
Finding Aid to the Jesse Rabinowitz Papers, 1944-1999, bulk 1948-1995

Finding Aid written by Jennifer Davis

Funding for processing this collection was provided by the estate of Jesse Rabinowitz.

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Finding Aid to the Jesse Rabinowitz Papers, 1944-1999, bulk 1948-1995

Collection Number: BANC MSS 2003/333 c

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Date Completed:

August 2006

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Collection Summary

Collection Title: Jesse Rabinowitz papers

Date (inclusive): 1944-1999,

Date (bulk): bulk 1948-1995

Collection Number: BANC MSS 2003/333 c

Creator: Rabinowitz, Jesse

Extent: Number of containers: 11 cartons, 2 boxes Linear feet: 14.4 linear feet

Repository: The Bancroft Library

Berkeley, California 94720-6000

Abstract: The Jesse Rabinowitz papers, 1944-1999, consist of correspondence, writings, research, and personal papers relating to his life and work as a biochemist. The bulk of the collection consists of correspondence, research material, and professional papers that Rabinowitz collected during his 40 year career with the Department of Biochemistry at the University of California, Berkeley. Also included is a small array of personal papers which present a view of Rabinowitz's wide-ranging interests, as well as a limited collection of personal photographs.

Languages Represented: Collection materials are in English. There are some materials in French and Yiddish.

Physical Location: Many of the Bancroft Library collections are stored offsite and advance notice may be required for use. For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the library's online catalog.

Access

Collection is open for research.

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Jesse Rabinowitz Papers, BANC MSS 2003/333 c, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.

Alternate Forms Available

There are no alternate forms of this collection.

Separated Material

No materials have been separated from this collection.

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Rabinowitz, Jesse--Archives

University of California, Berkeley. Dept. of Molecular and Cell Biology

Folic acid in human nutrition

Biochemistry--Research

Faculty papers.

History of science and technology collection

Acquisition Information

The Jesse Rabinowitz Papers were given to The Bancroft Library by Mr. Edward Penhoet on October 17, 2003.

Accruals

No additions are expected.

Processing Information

Processed by Jennifer Davis in 2006.

Biographical Information

Jesse Charles Rabinowitz was born on April 28, 1925 in New York, New York. He was the only child of Julius and Frances Rabinowitz, immigrants to the United States from Eastern Europe. When he was eleven, the family relocated to Jersey Homesteads, an experimental Jewish co-op. In 1945, Rabinowitz received a bachelor's degree in chemistry at the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn. From University of Wisconsin, he obtained a master's degree in biochemistry in 1947 and a Ph.D. in 1949.

After completing his doctorate, Rabinowitz spent a year studying under David Green at the University of Wisconsin Enzyme Institute. From 1951-1952, Rabinowitz furthered his postdoctoral study of purine fermentation by anaerobic bacteria at the University of California, Berkeley. In 1952 he joined the National Institutes of Health. Rabinowitz then joined the Department of Biochemistry at UC Berkeley in 1957, where he served as chair of the department from 1978 to 1983. During his long and distinguished career, Professor Rabinowitz taught and mentored many graduate and doctoral students. Rabinowitz became professor emeritus of the Biochemistry Department in 1991.

Over the course of his career, Rabinowitz did groundbreaking research in the essential B vitamin, folic acid. This research was begun under the tutelage of his graduate school professor, Esmond Snell and continued with one of Rabinowitz's graduate students, Dean Appling. As a result of their research, it is now widely advised that pregnant women take folic acid to prevent birth defects in newborns. In UC Berkeley's "In Memoriam" tribute, a colleague of Rabinowitz is quoted "Jesse worked out a good part of the basic biology of folic acid. In our research on chromosome breaks caused by folic acid deficiency, we keep coming across Jesse's old work. All his papers are classics."

