

Zeiss Projector Collection, 1929-1986

Finding Aid

Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum

**Webster Institute for the History of Astronomy
Chicago, Illinois
2005**

Contact Information:

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Descriptive Summary of the Collection

Title: Zeiss Projector Collection

Creator: The Office of the Director, Adler Planetarium and Astronomy Museum

Dates: 1929-1986

Extent: 3 linear feet (5 boxes, including 1 oversized box)

Language(s): Materials are predominately in English, with some documents in German.

Repository: Webster Institute for the History of Astronomy, Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum, Chicago

Abstract: Correspondence, invoices and receipts, publications, photographs, slides, postcards, and blueprints collected by the directors, the founder, and other employees of the Adler Planetarium and Astronomy Museum related to the Zeiss planetarium projector.

Administrative Information

Cite As: Zeiss Projector Collection, Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum, Chicago.

Provenance: The Office of the Director, Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum

Processed by: Scott Pitol, 2005; Jodi Lacy, 2005

Access: Obtained by completing a Research Request Form. Contact the Webster Institute for the History of Astronomy at (312) 322-0594 or astrohistory@adlerplanetarium.org.

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Historical Background

The first modern planetarium was designed by Dr. Walther Bauersfeld, the scientific director of the firm of Carl Zeiss in Jena, Germany, in 1923. This new machine projected light onto the inner surface of a dome, effectively creating the illusion of a night sky.

In 1928, Max Adler, a senior officer and stockholder in Sears, Roebuck and Company, decided to invest part of his fortune in a public facility for Chicago. After visiting Germany to view the new Zeiss projector, Adler donated the funds to construct the Adler Planetarium and Astronomical Museum, the first modern planetarium in the Western Hemisphere. The Adler Planetarium opened in 1930 with a Zeiss Model II Projector, and was a major attraction during the Century of Progress Exposition in 1933-1934. The Model II Projector was modified by Zeiss in 1959.

In 1969, the Adler Planetarium sold the Model II Projector to the city of Jackson, Mississippi and upgraded to a Zeiss Model VI Projector.

Biographical Summaries

Max Adler (May 12, 1866 – November 4, 1952)

Born in Elgin, IL. A violinist at the age of 22. Opened a stringed instrument store, Adler & Hornsteiner. Married in 1897 to Sophie Rosenwald (1871 – 1955). Brother-in-law Julius brought him into Sears, Roebuck and Company as a buyer and manager of musical instruments and allied departments. An early stockholder in the firm, he rose to become an officer and a director. Used a portion of his acquired fortune to build the Adler Planetarium and Astronomical Museum. Died in Beverly Hills, CA.

Philip Fox (May 7, 1878 – July 21, 1944)

Adler Planetarium Director (1929-1937). Born in Manhattan, KS, in 1878. Married to Ethel Snow; children: Steve, Bertram, Gertrude, and Robert. EDUCATION: Kansas State College, B.S., 1897, M.S. 1901; Dartmouth College, B.S.; University of Berlin, 1905-07; University of Chicago, Ph.D. CAREER: Yerkes Observatory, University of Chicago, Carnegie Research Assistant, 1903-1905, 1906-1909; Dearborn Observatory, Northwestern University, director, 1909-1929 (serving as a reserve officer in France during the years 1917-1919, rose to the rank of Major of Infantry and Assistant Chief of Staff of the Seventh Division); Adler Planetarium, part-time acting director, 1929; director, 1/1/1930-5/1/1937; Museum of Science and Industry, director, 5/1937-1940; U.S. Army, colonel, commanding officer, of the Gulf Coast Recreational Area, 1941, Army Signal Corps at Harvard University, commandant, 1942, Army Electronics Training Center at Harvard University, commandant, 1942-1943.

