

# Guide to the E. Dorrit Hoffleit Papers

MS 1915



compiled by Carol King; William R. Massa, Jr.; and William Landis

October 2008

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## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	3
Requesting Instructions .....	3
Administrative Information .....	4
Immediate Source of Acquisition .....	4
Conditions Governing Access .....	4
Conditions Governing Use .....	4
Preferred Citation .....	4
Biographical / Historical .....	4
Scope and Contents .....	4
Arrangement .....	4
Collection Contents .....	5
Selected Search Terms .....	13

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## Collection Overview

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**CALL NUMBER:** MS 1915

**CREATOR:** Hoffleit, Dorrit, 1907-

**TITLE:** E. Dorrit Hoffleit papers

**DATES:** 1847-2006

**BULK DATES:** 1945-2000

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 8.5 linear feet (9 boxes)

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 1 CD-R (648.11 megabytes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The materials consist primarily of research notes; materials for presentations and articles; correspondence; photographs; biographical materials, and printed ephemera documenting the career of E. Dorrit Hoffleit in the field of astronomy.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1915>

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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.1915>.

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

Transferred from the Astronomy Department, Yale University, 2008. Materials were removed from Hoffleit's office by the Astronomy Department following her death.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Original computer files may not be accessed due to their fragility. Researchers must consult access copies.

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### Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for 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

E. Dorrit Hoffleit Papers (MS 1915). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

Ellen Dorrit Hoffleit was born in Florence, Alabama, on March 12, 1907. She received a B.A. in mathematics (1928) and a Ph.D. in astronomy (1938) from Radcliffe College; and a D.Sc. from Smith College (1984) and from Central Connecticut State University (1998). Hoffleit was a research assistant at the Harvard College Observatory in 1929 and was hired as an astronomer at Harvard in 1948. In 1943, she joined the Ballistic Research Laboratory at Aberdeen Proving Ground to compute missile trajectories. Hoffleit left Harvard in 1956 to run Yale University's star cataloging program. She authored the *Bright Star Catalogue*, containing information on the 9,110 brightest stars, and co-authored the *General Catalogue of Trigonometric Stellar Parallaxes*, containing precise distance measurements to 8,112 stars. She retired from Yale in 1975. Hoffleit was also director of the Maria Mitchell Observatory, Nantucket, from 1957 to 1978. In 1988, minor planet 3416 was named "Dorrit" in her honor. Hoffleit died at her New Haven, Connecticut, apartment on April 9, 2007.

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## Scope and Contents

The materials consist primarily of research notes; materials for presentations and articles; correspondence; photographs; biographical materials, and printed ephemera documenting the career of E. Dorrit Hoffleit in the field of astronomy.

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## Arrangement

The collection is arranged as received from the Astronomy Department, Yale University.

## Collection Contents

b. 1, f. 1-22	Chronological files Files include correspondence, printed ephemera, clippings, and writings.	Circa 1938-2005
b. 1, f. 23-24	Notebooks containing mostly bibliographic citations	Circa 1980-2000
b. 1, f. 25-26	MACHO collaboration materials	Circa 1994-2000
b. 2, f. 1-28	<i>Bright Star Catalogue</i> , research materials relating to publication English	Circa 1950-1980
b. 2, f. 29-36	Mira, Christmas star, research materials	Circa 1980-2002
b. 2, f. 37-47	Research files on astronomers and astronomy Includes photographs and biographical information, primarily about Yale and Harvard astronomers.	Circa 1900-2005
	Research files on astronomers, observatories, and telescopes Includes photographs, biographical information, correspondence, and drafts of writings, primarily about Yale and Harvard astronomers and women in astronomy.	Circa 1900-2005
b. 3, f. 1	Photographs A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.	Circa 1900-2005
b. 3, f. 2	Research files, photographs A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.	Circa 1978
b. 3, f. 3	Small groups A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.	Circa 1900-2005
b. 3, f. 4	Pictures Yale A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.	1932
b. 3, f. 5	Photograph-Conference on Spectroscopy A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.	Circa 1980s
b. 3, f. 6	Photographs Mt. Stromlo A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.	Circa 1900-2005

