

# Guide to the Sidney Altman Papers

MS 1680



compiled by Diane E. Kaplan and Michael Lotstein

May 1995

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
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<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 1680

**CREATOR:** Altman, Sidney

**TITLE:** Sidney Altman papers

**DATES:** 1967-2011

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 72 linear feet (90 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The papers consist of correspondence, publications files, laboratory notebooks, edited manuscripts, and research data, which document Sidney Altman's research in nucleic acid chemistry.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1680>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1680>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to [http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr\\_copy\\_order.html](http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html). The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.      box  
f.      folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Received from Sidney Altman, 1995, 2012 and 2013.

## Conditions Governing Access

Accession 2012-M-045 is open for research. The original accession of the Sidney Altman papers is unprocessed and may contain sensitive information or be in a physical state that would prohibit use. Researchers wishing to request access to the original accession should email [beinecke.library@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu) requesting specific box numbers in order to initiate the review process, which may take several weeks. Accession 2013-M-048 is closed to researchers until January 3, 2033, or the death of William H. McClain, Halvorson Professor, University of Wisconsin-Madison, whichever occurs first.

Original born digital files, as well as preservation masters, may not be accessed due to their fragility. Researchers must consult use copies, or if none exist request that they be made. Born digital files cannot be accessed remotely. System requirements include a Manuscripts and Archives computer and file viewing software.

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## Conditions Governing Use

Copyright is retained by the creator of this collection for materials he has authored or otherwise produced. After the lifetime of the creator, copyright passes to Yale University. Copyright status for other collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

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## Preferred Citation

Sidney Altman Papers (MS 1680). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

Sidney Altman was born on May 8, 1939, in Montreal, Quebec. He received a B.S. in physics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1960 and a Ph.D. in biophysics from the University of Colorado in 1967. Following further work in molecular biology at Harvard University and at Cambridge, Altman joined the faculty of Yale University in 1971. Altman's research has concerned nucleic acid chemistry and the genetics of tRNA expression. In 1989 he won the Nobel Prize in chemistry. In addition to his teaching and research, Altman served as chairman of the Yale University Department of Biology from 1983-1985 and as dean of Yale College from 1985-1989.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers consist of correspondence, publications files, laboratory notebooks, edited manuscripts, and research data, which document Sidney Altman's research in nucleic acid chemistry.

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## Collection Contents

### Original accession

The material is unprocessed and may contain sensitive information or be in a physical state that would prohibit use. Researchers wishing to request access should email [beinecke.library@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu) requesting specific box numbers in order to initiate the review process, which may take several weeks.

b. 4, 1, 3, 6, 5, 2, 8, 7, 9	Publications files, sorted
b. 10	Publications files, unsorted
b. 14, 13, 15, 12, 11	General files [includes grant proposals, course of study and other Yale administrative materials, graduate student files, general correspondence]
b. 18, 17, 16, 19, 19A	Lab notebooks of Sidney Altman and graduate students [Harvard in black binders, Cambridge in green binders, Yale in blue binders]
b. 20	Unsorted publications [from England]
b. 22, 21	Unsorted publications
b. 23	Cal Tech material, virus studies, correspondence
b. 34-36, 49-51, 26, 24, 27-33, 42- 43, 40-41, 38-39, 25, 37, 48, 46-47, 44-45	Data [x-rays]
b. 53, 52	Illustrations for publications

**Accession 2012-M-045: Additional Material, 1989-2010**

The 2012-M-045 addition to the Sidney Altman papers consists of edited manuscripts, research data, and correspondence arranged into three sections: Collaborative Research, Patents, and Topical Files. The Collaborative Research section is arranged by the last name of the collaborator with Dr. Altman; the Patents section is arranged by general files and then alphabetically by country; the Topical Files section is arranged alphabetically by topic.

## Collaborative Research

b. 1, f. 1-5	Eder	1996-1997
b. 2, f. 1-2	Eder	1996-1997
b. 2, f. 3-4	Gopalan	1996-1998
b. 3, f. 1-4	Gopalan	1998-2006
b. 4, f. 1-3	Guerrier-Takada	1992-1995
b. 4, f. 4	Jarrous	1997
b. 5, f. 1-3	Jarrous	1997-1999
b. 6, f. 1-3	Jarrous	1997-1999
b. 6, f. 4	Jiang	2000
b. 7, f. 1-2	Jiang	2000
b. 7, f. 3-5	Kirsebom	1994-1998
b. 8, f. 1-3	Ko	2005-2008
b. 8, f. 4	Kovringina and Wesolowski	2002
b. 9, f. 1-4	Kovringina and Wesolowski	2005
b. 10, f. 1	Krummel	1999
b. 10, f. 2-4	Li	1995-2003
b. 11, f. 1-4	Li	2003
b. 12, f. 1-5	Li	2004-2005
b. 13, f. 1-5	Liu	1994-1996
b. 14, f. 1	Liu	1997
b. 14, f. 2-5	Lunberg	1994-1995
b. 15, f. 1-3	Lunberg Contains lab notebooks on Crohn's disease research.	Undated
b. 15, f. 4-5	Lundblad	2007-2008
b. 16, f. 1-2	Plehn-Dujowich	1998