Maude Bennot (b. 1892)

Adler Planetarium Acting Director (1937 – 1945). Assistant director of the planetarium under Philip Fox. Became acting director when Fox left the planetarium. The first woman to head a planetarium in the United States, and possibly the world. Encouraged the use of the planetarium as a teaching tool for U.S. Naval Academy midshipmen during World War II. Removed from the position at the end of 1944 following the death of Dr. Fox.

Historical Background, cont.

Biographical Summaries, cont.

F. Wagner Schlesinger (b. 1901)

Adler Planetarium Director (1945 – 1957). Assistant to Fox at the Adler Planetarium from 1930 to 1933. Director of Fels Planetarium in Philadelphia, PA, from 1939 to 1945. Son of famed astronomer Frank Schlesinger.

Albert V. Shatzel

Adler Planetarium Acting Director (1957 – 1959). Assistant Director to Schlesinger. After the Adler, served as head of the University of Chicago Astronomy Department, Director of Research for Ferguson Optics Inc., and the first director of the new computing center at Kendall College in Evanston, IL.

Robert I. Johnson (b. August 18, 1933)

Adler Planetarium Acting Director (1959) and Director (1960-1966). Born in Chicago, IL. Son of Ivar Carl and Anna E. (Wirkula) Johnson. Married to Patricia Anne Horgan, 1962; children: Christine Anne, Selenie Anne. EDUCATION: Art Institute of Chicago, student, 1947-51; Wright Junior College, Diploma, 1952; Northwestern University, A.B., 1957; University of Michigan, graduate student, 1958-59. CAREER: Adler Planetarium, planetarium technician, 1953-55; Kansas City Museum Association, Kansas City, MO, director of Kansas City Museum of History and Science, 1966-70; Enviroco, Inc., Northbrook, IL, executive vice-president and director, 1970-72; W. C. McCrone Associates, Chicago, IL, director of marketing, 1971-?; Tomorrow's Products, Crystal Lake, IL, partner and vice-president, 1972-74. Self-employed marketing consultant on scientific and educational services and materials, 1970-?. Director of National Science Foundation Summer Institute in Astronomy, Chicago, 1963, 1964, 1966; lecturer at Chicago Academy of Sciences, 1959-66, Gary Campus of Indiana University, 1960-65, and Chicago Teacher's College (now Chicago State University), 1960-66; lecturer at other schools and to scientific and nonscientific organizations. Consultant author or editor at various times to Coronet Instructional Films, Encyclopaedia Britannica Educational Corp., Field Enterprises Educational Corp., National Science Foundation, Museum of Science and Technology (Tel Aviv), U.S. Army, Science Research Associates, and to industry and publishers. Representative of American Association of Museums to International Council of Museums, 1961-70; member of Midwest Museums Conference, 1964-70. RELIGION: Lutheran. INTERESTS: Archery, tennis. MILITARY/WARTIME SERVICE: U.S. Army, 1955-56; became sergeant. MEMBERSHIPS: American Association for the Advancement of Science (fellow); former member (until 1970) of American and Canadian astronomical and education associations; Phi Tau Epsilon, Mu Beta Phi (honorary member).

Historical Background, cont.

Biographical Summaries, cont.

Joseph M. Chamberlain (b. July 26, 1923)