Over the course of his career, Rabinowitz authored many scientific articles on the subjects of enzymology, purine fermentation, folic acid, clostridial ferredoxin, iron-sulfur proteins, and protein synthesis. In recognition of his contributions to science, he was awarded fellowships with the United States Public Health Service in 1962, the National Science Foundation in 1970, the Guggenheim Foundation in 1977, the National Academy of Sciences in 1981, and the American Academy of Microbiology in 1997. Rabinowitz was also the editor of the *Journal of Biological Chemistry* from 1965-1970 and from 1974-1977.

In addition to his career as professor at UC Berkeley, Rabinowitz was an avid photographer, music devotee, cellist, cook, dancer, and traveler. Rabinowitz enjoyed three sabbaticals in Paris and vacationed in Japan, Guatemala, and Egypt, among many other countries. His photographs of the people he met on his travels have been exhibited at galleries around the San Francisco Bay Area. For a photograph he made of a child in Mexico, Rabinowitz won the 1969 Saturday Review magazine World Travel Photography Grand Prize in Color. Rabinowitz's extensive personal slide collection may be found at the McHenry Library of University of California, Santa Cruz. The University Library at University of California, Santa Cruz also received a donation of 2,700 classical CDs from Rabinowitz's personal collection.

Jesse Rabinowitz died of melanoma Tuesday, September 9, 2003 at his home in Kensington, California.

Scope and Content of Collection

The Jesse Rabinowitz papers, 1944-1999, consist of correspondence, research, and personal papers relating to his life and work as a biochemist. The bulk of the collection includes correspondence, research material, and professional papers that Rabinowitz collected during his 40 year career with the Department of Biochemistry at the University of California, Berkeley. Also included is a small array of personal papers which present a view of Rabinowitz's wide-ranging interests, as well as a limited collection of personal photographs.

The correspondence files make up the bulk of the collection and include letters to and from Rabinowitz as well as research materials, reprints, notes, and personal information. Collected in the General Research series is correspondence, notes, and various other material representing the following subjects: enzymology, purine fermentation, folic acid coenzymes, ferredoxin, iron-sulfur proteins, and protein biosynthesis. Grant applications and correspondence relating to grants are also

included in this series. Rabinowitz collected reprints which illustrate 50 years of his research efforts in biochemistry; this work is also found in the General Research series.

Professional materials pertaining to Rabinowitz's career at the University of California, Berkeley and his outside affiliations are found in the University of California, Berkeley and the Professional Affiliations series. There is a notable lack of course materials found in the collection.

Rabinowitz was an avid traveler, amateur photographer, dancer, and cook. These personal interests are represented by his personal papers files. Included is correspondence, photographs, travelogues, and ephemera. Lastly, a small collection of photographs of Rabinowitz's lab colleagues and friends is found in the photographs series.

Series 1 **Correspondence 1949-1997**

Physical Description: Cartons 1-5

Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically.

Scope and Content Note

The correspondence files include incoming and outgoing correspondence of Dr. Rabinowitz's personal relations and colleagues. Correspondence is often in relation to biochemistry research and occasionally includes the scientific papers and research materials of Rabinowitz's colleagues. It is not uncommon to simultaneously find research and personal information within an individual letter or folder. Also included is correspondence to and from former students.

Carton 1, Folder 1	Abramowitz, Nurith 1966-1969
Carton 1, Folder 2	Allen, Esther 1960-1964
Carton 1, Folder 3-4	Ames, Bruce 1957-1993
Carton 1, Folder 5	Anderson, Bruce 1963-1965
Carton 1, Folder 6-8	Appling, Dean 1979-1995
Carton 1, Folder 9	Arnon, Stephen 1961-1968
Carton 1, Folder 10	A Miscellaneous 1957-1993
Carton 1, Folder 11	Baggett, Matthew 1965
Carton 1, Folder 12	Bailey, Laura K. 1967-1968
Carton 1, Folder 13	Baindur, Swati 1986-1989
Carton 1, Folder 14	Barany, George 1973-1974
Carton 1, Folder 15	Barker, H.A. 1953-1970
Carton 1, Folder 16	Blicharski, Janine 1966-1979
Carton 1, Folder 17	Brennan, Tim 1979
Carton 1, Folder 18	Broderick, James 1971-1982
Carton 1, Folder 19	Brody, Ed and Charlotte 1976-1986
Carton 1, Folder 20	Bruckner, R. 1985
Carton 1, Folder 21	Bryngelson, Lori 1987

