
Guide to the Hamilton Moore Jeffers papers MS.262

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Language of Material: English

Contributing Institution: University of California, Santa Cruz

Title: Hamilton Moore Jeffers papers

creator: Jeffers, Hamilton Moore

Identifier/Call Number: MS.262

Physical Description: 3.6 Linear Feet5 half cartons, 1 document box, 1 half document box

Date (inclusive): 1895-1975

Access

Collection is open for research.

Arrangement

This collection is organized into six series:

1. Correspondence
2. Research
3. Personal
4. Student notebooks
5. Air Force materials
6. Photographs

Materials within each series are arranged in chronological order, unless otherwise specified.

Biographical / Historical

Hamilton Moore Jeffers was an astronomer and astrometrist born in 1893 in Sewickley, Pennsylvania. He earned both his A.B. degree in 1917 and his Ph.D. degree in astronomy in 1921 from the University of California, Berkeley. After earning his Ph.D., Jeffers was appointed as an instructor of astronomy at the State University of Iowa, and stayed there for almost three years. In 1924 he accepted an offer as Assistant Astronomer at the Lick Observatory, where he had completed much of his graduate work while a student at Berkeley. Jeffers became a full astronomer in 1938, and remained at Lick until his retirement in 1961. He is known for his work in positional astronomy and for his use of the meridian circle, and was mainly interested in observations of minor planets, comets, and double stars. Jeffers contributed to the observatory's Index Catalogue of Visual Double Stars, published in 1963, collaborating with W.H. van den Bos to list over 64,000 instances of double stars. During World War II, Jeffers left the Lick Observatory to serve in the war, first at the radiation laboratory at MIT, then as operations analyst for the Army Air Forces in Alaska and India. In 1950, Jeffers married Bobbe de Vore, a secretary at the Lick Observatory. He lived in Carmel, California, near his brother, poet Robinson Jeffers, and photographer Ansel Adams. Jeffers retired in 1961, and died in 1976 in Carmel, California.

Preferred Citation

Hamilton Moore Jeffers papers. MS 262. Special Collections and Archives, University Library, University of California, Santa Cruz.

Related Materials

Additional Jeffers correspondence from 1917-1956 can be found in Series 1 of the Lick Observatory records:

[UA.036 Series 1: Correspondence](#)

Scope and Content

This collection documents the work of Hamilton Moore Jeffers, an astronomer who spent much of his career at the Lick Observatory. Materials include his professional and personal correspondence, some research notes, personal and family photographs, class notes from his student work at the University of California at Berkeley, and reports and correspondence from his time as an operations analyst in the Air Force during World War II.

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Subjects and Indexing Terms

Astronomy

Correspondence 1924-1975

Arrangement

Materials are arranged alphabetically by last name or by first letter of last name of the correspondent.

Scope and Contents

This series contains Jeffers' professional correspondence throughout his career in astronomy.

