

Woods Hole Historical Collection  
P. O. Box 185  
Woods Hole, MA 02543

**REGISTER**  
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution  
1940 – 2018 – to date

4 boxes

**Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution**

## History

Following a recommendation of the National Academy of Sciences, the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution was chartered in 1930 by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as a private, non-profit organization for ocean research.

Funding for the institution came from the Rockefeller Foundation: \$1 million for construction, boats, equipment, and upkeep, \$1 million for endowment, and \$500,000 for 10 years of summertime operating expenses.

In 1930, these funds provided for the construction of the institution's first research vessel, the 142-foot, steel-hulled research vessel, *Atlantis* and its first building, Bigelow Laboratory.

Throughout the 1930s, the institution's summertime research included such things as exploring canyons off Georges Bank, taking current measurements, or collecting mud cores for bacteriological studies. Longer winter cruises took the *Atlantis* to the Caribbean or the Gulf of Mexico. However in the 1940s, particularly during WWII, the nature of oceanographic research changed. Oceanographers found that they were frequently consulted by the U. S. Navy on matters of national defense. Navy-sponsored research at WHOI concerned the composition of anti-fouling paint, the effects of salinity and temperature on the transmission of underwater sound and its application to anti-submarine warfare, as well as the investigation of underwater explosives.

Immediately after the war, the sources for WHOI funding and the future of oceanography were uncertain. However, demand did continue for advanced oceanographic research. During the Cold War and throughout the 1950s both the Navy and the National Science Foundation funded WHOI research. NSF's first support came in 1952 when it funded work on summer plankton blooms and eight training fellowships. Over the years the NSF's share of institution support has grown until it surpasses that of the Navy.

The Navy's support continues in two important areas: ship-based oceanography and underwater vehicles. In the late 1950s and early 1960s, the Navy supported the development of a submersible for scientific research. Named the *Alvin*, it continues to take scientists beneath the surface of the ocean to observe processes and phenomenon first hand. The Navy also continues to support sea-going oceanography through the construction of oceanographic research vessels. *R/V Knorr* and the current *Atlantis* are both operated by the institution on behalf of the Navy, which paid for their construction.

WHOI's ocean science and engineering have resulted in notable discoveries and advancements. These range from the distribution and role of microbes in the marine environment to the development of new tools and techniques to study the ocean to the discovery of life in the deep ocean near hydrothermal vents.

Education is another critical part of WHOI's mission. The first summer research program for undergraduates was in 1955. It was followed in 1960 by the postdoctoral fellowship program. Then in 1968, a joint Program in Oceanography with the

Massachusetts Institute of Technology was begun to grant doctoral degrees in ocean science or engineering.

At present the WHOI community numbers over 1,000. This includes scientific and technical staff, ships' crew and officers, and scientific service and administrative support staff, as well as 130 Joint Program students. All contribute to WHOI's goal of advancing research and understanding of the ocean.

## **Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution**

Scope  
1940-2014

Although WHOI received its charter from the state in 1930 and began construction of its first research vessel and laboratory building in that year, the papers in this collection begin in 1940. These early papers document the role WHOI played in World War II. Columbus Iselin's director's reports for 1943, 1944, and 1945, and Al Vine's "History of World War II Research" are two of several documents which shed light on WHOI's contribution to the war effort. WHOI's continued role in the country's defense during the cold war of the 1950s is documented in the collection by many articles describing its involvement in Project Nobska, a study of antisubmarine warfare weapons.

WHOI relies on ships to conduct much of its research. The collection contains information on its well known vessels *Atlantis II* and the deep submergence vehicle *Alvin* as well as its many other vessels. Included are booklets on most. These describe the vessel, its equipment, and its mission. Photos by Bostwick Ketchum include many of the ships as well as WHOI buildings.

The ephemera here sheds light on many aspects of WHOI. Newspaper articles, as well as booklets, programs, and invitations inform about such things as building dedications, ship retirements, the WHOI Follies, the ladies basketball team, and the associates of the institution. Plans for the present and future are preserved on maps and diagrams. Trustees attending annual meetings are documented in photographs. Issues of WHOI publications *Oceanus*, *Woods Hole Notes*, and the *Newsletter* describe the science, the scientists, and the vessels of the institution.