Carton 1, Folder 22	Buchanan, Bob B. 1961-1978
Carton 1, Folder 23	Bull, Herb 1974
Carton 1, Folder 24-25	B Miscellaneous 1949-1993
Carton 1, Folder 26	California Corp. 1957-1959
Carton 1, Folder 27	Carlson, Gerry 1994-1996
Carton 1, Folder 28	Ceglowski, Piotr 1987-1994
Carton 1, Folder 29	Champion, , Alex 1970-1971
Carton 1, Folder 30	Chase, Ted 1963-1975
Carton 1, Folder 31	Chen, Ching-San 1970-1991
Carton 1, Folder 32	Cheung, Edwin 1994-1996
Carton 1, Folder 33	Chorey, Joanne 1982
Carton 1, Folder 34	Clark, Benedict 1974-1976
Carton 1, Folder 35	Cole, R. David 1964-1978
Carton 1, Folder 36	Cully, John 1963-1964
Carton 1, Folder 37	Curthoys, Norman 1970-1981
Carton 1, Folder 38-39	C Miscellaneous 1951-1994
Carton 1, Folder 40	D'Ari, Dick 1986-1993
Carton 1, Folder 41	D'Ari, Linda 1989-1992
Carton 1, Folder 42-43	Davidson, Barry 1977-1995
Carton 1, Folder 44-45	Delk, Ann 1971-1995
Carton 1, Folder 46	DiBona, Helene 1964-1995
Carton 1, Folder 47	DiRaimondo, Barry 1979
Carton 1, Folder 48	Doi, Roy 1980
Carton 1, Folder 49	Duoros, John 1972-1974
Carton 1, Folder 50	D Miscellaneous 1956-1994
Carton 1, Folder 51	Eisenberg, David 1968-1973
Carton 1, Folder 52	E Miscellaneous 1956-1993
Carton 1, Folder 53	Fancher, Harriett 1966-1967
Carton 1, Folder 54	Feigenblum, Ellen 1968-1975

Carton 2, Folder 1	Fox, Lawrence 1985
Carton 2, Folder 2	French, Jon 1977-1981
Carton 2, Folder 3	F Miscellaneous 1951-1992
Carton 2, Folder 4	Glaser Affair Letter to Chronicle 1973-1980
Carton 2, Folder 5	Glass, Robert 1986-1994
Carton 2, Folder 6	Gong, Bonnie 1978
Carton 2, Folder 7	Goodwin, Ralph 1965
Carton 2, Folder 8-11	Graves, Mary 1980-1995
Carton 2, Folder 12	Green, David 1951-1977
Carton 2, Folder 13	Gross, Marvin 1980-1982
Carton 2, Folder 14	Grossowicz, Nathan 1974
Carton 2, Folder 15	Grunberg-Manago, Maria 1971-1980
Carton 2, Folder 16-17	G Miscellaneous 1954-1993
Carton 2, Folder 18	Hager, Paul 1993-1994
Carton 2, Folder 19	Hamilton, Franklin 1967-1989
Carton 2, Folder 20	Heppel, Leon 1957-1974
Carton 2, Folder 21-22	Himes, Dick 1961-1989
Carton 2, Folder 23-24	Holden, Joe 1951-1997
Carton 2, Folder 25	Hong, Jen-Shiang 1968-1972
Carton 2, Folder 26	Hong, Yong Ki 1983
Carton 2, Folder 27	Hou, Ya-Ming 1980
Carton 2, Folder 28	Horecker, Bernie 1953-1979
Carton 2, Folder 29	Horvat, Agnes 1967-1968
Carton 2, Folder 30	Hurd, Noel 1974-1976
Carton 2, Folder 31	Hurwitz, Jerry 1956-1967
Carton 2, Folder 32-34	H Miscellaneous 1949-1994
Carton 2, Folder 35	I Miscellaneous 1968-1983
Carton 2, Folder 36	Jaenicke, Lothar 1964
Carton 2, Folder 37	Jensen, L.H. 1970-1993
Carton 2, Folder 38	Kapor, Gabrielle 1977-1983
Carton 2, Folder 39	Knecht, Erwin 1980-1981
Carton 2, Folder 40	Kornberg, Arthur 1964-1995

