

Robeson, Frank L., Papers

Frank L. Robeson Papers

1899-1954, undated



Title Statement

Robeson, Frank L., Papers Frank L. Robeson Papers, 1899-1954, undated Ms.2015.014

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Publication Statement

Publisher: Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Special Collections and University Archives, University Libraries (0434)
560 Drillfield Drive
Newman Library, Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061
Business Number: 540-231-6308
specref@vt.edu
URL: <http://spec.lib.vt.edu>



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Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2024-09-25 10:05:46 -0400.

Language Usage: Description is written in: English, Latin script.

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.2015.014

Unit Date

1899-1954, undated

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

The collection includes papers from Frank L. Robeson's tenure as a student at Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College and Polytechnic Institute, Columbia University, and Johns Hopkins University, as well as subject and research files from his nearly 50 years as an instructor and professor at VPI, dating from 1899 to 1954.

Creator

Robeson, Frank Leigh, 1884-1974

Extent

7.6 Cubic Feet 6 boxes

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

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Source of Acquisition

The Frank L. Robeson Papers were acquired by Special Collections and University Archives prior to 2008. They are believed to have been donated to the library, probably after Dr. Robeson's death in 1974.

Processing Information

The processing, arrangement, and description of the Frank L. Robeson Papers was completed in July 2015.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], Frank L. Robeson Papers, Ms2015-014, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Biographical Note

Frank Leigh Robeson was born on August 31, 1884, in Farmville, Virginia, to George M. and Anna M. Robeson. In 1912, he married Mary Anna Matthews (1888-1975). They had 5 children: Helen (b. 1913), Mary (b. 1915), Martha (b. 1921), Amenta (b. 1922), and Andrew (b. 1927). Robeson died in September 1974 in Blacksburg, Montgomery County, Virginia. He is buried in Westview Cemetery.

Robeson graduated from Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College and Polytechnic Institute with a B. S. in 1904. Between 1904 and 1907, he served as an instructor in Mathematics and Drawing and later in Mathematics and Graphics. From 1910-1913, he was an instructor in Mathematics and Experimental Engineering. In 1913, he received an M. A. from Columbia University. From 1913-1917, he served as an Associate Professor of Physics and from 1917-1955 (except for a leave in 1922/1923) as a Professor of Physics. He completed a Ph.D. at Johns Hopkins in 1923 before returning to teach at VPI. Between 1936 and 1941, he was the head of the Physics Department. After retiring in September 1954, he was granted emeritus status. In honor of his long career at VPI as a student and teacher, the Department of Physics building, completed in 1960, was dedicated "Robeson Hall" in 1969. A portrait of him hangs in the building.

More on Robeson Hall:

- <http://www.phys.vt.edu/where/Robeson.shtml>
- <https://vt.edu/about/locations/buildings/robeson-hall.html>

Sources:

- An Historical and Genealogical Account of Andrew Robeson of Scotland New Jersey and Pennsylvania and of His Descendants from 1653 to 1916.
- "Dr Frank Leigh Robeson" entry, Findagrave.com, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/74335550/frank-leigh-robeson>

Scope and Content

The collection includes papers from Robeson's tenure as a student at Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College and Polytechnic Institute, Columbia University, and Johns Hopkins University, as well as subject and research files from his nearly 50 years as an instructor and professor at VPI, dating from 1899 to 1954. The papers contain notebooks and students sketch/composition books; personal correspondence; research on topics relating to math, physics, and drawing; notes and lectures from classes taught; Virginia Academy of Science documents; papers; and publications; and a few photographs and negatives.

Keywords

Faculty and staff

Mathematics

Physics
University Archives
University History
Students and alumni
Robeson, Frank Leigh, 1884-1974
Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College and Polytechnic Institute (1896-1944)
Virginia Polytechnic Institute (1944-1970)

Rights Statement for Archival Description

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Arrangement

The original file names were retained when the collection was processed. Some related folders were consolidated and duplicates removed. The collection is arranged in chronological order with the undated materials in the last box.

