder 16
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
Includes: Alan M. Chesney, William and Dorothy Tillett, R. Buckminster Fuller.		
Manuscript, c. 1973	box 2	folder 17
Published article. DWB "Dictator, Marvelous Old Friendship Sloop Revived!" Ellsworth American, Ellsworth, ME, page 15., 1973 September 6	box 2	folder 18
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
article contains photographs.		
Institute for Advanced Study. DWB note attached to copy of letter from John von Neumann/Lewis L. Strauss. Re: DWB and others as possible directors of Institute for Advanced Study., 1946 May 4	box 2	folder 19
Michigan, University of: Notifications of Appointments, 1924-1926	box 2	folder 20
Navy Department: 1935 correspondence re: DWB history of service, 1918-1922, 1935	box 2	folder 21
Notes, Drafts by DWB, c. 1925-1960	box 2	folder 22
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
Includes: "Schedule", c. 1925, found in bound copy of DWB Ph.D. thesis; note attached to 1960 invitation to premiere of movie on Wernher von Braun.		
Personal, Miscellany	box 2	folder 23



Swathmore College: Transcript., 1917	box 2	folder 24
Photographs	box 3	
Portraits	box 3	folder 1-4
1954	box 3	folder 1
1962	box 3	folder 2
Fortune Magazine, 1964 September	box 3	folder 3
undated	box 3	folder 4
Helen Bronk	box 3	folder 5
DWB and David Rockefeller	box 3	folder 6
Group	box 3	folder 7
Miscellaneous	box 3	folder 8
Vacation	box 3	folder 9
Interview with Daniel Greenberg, 1965 August 5	box 4	
Correspondence and Transcript, p. 1-29.	box 4	folder 1
Transcript, p. 30-69.	box 4	folder 2
Transcript, p. 70-103.	box 4	folder 3
Memorial Service at Rockefeller University (Tapes), 1976 February 18	box 4	

Conditions Governing Access:**Conditions Governing Access**

RAC is unable to provide access to obsolete media and original digital media. In addition separated media may not yet have undergone stabilization procedures. When feasible, a digital surrogate may be created via special order. All applicable charges will apply. See RAC Head of Archival Services or RAC Head of Digital Programs for details.

Ph.D. Thesis, University of Michigan: An electrometric study of the submaxillary gland of the dog., 1925	box 5	folder 1-2
Photographs	box 6	
DWB Portraits: In college, 1925	box 6	folder 1
Cartoon: Wigodsky, Griffis, Bronk	box 6	folder 2
Family and early snapshots	box 6	folder 3
Detlev Bronk, c. 1899		
Detlev Bronk (Swathmore)1, 1917		
Detlev Bronk, c. 1914		

Mitchell Bronk, John Bronk, Isabelle, 1921 September 10		
D.W. Bronk house at Ann Arbor, 1921 (1921-1926)		
Detlev Bronk, c. 1902		
Detlev Bronk, c. 1904		
Detlev Bronk, High School Graduation		
Photographs: Group, 1940-1949	box 6	folder 4
First Meeting of the Civilian Naval Research Advisory Committee., 1946 October 14		
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
ID of group photo on back.		
American Scientific Advisory Group, first meeting, Tokyo, Japan, 1948 November 3		
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
ID of group on back.		
Members of the Scientific Advisory Group greeted by Colonel J.S. Harbison on arrival at Haneda Airbase, Tokyo, Japan, 1948 November 28		
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
ID of group on back.		
Photographs: Group, 1950-1959	box 6	folder 5
Four year cost of training a medical student, 1950?		
Cost of Medical Education, 1900-1950		
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
DWB in tuxedo.		
D.W. Bronk with President Eisenhower, c. 1957 July 23		
Photographs: Group, 1960-1965	box 6	folder 6
D.W. Bronk and Azuma, Governor of Tokyo, 1961 December		
D.W. Bronk and Clifford R. Gilliam. Swarthmore Alumni Issue., 1962 October		
D.W. Bronk accepting award of 1964 Golden Jubilee Award of the Golden Age Club, at Our Lady of Mercy Church, Bronx, NY, 1965 April 5		
Photographs: Group, 1970-1975	box 6	folder 7

Governor's Committee on Scholastic Achievement, The Pierre Hotel, New York City. D.W. Bronk and Frederick Seitz, 1973  
June 21

National Academy of Sciences 111th Meeting, Washington, D.C. Wallace Harrison, the Bronks, Jean St. Clair., 1974 April  
22

Photographs: Group, undated

box 6

folder 8

D.W. Bronk in tuxedo with others.

### **Scope and Contents**

Photographer: Dick Clayton.

WAAM photograph. D.W. Bronk at left.

U.S. Army photographs. D.W. Bronk standing.

D.W. Bronk standing, second from right.

### **Scope and Contents**

Photographer: Shreve Ballard, Santa Barbara, CA.

D.W. Bronk seated third from left.

### **Scope and Contents**

Photographer: Harris & Ewing, Washington, D.C.

D.W. Bronk in striped tie.

D.W. Bronk, H.S. Gasser and unidentified others

WAAM Program Advisory Council meeting. In first photo D.W. Bronk seated first right side.

Photographs: Group, undated

box 6

folder 9

D.W. Bronk to left.

General Carl A. Spaatz presenting the Emblem for Exceptional Civilian to D.W. Bronk

D.W. Bronk at podium.

D.W. Bronk row 4, fourth from left.

D.W. Bronk identified in first group photo.

D.W. Bronk in center receiving medal.

