

Gettysburg College
Musselman
Library
special collections

Guide to MS-239:

Ken Bruno Collection of Louis A. Parsons



Gettysburg College, Musselman Library
Special Collections and College Archives

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MS-239: Ken Bruno Collection of Louis A. Parsons

Processed by Karen Dupell Drickamer
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Size

2 boxes, 0.66 cubic feet

Location

Special Collections

Dates

Inclusive: 1907-1943

Bulk: 1909, 1912, 1938-1943

Provenance

Gift of Ken Bruno, February 2019.

Biographical Note

Louis A. Parsons (1872 – 1957) was a Professor of Physics and Chair of the Department of Physics at Pennsylvania (now Gettysburg) College from 1907 to 1925.

Parsons was born on April 9, 1872 in Burlington Iowa, to Albion and Mary Hilleary Parsons (1843-1919). He entered Iowa State University in 1891, earning a B.A. in 1895 and an M.A. in 1899. After teaching at Burlington High School, Burlington, Iowa, he entered Johns Hopkins University, earning his Ph.D. in 1902. He continued as an Assistant in Physics at Johns Hopkins for the next year, before teaching at the University of Utah, 1903-1904. From 1904-1907 Parsons served as an Instructor in Physics at the University of California at Berkeley. Parsons was hired by Pres. Samuel S. Hefelbower in 1907 to create and chair a Department of Physics.

In May 1926 Parsons secured a position as the head of the Department of Physics at Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington, where he remained until his mandatory retirement at age 65. The family then moved to Hampstead, Maryland, his wife's family homestead, and built a house on the farm. Parsons continued to teach whenever possible and held positions at Blue Ridge College, Dickinson College, the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, and the University of Maryland at College Park. In 1944, Parsons took a job as a research physicist at the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington D.C. In September 1945, Parsons collapsed at work at the Naval Research Laboratory. He retired for good due to failing health. Louis A. Parsons died on February 10, 1957.

Scope and Content Note

The bulk of this collection contains family correspondence as well as financial and legal correspondence, and documents. Parsons handled estate matters for family in Iowa and California. These materials

supplement the previous acquisition of Parsons material in MS-203 Louis A. Parsons Papers and fill in a few gaps. There is one folder of miscellaneous writings of Parsons', mostly fragments.

Series Description

This collection is comprised of one series.

Box List

Box 1

Series 1

1-1 Inventory

Correspondence

1-2 1907

1-3 1908

1-4 1909

1-5 1910-1911

1-6 1912

1-7 1916-1917

1-8 1920-1937

1-9 1938

1-10 1939

1-11 1940

1-12 1941

1-13 1942

1-14 1943

1-15 Louis A. Parsons's writing fragments

Related Collections

MS-203: Louis A. Parsons Papers (1895-1957)

RG-2.0.6: The Papers of the Office of the President of Gettysburg College: William Anthony Granville (1910-1923)

RG-2.0.7: The Papers of the President of Gettysburg College: Henry W.A. Hanson: (1923-1952).

RG-1.0: Board of Trustee Records

Contact Information

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