Adler Planetarium Director (1968 – 1991). Born in Peoria, IL in 1923. Son of Maurice Silloway and Roberta (Miles) Chamberlain. Married to Paula Bruninga in 1945; children: Janet Ann, Susan Louise, and Barbara Jean. EDUCATION: the U.S. Merchant Marine, B.S., 1944; Bradley University, B.A., 1947; Columbia University, A.M., 1950, Ed.D., 1962. CAREER: Columbia Junior High School, Peoria, IL, teacher, 1943; instructor in navigation with War Shipping Administration, 1944-45; Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA), Peoria, boys' secretary, 1946-47; U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, Kings Point, N.Y., instructor, 1947-50, assistant professor of astronomy and meteorology, 1950-52; American Museum, Hayden Planetarium, New York City, assistant curator, 1952-53, general manager and chief astronomer, 1953-56, chairman, 1956-64; American Museum of Natural History, New York City, assistant director, 1964-68; Hunter College, New York City, instructor, 1964-68; Adler Planetarium, Chicago, IL, director, 1968-1991, president, 1977-1991; Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, professor of astronomy, 1968-?. Instructor, Naval Reserve Officer's School, 1945-46; consultant, Norman Porter & Associates, 1954-?; lecturer, National Artists Corporation, 1955-57; leader of eclipse expeditions to Canada, 1954, Ceylon, 1955, and the Pacific Ocean, 1977, and of astro-geodetic expeditions to Canada, 1956 and 1957, and Greenland, 1958; dean of council, scientific staff, American Museum of Natural History, 1960-62; professorial lecturer, University of Chicago, 1968-71. POLITICS: Republican. RELIGION: Presbyterian. MEMBERSHIPS: International Society of Planetary Educators, American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Astrological Society, American Association of Museums (vice-president, 1971-74; president, 1974-75), American Polar Society, Midwest Museums Conference, Great Lakes Planetarium Association, Phi Delta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi, Kappa Delta Pi; Metropolitan Club, University Club, Tavern Club (all Chicago), Dutch Treat Club.

Scope and Content of the Collection

Correspondence, invoices and receipts, publications, photographs, slides, postcards, and blueprints documenting the Zeiss planetarium projector at the Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum in Chicago. The collection predominantly includes correspondence from the Adler's directors, but also includes publications with information regarding the Zeiss projector.

The Zeiss Projector Records fill five boxes and span the years 1929-1986. The materials are organized in the following groupings:

Series 1	Philip Fox, 1929-1933
Series 2	Maude Bennot, 1933-1943
Series 3	Dr. F. Wagner Schlesinger, 1945-1955
Series 4	Albert V. Shatzel, 1959
Series 5	Robert I. Johnson, 1959-1961
Series 6	Joseph M. Chamberlain, 1968-1986
Series 7	Zeiss Publications, 1926, 1969-1971, n.d.
Series 8	Photographs & Slides, n.d.
Series 9	Oversized Documents, 1968-1970

Note: The Adler Planetarium Institutional Archives also contain materials related to the Zeiss projector.

Container List

Series 1: Philip Fox, 1929-1933

Correspondence predominantly with Dr. K. A. Bauer, A. E. Campbell, Dr. Franz Fieseler, and Victor M. E. Koch of Carl Zeiss, Inc., and with Adler Trustee Richard E. Schmidt. Also includes correspondence with Clifton C. Clump of the University of Chicago's Yerkes Observatory, W. G. Ten Houte de Lange, Planetarium Director in The Hague, Holland.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
1	1	Philip Fox Correspondence
	2	Invoices & Receipts

Series 2: Maude Bennot, 1933-1943

Correspondence regarding the Zeiss projector and its maintenance, predominantly with Dr. K. A. Bauer, A. E. Campbell, and Victor M. E. Koch of Carl Zeiss, Inc.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
1	3	Maude Bennot Correspondence

Container List, cont.

Series 3: F. Wagner Schlesinger, 1945-1955

Correspondence regarding the Zeiss projector, predominantly with Dr. K. A. Bauer and Gluck of Carl Zeiss, Inc.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
1	4	F. Wagner Schlesinger Correspondence

Series 4: Albert V. Shatzel, 1959

Correspondence regarding the maintenance of the Zeiss projector with Dr. Walter Schlipp of Carl Zeiss, Inc.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
1	5	Albert V. Schatzel Correspondence

Series 5: Robert I. Johnson, 1959-1961

Focuses on the modernization of the Zeiss projector. Includes daily attendance records of Curt Richter, an Adler employee working on the modernization project. Communications with Charles Wagner, Director of Purchases, and Erwin Weiner, Special Services, both of the Chicago Park District and K. A. Bauer, Dr. Walter Schlipp, and A. F. Gluck of Carl Zeiss, Inc. An invoice from C. P. Richter for work done to modernize the planetarium. Communication from S. F. Bieszki of Gallagher and Ascher for the forwarding of the freight through U.S. Customs. Communication with the U.S. Customs Service regarding the Exhibition Bond under which parts for the Zeiss projector were imported.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
1	6	Robert I. Johnson Correspondence