### Processing Information:

### **Processing Information**

Includes a note from Bronk indicating "I do not know who these people are and I do not have the medal".

D.W. Bronk: Informal

box 6

folder 10

At LaGuardia Airport boarding plane to London to deliver  
Croonian Lecture at Royal Society on June 30, 1949., 1949 June  
27

### Scope and Contents

Includes newspaper clippings and press release.

Different poses, 1957 October 2

Photographs: Honorary Degrees, Awards

box 6

folder 11

D.W. Bronk and E.D. Adrian receiving honorary D.Sc. from  
University of Pennsylvania, 1931 October 13

D.W. Bronk in center. Inscribed "To Dr. Detlev Bronk with Best  
wishes, Harold E. Stassen", 1949 June

D.W. Bronk giving address, "Science in a Democracy" at  
Yale School Auditorium, 75th Anniversary celebration of  
Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, 8 pm., 1950  
September 28

General Electric Company., Schenectady, NY. D.W. Bronk in  
center., 1950 October 11

### Scope and Contents

General News Bureau photo.

Honorary Degree Candidates, New York University., 1951  
September 15

D.W. Bronk, President, NAS, extends greetings from the  
Learned Societies of the U.S. to the USMA Cadets and Guests,  
Jubilee Banquet in the Washington Hall, USMA, West Point  
New York; Commemorating 150th Anniversary of the military  
academy. D.W. Bronk at Podium, 1952 May 20

Graduation of Submarine School officers class, D.W. Bronk  
guest speaker, U.S. Naval submarine base, New London, CT. ,  
1952 June 13

### Scope and Contents

1 photo has D.W. Bronk at podium.

D.W. Bronk and others, Adams, MA, undated

### Scope and Contents

Photo by Vrabel Studio.

Grinnel College News Service, Grinnel. IA.: D.W. Bronk and  
others., undated

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University of Michigan News Service, Ann Arbor, MI: D.W. Bronk receiving honorary degree., undated

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D.W. Bronk and others., undated

### **Scope and Contents**

Photographer: John A. Kelly Jr.

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University of Cincinnati: L to R: Dr. Martin H. Fischer, D.W. Bronk, Dr. William T. Semple, undated

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Baltimore, MD. 1: D.W. Bronk to left. 2: D.W. Bronk in center., undated

### **Scope and Contents**

Photographer: Sussman-Ochs.

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Outdoors. D.W. Bronk last row, third from right., undated

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D.W. Bronk presenting degree, undated

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undated

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undated

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Photographs: Honorary Degrees, Awards

box 6

folder 12

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D.W. Bronk, President (?), awarding honorary degrees to Schmidt, Dr. Hill, E.D. Adrian and unidentified others, outside of Jenkins Hall, Johns Hopkins University., undated

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D.W. Bronk awarding honorary degree to unidentified person (possibly Flexner), undated

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Miscellaneous photos, undated

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Photographs: Honorary Degrees, Awards

box 6

folder 13

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Group photo: Inscription on back "From J.S. Bixler, Colby, College", undated

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One recipient of honorary degree, identified as Henry Allen Moe.

### **Scope and Contents**

Photographer: Sussman-Ochs, Baltimore, MD.

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Evening celebration, undated

### **Scope and Contents**

Photographer: Sussman-Ochs, Baltimore, MD

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Appears to be Notre Dame, undated

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Degree granting, undated

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D.W. Bronk wearing tuxedo, undated

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D.W. Bronk receiving honorary degree, Brooklyn, NY (?),  
undated

### **Scope and Contents**

One photo includes Mrs. Helen Bronk, D.W. Bronk and  
others.

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Photographs: Johns Hopkins University, President	box 6	folder 14
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Bowman and new President, D.W. Bronk

### **Scope and Contents**

Photographer: Garrett.

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Bowman, D.W. Bronk and Carlyle Barton (?)

### **Scope and Contents**

Photographer: Garrett.

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Photographs: Johnson Foundation	box 6	folder 15
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Interior of D.W. Bronk's office at the Johnson Foundation

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Johnson Foundation Directory, 1945 December, 1946 December

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Photographs: National Advisory for Aeronautics (NACA)	box 6	folder 16
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National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, members., 1950  
September 1

### **Scope and Contents**

Composite photo.

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National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, meeting, 1952  
December

### **Scope and Contents**

ID on back of photo.

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Photographs: Rockefeller University (RU)	box 6	folder 17
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Convocation, undated

### **Scope and Contents**

some identification on back of photo.

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undated

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At celebrations

## Scope and Contents

some identification

First Rockefeller University graduate students		
Convocation, D.W. Bronk, Vannevar Bush and David Rockefeller. Bush recipient honorary D.Sc., 1967		
Mabel Bright in her office, Caspary Hall.		
Gardener at RU, watering lawn, 1961 July		
Photographs: Scientists and Colleagues	box 6	folder 18
Otto Meyherhof in A.V. Hill's garden, 1921		
Rio. Paul Krebs (?), 1960		
unidentified		
Photographs: Woods Hole Trustees	box 6	folder 19
Group, undated		

## Scope and Contents

with accompanying identification.

Group at annual meeting of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution., 1966 June 23		
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
with accompanying identification.		
Group at annual meeting of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution., 1970 June 19		
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
with accompanying identification.		

Group, undated		
Photographs: Unidentified	box 6	folder 20
"Pictures of Academy"		
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
Photographer: AMB		
Sand formations (?)		
Slides	box 7	
Rose Tree Hunt Speech, "Memoirs of a Fox Hunting Gentleman", 1964 February 24	box 7	

