Descriptive Summary

Languages: English

Contributing Institution: Special Collections & Archives, UC San Diego
9500 Gilman Drive
La Jolla 92093-0175

Title: Robert S. Arthur Papers


Identifier/Call Number: SMC 0070

Physical Description: .8 Linear feet (2 archives boxes and 2 oversize folders)

Date (inclusive): 1938-1987


Scope and Content of Collection

A small collection of papers and images from Robert S. Arthur (1916-1995), a physical oceanographer and professor emeritus at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography. The collection contains a small amount of correspondence and photographs, including prints from the 1951 dedication of the T. Wayland Vaughan Aquarium-Museum, and a snapshot of Harald Sverdrup and Walter Munk from 1946. The bulk of the material consists of teaching outlines and lecture notes from Oceanography 110 (Introduction to Physical Oceanography), administrative papers relating to courses and historic enrollment at the SIO, and an assortment of slides documenting the 1952 Shellback expedition, the coastline of La Jolla, the UC San Diego campus, the ship E.W. Scripps, and Friday Harbor, Washington.

The collection also includes four World War II-era cloth survival charts. To increase the odds of recovery and rescue of airplane crash survivors in the Pacific, in 1942 the Army Air Forces initiated a contract with the Scripps Institution of Oceanography to design a series of Pacific area charts illustrating ocean currents and drift patterns. Harold Sverdrup designed an unidentified number of charts, some of which may have been printed on acetate rayon fabric and distributed to pilots and aircraft personnel. Charts in this collection were issued by the Naval Air Combat Intelligence, Hydrographic Office (NACI-HO) and Army Air Forces.

Arranged in two series: 1) PAPERS, PHOTOS AND SLIDES, and 2) CLOTH SURVIVAL CHARTS.

Biography

Robert Siple Arthur (1916-1995), emeritus professor at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, received his bachelor's degree in mathematics from the University of Redlands in 1938. He began graduate studies in mathematics at UCLA in 1940, but changed to meteorology as the United States entered World War II. He was commissioned as an aerological officer in the U.S. Naval Reserve in 1942 and was assigned to the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla, California, in 1944 to carry out research with Harald Sverdrup on ocean waves.

Arthur continued at Scripps after the war as a student and received his doctorate in 1950 in physical oceanography. He was appointed to the faculty in 1951 and retired in 1979. He was a member of the American Geophysical Union and the American Meteorological Society. He served on many of the Scripps administrative committees.

Arthur published numerous research papers on waves, ocean temperature, currents, and tsunamis during his career, but teaching physical oceanography remained a primary professional interest.

Adapted from "University of California: In Memoriam, 1996."

Preferred Citation

Robert S. Arthur Papers. SMC 70. Special Collections & Archives, UC San Diego.

Acquisition Information

Acquired 1996

OFF-SITE STORAGE

COLLECTION STORED OFF-SITE. ALLOW ONE WEEK FOR RETRIEVAL OF MATERIALS.

Publication Rights

Publication rights are held by the creator of the collection.

Digital Content

Slides, one photograph, and the Pacific cloth survival charts from this collection have been digitized.

Items available online
PAPERS, PHOTOS AND SLIDES

Correspondence
Box 1, Folder 1  Wayne V. Burt re: Burt Hall 1987
Box 1, Folder 2  IAPSO Working Group on Symbols, Units and Nomenclature in Physical Oceanography 1975-1979
Box 1, Folder 3  Eric Mills re: George McEwen 1987
Box 1, Folder 4  Edward Little re: boundary and internal waves 1955
Box 1, Folder 5  Reprints signed by SIO faculty authors 1940-1980
Box 1, Folder 6  Oceanography 110 (Intro to Physical Oceanography) - Radiant Energy 1956
Box 1, Folder 7  Oceanography 110 (Intro to Physical Oceanography) - Teaching notes 1961-1964
Box 1, Folder 8  Oceanography 110 (Intro to Physical Oceanography) - Enrollment 1952-1956
Box 1, Folder 9  Oceanography 110 (Intro to Physical Oceanography) - Handouts 1962
  Guide to forms and graphs used in processing and presenting common data collected on oceanographic cruises.
Box 1, Folder 10  Oceanography 210 (Physical Oceanography) - Teaching notes 1948-1949
Box 1, Folder 11  Oceanography 210B (Into to Mechanics of Fluids on a Rotating Earth) - Teaching notes undated
Box 2, Folder 1-2  Course 211 (Ocean Waves) - Teaching notes by Walter Munk 1951
  Includes UCLA meteorology notes by Arthur.