## **Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution**

### **Box 1**

1.1. W.H.O.I.: History.

- a. "Report: Finding a Niche: Columbus O'Donnell Iselin and Mobilizing Oceanography for War, 1940-1941." Gary E. Weir. U.S. Naval Historical Center. nd. 1 photocopy.
- 1.2. W.H.O.I.: History.
    - a. "Report Of The Director For The Years 1943, 1944, 1945." C. O'D. Iselin. The Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. 1 photocopy.
    - b. Article: "Oceanographic Carries On, With Long Term Navy Contracts Running. *Falmouth Enterprise* August 24, 1945. 1 photocopy.
  - 1.3. W.H.O.I.: History:
    - a. History of World War II Research (1940-1946) Al Vine. nd. 1 photocopy.
  - 1.4. W.H.O.I.: History.
    - a. History (1940s-1970) with Autobiography. J. Lamar Worzel. 2001. 1 photocopy.
    - b. Note regarding Worzel's work with the bubble pulse phenomenon. August 28, 1991. 1 photocopy,
  - 1.5. W.H.O.I.: History.
    - a. "Early Reminiscences from the 1940s." Arthur R. Miller, Physical Oceanographer (Retired). August 14, 1991. 1 photocopy.
    - b. Letter: To Sallie K. Riggs, Director of Communications from David M. Owen regarding the history of the WHOI diving program. August 21. 1991. 1 photocopy.
  - 1.6. W.H.O.I.: Oral History Colloquy. 1991.
    - a. "Roger Revelle's Notes On Oral History Colloquy, Scheduled for July 17, 18, 19, 1991". Notes on WHOI's military research, World War II. 1 photocopy.
    - b. List: People Invited to History Colloquy. 2 copies..
  - 1.7. W.H.O.I.: Submarine Force Pacific Fleet Memos.
    - a. From Fleet Commander to Submarine Force requesting additional sound and density layer information for the Hydrographic Office. August 30, 1943. 2 photocopies.
    - b. From Fleet Commander to Mr. Dean Bumbus commending him for services rendered to the Submarine Force. December 15, 1945. 2 photocopies.
  - 1.8. W.H.O.I.: Follies.
    - a. Follies Programme from February 19, 1945. 1 original. 1 photocopy.
  - 1.9. W.H.O.I.: Women's Basketball Team.
    - a. Clipping: Photograph "Pretty Court-ing Gals" with caption listing team members. Late 1940s or early 1950s. Newspaper unknown. 1 photocopy.
  - 1.10. W.HO.I.: Photographer Jan Hann, 1947-1972.
    - a. List of subjects photographed by Jan Hann. "The Photographic Collection of Jan

- Hann for the years 1947-1972.” January 25, 1993. The WHOI Archive Collection. 1 photocopy.
- b. Publication: “Oceanus.” Volume I, No. I. Winter 1952. 1 original.
- 1.11. W.H.O.I.: Dedication of Laboratory of Oceanography (Smith Bldg.) programs and associated correspondence.
- a. Post Card: Invitation to the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution opening of the Summer Exhibition. June 20, 1954, 1 original.
  - b. Sealed envelope with invitation to The Dedication Committee, Laboratory of Naval Research, Boston Branch. Original.
  - c.. Program: “Dedication of The Laboratory of Oceanography and Oceanographic Convocation.” June 21 to June 25, 1954. Woods Hole, Massachusetts. 1 original.
  - d. “Program for the Dedication of the Laboratory of Oceanography.” Monday, 21 June, 1954. 1 original.
  - e. Program:” Oceanographic Convocation.” June 22,23,24, 1954. National Academy of Sciences – National Research Council. 1 original.
- 1.12. W.H.O.I.: Project Nobska, 1956. A study of antisubmarine warfare weapons by the Committee on Undersea Warfare of the National Academy of Sciences.
- a. Article: “The next Time You Go for a Walk...Project Nobska, 1956.” Gary E. Weir. nd. Publication unknown. 2 photocopies.
  - b. Book Excerpt: *Forged In War – The Naval-Industrial Complex and American Submarine Construction, 1940-1961*. Gary E. Weir. Brassey’s. nd. Pages 210-225. 1 photocopy.
  - c. Book Excerpt: *All in a Lifetime – Science in the Defense of Democracy*. Ivan A. Getting. Vantage Press. nd. Chapter 20. 1 photocopy.
  - d. Article: “On Reaching 50: An Early History Of the Bathythermograph.” Athelstan F. Spilhaus. *Sea Technology*. November 1987, Volume 28, No. 11. Pages 19-28. 1 photocopy.
  - e. Article: “Recollection of Some Personal Experiences in Ship Design and Research-Possibly Amusing or Embarrassing.” Manley St. Denis. *Marine Technology*. April 1989. Volume 26, Number 2. Pages 120-129. 1 photocopy.
  - f. Book Excerpt: *The Age of Uncertainty*. John Kenneth Galbraith. Houghton Mifflin Co. Boston. 1977. Pages 251, 252. 1 photocopy.
  - g. Book Excerpt: *Memoirs: A Twentieth Century Journey In Science and Politics*. Edward Teller. Perseus Publishing. 2001 Pages 420, 421. 2 photocopies.
  - h. Book Excerpt: *The Crest of the Wave: Adventures in Oceanography*. Willard Bascom. Harper & Row, Publishers. nd. Pages 174-179. 1 photocopy.
  - i. Book Excerpt: *Eminent Americans: Namesakes of the Polaris Submarine Fleet*. H. G. Rickover. Title page and photograph of Rickover. 1 photocopy.
  - j. Incomplete address honoring sailors who go on submarine patrol. Pages 6, 7,and 8. Speaker unknown. nd. 1 photocopy.
  - k. Notes: Two pages of penciled notes on Project Nobska. Original.
- 1.13. W.H.O.I.: Captain Adrian K Lane.
- a. Clipping: “ ‘Captain Extraordinary’ Is Lane, Former Skipper Of The *Atlantis*.”