b. 3, f. 7	Miscellaneous on Historic Topics A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.	Circa 1900-2005
b. 3, f. 8	Pictures A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.	Circa 1900-2005
b. 3, f. 9	Photographs of Yale Men A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.	Circa 1900-2005
b. 3, f. 10	<a href="#">Portraits of Male Astronomers</a>	Circa 1900-2005
b. 3, f. 11	Women Astronomers A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.	Circa 1900-2005
b. 3, f. 12	Telescopes, Research Notes, and Photographs A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.	Circa 1900-1950
b. 3, f. 13	Women A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.	Circa 1900-2005
b. 3, f. 14	Harvard Women as Astronomers to Compare with Yale A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.	Circa 1900-2005
b. 3, f. 15	Yale A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.	Circa 1900-2005
b. 3, f. 16	Yale Observatory History A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.	Circa 1900-2005
b. 3, f. 17	Women Astronomers at Yale Through 1968 A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.	Circa 1900-1968

b. 3, f. 18	Research materials on astronomers and observatories A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.	Circa 1900-2005
b. 3, f. 19	Research materials on astronomers and observatories A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.	Circa 1900-2005
b. 3, f. 20	Yale Telescopes A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.	Circa 1900-2005
b. 3, f. 21	Women A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.	Circa 1900-2005
b. 3, f. 22	Margaretta Palmer A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.	Circa 1900-2005
b. 3, f. 23	Shapley I A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.	1928-1979
b. 3, f. 24	Shapley II A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.	1980
b. 3, f. 25	Harvard Women Professionals in Science and Engineering A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.	Circa 1900-2005
b. 3, f. 26	Women scientists A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.	Circa 1990-2005
b. 3, f. 27	MMA - Women in Science Award A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.	Circa 1900-2005
b. 3, f. 28	Pertaining to Helen Lewis Thomas A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.	Circa 1900-2005

b. 3, f. 29	Women in Astronomy Lecture A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.	January 27, 1989
b. 3, f. 30	Women Astronomers A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.	1989-2004
b. 3, f. 31	Transparencies: Women Astronomers A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.	Circa 1900-2005
b. 3, f. 32	Observatories, non-Yale A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.	1985
	Photographs not relating to historical research Includes primarily family and professional photographs.	Circa 1920-1980
b. 3, f. 33	Photographs, early A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.	Circa 1920-1980
b. 3, f. 34	Photographs, early family A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.	Circa 1920-1980
b. 3, f. 35	Photographs, early, some family A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.	Circa 1920-1980
	Halley's comet research materials, slides, photographs, and correspondence	Circa 1980-1989
b. 3, f. 36	Halley's Comet - History and Predictions A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.	Circa 1980-1989
b. 3, f. 37	Halley's Comet slides A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.	Circa 1980-1989
b. 4, f. 1-2	First star photography, photographs, pamphlets, notes, and writings for an exhibit	1847-circa 1950
b. 4, f. 3-4	Ballistic Research Laboratories (Aberdeen, Maryland), correspondence, photographs, and research materials	1950-1959



