

**REYNOLDS (JOSEPH M.) PAPERS**

(Mss. 4529)

**Inventory**

Compiled by  
Charles F. Thomas  
1997

Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections  
Special Collections, Hill Memorial Library  
Louisiana State University Libraries  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Revised 2009

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**REYNOLDS (JOSEPH M.) PAPERS**  
1924-1990

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**SUMMARY**

- Size.** 5.3 linear feet.
- Geographic locations.** Louisiana; Washington, D.C.; Huntsville, Ala.; United States.
- Inclusive dates.** 1924-1990.
- Bulk dates.** 1962-1985.
- Languages.** English.
- Summary.** Dr. Reynolds' activities as a nationally-known physicist and university administrator are documented by correspondence, meetings agendas and minutes, papers, reports, publicity materials, clippings, photographs, films, and personal papers.
- Source.** Placed on deposit, 1993.
- Copyright.** Physical rights are retained by LSU Libraries. Copyright of the original materials is retained by the creators, or their descendants, of the materials in accordance with U. S. Copyright law.
- Citation.** Joseph M. Reynolds Papers, Mss. 4529, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
- Stack Location.** Range 14:8-10

**BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE**

Joseph M. Reynolds (1924-1997) was born in Woodlawn, Tennessee in 1924. He earned a degree in Physics at Vanderbilt University in 1946, and received a doctorate in Physics from Yale University in 1950. Reynolds served at Louisiana State University as a professor of Physics until 1965, when he was promoted to the office of Vice President for Graduate Studies and Research (1965-1968), and then to positions of increasing responsibility, culminating in his term as Vice President for Academic Affairs (1981-1985). His research interests included low temperature physics, measuring gravitational waves, and superconductors.

In addition to his academic responsibilities, Dr. Reynolds was a paid consultant for both governmental and private agencies, including NASA, the George C. Marshall Space Flight Center, Union Carbide Corporation, the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Ethyl Corporation, and the National Science Board. Furthermore, he was very active in numerous scholarly and professional societies, including the American Physical Society, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the National Academy of Sciences' Naval Studies Board and Space Science Board, the Universities Space Research Association, the National Council of University Research Administrators, and the National Science Board.

Joseph Reynolds' recognitions and honors included a Guggenheim Fellowship as a Physics professor at the University of Leiden, The Netherlands (1958-1959); membership in Phi Kappa Phi and Omicron Delta Kappa; a post as a visiting scholar at Stanford University (1969-1970); his appointment as a Boyd Professor, LSU's highest honor for teaching faculty (1965); and two consecutive presidential appointments to the National Science Board (1968-1976).

Dr. Reynolds wed Ruth Anna Heise in 1950. They raised three children; Molly Elizabeth, John Shelby, and Wendy Lee. His personal affiliations included the Cosmos Club in Washington, D.C.; the Southern Yacht Club in New Orleans; and the United States Yacht Racing Union.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This collection documents Dr. Reynolds' personal, scholarly, and administrative activities at Louisiana State University, and his extensive involvement in groups that directly influenced national and cooperative efforts in space science. Correspondence, meeting, agendas and minutes, speeches, publicity materials, research papers, reports, photographs, films, clippings and personal papers span his entire career, but are primarily focused upon the period 1962-1985. Groups represented include the American Physical Society, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the National Academy of Sciences' Naval Studies Board and Space Science Board, the Universities Space Research Association, the National Council of University Research Administrators, the National Science Board, Gulf Universities Research Consortium, the Organization for Tropical Studies, and the Consortium for Superconducting Materials and Instrumentation. Reynolds' personal papers include items related to his membership in the Southern Yacht Club and the Cosmos Club, and to topics such as employment opportunities throughout his career, his retirement arrangements, and invitations to a variety of national and social functions.