*Falmouth Enterprise*. January 2, 1959. 1 original. 1 typed photocopy.

- 1.14. W.H.O.I.: Columbus Iselin.
  - a. Article: "Ocean Frontier." *Time*. July 6, 1959. Pages 42-54. 1 magazine. 1 original article with magazine cover.
  - b. Article: "All Eyes Are On Woods Hole." *Falmouth Enterprise* July 7, 1959. 1 photocopy.
- 1.15. W.H.O.I.: Beautification of Parking Lot.
  - a. Article: Parking Lots Need Not Be Ugly. *Falmouth Enterprise*. August 7, 1959. 1 original. 1 photocopy.
- 1.16. W.H.O.I.: Building for Helio-Courier Airplane, Dyer's Dock.
  - a. Clipping: News photo with incomplete title. *Sunday Standard Times*. New Bedford, Mass. December 6, 1960. 1 original. 2 photocopies.
- 1.17. W.H.O.I.: The Ballad of Whoi Bob.
  - a. Booklet: "The Ballad of Whoi Bob, A tale of the IGY or The Briny Deep Discovered with many particulars and the heroic tasks of science at sea." D. Densmore, narrator. C. Neumann, illustrator. Woods Hole, Mass. Little Harbor Press. 1961. 8 original booklets.
- 1.18. W.H.O.I.: Follies. 1961.
  - a. Program: "WHOI Talent Show. The Official Program. Oceanographic Follies."
  - b. Clipping: "Woods Hole Follies!" *Falmouth Enterprise*. December 12, 1961. 1 original. 1 photocopy.
- 1.19. W.H.O.I.: History.
  - a. The Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, A Brief History. Bostwick H. Ketchum. 1963. 3 photocopies
- 1.20. WHOI: Ships And Buildings.
  - a. Photos: Bostwick (Buck) Ketchum's photographs from his WHOI album. 22 photographs.
- 1.21. W.H.O.I.: Legal Case of Forfeiture of Items on R/V Crawford, 1963.
  - a. Warrant and Motion of Misc. Civil No. 63-35-s. 1 photocopy.
  - b. Inventory of Seized Merchandise by United States Customs. (District No. 4) Case No. 1090. 1 original.
- 1.22. W.H.O.I.: Meetings, Programs, Building Dedications, 1955-1974.
  - a. Invitation: Fourth Annual Meeting and Open House for Associates, Members and Guests. August 8, 1955. 1 original.
  - b. Flyer: The Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution – Research and Development. nd. 1 original.
  - c. Booklet: "The Henry Bryant Bigelow Medal In Oceanography Awarded to Henry Melson Stommel." October 10, 1974. 1 original.

- d. Program: "Dedication of the Clark Laboratory." October 11, 1974 1 original.
- 1.23 W.H.O.I.: Cartoon of Depth-Charge Deployment on *ATLANTIS* Whitey Witzell et al. nd. 1 photocopy.