b. 4, f. 5-6	Al Sufi variations	1943-circa 1980
b. 4, f. 7	Beehler, Christmas star	Circa 1970-1980
b. 4, f. 8	Berendzen, loan of images	1973
b. 4, f. 9	On the identification of CF Sct	2001
b. 4, f. 10	Review of McIvor, <i>Star of Bethlehem, Star of Messiah</i>	Circa 1998
b. 4, f. 11-12	"Fleming, Maury, Cannon, and the Classification of Stars," lecture materials English	2000
b. 4, f. 13	Comet catalogue	Circa 1987
b. 4, f. 14	<i>Illustrated Guide to Astronomy</i> illustrations English	1993
b. 4, f. 15	Comet Charles V	Circa 1983
b. 4, f. 16-24	Meteors and meteorites	Circa 1950-2000
b. 4, f. 25	Research notes	Circa 1950-2000
b. 4, f. 26	Long-period variables, for New Zealand colloquium	Circa 1960-1970
b. 10, f. 1	Notes from Perth conference	Circa 1960-1970
b. 4, f. 27	Pulsar pair	2005
b. 4, f. 28	Sydney plates and plate replacement	1962
b. 4, f. 29	Transit of Venus	2004
b. 4, f. 30	"More Observations Needed for V370 and, An Hipparcos Discovery" English	1998
b. 4, f. 31-33	Variable star transparency	Circa 1997-1999
b. 4, f. 34	Vassar College centennial	1961
b. 4, f. 35	Costantino, Sigismondi	2001-2002
	Interview of Dorrit Hoffleit by Pan Papacosta	

b. 6	<p>Audiorecording 2008-m-079-001 1 CD-R 01:04:12 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm) (648.11 megabytes) <a href="#">[Aviary] ms_1915_s01_b006</a></p> <p>Date information for the interview recording is taken from the accompanying transcript and correspondence.</p> <p>As a preservation measure, original materials may not be used. Digital access copies must be provided for use. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access.</p> <p>This material was imaged or captured by the Yale University Digital Accessioning Support Service (DASS) in 2019 for preservation and access. For more information on the DASS and the actions taken during its accessioning work, click here: <a href="#">Born Digital @ Yale: Digital Accessioning Support Service</a>.</p>	2003 January 29
b. 4, f. 36	Transcript and correspondence	2003–2005
b. 4, f. 37	Lecture transparencies	Circa 1950-2000
b. 4, f. 38	Non-Mira variables	Circa 1980-2000
b. 5, f. 1-10	American Association of Variable Star Observers (AAVSO)	Circa 1960-2000
b. 5, f. 11-12	Lecture transparencies	Circa 1950-2000
b. 5, f. 13-14	Research materials	1910-1994
b. 5, f. 15	"History of the Discovery of Mira-type Stars" English	Circa 1970-1990
b. 5, f. 16	Janet Mattei memorial	2004
b. 5, f. 17	Frank Schlesinger, lecture materials	Circa 1970-1990
b. 5, f. 18	Astronomical telescopes	Circa 1936-1980
b. 5, f. 19	Catalogue cameras	2004
b. 5, f. 20	90th Anni Mirabiles	1999
b. 5, f. 21	"Pioneering Women in Spectral Classification of Stars" English	2002
b. 5, f. 22	Helen Lewis Thomas	Circa 1997
b. 5, f. 23	Research notes and transparencies	Circa 1970-1990
b. 5, f. 24	Meteorites, research materials	1945-2000
b. 5, f. 25	Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences talk on Meteoritics	Circa 1998
b. 5, f. 26	Notes for a talk on the history of astronomy	Circa 1950-1970
b. 5, f. 27	Non-Mira red giants, lecture materials	1998
b. 5, f. 28	Suspected variables among Al Sufi stars, lecture materials	Circa 1990-2000

