

Merril Eisenbud Papers
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Washington, D.C.
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Prepared by Karen Linn Femia with the assistance of Dan Oleksiw

Finding aid encoded by Glenn R. Gardner, 2010

Collection Summary

Title: Merrill Eisenbud Papers

Span Dates: 1933-1997

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1948-1997)

ID No.: MSS84826

Creator: Eisenbud, Merrill

Extent: 4,200 item

Extent: 15 containers plus 1 classified and 1 oversize

Extent: 8 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm2001084826>

Summary: Scientist and educator. Correspondence, reports, writings by Eisenbud and others, medical case summaries, and legal papers primarily concerned with beryllium disease among workers in beryllium manufacturing and in the fluorescent light industry. Includes papers from Eisenbud's work as director of the Health and Safety Laboratory of the Atomic Energy Commission and as director of the Laboratory of Environmental Studies at New York University.

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

Eisenbud, Merrill.

Organizations

U.S. Atomic Energy Commission. Health and Safety Laboratory.

Subjects

Beryllium industry.

Beryllium.

Fluorescent lighting.

Industrial safety.

Occupations

Educators.

Scientists.

Provenance

The papers of Merrill Eisenbud, scientist and educator, were given to the Library of Congress by his wife, Irma Eisenbud, in 2001.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Merrill Eisenbud is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Merrill Eisenbud 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.

Security Classified Documents

Government regulations control the use of security classified material in this collection. Manuscript Division staff can furnish information concerning access to and use of classified materials.

Preferred Citation

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

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1915, Mar. 18	Born, New York, N.Y.
1936	BSEE, New York University, New York, N.Y.
1936-1947	Industrial hygienist, Liberty Mutual Insurance Co., Philadelphia, Pa.
1939	Married Irma Onish
1947-1959	Director, Health and Safety Laboratory, Atomic Energy Commission
1954-1959	Director, New York Operations Office, Atomic Energy Commission
1959-1984	Professor, New York University Medical Center's Institute of Environmental Medicine, and director, Laboratory of Environmental Studies, New York, N.Y.
1963	Published <i>Environmental Radioactivity</i> . New York: McGraw-Hill
1968-1970	Administrator, New York City Environmental Protection Agency, New York, N.Y.
1978	Published <i>Environment, Technology and Health</i> . New York: New York University Press
1984-1997	Professor emeritus, Institute of Environmental Medicine, New York University Medical Center, New York, N.Y.
1985-1997	Scholar-in-residence, Duke University Medical Center, Durham, N.C.
1990	Published <i>Environmental Odyssey</i> . Seattle: University of Washington Press
1997, Aug. 15	Died, Chapel Hill, N.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Merrill Eisenbud (1915-1997) span the years 1933-1997, with the bulk of the material dating from 1948 to 1997. The papers are organized in the following series: [Atomic Energy Commission](#), [Beryllium](#), [Writings](#), [Miscellany](#), [Classified](#), and [Oversize](#). The [Classified](#) and [Oversize](#) series contain only one item each.

Eisenbud began his career as an industrial hygienist with the Liberty Mutual Insurance Company. After more than ten years experience there, he became one of the leading figures in the field of industrial health and safety. In 1947 he was appointed the founding director of the Health and Safety Laboratory of the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC). While at the Atomic Energy Commission, Eisenbud's work centered on two areas, environmental radiation and beryllium disease. These fields continued to be the two primary topics of his research after he left the AEC and went to the Laboratory of Environmental Studies at New York University. His research and writing on these topics continued after his retirement in 1984 until his death in 1997.

These papers are primarily concerned with beryllium disease. The Atomic Energy Commission became involved in beryllium studies because beryllium was used in the manufacture of nuclear reactors. A high rate of severe lung disease leading to disability or death was noted among workers in beryllium extraction plants and in the immediate neighborhoods of the plants. Beryllium disease was also found in the fluorescent light industry where, during the 1940s, a beryllium compound was used to coat the inside of the light tube. The papers contain data on air samples, medical case notes and studies, reports, articles, and substantive correspondence between scientists working on beryllium disease.

The [Atomic Energy Commission](#) series consists solely of material about beryllium. The files include research data compiled by the AEC on several manufacturing plants and reports and articles.