## Box 2

- 2.1. W.H.O.I.: Research Vessel *Atlantis II*, 1963-1996.
- a. Article: "Research Ship Given Woods Hole." Publication unknown. nd. 1 photocopy.
  - b. Article: "\$4M Science Ship On Delivery Trip To Woods Hole." *Falmouth Enterprise*. January 31, 1963. 1 photocopy.
  - c. Article: "A New *Atlantis* Arrives." *Falmouth Enterprise*. February 1, 1963. 1 photocopy.
  - d. Clipping/photograph: Woods Hole harbor view of the new *Atlantis II*. *Falmouth Enterprise*. February 7, 1963. 1 photocopy.
  - e. Clipping: "*Atlantis II* Open to Public On Sunday." *Falmouth Enterprise*. February 7, 1963. 1 photocopy.
  - f. Booklet: "Public Inspection Of The New Research Vessel *Atlantis II*." Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. Woods Hole, Mass. February 9 & 10, 1963. 1 original.
  - g. Newsletter: *Atlantis II* – Special Edition. Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. July 23. 1996. 1 original.
- 2.2. W.H.O.I.: Deep Submergence Research Vehicle *Alvin*, 1960s, 1985.
- a. Booklet: "The Case Of The Missing H-Bomb" John G. Hubbell. The Reader's Digest. 1966. 1 original.
  - b. Notice: Announcement of *Alvin*'s "battle" with a swordfish. W.H.O.I. Associates. 1967. 1 original.
  - c. Booklet: "Deep Submergence Research Vehicle *Alvin*. Describes the *Alvin* and it's mission. Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. 1968. 2 original booklets one with various *Alvin* checklists attached.
  - d. Newspaper: *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. April 16, 1912. Headline: "1302 Lives Lost When *Titanic* Sank," *Alvin* found the *Titanic* in 1985. 1 original.
- 2.3. W.H.O.I.: Plans for Future Campus. 1966.
- a. Booklet: "A Development Plan For The Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution." Developed in conjunction with Richard P. Dober of Dober, Wakquist and Harris, Inc. July 1966. 2 original booklets.
  - b. Map: "A Diagram Of The Proposed Oceanographic Campus" on the Joseph Story Fay Land. From Dober plan. 1966. 1 photocopy.
  - c. Article: "The Future Campus At Woods Hole." *Falmouth Enterprise*. August 29, 1966. 1 original. 1 photocopy.
  - d. Map: Illustrative Campus Plan. Source unknown. March 1968. 1 original.
  - e. Map: Partial map of Woods Hole village with various land uses color coded. March 1968. 1 original..
- 2.4. W.H.O.I.: The Associates Of The Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution.

- a. Booklet: "The Associates Of The Woods Hole Institution." Lists names of the associates at various levels. 1 August, 1971. 1 original.
- 2.5. W.H.O.I.: Annual Meeting Photographs.
    - a. Annual meeting photographs of trustees and corporation members from 1972, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1986, 1987. Names of those in the photos are attached to the back. Original.
  - 2.6. W.H.O.I.: Calendars.
    - a. Woods Hole Oceanographic Calendars for 1979 and 1980. 2 original 1979 calendars. 1 original 1980 calendar.
  - 2.7. W.H.O.I.: Research Vessels.
    - a. *Caryn*. 1948-1958. Postcard announcing the sale of *Caryn*. December 11, 1958. 1 original.
    - b. *Chain*. 1958-1979. Booklet describing the vessel, its equipment, and its mission. 1 original.
    - c. *Atlantis II*. 1963-1996. Booklet describing the vessel, its equipment, and its mission. 1 original.
    - d. *Atlantis II, Alvin*. Booklet describes the research vessel and the submergence vehicle as well as the *Atlantis II's* use as a mother ship for the *Alvin*.
    - e. *Alvin*. 1964 to present. Three undated editions of the booklet "Deep Submergence Research Vessel *Alvin*." Each describes its features, instruments and equipment, safety equipment and mission. 3 original.
    - f. *Knorr*, 1970 to present. Booklet describing the vessel, its equipment, and its mission. 1 original.
    - g. *Oceanus*. 1977 to present. Booklet describing the vessel, its equipment, and its mission. 1 original.
    - h. *Alvin*. Booklet: "Exploring Our Ocean Frontier: Deep Submergence Vehicle *Alvin* and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. 1964-1985. 21 years of deep sea discoveries." 1985 1 original.
    - i. *Alvin*. Booklet: "Exploring Our Ocean Frontier: Deep Submergence Vehicle *Alvin* and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. 1964-1989. 25 years of deep sea discoveries." 1989 1 original
    - j. R/V *Atlantis*. 1996 to present. Flyer describing the third *Atlantis* to join the W.H.O.I. fleet and the history of its predecessors. No date. 1 original.
  - 2.8. W.H.O.I. "Where Away?" Article by William H MacLeish, Editor *Oceanus* Magazine. 1982. Discussion of W.H.O.I., its history, its ships, its oceanographers, and its contribution to oceanography. 1 edited copy.
  - 2.9. W.H.O.I.; "Newsletter." May 1988. Announces John Steele's departure as W.H.O.I director. 2 original.
  - 2.10. W.H.O.I.; Ocean Instrumentation.
    - a. Book Excerpt: "New Tools." *Down to the Sea for Science*. Vicky Cullen. 2005 Pages 151-152. 1 photocopy.

