



MG 440 - Gerhard Herzberg fonds

Dates: 1902-2006 (inclusive); 1935-1999 (predominant).

Extent: 44 cm of textual records, 228 photographs, 25 postcards, 2 negatives.

Biography: Gerhard Herzberg was born on 25 December 1904 in Hamburg, Germany. He attended the Technical Institute in Darmstadt on scholarship, earning his Dipl. Ing. in 1927, and his Dr. Ing. in 1928.¹ He continued with research at the University of Göttingen and the University of Bristol. While at Göttingen he met Luise Oettinger, whom he married on 30 December 1929. The couple returned to Darmstadt in 1930 where Gerhard had a position as an assistant. As the political situation in Germany deteriorated, the Herzberg's personal situation became precarious: Luise was Jewish. The family was able to leave Germany for Canada in 1935, where Gerhard accepted a position with the University of Saskatchewan. They remained in Saskatoon for the next ten years; in 1945 Gerhard joined the University of Chicago (at the Yerkes Observatory, Wisconsin). In 1948 the family moved to Ottawa where Gerhard was named head of the Division of Physics at the National Research Council (NRC), a position he retained until he became a Distinguished Research Scientist at NRC in 1969, the first person so designated. Over the course of his career, Gerhard received numerous honours and awards, culminating with the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1971. He died in Ottawa on 3 March 1999.

Scope and content: This fonds contains material relating to the personal and professional life of Gerhard Herzberg and his wife, Luise Herzberg. In particular, it contains correspondence with family, friends and colleagues, most notably from the period 1933-1949. Some articles are included.

Material in English and German.

The original organization, file numbers and titles have been retained.

Restrictions: There are no restrictions.

Related material: Material in the University Archives and Special Collections includes MG 441 – Luise Herzberg fonds; MG 74 – JWT Spinks fonds; and in the records of the President's Office – series 1, Walter Murray; and MG391 – Herzberg Offprint Collection. Researchers should also note the Paul Herzberg fonds (F0235) at the York University Archives and Special Collections, and the Gerhard Herzberg fonds (MG 31 J4) at the Library and Archives Canada. A copy of this finding aid is available in the UASC reading room.

See also *Gerhard Herzberg: An Illustrious Life in Science* by Boris Stoicheff and *Luise Herzberg, Astrophysicist: A Memoir* by Paul Herzberg.

Related: *Highlights from the C.J. Mackenzie Diary*, edited by Paul Herzberg. Gift of Agnes Herzberg, 2013 – see SpColl (Shortt).

Donated to the University Archives and Special Collections by Monika Herzberg in 2013.

Guide prepared by Cheryl Avery, 2013, edited for formatting by Amy Putnam, 2018.

¹ German, the traditional engineer's degree is called Diplom-Ingenieur (Dip. Ing.)

2.5 L-Ordner Index and Eclipse Index.

Detailed indexes to correspondence (see below, 4.6 and 6.1) created by Paul Herzberg.

3.3 Gerhard Herzberg interview with Christine King. – 1986.

3.4 Gerhard Herzberg Interview with Brenda Winnewisser. – 1989.

3.11 Herzberg / Svendsoy. – 1904, 1966.

Letters from Herzberg's mother to his son Paul; copy of Herzberg's parents' (Albin and Ella) marriage certificate.

4.6 Eclipse File Box. –

See above, 2.5, for a detailed index.

-1 A. – 1945-1948.

Includes correspondence from the Altschuls; the American Consul; the Emergency Committee of Atomic Scientists.

-2 B. – 1945-1948.

Includes correspondence with C.S. Beals; Berchert; E. Berl; Kurt Bonhoffer; William Buscombe; Hans Bärwald obituary.
Material in German and English

-3 C – D. – 1944-1947.

Includes correspondence with Edna Carter; the CBC; Bert Cox; Hans [Weiner];etc.
Material in English and German.

-4 E – F. – 1942-1947.

Includes correspondence with the Emergency Society for German Scholars in Exile; Z. Ferns; Thomas FitzGerald; Jack Fox; James Franck; E.B. Frost; External Affairs; Wolfgang Finkelburg.
Material in German and English.

