Finding Aid for the Nina Byers papers, 1946-2006 LSC.1898

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Online finding aid last updated 17 November 2017.
Title: Nina Byers papers
Identifier/Call Number: LSC.1898
Contributing Institution: UCLA Library Special Collections
Language of Material: English
Physical Description: 2.4 linear feet (6 boxes)
Date (bulk): Bulk, 1965-2006
Date (inclusive): 1946-2006
Abstract: Nina Byers was a theoretical physicist and professor in UCLA's Department of Physics and Astronomy. She joined UCLA in 1961 as an assistant professor, working on particle physics, CP-violation, and pion-nuclear charge-exchange scattering. Byers retired in 1993. This collection consists of materials related to her teaching career, research and personal life. The papers include materials related to courses she taught, seminar notes, research, anti-nuclear proliferation materials, professional and personal correspondence, and photographs. Additionally included are materials related to the publication of her book *Out of the Shadows: Contributions of Twentieth-Century Women to Physics* (2006).
Language of Materials: Materials are in English.
Physical Location: Stored off-site at SRLF. All requests to access special collections material must be made in advance using the request button located on this page.
Creator: Byers, Nina

Conditions Governing Access
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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Nina Byers papers (Collection 1898). UCLA Library Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, University of California, Los Angeles.

Provenance/Source of Acquisition
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UCLA Catalog Record ID
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Biography/History
Nina Byers was a theoretical physicist and professor in UCLA's Department of Physics and Astronomy. She was born in January 19, 1930 in Los Angeles, CA, and graduated from UC Berkeley with a BA in physics in 1950. She received her PhD from the University of Chicago in 1956. Byers did postdoctoral work at the University of Birmingham, England, followed by a research position at Stanford University in 1958. She then began her teaching career at UCLA in 1961 as an assistant professor, working on particle physics, CP-violation, and pion-nuclear charge-exchange scattering. Byers was the only female professor in UCLA's Physics and Astronomy Department for more than 20 years. Throughout the late 1960s and 1970s Byers split her time between teaching at UCLA and Oxford University. During this period, Byers was politically active, participating in efforts to support affirmative action for women in the UC system and advocating against nuclear proliferation. She supported awareness and education regarding the Holocaust. Byers also opposed the requirement that university faculty take loyalty oaths, which led to her decision to work in England for some time in the late 1950s. In the 1980s she was an active member of the American Physical Society. Retiring in 1993, Byers remained an active professor emeritus. Her experience as a female physicist was central to her commitment to increase the representation of women in the sciences, particularly physics. Her work to document the accomplishments of women in this field culminated in her book *Out of the Shadows: Contributions of Twentieth Century Women to Physics* (2006). She also led an initiative to develop a website documenting women in the field of physics, Contributions to 20th Century Women to Physics. Byers
passed away on June 5, 2014.

**Scope and Content**
This collection consists of materials related to the teaching career, research, and personal life of UCLA Physics Professor Emerita Nina Byers. The papers includes materials related to courses she taught, lecture and seminar notes, research, anti-nuclear proliferation materials, and a university study in which she participated. Additionally there is professional and personal correspondence, and photographs, including letters regarding the 1965 Watts Riots, affirmative action for women in the UC system, and loyalty oaths. Materials related to Byers’ personal life and education include her physics qualifying exams, datebook, curriculum vitae and biographical materials, and correspondence regarding her book *Out of the Shadows: Contributions of Twentieth Century Women to Physics* (2006).

**Organization and Arrangement**
This collection has been arranged in the following series:
- **Series 1: Academic files, 1968-2005**
- **Series 2: Correspondence and photographs, 1946-2006**
- **Series 3: Personal files, 1951-2005**

Original order of materials has been maintained.

**Related Material**
- *Contributions of 20th Century Women to Physics: Records of the UCLA Website (Collection 458)* Available at UCLA Library Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, University of California, Los Angeles.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**
Byers, Nina -- Archives.
University of California, Los Angeles. Department of Physics--Faculty--Archives.
Women physicists--United States--Archives.

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**Series 1: Academic files 1968-2005**

**Scope and Content**
The series includes materials related to Byers’ activities as a professor at UCLA, including instructional materials for physics and gender studies courses, lecture notes for a talk on the Holocaust, course outlines, exams and problem sets, anti-war and anti-nuclear materials, and a university study in which she participated.

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<td>University Transition Study 1997</td>
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Series 2: Correspondence and photographs 1946-2006

Scope and Content
The series includes professional and personal correspondence and photos, including letters discussing the Watts Riots in 1965, affirmative action in regards to women in the UC system, and correspondence with a potential employer from 1955-1956 regarding her refusal to take a loyalty oath. Photographs are personal snapshots with unidentified persons and dates are limited to 1946-1958 and 1991-2006. This series is arranged chronologically.

Box 4, Folder 3
Correspondence and photographs 1946-1956

Box 4, Folder 4-6
Correspondence and photographs 1948-1958

Box 4, Folder 7
Correspondence: Loyalty oath 1955-1956

Box 5, Folder 1
Correspondence 1958-1959

Box 5, Folder 2
Correspondence: Watts Riots 1965

Box 5, Folder 3
Correspondence 1967-1973

Box 5, Folder 4
Correspondence 1974

Box 5, Folder 5
Correspondence: Association of Academic Women (AAW) 1974-1976

Box 5, Folder 6
Correspondence 1974-1978

Box 5, Folders 7-8
Correspondence 1980-1989

Box 5, Folder 9
Correspondence with Xavier Carelse 1991-1993

Box 5,
Correspondence and photographs 1991-1999

Box 6, Folder 1
Correspondence and photographs 2000-2006

Series 3: Personal files 1951-2005

Scope and Content
The series includes subject material reflecting Byers' personal life, including her physics qualifying exams as a student, datebooks, curriculum vitae, biographical materials, research on Austrian-Swedish physicist Lisa Meitner, correspondence regarding the great-granddaughter of Peter Carl, Fabergé, Tatiana Fabergé, and research, notes and correspondence related to her book Out of the Shadows: Contributions of Twentieth Century Women to Physics.

Box 6, Folder 2
Physics qualifying exams circa 1951

Box 6, Folder 3
Calendar and personal documents 1967-1974

Box 6, Folder 4
Lisa Meitner notes 1994-1996

Box 6, Folder 5
Out of the Shadows book materials 1999-2005

Box 6, Folder 6
Curriculum vitae and biographical materials undated

Box 6, Folder 7
Eulogies 1995-2001

Box 6, Folder 8
Tatiana Fabergé 1992-1995