

# Guide to the Rudolph John Anderson Papers

MS 37



compiled by Kathy Straka

December 1976

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
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<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 37

**CREATOR:** Anderson, Rudolph J. (Rudolph John), 1879-1961

**TITLE:** Rudolph John Anderson papers

**DATES:** 1917-1962

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 0.5 linear feet (1 box, 1 folio)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Writings and memorabilia of Rudolph John Anderson, professor of chemistry at Yale University, 1927-1948. The papers contain autobiographical memoirs, essays on the history of chemistry by Anderson and drafts of his book, *The Chemistry of Lipoids...*, published in 1938.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0037>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0037>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to [http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr\\_copy\\_order.html](http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html). The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.      box  
f.      folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Mrs. Rudolph J. Anderson in 1968, and of the Yale University Chemistry Department in 1955.

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## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

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## Preferred Citation

Rudolph John Anderson Papers (MS 37). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

Rudolph John Anderson was born in Haina, Sweden, on September 15, 1879. He was the son of Anders and Johanna Anderson, and came from a family of farmers. In 1893, at age fourteen, Anderson immigrated alone to the United States.

Anderson graduated from the Harvard Grammar School, Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 1897. He soon found it financially impossible to continue his education. At this time his ambition in life was to be a locomotive engineer. Anderson secured a job in a chemistry lab in New Orleans and soon acquired what was to be a life-long interest in chemistry. Gradually, over a period of twenty-two years, he earned college degrees, culminating in a Ph.D. in Chemistry from Cornell University in 1919. His education proceeded as follows:

\*Degree of Graduate in Pharmacy, New Orleans College of Pharmacy, 1902

\*B.S. From Tulane University, 1906

\*Graduate work at Tulane, 1906-1907

\*Attended Upsala University, Sweden, 1909-1910

\*Studied at the University of Berlin, 1910-1911, and again in 1917

\*Worked at University College, London, 1914-1915

\*Ph.D. from Cornell University, 1919

In 1947, Anderson received an honorary degree from the University of Lund, Sweden. The degree was an honorary Doctorate of Medicine, awarded to him as Professor Emeritus of Yale University for his chemical research.

After teaching chemistry at Cornell for a number of years, Anderson left to join the faculty of Yale University. From 1927 to 1948, he was a Professor of Chemistry at Yale. He held the title of Professor Emeritus from 1948 until his death in 1961.

Rudolph Anderson devoted his life to the study of chemical substances in plants, such as the chemical called phytin, and to the study of bacteria. His discoveries in the field of lipoids of tubercle bacilli were outstanding.

As well as contributing articles to the *Journal of Biological Chemistry* and to the *Journal of American Chemistry*, Anderson became increasingly involved in editing scientific work. He was on the editorial board of the *Journal of Biological Chemistry* from 1931 until 1958, and was managing editor from 1937 until

1958. The December 1958 edition of *Biological Chemistry* was dedicated to Professor Anderson, and a handsomely bound copy is to be found in the collection. As well as his magazine connections, Anderson held memberships in several learned societies: the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Chemical Society, the American Society of Biologists, and the Society of Experimental Biology and Medicine. He was also Vice President of the American Society of Biological Chemists, 1939-1940, and later President, 1941-1943.

Anderson served as a Captain in the Sanitary Corps of the United States Army, 1917-1919, and was then promoted to Major in the Army Reserve, in which he continued to serve for many years.

Rudolph John Anderson married Clara Tillinghast on June 3, 1920. He died on April 16, 1961.

For biographical details of a more personal nature please see box 1, folder 2, of the collection which contains a typescript of an autobiographical sketch entitled, "Adventures in the Education of Rudolph Anderson."

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## Scope and Contents

Writings and memorabilia of Rudolph John Anderson, professor of chemistry at Yale University, 1927-1948. The papers contain autobiographical memoirs, essays on the history of chemistry by Anderson and drafts of his book, *The Chemistry of Lipoids...*, published in 1938.