Carton 2, Folder 41-42	K Miscellaneous 1963-1996
Carton 2, Folder 43	Langridge, Roert 1973
Carton 2, Folder 44	Leder, Irwin 1964-1966
Carton 2, Folder 45	Lee, James 1987
Carton 2, Folder 46	Lee, Karl 1985-1988
Carton 2, Folder 47	Liao, Hans 1976-1981
Carton 2, Folder 48	Lichman, Ann 1967-1974
Carton 2, Folder 49	Lindwall, Glen 1982
Carton 2, Folder 50	Lin, Chia Po 1983
Carton 2, Folder 51	Lippard, Steve 1971-1973
Carton 2, Folder 52-53	Lode, Eglis T. 1970-1975
Carton 2, Folder 54	Lovenberg, Walt 1963-1987
Carton 3, Folder 1	L Miscellaneous 1964-1989
Carton 3, Folder 2	MacKenzie, Robert E. 1968-1991
Carton 3, Folder 3	Malkin, Dick 1963-1977
Carton 3, Folder 4	Marks, P.A. and Joan 1968-1995
Carton 3, Folder 5	Mason, R. 1964-1973
Carton 3, Folder 6	McGuire, John J. 1974-1989
Carton 3, Folder 7-8	McLaughlin, Jane 1977-1989
Carton 3, Folder 9	Mildvan, A.S. 1967-1968
Carton 3, Folder 10	Mims, Gloria 1975-1976
Carton 3, Folder 11	Munly, Bruce 1963-1977
Carton 3, Folder 12	Murai, John 1986-1987
Carton 3, Folder 13	Murray, Cheryl 1977-1982
Carton 3, Folder 14	M Miscellaneous 1965-1995
Carton 3, Folder 15	Mc Miscellaneous 1968-1981
Carton 3, Folder 16	Nagle, David 1975-1987
Carton 3, Folder 17	Nandi, Jayashree 1982
Carton 3, Folder 18	Neumuller, Magnus 1982
Carton 3, Folder 19	Nishman, Ben 1964-1966
Carton 3, Folder 20	Noah, Bob 1978
Carton 3, Folder 21-22	Nour, Johara 1985-1996

Carton 3, Folder 23	N Miscellaneous 1964-1994
Carton 3, Folder 24	O'Donoghue, Gerard 1983-1986
Carton 3, Folder 25	Ostroff, Gary 1982
Carton 3, Folder 26	O Miscellaneous 1968-1986
Carton 3, Folder 27	Packer, Elliot 1964-1986
Carton 3, Folder 28	Palmer, Graham 1966-1975
Carton 3, Folder 29	Park, Morgan 1986-1987
Carton 3, Folder 30	Parker, Riley D., Jr. 1986
Carton 3, Folder 31	Paukert, James L. 1969-1980
Carton 3, Folder 32	Penhoet, Ed 1977-1982
Carton 3, Folder 33	Phillips, W.D. 1967
Carton 3, Folder 34	P Miscellaneous 1964-1986
Carton 3, Folder 35-36	Raeburn, Sam 1963-1971
Carton 3, Folder 37	Raftery, Mike 1964-1965
Carton 3, Folder 38	Reingold, Arthur 1977-1987
Carton 3, Folder 39	Romeo, J. 1974
Carton 3, Folder 40	R Miscellaneous 1963-1993
Carton 3, Folder 41	Samuel, Charles 1970-1973
Carton 3, Folder 42	Samiro, Seppo 1972
Carton 3, Folder 43	Sastri, Rama 1963-1965
Carton 3, Folder 44	Schwartz, John 1971-1975
Carton 3, Folder 45-46	Scott, John Martin 1965-1996
Carton 3, Folder 47	Schiotz, Bodil and Henrick 1962-1996
Carton 3, Folder 48	Searle, Barbara 1958-1961
Carton 3, Folder 49	Shannon, Karen 1993-1996
Carton 3, Folder 50	Sharrock, Bill 1973-1988
Carton 4, Folder 1	Shor, Ruth 1992-1993
Carton 4, Folder 2	Shores, Ed and Joan 1963-1974
Carton 4, Folder 3	Skjeldal, Lars 1988-1989
Carton 4, Folder 4	Sohel, Indira 1981-1990
Carton 4, Folder 5	Snell, Esmond 1986
Carton 4, Folder 6	Springer, Mathias 1993-1995

