



# Jacobs (Walter A.) papers

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Rockefeller Archive Center
<b>Creator - aut:</b>	Jacobs, Walter A. (Walter Abraham), 1883-1967
<b>Creator:</b>	Rockefeller University
<b>Creator:</b>	Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research
<b>Creator - aut:</b>	Levene, P. A. T. (Phoebus Aaron)
<b>Title:</b>	Walter A. Jacobs papers, Rockefeller University Faculty
<b>ID:</b>	FA169
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1906-1980, bulk 1914-1957
<b>Date [bulk]:</b>	1914-1957
<b>Physical Description:</b>	3.23 Cubic Feet 9 boxes
<b>Physical Description:</b>	9 boxes.
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English

### Preferred Citation

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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## Biographical/Historical note

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Walter Abraham Jacobs. 1883-1967. Chemist.

Jacobs was born in New York, New York on December 24, one of five children of Charles and Elizabeth (Friedlander) Jacobs. He earned his A. B. from Columbia College in 1904 and completed his A. M. one year later. Jacobs then attended Berlin University where he worked with Emil Fischer, receiving his PhD. in 1907. He joined the staff of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research as a fellow that same year.

Jacobs started as an assistant to P.A.T. Levene (1908), working on the chemistry of nucleic acids. In his own division of chemotherapy (later changed to chemical pharmacology), he worked on correlating

chemical structures with bactericidal action. In 1911, Jacobs was promoted from assistant to associate. A year later, he was promoted to associate member of the RIMR. Work with Michael Heidelberger, Wade H. Brown, and Louise Pearce resulted in the development of trypanamide which was clinically used in the treatment of African sleeping sickness and neurosyphilis. In recognition of this work, he was made an Officer of the Order of Leopold II by the Belgian government (1953) and was promoted to Member in 1923. He then started work on the isolation, characterization, and determination of the structure and synthesis of a large class of closely related natural products, beginning with the study of drugs useful in the treatment of heart disease. Jacobs studied digitalis, saponins, ergot alkaloids, aconite and veratrine alkaloids, and with Lyman Craig, the isolation of lysergic acid. In 1949, he retired and held the position of member emeritus until his laboratory was closed in 1959.

Jacobs was a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (Fellow), American Chemical Society, American Society of Biological Chemistry, Harvey Society, National Academy of Sciences, Sigma Xi, Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine, and the Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics. On October 7, 1908, Jacobs married Laura F. Dreyfoos. They had two children, Walter C. and Elizabeth R.

Jacobs moved to Los Angeles, California in 1962, where he died on July 12, 1967.

He was awarded the Officer of the Order of Leopold II, Belgium 1953.

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## Scope and Contents

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Types of records include: biographical material, correspondence, notebooks, notes, writings, and photographs.

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## Arrangement note

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The collection is arranged in 6 series.

Further arranged primarily in alphabetical and in chronological order.

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## File Plan note

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Former Classification: I 450 J156

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Cell and biomolecular sciences
- Medical sciences
- Cardiology
- African trypanosomiasis
- Medical research

- Medical education
- DNA
- Pharmacology
- Tryparsamide
- Biology -- Research
- Chemistry
- Biochemistry

## Collection Inventory

### Biographical Material, 1942-1980

#### Scope and Contents note

Includes biographies (RU and NAS) ; clippings; correspondence; and recollections of Walter's life by Laura F. Jacobs (wife) with notes by Michael Heidelberger.

#### Arrangement note

Arranged in chronological order.

Title/Description	Instances	
Biographical Material, 1942-1980	box 1	folder 1

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### Correspondence, 1916-1957

Physical Description: 1.76 Cubic Feet

#### Scope and Contents note

Includes correspondence, memos, notes, papers, reports, and reprints.

Correspondents include Detlev W. Bronk, Lyman C. Craig, Louis F. Fieser, Waldo R. Flinn, Journal of the American Chemical Society, Journal of Organic Chemistry, Otto Kraye, Arthur B. Lamb, Karl Paul Link, Randolph T. Major, Merck and Company, National Academy of Sciences, Nobel Prize Committee, Office of Scientific Research and Development, S. William Pelletier, Paul Rathgeb, Raymond-Hamet, Tadeus Reichstein, Thomas Rivers, Yoshio Sato, Edric B. Smith, Edward S. Stein, Florence M. Stewart, David Todd, Douglas Whitaker, and K. Wiesner.

