

**Guide to the  
John B. Zinn Papers**



**Gettysburg College, Musselman Library  
Special Collections & College Archives**

**Karen Dupell Drickamer**

**October 2012**

**MS-127: John B. Zinn Papers**

(10 boxes, 2.5 cu. ft.)

Inclusive Dates: 1925-1979

*Processed by Karen D. Drickamer  
October 2012*

**Provenance**

Donated by John B. Zinn, Jr.

**Biography**

Dr. John B. Zinn (1888-1979,) Ockershausen Professor of Chemistry and Head of the Chemistry Department for 34 years, was born in Gettysburg and attended local schools before earning a B.S. from Gettysburg College in 1909. Johns Hopkins University granted him a Ph.D. in 1913. After teaching at Amherst College and Worcester Polytechnic Institute, he joined the Gettysburg College faculty in 1924. Zinn served as Chair from the Curriculum Committee from 1926 to 1939 and was the Director of Summer School from 1930 to 1941. He retired in 1959 and died in 1979.

Zinn was a member of the American Chemical Society, The American Society for the Advancement of Science, Phi Beta Kappa, Rotary, Alpha Tau Omega, Sigma Si, and Gamma Alpha. He was presented with the Alumni Meritorious Service Award in 1963 and inducted into the Gettysburg Hall of Fame in 1978 for his record in track and field. He was further honored by the Alumni Society with the Distinguished Alumni Certificate awarded in 1972 for his “past and continued interest in higher education.” The junior class dedicated their 1931 *Spectrum* to Dr. Zinn. In 1981, a group of alumni and the L. B. Smith Education Foundation presented the College with gifts and pledges of \$226,000 to establish the John B. Zinn Memorial Fund for Professional Excellence in the Healing Arts.

**Scope and Content Note**

The collection consists mostly of correspondence with some publications and ephemera. The correspondence reflects Zinn’s close relationship with his graduates with whom he stayed in touch through much of their careers. The economic history of the country and the employment opportunities for college graduates is demonstrated in Zinn’s recommendations and correspondence with graduate schools and chemical companies from the twenties to the post-war era. As head of the department and as a member of the pre-med committee, Zinn worked hard to place all of his ‘boys’ in good positions or graduate school programs. The collection also contains departmental correspondence, some business records and a few files on the building of Breidenbaugh Hall in 1927 as well as lab remodeling in 1940.

1-1 Finding Aid

**Series I: Correspondence: Personal and Alumni**

**Box 1**

1-2 Correspondence: Personal and Alumni, 1925-1929  
1-3 Correspondence: Personal and Alumni, 1930-1931  
1-4 Correspondence: Personal and Alumni, 1932  
1-5 Correspondence: Personal and Alumni, 1933  
1-6 Correspondence: Personal and Alumni, 1934  
1-7 Correspondence: Personal and Alumni, 1935  
1-8 Correspondence: Personal and Alumni, 1936  
1-9 Correspondence: Personal and Alumni, 1937  
1-10 Correspondence: Personal and Alumni, 1938  
1-11 Correspondence: Personal and Alumni, 1939  
1-12 Correspondence: Personal and Alumni, 1940  
1-13 Correspondence: Personal and Alumni, 1941  
1-14 Correspondence: Personal and Alumni, 1942

**Box 2**

2-1 Correspondence: Personal and Alumni, 1943  
2-2 Correspondence: Personal and Alumni, 1944  
2-3 Correspondence: Personal and Alumni, 1945  
2-4 Correspondence: Personal and Alumni, 1946  
2-5 Correspondence: Personal and Alumni, 1947  
2-6 Correspondence: Personal and Alumni, 1948  
2-7 Correspondence: Personal and Alumni, 1949  
2-8 Correspondence: Personal and Alumni, 1950  
2-9 Correspondence: Personal and Alumni, 1951  
2-10 Correspondence: Personal and Alumni, 1952

**Box 3**

3-1 Correspondence: Personal and Alumni, 1953  
3-2 Correspondence: Personal and Alumni, 1954  
3-3 Correspondence: Personal and Alumni, 1955  
3-4 Correspondence: Personal and Alumni, 1956  
3-5 Correspondence: Personal and Alumni, 1957  
3-6 Correspondence: Personal and Alumni, 1958  
3-7 Correspondence: Personal and Alumni, 1959-  
3-8 Correspondence: Personal and Alumni, John F. Baxter, 1942-1952  
3-9 Correspondence: Personal and Alumni, Charles A. Sloat, 1927-1955  
3-10 Correspondence: Personal and Alumni, Charles M. A. Stine, 1931-1948  
3-11 Correspondence: Personal and Alumni, Undated