Carton 4, Folder 7-10	Staben, Charles 1967-1995
Carton 4, Folder 11	Stallcup, Michael 1970-1983
Carton 4, Folder 12	Sternlicht, Himan 1974-1976
Carton 4, Folder 13	Straus, Linda D'Ari 1970-1985
Carton 4, Folder 14	Suarez-Mata, Zadila 1975-1980
Carton 4, Folder 15-16	Sweeney, William 1972-1995
Carton 4, Folder 17-19	S Miscellaneous 1963-1993
Carton 4, Folder 20	Taylor, Lori B. 1988
Carton 4, Folder 21	Toohey, John 1994
Carton 4, Folder 22	Tonomura, Ben 1963-1981
Carton 4, Folder 23	Tucker, Jeff 1986-1988
Carton 4, Folder 24	T Miscellaneous 1963-1994
Carton 4, Folder 25	Uyeda, Kosaku 1962-1993
Carton 4, Folder 26	Vellanoweth, Robert 1994
Carton 4, Folder 27	V Miscellaneous 1963-1977
Carton 4, Folder 28	Wahls, Wayne 1992-1994
Carton 4, Folder 29	Wallach, Robin 1983
Carton 4, Folder 30	Wawzkiewicz, Ed 1973-1987
Carton 4, Folder 31	Whitehead, Terence 1981-1993
Carton 4, Folder 32	Whittaker, Vivian 1959-1971
Carton 4, Folder 33	Williams, Gene and Alice 1973-1976
Carton 4, Folder 34	W Miscellaneous 1963-1990
Carton 4, Folder 35	X-Y-Z Miscellaneous 1965-1989
Carton 4, Folder 36	Ziegler, Erica 1973-1992

Series 2 **General Research Files 1947-1997****Physical Description:** Cartons 4-7**Arrangement**

Arranged as received.

Scope and Content Note

The General Research Files include papers relating to Professor Rabinowitz's work in the field of biochemistry. In addition to his own research, Rabinowitz also collected the work of his colleagues. Reprints of published papers, correspondence, and notes are included. Major research topics covered include: enzymology, purine fermentation, folic acid coenzymes, clostridial ferredoxin, formyltetrahydrofolate synthetase, iron-sulfur proteins, and protein synthesis. Research conducted prior to 1963 is not found in this collection. Much of the material is undated. Also included are applications and materials related to grant work. Reprints represent over 50 years of published scientific articles authored by Rabinowitz. Major subjects of the articles include: the vitamin B6 group; purine fermentation by *Clostridium cylindrosporum*; folic acid; Vitamin B12; protein synthesis; and clostridial ferredoxin. Coauthors include Esmond Snell, W.E. Pricer, Richard Malkin, J.-S. Hong, Norman Curthoys, Charles E. Samuel, Ann S. Delk, Cheryl L. Murray, and Dean Appling.

Carton 4, Folder
37-49
Carton 5, Folder
1-34
Carton 6, Folder
1-26
Carton 6, Folder
27-33
Carton 7, Folder
1-6
Carton 7, Folder
7-13

Research Files 1963-1996, n.d.**Research Files 1963-1996****Research Files 1963-1991, n.d.****Grants 1968-1997****Grants 1968-1997****Reprints 1947-1995**Series 3 **University of California, Berkeley 1957-1999****Physical Description:** Carton 7, 8**Arrangement**

Arranged as received.