-5 G – H – I - J. – 1935-1947.

Includes correspondence with Newell Gingrich; S. Gradstein; rector of the Technische Sochschule, Darmstadt; E.L. Harrington; W. Heitler; Otto Huber; Gustav Jacoby; Max Jacob; Harold Johns; [Juda?]; etc.
Material in German and English.

- 6 K – L. – 1945-1948.

Includes correspondence with R. Ladenburg; Kurt Lion; Samuel Laycock; E. Langemak; etc.
Material in German and English.

-7 M-N-O-P-Q-R. – 1938-1948.

Includes correspondence from C.A. Mackay; McGill University; C.J. Mackenzie; R. Mecke; Walter Michel; E. Miescher; Adam Morrison; R.S. Mulliken; Christina Murray (Sr); Mike Oort; F. Patat; the Royal Bank; etc.
Material in German and English.

-8 **S.** – 1940-1948.

Includes correspondence with the Sask Alumni Association; G. Schmitt; D. Schlink; H. Schüler; H.J. Schumacher; Secretary of State (re-admission to Canada); Selfhelp (Emigres from Central Europe); Harry Sigler; Society for the Protection of Science and Learning; Hanna Spencer; JWT Spinks; E.W.R. Steacie; Theodor Steinkopff; O. Struve; E. Svendsoy [Gerhard's mother].
Material in German and English.

-9 **T – U – V.** – 1945-1948.

Includes correspondence with Teachers Insurance; Hans and Lotte Thurnauer (Luise's sister); the Tuesday Evening Study Club; the University of Chicago; the University of Saskatchewan (Murray Memorial Fund); J.S. Thomson; W.P. Thompson; H. Verleger; etc.
Material in German and English.

-10 **W-Y-Z.** – 1944-1947.

Includes correspondence with G. Walther; the Wartime Bureau of Technical Personnel / Unemployment Insurance Commission; Walter Weizel; W.H. White; etc.
Material in German and English.

6.1 L-Ordner – Privat

There are two A-Z series; note that correspondence with some individuals may be found in each series (for example, H. Baerwald, H. Juda; Kurt Lion; Clara Stern; the Svendsoy family; the Steinhauers; etc. See also above, 2.5, for a detailed index.

-1 **A-B.** – 1933-1939.

Includes correspondence with the American Consulate; with Hans Baerwald [physics professor dismissed in 1933 "on account of the new laws"]; Hermann Blumenthal; Ludwig Bayer; [?] Bramesfeld; etc.
Material in German and English.

-2 **C-D.** – 1935, 1938.

Correspondence from Fritz [?]; the German consulate.
Material in German.

-3 **E-F-G.** – 1929, 1932, 1938.

Includes correspondence from Greta Goldstein; S. Gradstein.

-4 **H.** – 1933, 1936-1937.

Correspondence with the Hamburg-American Line.

-5 **I-J.** – 1935-1939.

Includes correspondence with Immigration (Canada); Cara Straus; Hans and Aimée Jüngst; the Jewish Refugees Committee; H. Juda; etc. Note cards with drawings.

-6 **K.** – 1930-1935.

Includes correspondence with the Canadian Immigration office, Hamburg; a Christmas card and correspondence from Kenzo Katsube (Hiroshima).

-7 **L.** – 1933-1938. – textual records, 1 photograph.

Correspondence with Kurt Lion.
Material in German.

-8 **M.** – 1931-1939.

Includes correspondence with [?] Malkin; Kurt Meyerhoff; Walter Murray.

-9 **N.** – 1935.

Correspondence with the National Council of Jewish Women.

-10 **O-P-Q-R-S-Sch-St.** – 1933-1939.

Includes correspondence from Alfred Pramann; Julius Springer; the Svendsoy family [Gerhard's mother]; Clara Stern; the Steinhauers.
Material in German and English.

-11 **T-U-V-W-X-Z.** – 1935-1937.

Includes correspondence with A. Walther.

-12 **Second Series: A-Z.** – 1939-1941. – textual records, 3 photographs.

