



11/10/11

Engineering

Physics

Betatron Correspondence, 1938-1970

Box 1:

Physics department correspondence, 1938-40, and employment records, 1943-57

Correspondence of F. Wheeler Loomis, with Gregory Breit, Harold W. Webb, and Melvin L. Enger.

Includes correspondence concerning Donald W. Kerst's original appointment to the Physics Department, and his employment records while connected with the University of Illinois

Includes Kerst's application form, list of articles published by June 15, 1938, and letters of recommendation from Breit, Ray G. Herb, L.R. Ingersoll, and E.P. Wigner.

Employment records of D.W. Kerst, 1943-57, including a recommendation to the president to accept Kerst's resignation, plus his resignation letter to Loomis (10/27/57); copies of his contract with the University concerning his unpaid leave of absence to work with MURA in Madison (1956-57), and his appointment as full professor.

Correspondence of Kerst with P. Gerald, Kruger, Loomis, Enger, W.D. Coolidge, accepting the appointment at Illinois (6/15/38), his coming to the University in the fall of 1938, results of early electron accelerator experiments (1940), a letter from Dorothy Kerst to Professor Loomis about Donald W. Kerst's appendectomy (10/24/40), Kerst's leave of absence to work at the G.E. lab in Schneckady (1940).

Physics department correspondence, 1941

Correspondence of Kerst about betatron experimentation, plans for a new laboratory, relations with the General Electric Co. and staffing. Correspondents include F. Wheeler Loomis, William Coolidge, Arthur C. Willard, Gerald M. Almy. The correspondence concerns experimental results, staffing, construction and location of laboratories, and of betatron, proposed sites and budgets, drawings of floor plan of new lab building, relations with G.E., copies of formal agreements between U. of I. and G.E., copies of press releases on betatron developments, and campus map with proposed laboratory locations marked.

Physics department correspondence, 1941-42

Correspondence of D.W. Kerst with G.M. Almy, Kruger, Loomis, Sveinbjorn Johnson, George R. Harrison, Lyle W. Phillips, Edward Cruetz, Joseph C. Boyce, Arthur Compton, Karl T. Compton, concerning staffing, problems with the betatron experimentation, proposed budgets, plans for the new laboratory, betatron equipment, publicity about betatron, naming the electron induction accelerator, betatron's eligibility for defense projects, patent rights, relations between U. of I. and G.E. Co., NDRC of the OSRD matters, recommendation for Kerst to be promoted to full professor (3/31/42), secrecy concerning betatron discoveries during wartime; copy of New York Times of 8/20/42, article on G.E. betatron.

Physics department correspondence, 1943

Correspondence of D.W. Kerst with Loomis, Robert Oppenheimer, G.M. Almy, Willard, James B. Conant, Kruger, Enger, L.R. Groves, Ernest O. Lawrence, F.E. Wright, Frank B. Jewett, Janata, Robert D. Carmichael, Lloyd Morey and Ralph F. Flora, concerning Kerst's work at Illinois vs. Los Alamos projects, the Comstock Award, drafts of betatron-development history, financing the betatron project and solicitation of assistance from Allis-Chalmers, Westinghouse and steel companies, construction costs and relations with Allis-Chalmers.

Correspondence of D.W. Kerst with Loomis, Kruger, Enger, Willard, Roger Adams, Jay Jeffries, C.D. Shane, Janata, R. Oppenheimer, Warren Weaver, George B. Collins, W.E. Stephens

Concerning cost and financing of betatron, staffing, Kerst's return from Los Alamos, relations with G.E. Co., the lab in the power plant, a radio appearance of Kerst, copy of manuscript: "An account of the historical investigations which led to the development of the betatron" by Kerst (10/15/45)

Physics department correspondence, 1946-51

Correspondence of D.W. Kerst with Loomis, Almy, Solomon M. Swaab, Enger, Flora, Janata, Kruger, Morey, W.L. Everitt, Luis Alvarez, J.W. Beams, C.S. Robinson, Gail D. Adams concerning the John Scott Award, consulting services for Los Alamos Laboratories, Allis-Chalmers payment certificate and service reports for betatron work, recommending Kerst to the Nobel Prize committee for physics, relations with Allis-Chalmers, the nomination of Kerst for the National Academy of Sciences and financial matters of the Physics Research Laboratory

Physics department correspondence, 1952-70

Correspondence of D.W. Kerst with Almy, Coleman R. Griffith, George D. Stoddard, Flora, Janata, Loomis, Peter Axel, Frederick Seitz and Kruger concerning power usage of the Betatron laboratory, meetings, and sabbaticals, MURA funds and organization, Kerst's resignation from MURA, Kerst's working with General Atomic Co. in San Diego, physics department news, Kerst's possible return for a brief period to the U. of I. (1962), conditions at General Atomic, interest in plasma physics, Kerst's return to academia: the U. of Wisconsin (Madison, 1962), dismantling the betatron: Newspaper clippings and copies of articles on Kerst/ Betatron. Copies on news releases relates to the Betatron from the University Office of Public Information (12/16/69).