Description of Subordinate Components

Machine Drawing Sketch Book

Unit Date 1899
box-folder 1 (box)
Container 1 (folder)

Workshop Composition Book

Unit Date 1902
box-folder 1 (box)
Container 2 (folder)

Notes and Papers

Unit Date 1903-1921
box-folder 1 (box)
Container 3 (folder)

Personal Papers

Unit Date 1904-1923
box-folder 1 (box)
Container 4 (folder)

Lettering for Engineering Students

Unit Date 1904
box-folder 1 (box)
Container 5 (folder)

Notes

Unit Date 1904-1915
box-folder 1 (box)
Container 6 (folder)

Electrical Laboratory Notes

Unit Date 1904

box-folder 1 (box)
Container 7 (folder)

Notes

Unit Date 1906-1913
box-folder 1 (box)
Container 8 (folder)

Transfer Notes from Loose Leaf Notes

Unit Date 1907-1925
box-folder 1 (box)
Container 9 (folder)

Applied Mechanics

Unit Date 1907
box-folder 1 (box)
Container 10 (folder)

M.I.T. - November

Unit Date 1907
box-folder 1 (box)
Container 11 (folder)

Research and Reference Material

Unit Date 1909-1926
box-folder 1 (box)
Container 12 (folder)

Relating to House Construction

Unit Date 1910-1918
box-folder 1 (box)
Container 13 (folder)

Examples in Differential Equations

Unit Date 1908
box-folder 1 (box)
Container 14 (folder)

Notes on Dynamics Text

Unit Date 1910
box-folder 1 (box)
Container 15 (folder)

Technic of Mechanical Drafting with Notes

Unit Date 1910
box-folder 1 (box)
Container 16 (folder)

Problems in Mechanics, Heat, Optics

Unit Date 1911
box-folder 1 (box)

Container 17 (folder)

Notes on Osbourne's Differential and Internal Calculus, July and August

Unit Date 1911

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 18 (folder)

Correspondence

Unit Date 1911-1920

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Columbia University Class Registration Book

Unit Date 1912

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Modern Theories in Geometry

Unit Date 1912

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Geodesy and Practical Astronomy, Columbia University

Unit Date 1912

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Physics Laboratory- Freshman and Sophomore Instruction Sheets

Unit Date 1913

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Partial Differential Equations

Unit Date 1913

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Lecture Notes and Exams - 1st Physics

Unit Date 1913-1916

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Notes on Astronomy, Heat, Differential Equations

Unit Date 1913

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Notes, Articles, and Sketches on Homes and Homebuilding

Unit Date 1913-1928

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Two-Story Apt. Building Guidelines

Unit Date 1914-1921

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Relating to House Construction

Unit Date 1914-1921

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

W.F. Meggers - Electricity and Magnetism

Unit Date 1915

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Physics 2 Exercises in Mechanics and Temperature Determination

Unit Date 1916

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

Clippings, Brochures, and Advertisements

Unit Date 1916-1944

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 14 (folder)

Theoretical Mechanics - Notes from Lectures of Dr. J.S. Ames

Unit Date 1917

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 15 (folder)

Experiments in Optics

Unit Date 1917

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 16 (folder)

Physical Apparatus - to be Bought, to be Constructed, and where to get it

Unit Date 1917

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 17 (folder)

Notes - Data for Text

Unit Date 1917

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 18 (folder)

Physics Lab Equipment and Notes

Unit Date 1917

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Notes and Exam Notes on Optics

Unit Date 1917

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Exam on Optics and Experiment on Calibration of a Thermocouple

Unit Date 1917

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Infinite Series Notes Theory of Function - Cohen,

Unit Date 1920

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Notes

Unit Date 1920

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Residence Specifications

Unit Date 1920

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Correspondence

Unit Date 1920-1929

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Research and Reference Pamphlets

Unit Date 1920-1946

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Notes

Unit Date 1920

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Einstein's Theory - Lectures of Dr. F.D. Miconaghan, Johns Hopkins University, June-July

Unit Date 1920

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Moment in Inertia

Unit Date 1921

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Lecture Notes and Exams - 2nd Physics

Unit Date 1921-1922

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Lectures on Electricity and Magnetism