Subjects include Jacobs' annual reports.

#### Arrangement note

Arranged in alphabetical order by correspondents' last name, then arranged in chronological order.

Title/Description	Instances	
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A-D, 1941-1957	box 1	folder 2
F1932-1956	box 1	folder 3
G-JBC, 1916-1956	box 1	folder 4
JOG-JZ, 1937-1956	box 1	folder 5
K1936-1954	box 1	folder 6
L1921-1957	box 1	folder 7
M-MEM, 1930-1955	box 1	folder 8
MER-MZ, 1926-1957	box 2	folder 1
N-NAS, 1948-1956	box 2	folder 2
NAS, 1949	box 2	folder 3
NAS, 1950-1956	box 2	folder 4
NAT-NZ, 1940-1955	box 2	folder 5
O1943-1956	box 2	folder 6
P-PEL, 1931-1956	box 3	folder 1
PEL-PZ, 1942-1956	box 3	folder 2
R-RAZ, 1929-1956	box 3	folder 3
RE-REP, 1937-1957	box 3	folder 4
REPORTS, ANNUAL, 1933-1940	box 3	folder 5
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>		
[See also: (7) 8]		
REPORTS, ANNUAL, 1941-1954	box 3	folder 6
REPR-RIN, 1937-1955	box 3	folder 7
RIV-RZ, 1937-1956	box 4	folder 1
S-SM, 1933-1956	box 4	folder 2
SO-SZ, 1937-1957	box 4	folder 3
T1925-1954	box 4	folder 4
U-V, 1941-1955	box 4	folder 5
W-Z, 1937-1956	box 4	folder 6

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## Laboratory Notebooks, 1916-1936

Physical Description: 0.88 Cubic Feet

### Scope and Contents note

Includes bound books of notes.

Researchers include Bertrand, Collins, Elderfield, Gustus, Michael Heidelberger, Hoffman, Walter A. Jacobs, Post, and Wignall.

Subjects include tryparsamide.

### Arrangement note

Arranged in alphabetical order by names on notebooks, then arranged in chronological order.

Title/Description	Instances	
Bertrand, Collins, Elderfield, 1923-1936	box 4	folder 7
Gustus, Hoffman, 1925-1928	box 5	folder 1
Heidelberger, 1916-1921	box 5	folder 2
Jacobs, 1914-1919	box 5	folder 3
Jacobs, (Tryparsamide), 1919-1929	box 5	folder 4
Jacobs, 1921-1926	box 6	folder 1
Jacobs, 1926-1930	box 6	folder 2
Jacobs, 1930-1933	box 6	folder 3
Post, Wignall, 1924-1933	box 6	folder 4

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## Laboratory Notes, 1931-1955, undated

Physical Description: 0.2 Cubic Feet

### Scope and Contents note

Includes correspondence, notes, and papers.

Subjects include aconite alkaloids, digitalis, quatain, sapogenin, sontoquine, and strophanthidin.

### Arrangement note

Arranged in alphabetical order by subject.

Title/Description	Instances	
Laboratory Notes - Aconite Alkaloids, 1955	box 7	folder 1
Laboratory Notes - Sapogenin, undated	box 7	folder 2
Laboratory Notes - Sontoquine, 1943-1945	box 7	folder 3



Laboratory Notes - Strophanthidin, Digitalis, Quatain, 1931

box 7

folder 4

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Includes articles, bibliographies, correspondence, and reports.

Subjects include Jacobs' annual reports and P.A.T. Levene

**Arrangement note**

Arranged in alphabetical order.

Title/Description	Instances	
Bibliography, 1906-1960	box 7	folder 6
Levene, P.A.T. (re), 1941-1943	box 7	folder 7
Reports of Scientific Work, 1916-1943, undated	box 7	folder 8

**Scope and Contents note**

[See also: (3) 5-6]

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)**Photographs, 1908-1956, undated**Physical Description: 0.88 Cubic Feet Extent is approximate.**Scope and Contents note**

Includes glass slides, negatives, and personal photographs.

Subjects include Walter A. Jacobs and P.A.T. Levene.

**Arrangement note**

Arranged in chronological order.

Title/Description	Instances	
Photographs - Personal, 1908-1956, undated	box 7	folder 5
Negatives	box 8	
Glass Slides	box 9	

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