**Series II: Correspondence: Recommendations, 1925-1959**

**Box 4**

- 4-1 Correspondence: Recommendations, 1925
- 4-2 Correspondence: Recommendations, 1926
- 4-3 Correspondence: Recommendations, January to May, 1927
- 4-4 Correspondence: Recommendations, June to December, 1927
- 4-5 Correspondence: Recommendations, 1928
- 4-6 Correspondence: Recommendations, January to June, 1929
- 4-7 Correspondence: Recommendations, July to December, 1929
- 4-8 Correspondence: Recommendations, January to March, 1930
- 4-9 Correspondence: Recommendations, April to August, 1930
- 4-10 Correspondence: Recommendations, September to December, 1930

**Box 5**

- 5-1 Correspondence: Recommendations, January to July 1931
- 5-2 Correspondence: Recommendations, August to December, 1931
- 5-3 Correspondence: Recommendations, January to March, 1932
- 5-4 Correspondence: Recommendations, April to November, 1932
- 5-5 Correspondence: Recommendations, January to April, 1933
- 5-6 Correspondence: Recommendations: May to December 1933
- 5-7 Correspondence: Recommendations, January to May, 1934
- 5-8 Correspondence: Recommendations, June to December, 1934
- 5-9 Correspondence: Recommendations, January to March, 1935
- 5-10 Correspondence: Recommendations, April to December, 1935
- 5-11 Correspondence: Recommendations, January to December, 1936

**Box 6**

- 6-1 Correspondence: Recommendations, 1937
- 6-2 Correspondence: Recommendations, 1938
- 6-3 Correspondence: Recommendations, January to April, 1939
- 6-4 Correspondence: Recommendations, June to December, 1939
- 6-5 Correspondence: Recommendations, 1940
- 6-6 Correspondence: Recommendations, 1941
- 6-7 Correspondence: Recommendations, 1942
- 6-8 Correspondence: Recommendations, 1943
- 6-9 Correspondence: Recommendations, 1944
- 6-10 Correspondence: Recommendations, 1945
- 6-11 Correspondence: Recommendations, 1946

**Box 7**

- 7-1 Correspondence: Recommendations, 1947
- 7-2 Correspondence: Recommendations, 1948
- 7-3 Correspondence: Recommendations, 1949
- 7-4 Correspondence: Recommendations, 1950

## **Series II continued**

### **Box 7 continued**

7-5	Correspondence: Recommendations, 1951
7-6	Correspondence: Recommendations, 1952
7-7	Correspondence: Recommendations, 1953
7-8	Correspondence: Recommendations, 1954
7-9	Correspondence: Recommendations, 1955
7-10	Correspondence: Recommendations, 1956
7-11	Correspondence: Recommendations, 1957
7-12	Correspondence: Recommendations, 1958

## **Series III: Correspondence: Departmental, 1925-1959**

### **Box 8**

8-1	Correspondence: Departmental, 1925-1926
8-2	Correspondence: Departmental, 1927-1928
8-3	Correspondence: Departmental, 1929-1930
8-4	Correspondence: Departmental, 1931
8-5	Correspondence: Departmental, 1932
8-6	Correspondence: Departmental, 1933-1934
8-7	Correspondence: Departmental, 1935-1936
8-8	Correspondence: Departmental, 1937-1938
8-9	Correspondence: Departmental, 1939-1940
8-10	Correspondence: Departmental, 1941-1942
8-11	Correspondence: Departmental, 1943-1946
8-12	Correspondence: Departmental, 1947
8-13	Correspondence: Departmental, 1948-1949
8-14	Correspondence: Departmental, 1950-1953
8-15	Correspondence: Departmental, 1954-1956
8-16	Correspondence: Departmental, 1957-1959

## **Series IV: Chemistry Department**

### **Box 9**

9-1	Chemistry Department: Comprehensive Exam
9-2	Chemistry Department: Laboratory Experiments
9-3	Chemistry Department: Sceptical Chemists and Inter Collegiate Chemists
9-4	Chemistry Department: American Chemical Society Certification
9-5	National Youth Administration
9-6	Chemistry Department: Business, 1933-1953
9-7	Chemistry Department: Business, 1954-1959
9-8	Chemistry Department: Miscellaneous publications and Ephemera

**Series IV continued**

**Box 10:**

10-1 Chemistry Department: Breidenbaugh Hall, 1926-1927  
10-2 Chemistry Department: Breidenbaugh Hall, 1940  
10-3 Chemistry Department: Breidenbaugh Hall, 1940 Lab Drawings