Scope and Content Note

Rabinowitz's collection of files pertaining to his career with the University of California, Berkeley, Department of Biochemistry is found in this series. The Departmental Files include administrative papers; curriculum notes; and Rabinowitz's bio-bibliography. There is a very limited collection of course lecture notes. The Committees files contain documentation relating to the committees Rabinowitz took part in at the University of California, Berkeley. In particular, Rabinowitz was active on the College of Natural Resources Academic Planning Committee and the Health and Medical Sciences Program Curriculum Committee.

Carton 7, Folder
14-41
Carton 8, Folder
1-8
Carton 8, Folder
9-21

Departmental Files 1957-1999**Departmental Files 1957-1999****Committees 1957-1999**

Series 4 Professional Affiliations 1948-1995**Physical Description:** Cartons 8, 9**Arrangement**

Arranged as received.

Scope and Content Note

The professional affiliations series represents Jesse Rabinowitz's membership in professional associations; attendance at biochemistry conferences; and miscellaneous professional papers. Rabinowitz was an active member of the American Society of Biological Chemistry; correspondence, memoranda, and meeting notes in relation to this association are included in the Associations sub-series. Conference files include meeting minutes, programs, rosters, notes, and correspondence. There is also a small amount of scientific paper reprints that were presented at the conferences.

Carton 8, Folder
22-27**Associations 1965-1995, n.d.**Carton 8, Folder
28-37**Conferences 1975-1991, n.d.**Carton 8, Folder
38-56**Miscellaneous Professional 1948-1994**Carton 9, Folder
1-6**Miscellaneous Professional 1948-1994****Series 5 Personal Papers 1945-1996****Physical Description:** Cartons 9-11**Arrangement**

Arranged as received.

Scope and Content Note

Rabinowitz's Personal Papers present a view of his interests in various associations, clubs, music, Scottish dance, travel, and more. There is a small amount of correspondence relating to his family. Also in this series is miscellaneous correspondence, including retirement letters and postcards to and from the Biochemistry lab. Travel Files contain material relating to Rabinowitz's personal travels across the world. He spent several sabbaticals in Paris, and vacationed in Japan, Guatemala, and Egypt among other countries. Of particular significance is the file entitled Travel Chronology; it provides a chronological list of the trips that Rabinowitz took from 1963-1994. Included is correspondence, postcards, pamphlets, ephemera, photographs, and brochures.

Carton 9, Folder
7-63**Personal Papers 1953-1996**Carton 10, Folder
1-28**Personal Papers 1953-1996**Carton 10, Folder
29-31**Thesis Research Notebooks 1945-1949**Carton 10, Folder
32-51**Travel Files 1953-1996**Carton 11, Folder
1-41**Travel Files 1953-1996**

Series 6 **Photographs 1947-1987**

Physical Description: Boxes 1-2

Arrangement

Arranged as received.

Scope and Content Note

Laboratory and other miscellaneous personal photographs are found in this series. Of particular interest are photographs of the 1955 team of National Institute of Health scientists: Bruce Ames, Leon Heppel, and Bill Pricer, among others. Included are a collection of largely unidentified negatives and slides. In addition, there are photo prints of Rabinowitz's 1987 laboratory team, the 1945 University of Wisconsin Biochemistry Department, and the 1949 Enzyme Research Institute team. A number of the negatives appear to be of the 1963 Barker Hall construction on the University of California, Berkeley campus. Although Rabinowitz was an amateur travel photographer, this collection does not represent these pursuits. Rabinowitz's extensive personal slide collection may be found at the McHenry Library of University of California, Santa Cruz.

Box 1, Folder 1-5
Box 1, Folder 6-9
Box 2, Folder 1-22

Photographs 1955-1987, undated

Negatives undated

Photographs 1947-1987, undated