## Collaborative Research (continued)

b. 16, f. 3	Salvati	1997
b. 17, f. 1	Seif	2008
b. 17, f. 2-4	Stolc	1997-1998
b. 18, f. 1	Vioque	1999
b. 18, f. 2-5	Westhof	1993-1994
b. 19-21	Westhof	1993-1996
b. 22, f. 1	Yang	2007
b. 22, f. 2-4	Yuan	1993-1994
b. 22, f. 5-6	Zhang	2004
Patents		
General		
b. 23, f. 1-4	Application materials and correspondence	1989-1996
b. 24, f. 1	Application materials and correspondence	1995-1996
b. 24, f. 2-3	Notifications and correspondence	2002
b. 24, f. 4	Australia	1997
b. 24, f. 5	Canada	1997
b. 24, f. 6	Europe [EU]	1996-1997
b. 25, f. 1-3	Europe [EU]	1996-1997
b. 26, f. 1-2	Europe [EU]	1997
b. 26, f. 3-5	Japan	1999-2004
b. 27, f. 1-2	United States	1997-1998
Topical Files		
b. 27, f. 3-4	Chloroplast RNase P	2000
b. 27, f. 5	Data sets	1995-1996
b. 28, f. 1-2	Data sets	1995-1996
b. 28, f. 3-5	E.Coli	2000-2001
b. 29, f. 1	Harcourt Brace Press	1998
b. 29, f. 2	Innovir Laboratories	1994-1995
b. 29, f. 3-5	JB 91-02	2002
b. 30, f. 1-4	Lab notebooks	1991-1992, undated

## Topical Files (continued)

b. 31, f. 1	<i>Masters of DNA</i> English	2005
b. 31, f. 2-4	Microarrays	2001
b. 31, f. 5-6	Miscellaneous Includes manuscripts, research data and correspondence.	1995-2010
b. 32, f. 1-5	Pathogenesis Corporation Includes IPO documents.	1994-1995
b. 33, f. 1-3	Phenotypic conversions	1997
b. 33, f. 4	Publications correspondence	1993
b. 34, f. 1	Ribozyme Pharmaceuticals Includes press releases and correspondence	1993-1994
b. 34, f. 2	RNA enzyme overview	1997
b. 34, f. 3	RNA World II	1997-1998
b. 34, f. 4	RNase P sub-units	2005
b. 34, f. 5-7	<i>RNase P Structure and Contrast with Ribozymes</i>	2002
b. 34, f. 8	Salmonella regulatory plasmids	2002
b. 35, f. 1-2	Sequence analysis	2002
b. 35, f. 3-5	Stress peptides	2002-2009
b. 36	Computer files Original born digital files, as well as preservation masters, may not be accessed due to their fragility. Researchers must consult use copies, or if none exist request that they be made. Born digital files cannot be accessed remotely. System requirements include a Manuscripts and Archives computer and file viewing software.	



**Accession 2013-M-048: Additional Material, 1977-2011**

This accession consists of published materials, correspondence, and related documents generated by William H. McClain, Halvorson Professor, University of Wisconsin-Madison, in his effort to credit Sidney Altman with the discovery of the enzymatic activity of bacterial ribonuclease P (RNase P) that resulted in his receipt of the 1989 Nobel Prize in Chemistry.

Materials in this accession were compiled by Sidney Altman.

This accession is closed to researchers until January 3, 2033, or the death of William H. McClain, Halvorson Professor, University of Wisconsin-Madison, whichever occurs first.

b. 1, f. 1-2	Correspondence	2009 June-2010 February
b. 1, f. 5	Notes and research materials	1977-2009
	"Trials, Travails, and Triumphs: An Account of of RNA Catalysis in RNase P"	
b. 1, f. 4	Drafts and notes	2009-2011
b. 1, f. 5	Final version	2010

## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Subjects**

Biochemistry  
Molecular biology  
Molecular genetics  
Nucleic acids  
Transfer RNA

### **Names**

Altman, Sidney

### **Corporate Body**

Yale University -- Faculty