The [Beryllium](#) series contains material created by organizations other than the Atomic Energy Commission about beryllium disease. Items are primarily from individual researchers, organizations working on beryllium disease including government agencies, and private industries involved in beryllium manufacturing. Articles and reports covering the 1930s to the 1990s give an overview of the history of beryllium disease research. Material from the Beryllium Case Registry is also in this series. Case studies of all known diagnosed cases of beryllium disease were placed in the registry.

The [Writings](#) series contains works by Eisenbud. The [Miscellany](#) series has material on environmental radiation, both man-made and natural, dating from the 1970s to the 1990s. This series also includes photographic slides covering a variety of scientific topics.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in six series:

- [Atomic Energy Commission, 1948-1960](#)
- [Beryllium, 1933-1997](#)
- [Writings, 1942-1997](#)
- [Miscellany, 1975-1997](#)
- [Classified, 1948](#)
- [Oversize, 1976](#)

Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1	<p><u>Atomic Energy Commission, 1948-1960</u></p> <p>Articles, reports, correspondence, research data, and bibliography. Arranged alphabetically by type of material or name of organization and chronologically therein.</p>
BOX 1-11	<p><u>Beryllium, 1933-1997</u></p> <p>Correspondence, articles and reports, medical case records, and research data. Arranged alphabetically by type of material or name of organization and chronologically therein.</p>
BOX 12-13	<p><u>Writings, 1942-1997</u></p> <p>Drafts and published works by Eisenbud. Arranged by type of material and chronologically therein.</p>
BOX 14-15	<p><u>Miscellany, 1975-1997</u></p> <p>Correspondence, reports, and photographs and photographic slides. Arranged alphabetically by type of material or name of organization and chronologically therein.</p>
BOX CL 1	<p><u>Classified, 1948</u></p> <p>Air samples taken by the Atomic Energy Commission at the Beryllium Corp. Arranged and described according to the series, container, and folder from which the item was removed.</p>
BOX OV 1	<p><u>Oversize, 1976</u></p> <p>Notes on cases from the Beryllium Case Registry. Arranged and described according to the series, container, and folder from which the item was removed.</p>

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Atomic Energy Commission, 1948-1960 Articles, reports, correspondence, research data, and bibliography. Arranged alphabetically by type of material or name of organization and chronologically therein.
BOX 1	Beryllium Corp., circa 1948, 1960 <i>See also Classified</i>
BOX 1	Beryllium symposium, Rochester, N.Y., 1946
BOX 1	Bibliography on beryllium, 1954
BOX 1	Brush Beryllium Co., 1948-1953 <i>See also Container 6, Brush Beryllium Co. and Brush Wellman, Inc.</i> (3 folders)
BOX 1	Clifton Products, 1949-1952
BOX 1	Published articles on beryllium, 1951-1959
BOX 1	Reports, 1948-1958
BOX 1-11	Beryllium, 1933-1997 Correspondence, articles and reports, medical case records, and research data. Arranged alphabetically by type of material or name of organization and chronologically therein.
BOX 1	Articles and reports
BOX 1	1933-1938
BOX 2	1940-1955 (6 folders)
BOX 3	1960-1989 (7 folders)
BOX 4	1990-1997, undated (4 folders)
BOX 4	Beryllium Case Registry
BOX 4	Articles, 1959, 1967-1974, 1980, undated
BOX 4	Case summaries
BOX 4	Nos. 1-399, circa 1976-circa 1981 (3 folders)
BOX 5	Nos. 400-896, circa 1976-circa 1981 (4 folders)
BOX 5	Correspondence and memoranda, 1944, 1954-1958, 1964, 1971-1982, 1991 (2 folders)
BOX 5	Minutes of meetings, 1970-1976
BOX 5	Notes on cases, 1961-1965, 1976-1990, undated <i>See also Oversize</i>
BOX 6	Beryllium Industry Scientific Advisory Committee, 1989-1997, undated (3 folders)
BOX 6	Brush Beryllium Co., 1948-1949, 1967, undated <i>See also Container 1, Atomic Energy Commission, Brush Beryllium Co.</i>

