

**Robert Hubbard Mansfield Papers, 1932-1988  
(Bulk 1932-1935)**



**Carnegie Institution of Washington  
Department of Terrestrial Magnetism Archives  
Washington, DC**

Finding aid written by:  
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# Robert Hubbard Mansfield Papers, 1932-1988 (Bulk 1932-1935)

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**DTM-2004-03**

**Introduction**

*Abstract:* This collection contains the personal papers of Robert Hubbard Mansfield, detailing an 18-month excursion for the Department of Terrestrial Magnetism (DTM) at the Carnegie Institution of Washington to gather magnetic secular variation data from nearly 50 stations between Cape Town, South Africa, along the eastern coast of Africa to Suez, Egypt.

*Extent:* .85 lin. ft., 1 half document box, 1 binder box, 1 negative box, 1 oversize folder

*Acquisition:* Robert H. Mansfield donated the bulk of the collection to the Carnegie Institution in November 1988. A folder of his correspondence was found in the DTM Library in November 1989 and accessioned into the collection.

*Access Restrictions:* There are no access restrictions to this collection.

*Copyright:* For permission to reproduce or publish, please contact the archivist at the Department of Terrestrial Magnetism.

*Preferred Citation:* Robert Hubbard Mansfield Papers, 1932-1988, Department of Terrestrial Magnetism, Carnegie Institution of Washington, Washington, D.C.

*Processing:* This collection was processed by Ann Mulfort, Library/Archives Intern, in July 2004, through the generous support of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

**R. H. Mansfield Biographical Sketch**

Robert Hubbard Mansfield was born on March 20, 1909 in Evanston, Illinois. He was hired by the Carnegie Institution of Washington in February 1932 as an Assistant Observer to perform studies of magnetic secular variation data. In September 1932 he became a staff member under the direction of Dr. J. E. I. Cairnes at the Huancayo Magnetic Observatory in Peru. From April 1934 to September 1935, Mansfield traveled from Peru to Chile, Argentina and Brazil; then embarked on his solo field trip to gather magnetic secular variation data beginning in Cape Town, South Africa. He traveled to nearly 50 stations along the eastern and northern coasts of Africa ending to Suez, Egypt.

After leaving the Carnegie Institution of Washington, he pursued graduate work at the California Institution of Technology. From there, his career included work in seismologic exploration both in private industry and for the United States Air Force. He retired in 1974.

### **Scope and Contents Note**

The collection covers the nearly three years of work Robert Hubbard Mansfield performed while employed at the Carnegie Institution of Washington. It includes correspondence, expense vouchers, photographs, and ephemera collected during his 18-month expedition to gather magnetic secular variation data from nearly 50 stations in Africa, and numerous photographs taken while he was stationed in Peru. His notes, written at least 15 years after these activities, provide a detailed description of his experiences, and correspond to the photographs and scrapbook.

### **Arrangement**

This collection consists of one half document box, one binder box, one negative box and an oversized folder. The collection is arranged in two series.

Series 1: Correspondence, Notes, and Financial Records, n.d., 1934-1935, 1946, ca. 1980s, 1988

Series 2: Ephemera, 1932-1935, 1988

### **Series 1: Correspondence, Notes, and Financial Records, n.d., 1934-1935, 1946, ca. 1980s, 1988**

This series contains Mansfield's undated recollections of his work for Carnegie from 1932-1935, which provides a useful background to understand the collection. Other records-based documentation includes Department of Terrestrial Magnetism (DTM) expense vouchers, his categorization of these expenses, as well as personnel-related correspondence with Carnegie Institution of Washington from 1932-1937.

### **Series 2: Ephemera, 1932-1935, 1988**

This series contains an annotated map of Africa, photographs and memorabilia documenting Mansfield's work during 1932-1935 for the Carnegie Institution of Washington; departing from Huancayo Magnetic Observatory in Peru through his return to Washington, D.C. A photo of Mansfield with his wife, Bernice, in 1988 concludes the photograph album that primarily documents his work abroad. A separate box contains 9 rolls of the 35mm negatives of the album photographs. Ephemera contained in the scrapbook include passage tickets, restaurant advertisements, correspondence, and letters of passage by various government officials. Also included is a photocopy of the scrapbook, which appears to be Mansfield's attempt to impose chronological order to the items found in it. The oversized African map includes annotations of the route he took from 1934-1935.

## Folder Listing

	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>
<b>Series 1: Correspondence, Notes and Financial Records, n.d., 1934-1935, 1946, ca. 1980s, 1988</b>		
Notes of Carnegie work, n.d.	1	1
DTM Expense vouchers, 1934-1935		2
Summary Expense vouchers, ca. 1980s		3
Correspondence, n.d., 1932-1937, 1946		4
<b>Series 2: Ephemera, 1932-1935, 1988</b>		
Scrapbook, 1932-1935	1	5
Photocopy of Scrapbook in chronological order, ca. 1980s		6
Photograph album, 1932-1935, 1988	2	
35mm photograph negatives	3	
Map of Africa; annotated, ca. 1934	map case drawer	14

## Subject Terms

Topics:	Geomagnetism Geophysical observatories Geophysics Scientific expeditions--Africa
Occupations:	Geophysicist
Corporate Names:	Carnegie Institution of Washington. Department of Terrestrial Magnetism.
Locations:	Africa Peru
Forms:	Correspondence Financial records Maps Photographs Souvenirs

## Bibliography

Wallis, W. F., and J. W. Green, *Land and Ocean Magnetic Observations, 1927-1944*, Carnegie Institution of Washington, Washington, D.C., 1947.

## Related Collections

Land Magnetic Survey Records [unprocessed]. Department of Terrestrial Magnetism, Carnegie Institution of Washington, D.C.