



# Jacobs (Walter A.) papers

---

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on December 05, 2019.

Rockefeller Archive Center

15 Dayton Avenue

Sleepy Hollow 10591

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

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

---

## Table of Contents

---

|                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Summary Information .....          | 3 |
| Biographical/Historical note ..... | 3 |
| Scope and Contents .....           | 4 |
| Arrangement note .....             | 4 |
| File Plan note .....               | 5 |
| Administrative Information .....   | 5 |
| Controlled Access Headings .....   | 5 |
| Collection Inventory .....         | 6 |
| Biographical Material .....        | 6 |
| Correspondence .....               | 6 |
| Laboratory Notebooks .....         | 7 |
| Laboratory Notes .....             | 8 |
| Writings .....                     | 9 |
| Photographs .....                  | 9 |

## Summary Information

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| <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>

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Biographical/Historical note

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.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Scope and Contents

---

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

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Arrangement note

---

The collection is arranged in 6 series.

Further arranged primarily in alphabetical and in chronological order.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## File Plan note

---

Former Classification: I 450 J156

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Administrative Information

---

### Publication Statement

Rockefeller Archive Center

15 Dayton Avenue

Sleepy Hollow 10591

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

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

### Conditions Governing Use

RAC users must abide by all applicable provisions of United States copyright law. Reproduction/ duplication of archival items is routinely provided in accordance with "fair use." If the RAC does not hold copyright for an archival collection, or items within a collection, it is the user's responsibility to contact the copyright holder, or make a fair effort to do so, prior to publication.

### Conditions Governing Access note

Access to this collection is restricted pending permission from Rockefeller University.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Controlled Access Headings

---

- 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 |

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

### 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. Fiesar, 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 |  |
|-------------------|-----------|--|
|-------------------|-----------|--|

|                                |       |          |
|--------------------------------|-------|----------|
| 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 |

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

## 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 |

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

## 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

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)**Writings, 1906-1960, undated**Physical Description: 0.2 Cubic Feet**Scope and Contents note**

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     |          |

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)