Includes correspondence with Martha and Fritz Dannheisser; the American Consul; H. Baerwald; the German Consul; S. Gradstein; Max Jacob; Melitta Jellinek; N. Juda; B. Landau; Kurt Lion; McClocklin Real Estate; the chief constable for the city of Saskatoon (re: naturalization); Svendsoy family (photos); Clara Stern; Teacher;s Insurance; etc.
Material in German and English.

Box 2

8.18 Gerhard Herzberg Symposium. – 1999.

Copy of "Inspired by Herzberg: Spectroscopy for the Year 2000."

8.55A Steinhauer. – 1972-1998, 2006.

Correspondence primarily from Gerhard and Monika Herzberg to Harry and Minnie Steinhauer; includes copies of some letters from Harry. Includes a signed copy of "Molecular Spectroscopy: A Personal History;" as well as copies of "Molecular astrophysics," "The Search for Absolute Values: Harmony Among the Sciences (Commentary);" "A Leader of Indian Science (essay review); "My Life;" the Physics in Canada bulletin devoted to Herzberg and the Nobel Prize; "Gerhard Herzberg" by RK Asundi; etc.

8.64 Gerhard Herzberg Habilitation. – 1930, 1979, 2006.

Habilitationsschrift is a postdoctoral thesis required for qualification as a professor; *habilitation* can refer to postdoctoral lecturing qualification, or the ceremony at which one receives qualification as a professor.
Material in German.

8.69 Notes by Gerhard Herzberg of Medical Expenses. -1965.

Box 3

Addendum.

Bard College – Lecture. – [198-?]. – 8 photographs.

Biographical. – 1976, 2003.

Includes Lawrence Stokes, “Canada and an Academic Refugee from Nazi Germany: The Case of Gerhard Herzberg;” and Boris Stoicheff, “Gerhard Herzberg PC, CC, 1904-1999;” “Reminiscences of Gerhard Herzberg at Saskatchewan;” J.W. Grove’s “A Man of Power and Resource;” *Canadian Scientists and Inventors*; etc.

Clippings.

Correspondence.

Correspondence – Shimizu.

Correspondence – Stoicheff. – textual records, 3 photographs.

Events, Honors and Awards.

- Weizman Dinner. – 1981. – 2 photographs.
- Czech Embassy Dinner. – 1987. – textual records, 2 photographs.
- conference, New Hampshire. – 1964. – 1 photograph.

Family. – textual records, 15 photographs, 1 real photo postcard.

- Ella Biber (GH’s mother). – ca. 1902-1946. – 4 photographs, 1 real photo postcard.
- Otto Herzberg (GH’s grandfather). – 1 photograph.
- Albin Herzberg (GH’s father). – 2 photographs.
- Karl Herzber (GH’s uncle). – 1 photograph.
- Ida Herzberg (GH’s grandmother). – 2 photographs.
- Luise and Gerhard Herzberg family. – 2 photographs.
- Albin and Ella Herzberg. – 1 photograph.
- Summer 1926. – 2 photographs.

High School Graduation (1924). – 1 photograph.

Honorary Degree – Hamburg. – 1974.

Honorary Degree – [Oxford]. – 1960.

Text of speech in Latin and English.

Honorary Degree – Stockholm. – 1966. – textual records, 1 photograph.

Honours and Awards – Canada.

- Honorary Degree, SFU. – 1972. – 2 photographs.
- Agnes Herzberg – Queen’s University. – 1996.

- Winnipeg Institute for Biodiagnostics. – 1 photograph.
- Honorary degree, Carleton. – 1 photograph
- Monika and Gerhard Herzberg, Carleton. – 1995. - 1 photograph.
- Ottawa Club. – 1985. – 1 photograph.

International Photographs.