- 2.11. W.H.O.I.: Current W.H.O.I. Development Plans for village campus.
- 2.12. W.H.O.I.: 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Proclamation. 1970. 1 original.
- 2.13. W.H.O.I.: Radio Gram Pads. 3 original.

### **Box 3**

- 3.1. W.H.O.I.: Woods Hole Currents.
  - a. Vol. 1 No. 2. Spring 1992. Has a world map of current W.H.O.I. research sites. 1 original magazine.
  - b. Vol. 9 No. 2. 2002. 1 original magazine.
- 3.2. W,H.O.I:
  - a. Article: "Mid Atlantic Exploration – Japan-WHOI mission under way." *Cape Cod Times*. July 28, 1994. 1 photocopy.
- 3.3. W.H.O.I.:
  - a. Article: "Chemistry On The High Seas." Magazine unknown. October 27, 1997. 1 original article.
- 3.4. W. H.O.I.
  - a. Booklet: Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution – 2000 Annual Report. 1 original.
- 3.5. W.H.O.I.
  - a. Memo of James Mavor. Re: Native America artifacts on WHOI land. November 27, 2001. 1 photocopy.
  - b. Map: Quissett Campus ; Roads and Parking Phase Plan. Project to begin June 3, 2002. 1 original.
- 3.6. W.H.O.I.
  - a. News clipping: "WHOI Inherits Waterfront Home From Estate Of Geoff Whitney." *Falmouth Enterprise*. April 12, 2002. 1 original. 1 photocopy..
- 3.7. W.H.O.I.
  - a. Newsletter (The WHOI Buoy). June 2002. Contains an article on the WHOI archives. 1 original.
- 3.8. W.H.O.I.
  - a. Booklet: "Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution – 2004 Annual Report." 1 original.
  - b. Booklet: "Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution – 2004 Report to Donors. 1 original.
- 3.9. W.H.O.I.
  - a. Calendar: Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution – 2005 Calendar:

- 75 Years of Research and Exploration. 2 original.
- b. Envelope for 2005 wall calendar. 1 original.

3.10. W.H.O.I.

- a. Thank you Announcement of WHOI 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. Includes a list of scheduled events. August – October 2005. 1 original.

3.11. W.H.O.I.

- a. News clipping: “Meeting the Minds.” Boston *Globe*. March 20, 2006. Article on DSL Robotics and Dr. Hanumant Singh. 1 original.

3.12. W.H.O.I.

- a. Diagram: Telecommunications Link Between Blake Building and Fern Lane. 2006. 1 original.

3.13. W.H.O.I.: New Director – Susan K. Avery. 2007.

- a. News clipping: “WHOI Names First Woman Director.” Publication unknown. October 16, 2007. 1 original,
- b. Letter: Newton Merrill, Chairman of WHOI Board of Trustees, announces the appointment of Susan K. Avery as Director. November 17, 2007. 1 original.

3.14. W.H.O.I.: News clippings 2000s – date.

- a. “Venerable Woods Hole research ship sails into port a final time.” Boston *Globe*. December 3, 2014. 1 photocopy.
- b. “WHOI Says Fond Farewell to R/V *Knorr*.” Publication and date unknown. 1 original. 1 photocopy.
- c. “Mark Abbott Named New Director At WHOI.” Publication unknown, 2015. 1 original. 1 photocopy.

3.15. W.H.O.I.: R/V *Knorr* Retirement. 2014.

- a. Program: “R/V *Knorr* Retirement Celebration.” December 5, 2014. 2 original.

**Box 4a**

- 4.1. W.H.O.I.: Publication “*Oceanus*.” See WHOI Box 4b for years 1952 – 1966.
- 4.2. W,H.O.I. Publication: “Woods Hole Notes,” 1971 – 1974.
- 4.3. W.H.O.I. Publication: “Newsletter,” 1972 – 1976.
- 4.4. W.H.O.I. Publication: “Newsletter,” 1977 – 1987.

**Box 4b**

Publication: *Oceanus* 1952 – 1966.