Box 1, Folder 1	A 1939-1972
Box 1, Folder 2	B 1933-1964
Box 1, Folder 3	C 1942-1959
Box 1, Folder 4	D 1945-1970
Box 1, Folder 5	E 1949-1962
Box 1, Folder 6	F 1945-1961
Box 1, Folder 7	G 1950-1972
Box 1, Folder 8-9	H 1931-1971
Box 1, Folder 10-12	Hertzsprung, Ejnar 1937-1965
Box 1, Folder 13	I 1956-1973
Box 2, Folder 1	International Astronomical Union (IAU) 1960-1975
Box 2, Folder 2	J 1931-1966
Box 2, Folder 3	K 1935-1964
Box 2, Folder 4	L 1929-1975
Box 2, Folder 5	M 1931-1970
Box 2, Folder 6	Marsden, B.G. 1960-1974
Box 2, Folder 7	Maxwell, A.D. 1935-1941
Box 2, Folder 8	McLaughlin, Dean 1940-1941
Box 2, Folder 9	Merton, Gerald 1947-1958
Box 2, Folder 10	Muller, P. 1949-1959
Box 2, Folder 11	N 1924-1958
Box 2, Folder 12	National Science Foundation (NSF) 1954-1962
Box 3, Folder 1	O 1946-1967
Box 3, Folder 2	P 1932-1965
Box 3, Folder 3	Potwin, Leslie G. 1940-1944
Box 3, Folder 4	Q 1957
Box 3, Folder 5	R 1936-1974
Box 3, Folder 6	Roemer, Elizabeth 1956-1960
Box 3, Folder 7	Ross, F.E. 1951-1966
Box 3, Folder 8	S 1931-1974
Box 3, Folder 9	Schlesinger, Frank 1930-1936
Box 3, Folder 10	Shane, C.D. 1938-1973
Box 3, Folder 11	Stebbins, Joel 1940-1942
Box 3, Folder 12	Strand, K. Aa. 1937-1961
Box 3, Folder 13	Struve, Otto 1941-1955
Box 3, Folder 14	T 1938-1964
Box 3, Folder 15	U 1931-1950
Box 3, Folder 16	V 1936-1964
Box 3, Folder 17	Van den Bos 1947-1971
Box 4, Folder 1	Vinter Hansen, Julie 1936-1958
Box 4, Folder 2	W 1935-1973
Box 4, Folder 3	Whitford, A.E. 1957-1966

Box 4, Folder 4
Box 4, Folder 5
Box 4, Folder 6
Box 4, Folder 7
Box 4, Folder 8

Wright, W.H. 1938-1942
Y 1932-1956
Z 1931-1935
Group letters 1953-1960
Unidentified 1943-1972
Research 1931-1975

Scope and Contents

This series includes Jeffers' research notes as well as correspondence, reports, reprints, and other collected material on Jeffers' work on various projects, such as comets, double stars, and Mars.

Box 4, Folder 9
Box 4, Folder 10

"Observations for the International Longitude Operation" 1933
Lick Observatory work 1936-1960

Scope and Contents

includes annual reports

Box 4, Folder 11
Box 4, Folder 12
Box 4, Folder 13
Box 7, Folder 1
Box 4, Folder 14

Comets 1939-1956
Mars 1953-1972
Scale Value 36" 1954-1957
Double stars 1952-1962
Miscellaneous subject files 1931-1975

Scope and Contents

Includes reprints, clippings, articles, and other collected research materials on a variety of topics.

Personal 1907-1974

Box 5, Folder 1-3
Box 5, Folder 4

Correspondence 1907-1974
Jeffers family estate 1920-1960

Scope and Contents

Includes information on the Jeffers estate, trust, and Hamilton's will, and information on Anna McCord.

Box 5, Folder 5

Foreign trips 1938-1959

Scope and Contents

Includes materials from Jeffers' 1958 trip to Chile and Peru.

Box 5, Folder 6
Box 5, Folder 7
Box 5, Folder 8
Box 5, Folder 9

Pilot's kit, licenses 1940-1973
Receipts 1941-1961
Lick Observatory employment 1947-1958
Carmel house plans, blueprints undated
Student notebooks 1920

Box 5, Folder 10
Box 5, Folder 11
Box 5, Folder 12
Box 6, Folder 1-3

Hansen's General Perturbations 1920
Mathematics - Special functions 1920
Satellite Theory 1920
Air Force materials 1943-1952

Scope and Contents

This series includes reports, photographs, notes, and correspondence related to Jeffers' time as an operations analyst in the U.S. Army Air Force during World War II.

Box 6, Folder 4-7

Photographs circa 1895-1965 and undated

Scope and Contents

This series contains photographic prints, including portraits, and some negatives. Photographs mainly portray Jeffers and his family; views of the family homes, gardens, and pets; and Jeffers' work at Lick Observatory and during his time in the Air Force during World War II.