- Dr. S. & Mrs. Ramasaham. – [ca. 1950s]. – 2 photographs.
- [Los Alamos]. – 1968. – 5 photographs.
 - Dr & Mrs Crasswhite; Sutterby, Martin, Andre, Giachetti, Zalubas, Wetson, Corliss, Martin, Kine (sent by David Steinhaus).
- Dr. [Bix]. – 2 negatives.
- Japan. – 20 photographs.
- Germany. – 1 real photo postcard.
- Bristol, England. – 11 postcards.
- Germany. – 1979. – 11 photographs.
 - Lecture given by Herzberg.
- Germany. – [ca. 1930s]. – 3 photographs.
 - GH and JWT Spinks.
- Darmstadt, Germany. – [1930s]. – 1 photograph.
 - Group photo: JWT Spinks on left; GH on right.
- Darmstadt, Germany. – 1995. – 1 photograph.
 - House where GH lived; photo by Boris Stoicheff.
- Germany. – 1963.
 - Wilhelm Schnieder and wife (relatives).
- Russia. – nd. – 2 photographs.
- Budapest. – 1963. – 1 photograph.
- Copenhagen, Denmark. – 1 photograph.
- Dr. Mulliken. – 1 photograph.

Jewish Community Centre. – 1973.

Media. – 4 DVDs, 1 CD.

Discs of news coverage and interviews with GH; CD of GH and H.C. Longuet-Higgins.

Memorial.

Miscellaneous. – textual records, 12 photographs.

Includes Canadian Association of Physicists Instrument and Vocal Recital; Die Liebigschule; Joseph von Fraunhofer.

Nobel Prizes. – 1971, 1977, 1986. – textual records, 2 photographs.

Includes “Traduction des Discours a la Fête Nobel;” personal program for Gerhard Herzberg; general programmes; photo of a meeting of Nobel Laureates; portrait taken at Laureates Conference

NRC – Miscellaneous Publications.

NRC Recognition. – 41 photographs.

Order of Canada. – 1968.

Ottawa.

- Privy Council: Queen Elizabeth. – 1992.
With Mulroney; Ray Hnatyshyn.
- NRC (Group). – 2 photographs.
- NRC (in office). – 2 photographs.
- NRC (in office). – 1985. – 12 photographs.
- Meeting at Loeb Research Institute. – 1 photograph.
- Group Photo. – [ca. 1968]. - 1 photograph.
Agnes Herzberg, Paul Herzberg, Prof. Rao, ?, GH, Dr. John Stone, Dr. John Johns.
- Hungary – Chargé d’Affaires.
- Green Valley Restaurant. – 1968.
With Janet Johns, Mrs Oka, John Johns.
- NRC – meeting Mexican president. – 2 photographs.
- portrait, CJ Mackenzie. – 1 photograph.
- GH on steps of NRC
- NRC – birthday/retirement, 1995. -

Portraits. – 1970, 1980. – 5 photographs.

Public Service of Canada – Convention. – 1969. – textual records, 2 photographs.
GH received a professional institute gold medal.

Saskatoon. – 32 photographs

- Ruth Harrington’s wedding
- professor Weil
- scenic
- dedication of Nobel Plaza, U of S; including event, portraits of presidents, Saskatoon

Spectroscopy. – 3 photographs.

Two images of GH with award; one of spectrographic lines on screen.

Vatican Academy of Science. – April 1972. – textual records, 14 photographs.
Includes scroll (in latin)

Box 4

Library

Die Bibel. Berline, 1932. Inscribed from GH’s mother.

Herzberg, A. M. and I. Krupa (eds). *Statistics, Science and Public Policy*. Kingston: Queen’s University, 1997. Inscribed by Agnes Herzberg to her father.

Herzberg, Gerhard. *Molesülspektren und Molekülstruktur*. Dresden: Theodor Steinkopff, 1939.

Herzberg, Gerhard. *The Spectra and Structures of Simple Free Radicals*. Toronto: General Publishing, 1971.

[Professor Yonezo Morino] – Japanese language; legend of photographs (in English) in front.

Sitzungsberichte. Munich, 1997.

[Tolstoy. Leo. *Anna Karenina*. Russia], 1959. Russian language edition; annotated throughout.

Memorabilia

- 35 year service pin, NRC
- 600 anniversary, Kölner University
- V stick pin, Stockholm
- Companion of the Order of Canada lapel pin; [centennial medal?]
- city of Sherbrooke tie clip and cuff links
- Canadian Red Cross blood donor lapel pins