b. 5, f. 29	Sydney Barnes AAVSO paper, lecture materials	1997
b. 5, f. 30-33	Spectra	Circa 1970-2000
b. 5, f. 34	Spectroscopy	Circa 1970-2000
b. 5, f. 35	Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame, induction materials	1998-2000
b. 5, f. 36-38	Asteroids	Circa 1985-1995
b. 5, f. 39-40	Astrometry	1969-1989
b. 7, f. 1-3	Astronomers as musicians, essay drafts and research materials	Circa 1938-2000
b. 7, f. 4	Family and friends, correspondence	1997-2003
b. 7, f. 5	Daguerreotype of Jupiter, facsimiles of materials apparently from the George Eastman House, Rochester, New York	Circa 1850
b. 7, f. 6-8	Satellites and Russian space exploration, research notes, clippings, and printed ephemera	1957-1961
b. 7, f. 9	Brouwer (Dirk) medal	1966
b. 7, f. 10	Camera lens, Argentina, includes photographs	1966
b. 7, f. 11	Yale astronomy, research notes, clippings, and correspondence	1980-1984
b. 7, f. 12-24	Yale zone catalogue, errata and other information	Circa 1950-1985
b. 7, f. 25-32	Radcliffe College and biographical files Includes correspondence, essays, clippings, and research materials.	Circa 1928-2002
b. 10, f. 1	Citations and posters celebrating Hoffleit's achievements	1997-2006
b. 7, f. 33	Chronology relating to astronomy and New Haven/Yale	Circa 1988-1990
b. 7, f. 34	"The Harvard Observatory Development" typescript English	Circa 1940-1950
b. 7, f. 35	Notes on the history of science and the Yale Observatory	Circa 1980
b. 7, f. 36-37	Astronomy research notes and figures	Circa 1975-1985
b. 7, f. 38-39	Bibliographical and biographical information	Circa 1980-1993
b. 7, f. 40	Notes from annual reports	Circa 1920-1966
b. 7, f. 41	The Athenaeum, Yale's first observatory, research notes	Circa 1980
b. 7, f. 42	Eclipses other than 1925, notes	Circa 1970-1990
b. 7, f. 43	Astronomical Society of the Pacific correspondence	1989-1991
b. 7, f. 44-45	Transit of Venus, essay, notes, and correspondence	1942-2004
b. 8, f. 1	Meteoric astronomy, notes and drafts for article in <i>Garland Encyclopedia</i>	Circa 1992
b. 8, f. 2	Lawrence Summers controversy at Harvard, clippings and correspondence	2005

b. 8, f. 3	"Astronomy with the Yale heliometer, 1882-1910" drafts and research materials English	Circa 1986-1987
b. 8, f. 4	Variable stars, notes	Circa 1970-1990
b. 8, f. 5	History of Yale observatory, overheads for colloquium talk	1982
b. 8, f. 6	Humor, mostly clippings	Circa 1980-2000
b. 8, f. 7-9	Astronomy teaching materials	Circa 1985-1995
b. 8, f. 10	Minneapolis balloon flight data	1956 April
b. 8, f. 11	Observatory photographs for Sydney paper	Undated
b. 8, f. 12	William Augustus Norton, biographical and bibliographical information	1985
b. 8, f. 13	Obituaries	1997
b. 8, f. 14	Observatories, articles on	1963-1995
b. 8, f. 15	Witwatersrand University (South Africa) and Yale telescope, correspondence and photographs	1985-1990
b. 8, f. 16	Stellar parallaxes, drafts, correspondence, and printed ephemera	Circa 1945-1970
b. 8, f. 17	Peabody Museum instruments, memoranda and notes	1992-1995
b. 8, f. 18	Photography of stars, research materials	1981-1989
b. 8, f. 19	Photometry, research materials	Circa 1980-1990
b. 8, f. 20	Radio astronomy, research materials	Circa 1960-1990
b. 9, f. 1	References, call numbers	Circa 1960-1990
b. 9, f. 2	SIMBAD database instructional and research materials	Circa 1990
b. 9, f. 3	J. Lawrence Smith fund and National Academy of Sciences correspondence and printed ephemera	Circa 1921-1987
b. 9, f. 4	Astronomical Society of the Pacific Toronto meeting materials	Circa 1999
b. 9, f. 5	Telescopes research notes	Circa 1900-1990
b. 9, f. 6-8	Yale-United States Naval Observatory cooperation research materials and drafts	Circa 1960-2000
b. 9, f. 9	Wellesley College Class of 1959 printed ephemera	1959
b. 9, f. 10	Yale-Loomis telescope installation instructions and visual materials	Circa 1942

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## 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

Astrometry  
Astronomers  
Astronomy  
Stars  
Variable stars  
Women astronomers

### Genres / Formats

Born digital  
Computer files

### Names

Hoffleit, Dorrit, 1907-