## Collection Contents

### Inventory, 1917-1962

b. 1, f. 1	Commissions in United States Army and United States Army Reserve	1917-1929
b. 1, f. 2	"Adventures in the Education of Rudolph Anderson, 1943," autobiographical sketch and notes English	undated
b. 1, f. 3	Citation from Jane Coffin Childs Memorial Fund for Medical Research to Rudolph J. Anderson on his retirement from the Board of Scientific Advisors	1952 June 6
b. 1, f. 4	<i>Journal of Biological Chemistry</i> , a history English	1953
b. 1, f. 5	Appointment and acceptance of Honorary Membership on Board of Scientific Advisors, Jane Coffin Childs Memorial Fund for Medical Research	1957 February 27-1957 March 15
b. 1, f. 6	<i>Journal of Biological Chemistry</i> , dedicated to Rudolph J. Anderson English	1958 December
b. 1, f. 7	Anderson, Rudolph John. "An Account of the Life and Work of Joseph Priestly"	undated
b. 1, f. 8	Anderson, Rudolph John. <i>The Life of Berzelius</i>	undated
b. 1, f. 9	Anderson, Rudolph John. "The Scientific Congress in Scandinavia"	undated
b. 1, f. 10	Edsall, John T., editor. <i>Journal of Biological Chemistry</i> report to American Society of Biological Chemists	1961 April 11
b. 1, f. 11	Edsall, John T. Letter of consolation to Mrs. Rudolph John Anderson	1961 April 13
b. 1, f. 12	Vickery, Hubert Bradford, <i>Rudolph John Anderson</i> , A Biographical Memoir, National Academy of Sciences	1962
	<i>The Chemistry of Lipoids of the Tubercle Bacteria and Certain Other Microorganisms</i> , by Rudolph J. Anderson.	
b. 1, f. 13	Introduction, notes, mss.	[pre 1955]
b. 1, f. 14	Methods, Properties and Composition of Acid-fast Bacterial Phosphatides, mss.	[pre 1955]
b. 1, f. 15	The Acetone-soluble Fats of the Acid-fast Bacteria, mss.	[pre 1955]
b. 1, f. 16	Acid-fast Bacterial Waxes, mss.	[pre 1955]
b. 1, f. 17	Higher Alcohols in Acid-fast Bacteria, Pigments in Tubercle Bacilli, mss.	[pre 1955]
b. 1, f. 18	Firmly Bound Lipoids of Tubercle Bacilli, mss.	[pre 1955]
b. 1, f. 19	Are Sterols Metabolic Products of Acid-fast Bacteria?, The Lipoids of the <i>Phytomonas Tumefaciens</i> , mss.	[pre 1955]
b. 1, f. 20	The Lipoids of <i>Lactobacillus Acidophilus</i> , The Lipoids of Yeast, mss.	[pre 1955]
b. 1, f. 21	Bibliography, mss.	[pre 1955]

*The Chemistry of Lipoids of the Tubercle Bacteria and Certain Other Microorganisms*, by Rudolph J. Anderson

b. 1, f. 22	Typescript, pp. 1 -75	[pre 1955]
b. 1, f. 23	Typescript, pp. 76 -147	[pre 1955]
b. 2	Certificate of membership in the Loyal Order of the Boar, Carlisle, Pennsylvania	1929 July 18
	Photograph of a meeting of the Jane Coffin Childs Fund	1941 September 12
	Appointment as Captain in the Sanitary Corp, United States Army	1917 November 8
	Certificate of membership in the Yale Chapter of the Society of Sigma Xi	1929 March 26
	Certificate as Registered Pharmacist from the Board of the State of Louisiana, New Orleans, Louisiana	1901 November 9
	Certificate of membership in the Louisiana State Pharmaceutical Association, New Orleans, Louisiana	undated
	Certificate of membership in The National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America	1946 April 24
	Degree of Graduate in Pharmacy, New Orleans College of Pharmacy	1902 May 14
	Bachelor of Science Degree, Tulane University of Louisiana, New Orleans	1906 May 31
	Degree of Doctor of Philosophy, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York	1919 June 23
	Honorary Degree of Doctor of Medicine, University of Lund, Sweden (2 copies)	1947 May 31

## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Subjects**

Chemistry -- History  
Lipids  
Science

### **Occupations**

Chemists

### **Names**

Anderson, Rudolph J. (Rudolph John), 1879-1961

### **Corporate Bodies**

Yale University. Department of Chemistry  
Yale University -- Faculty