

## HISTORY OF THE SCRIPPS INSTITUTION OF OCEANOGRAPHY ARCHIVES

Deborah Day, Scripps Institution of Oceanography Archives, 1999

Some original correspondence, photographs and other primary source material documenting the history of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography was collected from time to time by members of the library staff and cataloged into the Library's special collections as early as the 1940's when Ruth Ragan served as librarian. In 1961, Helen Hill Raitt, wife of Professor Russell W. Raitt and long a member of the Scripps community, used this material as she prepared three lectures on the history of the institution. In the preface of her history of the institution, Scripps Institution of Oceanography: First Fifty Years, Mrs. Raitt wrote that she "was alarmed to find that...cartons of random letters and reports of unlabeled photographs and building specifications were giving way before a deluge of new acquisitions in the battle for library space." Mrs. Raitt and others in the community tried to "impress some order" on this material, but unfortunately they left no description of the material they organized.

Mrs. Raitt's lectures on the early history of Scripps were well received, and she decided to write a history of the institution which was published in 1967. During the course of her research for the book, a significant quantity of early administrative files were found, and a number of persons donated manuscript material documenting the early history of the institution. Unfortunately, no accession records or donor files were kept documenting what material was received and who donated it. Mrs. Raitt's correspondence does provide some information on the growth of the SIO Archives during this period. Mrs. Raitt conducted interviews with many people associated with Scripps during its formative years. These included Mrs. Francis B. Sumner, a faculty wife who arrived at Scripps in 1914, SIO Librarian Ruth Ragan and Edna Watson Bailey, graduate student and literary executor of William E. Ritter. Dr. Bailey gave Helen Raitt a portion of the Ritter Papers documenting his directorship. In a similar fashion, Mrs. Raitt received letters of Erik Gustaf Moberg from his widow. These collections were added to the Archives room in the SIO Library, together with files documenting the administration of SIO directors Thomas Wayland Vaughan and Harald Ulrik Sverdrup, which Mrs. Raitt found in an attic of Ritter Hall.

Helen Raitt's work was continued by Elizabeth Noble Shor, who was asked to write a second volume of the history of the institution by director William A. Nierenberg in 1972. Mrs. Shor, wife of the associate director of the institution, had previously worked as an assistant to ichthyologist Carl Leavitt Hubbs and his wife Laura Clark Hubbs organizing the Hubbs Library and personal papers from 1962-1976. Mrs. Shor served as Scripps Archivist from 1973-1981. On March 3, 1980, she supervised the move of the Hubbs Library and Hubbs Papers to the SIO Archives, after the Hubbyses signed a deed of gift with UCSD Librarian Melvin Voigt. This single collection, the Carl Leavitt Hubbs Papers, measured some 87 cubic feet, more than doubling the size of the holdings of the SIO Archives.

Mrs. Shor added many collections to the SIO Archives. She located 33 linear feet of administrative files of Roger Revelle and other early records in Ritter Hall and transferred these to archives. Walter Munk donated several folders of his papers concerning Carl Eckart to the archives. In June 1977, 64 folders of files documenting Scripps expeditions were sent to archives by the SIO Ships Scheduling Office. Files documenting several buildings on the Scripps campus were donated by the UCSD Office of Architects and Engineers. Correspondence and a few early

account books of SIO business manager Wesley Clarence Crandall were found by Mrs. Shor and added to the collection. The Conrad Limbaugh Papers were given to Carl Leavitt Hubbs by the Limbaugh Family, and these were received by the archives in 1979. Helen Raitt's papers were donated to the archives by her family after her death in 1976. When the Alpha Helix Program was concluded in 1980, files of the program office were sent to archives. Dr. Fred Spiess transferred his records as a member of the Special Committee on Non-Senate Academic Ranks to the SIO Archives in 1979. The papers of Wilfred Emory Allen were sent to the archives from storage at the Institute of Marine Resources in 1981. The Sumner Family donated Francis Bertody Sumner's photographs, and Thomas Wayland Vaughan's daughter donated some of his papers and photographs to the archives.

Rather than transferring complete series of files, several SIO offices transferred non-current files to the SIO Archives in small increments. For instance, the director's office transferred several boxes of non-current files to archives during the period 1973-1981. Non-current biographical files of the Academic Personnel Office were transferred to the archives between 1973 and 1976. The Public Affairs Office transferred their non-current biographical and subject files to archives from time to time, sometimes sending single files and tapes of events on campus. The archives acquired unsolicited items or folders from a variety of persons and offices. Some of this material was received through campus mail with no indication of the sender.

Mrs. Shor devised a plan to organize the archival and manuscript material received by archives into two large collections: the SIO Biographical Files and the SIO Subject Files. In addition to these collections, photographs were placed in subject and chronological order in a set of looseleaf notebooks. In 1981, the SIO Subject Files comprised about 30 cubic feet, and the SIO Biographical Files comprised about 15 cubic feet. These files were closed in 1981, no new material has been added to them since June 1981.

Deborah Cozort Day was appointed archivist on July 1, 1981. She surveyed the collection and reported in January 1984 that the collection consisted of 236.5 linear feet of archival material and 776.25 linear feet of manuscript material. She built a rich and deep archival collection, surveying the SIO campus searching for early records oftentimes stored in attics or storage areas, and added many important collections to the SIO Archives such as the Roger Revelle Papers.