

**William W. Coblentz Papers**  
**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**2005**

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm78016279>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms009045>

Prepared by Patrick Kerwin

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2009  
Revised 2010 April

## Collection Summary

**Title:** William W. Coblentz Papers

**Span Dates:** 1883-1960

**ID No.:** MSS16279

**Creator:** Coblentz, William W. (William Weber), 1873-1962

**Extent:** 350 items

**Extent:** 10 containers

**Extent:** 3 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

**Location:** Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm78016279>

**Summary:** Author and physicist. Correspondence, diary, writings, bibliography, notes, notebooks, biographical material, awards, photographs, newspaper clippings, printed matter, and other material relating chiefly to Coblentz's work in the fields of infrared spectroscopy and to the application of radiometry to astronomical problems.

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

### People

Abbe, Cleveland, 1838-1916--Correspondence.

Abbot, C. G. (Charles Greeley), 1872-1973--Correspondence.

Coblentz, William W. (William Weber), 1873-1962.

Hale, George Ellery, 1868-1938--Correspondence.

Miller, Dayton Clarence, 1866-1941--Correspondence.

Pfund, A. H. (August Herman), 1879-1949--Correspondence.

Whitney, Willis Rodney, 1868-1958--Correspondence.

### Organizations

United States. National Bureau of Standards.

### Subjects

Astronomy.

Infrared spectroscopy.

Parapsychology.

Planets--Research.

Radiation--Measurement.

Radio astronomy.

Scientific expeditions--Sumatra (Indonesia)

Solar eclipses.

Stars--Radiation.

### Places

Europe--Description and travel.

### Occupations

Authors.

Physicists.

## Provenance

The papers of William W. Coblentz, author and physicist, were given to the Library of Congress by Coblentz, 1952-1962.

## Processing History

The William W. Coblentz Papers were processed in 1962. A finding aid was created in 2005.

## Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of William W. Coblentz is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

## Access and Restrictions

The papers of William W. Coblentz are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

## Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, William W. Coblentz Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of William Weber Coblentz (1873-1962) span the years 1883-1960 and include correspondence, a diary, writings, a bibliography, notes, notebooks, biographical material, awards, photographs, newspaper clippings, and printed matter.

The collection relates chiefly to Coblentz's service as a physicist at the National Bureau of Standards and reflects his contributions in the fields of infrared spectroscopy and the application of radiometry to astronomical problems.

The correspondence relates principally to Coblentz's publications and his work as a physicist, but also includes items from family members and genealogical material. The diary was written during a solar eclipse expedition to Sumatra and Coblentz's return through Europe. The writings file includes annotated copies of Coblentz's *Man's Place in a Superphysical World* (1954) and *From the Life of a Researcher* (1951) as well as annotated copies of his other works. Also included are biographical material, memorabilia, financial records, scientific notebooks concerning stellar and planetary radiation and psychic phenomena, and photographs.

Correspondents include Cleveland Abbe, C. G. Abbot, George Ellery Hale, Dayton Clarence Miller, A. H. Pfund, and Willis Rodney Whitney.

## Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material or topic.

# Container List

<b>Container</b>	<b>Contents</b>
BOX 1	Awards, 1906-1953
BOX 1	Biographical file, 1951-1954
BOX 1	Case Institute of Technology, Cleveland, Ohio, 1896-1900, 1910, 1924-1960 (2 folders)
BOX 1	Diary, 1925-1926
BOX 1	Family history, 1937
BOX 1	Financial papers, 1884-1905
BOX 1	General correspondence
BOX 1	1893-1907 (2 folders)
BOX 2	1908-1959 (8 folders)
BOX 2	National Bureau of Standards, 1905-1944
BOX 2	Notebooks
BOX 2	Planetary radiation, 1926
BOX 2	Psychic phenomena, 1910-1915, 1947 (2 folders)
BOX 3	Stellar radiometry, 1908-1914, 1921-1924 (2 folders)
BOX 3	Notes on plant growth, 1921, 1935, 1947
BOX 3	Photographs, 1883-1886, undated
BOX 3	Writings
BOX 3	Autobiography, 1949
BOX 3	Bibliography, 1954
BOX 4	General
BOX 4	1903-1906
BOX 5	1907-1914 (3 folders)
BOX 6	1915-1918 (3 folders)
BOX 7	1919-1925 (3 folders)
BOX 8	1926-1929 (2 folders)
BOX 9	1930-1940 (3 folders)
BOX 10	1941-1954 (3 folders)