

**A guide to the materials of Albert Szent-Györgyi (1893-1986)**  
**Marine Biological Laboratory**  
**Woods Hole, MA 02543**

Archives of the Marine Biological Laboratory  
7 MBL Street  
Woods Hole, MA 02543  
January 19, 2016

MC-MBL-Szent-Gyorgyi  
2015-10

Manuscript Collection  
(Two 12"x5" boxes; additional loose materials)

---

TABLE OF CONTENTS

|                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION | 1   |
| ARRANGEMENT              | 2   |
| SCOPE AND CONTENT        | 2   |
| RELATED RESOURCES        | 2   |
| INDIVIDUAL ITEMS         | 3-4 |

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Albert Szent-Györgyi was born in Budapest, Hungary on September 16, 1893. He started at Budapest Medical School in 1911 but his studies were interrupted by World War I. He completed his MD in 1917. He held a number of positions at various universities around Europe, gaining much experience, before returning to Hungary in 1931 at the University of Szeged. Along the way, he completed his PhD in Biochemistry at Cambridge University.

Szent-Györgyi was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1937 for “his discoveries in connection with the biological combustion processes, with special reference to vitamin C and the catalysis of fumaric acid”. After becoming increasingly politically active during World War II, Szent-Györgyi left Hungary when it became evident that the post-war Soviet regime was not supporting science.

Szent-Györgyi first arrived in Woods Hole in 1947 where he opened at laboratory at the MBL. At the time, it was one of the very few activities at the MBL during the winter months. As Director of the Institute of Muscle Research, followed by the National Foundation for Cancer Research, his work continued at the MBL until his death in 1986.

He received the Albert Lasker Basic Medical Research Award in 1954 for “his distinguished research achievements in the field of cardiovascular diseases, including the discovery of actomyosin, the essential contractible element of muscle.”

In addition to his laboratory work from 1947-1986, Szent-Györgyi was active at the MBL in the Physiology course (1951-1972, 1978), Developmental Biology course (1974-75, 1978) and Ecology course (1979). He served eight years as a Trustee of the MBL and was a long-time Corporation member.

More detailed biographical information is available at <http://profiles.nlm.nih.gov/WG/>.

## ARRANGEMENT

The Albert Szent-Györgyi collection consists of three groups of materials. Box 1 was left in its original order as it was compiled for the National Library “Profiles in Science” website. Box 2 was arranged in the order received. “Box 3” contains various items that are located at the MBL, most on display in the Library.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

The collection is an eclectic mixture of various items donated by individuals about Albert Szent-Györgyi. Box 1 contains photographs and documents mostly from 1950s to 1980s. Much of the material was included in the National Library of Medicine "Profiles in Science" website. Many of the photographs are by Delbert Philpott. Box 2 is primarily reprints, books, and interviews. The final grouping (“Box 3”) includes physical items such as Szent-Györgyi’s Nobel Prize diploma, various artworks of Szent-Györgyi, and a media slant from his laboratory.

## RELATED RESOURCES

There are other photographs of Szent-Györgyi available in the MBL Archives, including photos donated by the Szent-Györgyi family. A transcript of an interview by Elsa Keil Sichel for the Woods Hole Library Historical Collection is available in the MBL Archives.

The National Library of Medicine includes materials related to Szent-Györgyi in the “Profiles in Science” collection - <http://profiles.nlm.nih.gov/WG/>. Some of these materials were digitized from the collection of the MBL Archives.