Beryllium, 1933-1997

Container	Contents
BOX 6	Brush Wellman, Inc. <i>See also Container 1, Atomic Energy Commission, Brush Beryllium Co.</i>
BOX 6	1977-1981, 1988-1995 (4 folders)
BOX 7	1996-1997 (4 folders)
BOX 7	Chelation, 1949-1960, 1974, 1983
BOX 7	Cleveland, Ohio, research group, 1943, 1949-1966, 1973, 1981-1991 (2 folders)
BOX 8	Dustan, Cyril
BOX 8	Case studies from Lorain, Ohio, 1948
BOX 8	Reports, 1948-1949, undated
BOX 8	Energy Department, 1992-1997, undated (3 folders)
BOX 8	Environmental Protection Agency, 1972-1973, 1983-1995 (2 folders)
BOX 9	Epidemiology, 1965, 1981, 1990-1996, undated (4 folders)
BOX 9	General correspondence, 1943-1958, 1966, 1977, 1993-1997 (3 folders)
BOX 9	Hardy, Harriet L., 1946-1969, 1975-1980>
BOX 9	Machlett Laboratories, 1948, 1977
BOX 9	Miscellany, 1958, 1992-1997, undated
BOX 9	National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
BOX 9	Correspondence, 1981-1995, undated
BOX 9	Reports
BOX 9	1967-1972, 1981
BOX 10	1992-1993, undated (2 folders)
BOX 10	National Jewish Center for Immunology and Respiratory Medicine, Denver, Colo., 1982-1996
BOX 10	NGK Insulators, Japan, 1991-1997, undated
BOX 10	Occupational Safety and Health Administration, 1975-1979 (4 folders)
BOX 11	Reeves, Andrew L., 1970-1989
BOX 11	Regulatory issues, 1970, 1978-1980, 1992
BOX 11	Rochester, N.Y., research group, 1950-1954, 1966
BOX 11	Saranac symposium, Saranac Lake, N.Y., 1947
BOX 11	Shima, Shogo, 1971-1974, 1980-1983, undated
BOX 11	Sylvania Electronic Products, 1940-1957, 1978-circa 1983, undated (6 folders)
BOX 12-13	Writings, 1942-1997 Drafts and published works by Eisenbud. Arranged by type of material and chronologically therein.
BOX 12	Drafts
BOX 12	Miscellaneous, 1982-1986, 1997
BOX 12	“Vignettes in the History of Beryllium Disease,” 1996-1997 (2 folders)

Writings, 1942-1997

Container	Contents
BOX 12	Published works
BOX 12	Bound
BOX 12	Vol. I, 1942-1964
BOX 13	Vols. II-III, 1964-1978 (2 folders)
BOX 13	Loose copies, 1960, 1968-1997, undated (2 folders)
BOX 14-15	Miscellany, 1975-1997 Correspondence, reports, and photographs and photographic slides. Arranged alphabetically by type of material or name of organization and chronologically therein.
BOX 14	Book lists, 1991-1995, undated
BOX 14	British Nuclear Fuels, 1994-1997, undated
BOX 14	Conference on occupational health experience with uranium, Arlington, Va., 1975 (2 folders)
BOX 14	Duke University Medical Center, Durham, N.C., 1982-1996, undated
BOX 14	Graphics, 1989-circa 1995, undated
BOX 14	International Atomic Energy Agency, 1990
BOX 14	Photographic slides
BOX 14	Notebook 1, undated
BOX 15	Notebook 2, undated
BOX 15	Radiation effects research, 1997, undated
BOX CL 1	Classified, 1948 Air samples taken by the Atomic Energy Commission at the Beryllium Corp. Arranged and described according to the series, container, and folder from which the item was removed.
BOX CL 1	Atomic Energy Commission
BOX CL 1	Beryllium Corp.
BOX CL 1	Air samples taken at Beryllium Corp., Reading, Pa., 1948 (Container 1)
BOX OV 1	Oversize, 1976 Notes on cases from the Beryllium Case Registry. Arranged and described according to the series, container, and folder from which the item was removed.
BOX OV 1	Beryllium
BOX OV 1	Beryllium Case Registry
BOX OV 1	Notes on cases, 1976 (Container 5)