Box 2, Folder 3  Lecture outline on Equatorial Undercurrents prepared for W. Nierenberg 1967
Box 2, Folder 4  Beta Spiral notes on Stommel and Schott undated
Box 2, Folder 5  Ph.D. examination committee memoranda 1950-1953
Box 2, Folder 6  Summary and proposal for students majoring in physical oceanography 1955
Box 2, Folder 7  Student recruitment summary and reports for the SIO 1938-1970
  Includes rosters of registered students and degrees pursued. Data was collected for a 1960 report by the Committee on Education and Recruitment of the American Society of Limnology and Oceanography.

Box 2, Folder 8  Caricatures - Walter Munk and Harald Sverdrup ca. 1940-1946
  Color copy of an original drawing of Sverdrup by J. Parilla. Artist of Munk sketch unknown.
Box 2, Folder 9  Photographs 1942-1980
  Black and white prints: Harald Sverdrup and Walter Munk in academic robes; Arthur and another man (William Van Dorn or Doak Cox) on a dock in Hawaii; and other portraits. One image from this folder has been digitized.

Harald Sverdrup and Walter Munk in academic robes 1946
https://library.ucsd.edu/dc/object/bb9420918c
| Box 2, Folder 10 | Photographs - Dedication of the T. Wayland Vaughan Aquarium-Museum 1951 March 26 |
| Box 2, Folder 11 | Color slides - Friday Harbor, Washington 1950 |
| Box 2, Folder 12 | Color slides - UC San Diego campus 1955, 1967-1969  
General note  
Includes images of construction of the Ritter addition at SIO. |
| Box 2, Folder 13 | Color slides - Coastal shots of beach and breakers in La Jolla and Southern California 1945-1950 |
| Box 2, Folder 14 | Color slides - R/V E.W. Scripps at sea 1947 |
| Box 2, Folder 15 | Color slides - Shellback Expedition 1952 July-August |
| Box 2, Folder 16 | Grunion “Certificate of Merit” 1948 |
| Box 2, Folder 17 | 8”x11” color paper reproductions of cloth survival charts 1943-1944  
“The Use of Cloth Survival Charts in the Navigation of Rubber Rafts” instructional aid by Air Intelligence Group, Navy Department (reproduction)  
[https://library.ucsd.edu/dc/object/bb72026005](https://library.ucsd.edu/dc/object/bb72026005) |
| Oversize MC-022-10 | Cloth survival chart, Philippine Series 1944  
[https://library.ucsd.edu/dc/object/bb1607527w](https://library.ucsd.edu/dc/object/bb1607527w)  
General  
Double-sided fabric chart illustrating currents near Mindanao Island (No. C-43) and North Borneo (No. C-44). Issued by the Army Air Forces. |
| Oversize MC-022-10 | Cloth survival chart for Penang Island and Bintan Island 1945  
[https://library.ucsd.edu/dc/object/bb02423288](https://library.ucsd.edu/dc/object/bb02423288)  
General  
Numbered C-859 and C-860. Issued by the Army Air Forces. |
| Oversize FB-477, Folder 3 | Cloth survival chart for Central Caroline Island and Marianas Island ca. 1943  
[https://library.ucsd.edu/dc/object/bb1709917c](https://library.ucsd.edu/dc/object/bb1709917c)  
General  
Numbered S12-2-36 and S12-17. Issued by Naval Air Combat Intelligence, Hydrographic Office (NACI-HO). |
| Oversize FB-477, Folder 3 | Cloth survival chart for Palau Island area and northwest New Guinea, and Western Caroline Island ca. 1943  
[https://library.ucsd.edu/dc/object/bb0344718r](https://library.ucsd.edu/dc/object/bb0344718r)  
General  
Numbered S12-2-40 and S12-2-20. Issued by the Naval Air Combat Intelligence, Hydrographic Office (NACI-HO). |