| <b>Box</b> | <b>Folder</b> | <b>Description</b>  | <b>Dates</b>          |
|------------|---------------|---|-----------------------|
| 1          | 01            | Background Materials. Includes list of contacts, lists of publications by and about Albert Szent-Gyorgyi, and various e-mails about including the collection in the National Library of Medicine (NLM) "Profiles in Science"  |                       |
| 1          | 02            | Materials from Jane McLaughlin. Includes copies of e-mails and publications by and about Szent-Gyorgyi.   |                       |
| 1          | 03            | Numbered list providing photographic descriptions of photos numbered 1-94 (contained in folders 4-7) and letter from Delbert Philpott to Jane McLaughlin regarding the photos   |                       |
| 1          | 04            | Photographs 1-25 by Delbert Philpott. Photos 6 missing. Photos 7, 10 and 11 in box 4, folder 5.   | 1950 - 1970           |
| 1          | 05            | Photographs 26-50 by Delbert Philpott.  | 1976                  |
| 1          | 06            | Photographs 51-75 by Delbert Philpott.  | 1976, 1983            |
| 1          | 07            | Photographs 76-94 by Delbert Philpott. Photos 80 missing. Photo 89 in box 2, folder 5.  | 1950-1981             |
| 1          | 08            | Xerox copies of photographs numbered 95-109. Descriptions on back.  |                       |
| 1          | 09            | Presentation slides from Ronald Pethig regarding Monod's Dice.  |                       |
| 1          | 10            | MBL photographs numbered 421-424. Szent-Gyorgyi in laboratory, on beach in Tarpaulin Cove in 1967 (D.R. Wilkie photographer), on beach in Penzance Point in 1975, and at desk.  | 1950-1959, 1967, 1975 |
| 1          | 11            | Photo album "The Laboratory of Albert St. Gyorgyi (Fifties Photos)". Includes photos, contact sheet, and negatives.   | 1950-1959             |
| 1          | 12            | Photographs of Nobel Prize from 1937. Booklet "Les Prix Nobel en 1937". Postage stamp.  | 1937, 1995            |
| 1          | 13            | Articles and writings. Works by and about Szent-Gyorgyi, obituary, note on gravestone inscription, and bibliography.  | 1943-2001             |
| 1          | 14            | Symposia. "Photosynthesis". "To see what everyone has seen, to think what no one has thought"   | 1988                  |
| 2          | 01            | Box of bound reprints of the Institute of Muscle Research at MBL  |                       |
| 2          | 02            | Books by Szent-Gyorgyi. Horizons in Biochemistry; Crazy Ape; Electronic Biology and Cancer; Submolecular Biology and Cancer; Muscular Contraction; The Living State   |                       |
| 2          | 03            | 1967 National Library of Medicine bound volume on Albert Szent-Gyorgyi. Includes CV, bibliography, transcripts of June 19-June 22, 1967 and Sept. 11, 1967 interview, and documents related to interview. Includes table of contents for other items not in bound volume. | 1967                  |
| 2          | 04            | MBL items related to Szent-Gyorgyi. 1988 symposium program. MBL Science, summer 1985.   |                       |
| 2          | 05            | Information regarding online exhibit "Profiles in Science" by the National Library of Medicine. Includes permission forms.  |                       |
| 2          | 06            | Albert Szent-Gyorgyi reprints from Chungpeng Fan. Originally part of MBLWHOI Library collection   | 1955-1968             |

| <b>Box</b> | <b>Folder</b> | <b>Description</b>   | <b>Dates</b> |
|------------|---------------|--|--------------|
| 3          | 01            | Bust of Albert Szent-Gyorgyi by Alix Robinson. On tall pedestal.                                       | 1983         |
| 3          | 02            | Bust, cast iron of Albert Szent-Gyorgyi by Eugene Friduss. 18 inches on tall pedestal.                 | 1933         |
| 3          | 03            | Nobel Prize Diploma.   | 1937         |
| 3          | 04            | Plate (12 inches by 14 inches) with quote. Donated by Ruth Hubbard and George Wald.                    |              |
| 3          | 05            | Photograph of Albert Szent-Gyorgyi in his laboratory. 24 inches by 18 inches. Signed by Szent-Gyorgyi. |              |
| 3          | 06            | Mixed media collage. Photograph with fish, fish hook and quote.  |              |
| 3          | 07            | Photo of Albert Szent-Gyorgyi by Linda Forristal for the Wasington Times one month prior to his death. |              |
| 3          | 08            | Media slants, 10 inches by 9 inches by 4 inches.   |              |