Guide to the Sidney Altman Papers

MS 1680

compiled by Diane E. Kaplan and Michael Lotstein

May 1995

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 1680

CREATOR: Altman, Sidney

TITLE: Sidney Altman papers

DATES: 1967–2011

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 72 linear feet (90 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The papers consist of correspondence, publications files, laboratory
notebooks, edited manuscripts, and research data, which document Sidney
Altman's research in nucleic acid chemistry.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1680

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use
the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/
mssa.ms.1680.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/
ifr_copy_order.html. The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number,
collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Received from Sidney Altman, 1995, 2012 and 2013.

Conditions Governing Access

Accession 2012-M-045 is open for research. The original accession of the Sidney Altman papers is
unprocessed and may contain sensitive information or be in a physical state that would prohibit use.
Researchers wishing to request access to the original accession should email mssa.assist@yale.edu requesting specific box numbers in order to initiate the review process, which may take several weeks. Accession 2013-M-048 is closed to researchers until January 3, 2033, or the death of William H. McClain, Halvorson Professor, University of Wisconsin-Madison, whichever occurs first.

Original born digital files, as well as preservation masters, may not be accessed due to their fragility. Researchers must consult use copies, or if none exist request that they be made. Born digital files cannot be accessed remotely. System requirements include a Manuscripts and Archives computer and file viewing software.

Conditions Governing Use

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Preferred Citation

Sidney Altman Papers (MS 1680). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

Sidney Altman was born on May 8, 1939, in Montreal, Quebec. He received a B.S. in physics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1960 and a Ph.D. in biophysics from the University of Colorado in 1967. Following further work in molecular biology at Harvard University and at Cambridge, Altman joined the faculty of Yale University in 1971. Altman's research has concerned nucleic acid chemistry and the genetics of tRNA expression. In 1989 he won the Nobel Prize in chemistry. In addition to his teaching and research, Altman served as chairman of the Yale University Department of Biology from 1983-1985 and as dean of Yale College from 1985-1989.

Scope and Contents

The papers consist of correspondence, publications files, laboratory notebooks, edited manuscripts, and research data, which document Sidney Altman's research in nucleic acid chemistry.
Collection Contents
Original Accession

The material is unprocessed and may contain sensitive information or be in a physical state that would prohibit use. Researchers wishing to request access should email mssa.assist@yale.edu requesting specific box numbers in order to initiate the review process, which may take several weeks.

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<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>b. 1–9</td>
<td>Publications files, sorted</td>
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<td>b. 10</td>
<td>Publications files, unsorted</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 11–15</td>
<td>General files [includes grant proposals, course of study and other Yale administrative materials, graduate student files, general correspondence]</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 16–19</td>
<td>Lab notebooks of Sidney Altman and graduate students [Harvard in black binders, Cambridge in green binders, Yale in blue binders]</td>
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<td>b. 19A</td>
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<td>b. 20</td>
<td>Unsorted publications [from England]</td>
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<td>b. 21–22</td>
<td>Unsorted publications</td>
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<td>b. 23</td>
<td>Cal Tech material, virus studies, correspondence</td>
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<td>b. 24–51</td>
<td>Data [x-rays]</td>
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<td>b. 52–53</td>
<td>Illustrations for publications</td>
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Accession 2012-M-045. Additional Material

The 2012-M-045 addition to the Sidney Altman papers consists of edited manuscripts, research data, and correspondence arranged into three sections: Collaborative Research, Patents, and Topical Files. The Collaborative Research section is arranged by the last name of the collaborator with Dr. Altman; the Patents section is arranged by general files and then alphabetically by country; the Topical Files section is arranged alphabetically by topic.

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Patents

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<td>b. 27, f. 1-2</td>
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| b. 27, f. 3-4 | Chloroplast RNase P | 2000       |
| b. 27, f. 5 | Data sets | 1995–1996  |
| b. 28, f. 1-2 | Data sets | 1995–1996  |
| b. 28, f. 3-5 | E.Coli | 2000–2001  |
| b. 29, f. 1 | Harcourt Brace Press | 1998       |
| b. 29, f. 2 | Innovir Laboratories | 1994–1995 |
| b. 29, f. 3-5 | JB 91-02 | 2002       |
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<td>b. 36</td>
<td>Computer files  Original born digital files, as well as preservation masters, may not be accessed due to their fragility. Researchers must consult use copies, or if none exist request that they be made. Born digital files cannot be accessed remotely. System requirements include a Manuscripts and Archives computer and file viewing software.</td>
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Accession 2013-M-048. Additional Material

This accession consists of published materials, correspondence, and related documents generated by William H. McClain, Halvorson Professor, University of Wisconsin-Madison, in his effort to credit Sidney Altman with the discovery of the enzymatic activity of bacterial ribonuclease P (RNase P) that resulted in his receipt of the 1989 Nobel Prize in Chemistry.

Materials in this accession were compiled by Sidney Altman.

This accession is closed to researchers until January 3, 2033, or the death of William H. McClain, Halvorson Professor, University of Wisconsin-Madison, whichever occurs first.

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<td>b. 1, f. 1-2</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
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<td>Notes and research materials</td>
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<td></td>
<td>“Trials, Travails, and Triumphs: An Account of RNA Catalysis in RNase P”</td>
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Selected Search Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library’s online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects
Biochemistry
Molecular biology
Molecular genetics
Nucleic acids
Transfer RNA

Names
Altman, Sidney

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