Series 6: Joseph M. Chamberlain, 1968-1986

Correspondence, operation notes, quotations, contracts, and invoices and receipts. Correspondence with Siegfried A. Kessler, G. Kindler, Dr. Werner E. Degenhard, Dr. Gerhard Kühn, Karl Windell, H. Degenhardt, Carl A. Schalthorn of Carl Zeiss, Inc. regarding the purchase, installation, and noise problems with planetarium projector Model VI. Information about the brightness controls from Dr. Erich Übelacker of Carl Zeiss, Inc. Also correspondence with Carl A. Schalthorn of Carl Zeiss, Inc. Correspondence with John F. Detschel and Dr. Erich Übelacker of Zeiss regarding the Horizontal Grid System Projectors automation of the planetarium.

Container List, cont.

Series 6: Joseph M. Chamberlain, 1968-1986, cont.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
1	7	Joseph M. Chamberlain Correspondence, 1968
	8	Joseph M. Chamberlain Correspondence, 1968
2	9	Joseph M. Chamberlain Correspondence, 1969
	10	Joseph M. Chamberlain Correspondence, 1970
	11	Joseph M. Chamberlain Correspondence, 1971
	12	Joseph M. Chamberlain Correspondence, 1972
	13	Joseph M. Chamberlain Correspondence, 1973
	14	Joseph M. Chamberlain Correspondence, 1974-1975
	15	Joseph M. Chamberlain Correspondence, 1977-1981
3	16	Joseph M. Chamberlain Correspondence, 1983-1986
	17	Application 69-000099-16-61800
	18	Application 69-000099-16-61800
	19	Application 69-000099-16-61800
	20	Contracts

Series 7: Publications, 1926, 1969-1971, n.d.

Zeiss publications regarding the Adler Planetarium specifically and planetaria in general. Also, a handbook which discusses the Model VI Zeiss projector, a lists of supplementary equipment, Carl Zeiss advertising, magazine and newspaper clippings, and the statues of the Carl Zeiss Stiftung (foundation) in Jena, Germany.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
3	21	“The Zeiss Planetarium” brochure
	22	“The Zeiss Planetarium” brochure
	23	Zeiss Planetarium Mod. VI / Planetarium Quotation
4	24	Zeiss Planetarium Mod. VI / Planetarium Quotation
	25	“The Zeiss Planetarium / Das Zeiss Planetarium” booklet
	26	Carl Zeiss, Inc. Advertisement
	27	Models Vs and VI - Supplementary Equipment
	28	Zeiss - Planetarium Projector - Model VI
	29	Miscellaneous Publications of Carl Zeiss
	30	“Product Engineering” reprints
	31	Statute of the Carl Zeiss Stiftung in Jena

Container List, cont.

Series 8: Photographs & Slides, n.d.

Photograph, brochure, and slides separated from Joseph M. Chamberlain materials (Series 6).

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
4	32	Photograph of Zeiss Model VI
	33	“Lenses in Outer Space” brochure with slides from Apollo 7 and Apollo 8

Series 9: Oversized Documents, 1968-1970, n.d.

Blueprints and oversized documents separated from Robert I. Johnson materials (Series 5) and Joseph M. Chamberlain materials (Series 6).

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
5	34	Blueprints
	35	Robert I. Johnson legal documents
	36	Joseph Chamberlain – Contract of Sale for Model VI
	37	Joseph Chamberlain – Request for Duty-Free Entry of Scientific Apparatus
	38	Joseph Chamberlain – Architectural drawings
	39	Joseph Chamberlain – Contract of Sale with Jackson, Mississippi for Zeiss II Projector