

# Guide to the Aaron Lerner Papers

MS 1896



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Yale University Library  
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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
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<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 1896

**CREATOR:** Lerner, Aaron Bunsen

**TITLE:** Aaron Lerner papers

**DATES:** 1945-2007

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 1.92 linear feet (2 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The papers comprise biographical materials, correspondence, writings, and photographs documenting the career of Aaron Lerner in the field of medicine, specifically dermatology and pigmentation disorders. Materials relating to his Nobel Prize nomination are included.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1896>

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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.1896>.

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

The papers are the gift of Mildred Lerner, 2007.

## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

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## Preferred Citation

Aaron Lerner Papers (MS 1896). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

Aaron Lerner was born in Minneapolis in 1920. He received his undergraduate, medical, and doctoral degrees from the University of Minnesota. He was a faculty member at the University of Michigan and the University of Oregon before coming to Yale in 1956, at which time he became the first director of the dermatology division within the Department of Internal Medicine. In 1971, the Department of Dermatology was established as a freestanding department with Lerner appointed chair. Lerner remained in this position until his retirement in 2000. He is credited with isolating the compound Melanocyte Stimulating Hormone (MSH) and the protein cryoglobulin. He was nominated for the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine in 1993 for the discovery of melatonin, a hormone regulating human sleep-wake cycles. Lerner died in New Haven, Connecticut, on February 3, 2007.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers comprise biographical materials, correspondence, writings, and photographs documenting the career of Aaron Lerner in the field of medicine, specifically dermatology and pigmentation disorders. Materials relating to his Nobel Prize nomination are included.

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## Arrangement

The papers are arranged by type of material.

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## Collection Contents

b. 1, f. 1-3	Personal/biographical files	1945-2007
b. 1, f. 4-5	Correspondence	1954-2003
b. 1, f. 6-9	Writings	1955-2004
b. 1, f. 10	Nobel Prize nomination Includes nomination and supporting documentation.	1945-1993
b. 2	Photographs	circa 1940s, 1971, 1989
b. 2	Poster for symposium in Lerner's honor	1985 June 22

## **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**

Dermatology  
Melatonin  
Pigmentation disorders

### **Names**

Lerner, Aaron Bunsen

### **Corporate Body**

Yale University. School of Medicine