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**LIST OF SERIES**

**Series I, LSU Materials, 1963-1988 (1.3 linear feet)**

**Series II, NASA Materials, 1969-1990 (2 linear feet)**

**Series III, National Academy of Sciences Materials, 1972-1990 (0.8 linear feet)**

**Series IV, Consortium on Superconducting Materials and Instrumentation Materials, 1985-1989 (0.2 linear feet)**

**Series V, National Science Foundation and National Science Board Materials, 1966-1989 (0.2 linear feet)**

**Series VI, Research Materials, 1936-1986 (0.3 linear feet)**

**Series VII, Miscellaneous, 1955-1990 (0.3 linear feet)**

**Series VIII, Personal Papers, 1924-1990 (0.2 linear feet)**

**SERIES DESCRIPTIONS**

**Series I. LSU Materials, 1963-1988 (1.3 linear feet)**

Consisting mainly of correspondence, Dr. Reynolds' "reading files" contain copies of nearly every letter he wrote as an LSU employee, 1965-1985. Abundant information also exists regarding the LSU Low Temperature Lab, including contracts and grants from the United States Atomic Energy Commission. Other materials include letters he wrote in support of student and fellow scholars, and partial telephone records and daily planners from late in his career. These records are arranged primarily chronologically. These items are housed almost entirely in Box 1, but note that Box 6 contains three 16mm news films on LSU and Joseph Reynolds.

**Series II. NASA Materials, 1969-1990 (2 linear ft.)**

Joseph Reynolds was active most of his career in the formulation of national space science policies and activities. A large portion of his involvement was through organizations managed by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Much of his work related to plans for a space station, choosing scientific experiments for the space program, and studying the directions and impact of U. S. space research policies. Series II. NASA Materials includes inter-institutional correspondence, reports, clippings, meeting agendas and minutes, and other papers related to his participation on standing committees such as the Space Station Module Advisory Group, the Task Force on Scientific Uses of the Space Station, and various subgroups of the influential Universities Space Research Association. Many of these meetings brought together scholars of numerous nationalities. These records are arranged by administrative unit, then subdivided chronologically.

**Series III. National Academy of Sciences Materials, 1972-1990 (.8 linear feet)**

This series contains the papers documenting Dr. Reynolds' service on the Naval Studies Board (1974-1979) and the Space Science Board (1984-1990). Most items pertain to his work for the Panel on Advanced Navigation Technology, and the study, "Major Directions of Space Sciences, 1995-2015." Meeting minutes, correspondence, and other papers evidence the strict security regulations imposed on scientists such as Dr. Reynolds, as well as the efforts of these groups to draw on international research without divulging domestic technological secrets. This series also includes papers related to the US-USSR Academy Exchange Program (1972-1975) and minutes of miscellaneous workshops sponsored by the National Academy of Sciences. All materials are arranged chronologically within administrative groups.

**Series IV. Consortium on Superconducting Materials and Instrumentation Materials,**  
1985-1989 (.2 linear feet)

The Consortium on Superconducting Materials and Instrumentation, based at the University of Alabama in Huntsville, was created through the efforts of Dr. Reynolds and other scientists. This series documents the discussions and work that went into the organization's founding, and places the CSMI within a context of institutions competing for federal grants to conduct superconductivity research. Correspondence, clippings, reports, contracts and meeting agendas are arranged chronologically.

**Series V. National Science Foundation and National Science Board Materials,** 1966-1989 (.2 linear feet)

Materials in this series are arranged chronologically, and contain primarily meeting agendas, clippings, papers related to Dr. Reynold's appointments and continuing service to the National Science Board, and invitations to social and academic functions related to national science policies.

**Series VI. Research Materials,** 1969-1986 (.3 linear feet)

Joseph Reynolds' published and unpublished papers, related bibliographies, and research materials are included in this series. His research on measuring gravitational waves is extensively documented. These papers are grouped chronologically within broad categories of materials.

**Series VII. Miscellaneous,** 1955-1990 (.3 linear feet)

Items include agendas and minutes of miscellaneous workshops and conferences, including organizations not represented elsewhere in this collection; papers related to Dr. Reynolds' Guggenheim Fellowship application; a research trip to Antarctica; his work as a consultant to various organizations; and other topics related to his career as a physicist. Arranged topically and chronologically.

**Series VIII. Personal Papers,** 1924-1990 (.2 linear feet)

Dr. Reynolds' personal papers include items related to his membership in the Cosmos Club and the Southern Yacht Club; employment opportunities throughout his career, personal correspondence; and his retirement arrangements. A folder of biographical materials includes resumes from different points in his career, photoduplications of his 1924 birth certificate and his 1950 marriage license, and other papers that provide biographical details. Photographs portray Joseph Reynolds throughout his life in Baton Rouge, and a few document his involvement with national organizations.



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CONTAINER LIST

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<u>Stack Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
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