

**Marine Biological Laboratory
Archives**

Benjamin Sonnenblick (1909-1998)

Collection MC-MBL-Sonnenblick/Sci, AC 2004-20
(One "12.5"x "10.5" x "5" box)

Processed by
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BIOGRAPHY

Benjamin Sonnenblick (1909-1998)

Dr. Benjamin Sonnenblick was born in New York City in 1909. He was graduated from City College of New York, The University of Michigan and New York University. He served in the United States Army Air Corps from 1943 to 1946.

Dr. Sonnenblick taught zoology at the Newark colleges of Rutgers University from 1947 to 1966 and was elected Outstanding Teacher of the Year in 1965.

He is well known for two contributions to medicine and public health. In the late 1930's he developed a technique for slicing, staining, and photographing fruit fly eggs, which advanced

understanding of cell division and differentiation. He also pioneered radiation protection, important because in the 1950's radiologists and technicians used X-rays and fluoroscopes without an understanding of how much radiation patients were receiving and the effects of such radiation exposure. His study resulted in the establishment of the Commission on Radiation Protection in the State of New Jersey and standards for training of technicians, calibration of machines, and lead shielding. His work also resulted in the removal of fluoroscopes from shoe stores, where they had been used as an aid to fitting shoes. Dr. Sonnenblick also participated in radiation protection on the federal level.

In 1934, Dr. Sonnenblick first came to Woods Hole, and his first full summer of research was in 1952. He continued to conduct research at the MBL every summer from the early 1960's until last summer. Through this many summers at the MBL, he developed a bibliography of 5,400 studies of low-dose radiation effects.

PROVENANCE

The Benjamin Sonnenblick collection was given to the Marine Biological Laboratory Archives by his son Mark Sonnenblick of Leesburg, Virginia.

ARRANGEMENT

The papers were given to us in a large box in no particular order. Some papers were in folders and others were loose. They were organized by subject as much as possible. There is also an alphabetical correspondence file and a photograph file.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Benjamin Sonnenblick collection includes a few pictures of Dr. Sonnenblick at various ages and also some family pictures and news clippings. There are copies of drafts of a number of his published papers and reviews of articles by others. A few personal letters are included as well as a copy of Dr. Sonnenblick's birth certificate.

RELATED COLLECTIONS

There is a Reprint Collection of Dr. Sonnenblick's work in the Special Collection at the MBL. There is also a biographical file in the Filing Cabinet in the Agassiz Room.

Benjamin Sonnenblick
Folder List

Box	Folder	Title	
1	1	Photographs	[1950-1990]
	2	Misc. Correspondence	1970-1975
	3	Rutgers; Guggenheim Fellow	[1981-1985]
	4	NJ Public Health Reports	1966-1985
	5	"What Is This About?"	1996
	6	Radiation Protection Guide; NJ Radiation Protection Code	1969-1973
	7	"Effects of Physical Forces on Reproductive Cycle;" Notes & Lloyd Harbor Study Group	1972-1984
	8	Hand-written Notes	1992
	9	Personal Papers	1970-1996
	10	AMA	1981-1982
	11	[Influences in Biological Systems]	[1994]
	12	Handwritten Notes	[1990-1995]
	13	Health Physica Society; National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurement	1982-1990
	14	Book Reviews and Articles	[1958-1995]
	15	Drafts of Articles and Papers	[1958-1995]
	16	NJ Commission on Radiation Protection; Council of Scientific Affairs; Dept. of Environmental Protection	1966-1989
	17	Press Clippings	1963-1996