Unit Date 1922

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

Electron Theory

Unit Date 1922

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 14 (folder)

Vector Analysis - U. Chicago

Unit Date 1922

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Lectures on Optics

Unit Date 1922-1923

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

The Infrared Spectrum of Helium in Long Discharge Tubes

Unit Date 1923

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Notes on Thermodynamics

Unit Date 1923

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Introduction to Quantum Theory

Unit Date 1923

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Sketching Book - Tables

Unit Date 1923

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Atomic Theory

Unit Date 1923

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Radiofax - Lefax Looseleaf Handbooks**Unit Date** 1923-1924**box-folder** 4 (box)**Container** 8 (folder)**Notes on Physics Laboratory - M.I.T.****Unit Date** 1924**box-folder** 4 (box)**Container** 9 (folder)**Junior Physics****Unit Date** 1926-1937**box-folder** 4 (box)**Container** 10 (folder)**The ABC of Hydrogen Ion Control****Unit Date** 1926**box-folder** 4 (box)**Container** 11 (folder)**Junior Laboratory****Unit Date** 1926**box-folder** 4 (box)**Container** 12 (folder)**Constructed in Shop****Unit Date** 1926-1927**box-folder** 4 (box)**Container** 13 (folder)**Electricity and Magnetism****Unit Date** 1928**box-folder** 4 (box)**Container** 14 (folder)**Advertisements****Unit Date** 1929-1945**box-folder** 4 (box)**Container** 15 (folder)**Radio Talk****Unit Date** 1930-1946**box-folder** 4 (box)**Container** 16 (folder)**Correspondence****Unit Date** 1930-1939**box-folder** 4 (box)**Container** 17 (folder)

Notes on Physics: Part 1, Mechanics

Unit Date 1932

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 18 (folder)

Manuscript of Notes on Physics - Part II- Electricity and Magnetism

Unit Date 1932

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 19 (folder)

Manuscript of Notes on Physics - Part I - Mechanics

Unit Date 1932

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 20 (folder)

Notes on Physics Part II: Electricity and Magnetism

Unit Date 1933

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 21 (folder)

Household Meteorology and Physics

Unit Date 1934-1939

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 22 (folder)

E&M- Electromagnetics

Unit Date 1935-1940

box-folder 5 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Spectrophotometric Materials

Unit Date 1935-1936

box-folder 5 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Lecture Notes - Physics 312

Unit Date 1935

box-folder 5 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

X-rays and Radioactivity

Unit Date 1936

box-folder 5 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Virginia Academy of Science

Unit Date 1937-1938

box-folder 5 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Notes on Physics Part III: Wave Motion, Sound, Heat, and Light

Unit Date 1937

box-folder 5 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Biophysics

Unit Date 1938-1939

box-folder 5 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Advanced Physics

Unit Date 1938

box-folder 5 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Biophysics

Unit Date 1938

box-folder 5 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

E&M - Electrostatics

Unit Date 1938

box-folder 5 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

E&M Laboratory Manual

Unit Date 1939

box-folder 5 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

The Bent of Tau Beta, July

Unit Date 1940

box-folder 5 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Precision of Measure

Unit Date 1940

box-folder 5 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

Correspondence

Unit Date 1940-1949

box-folder 5 (box)

Container 14 (folder)

X-rays, Spring Quarter

Unit Date 1941

box-folder 5 (box)

Container 15 (folder)

Lectures and Notes**Unit Date** 1942-1944**box-folder** 5 (box)**Container** 16 (folder)**Physics 312 (Chemistry)****Unit Date** 1942**box-folder** 5 (box)**Container** 17 (folder)**Notes on Mechanics and Wave Motion****Unit Date** 1943-1954**box-folder** 5 (box)**Container** 18 (folder)**Klystron Manual****Unit Date** 1945**box-folder** 5 (box)**Container** 19 (folder)**Schaum's Outline of Theory and Problems for Students of College Physics****Unit Date** 1946**box-folder** 5 (box)**Container** 20 (folder)**Paper: A Simple Method for Adapting an Ordinary Wall Galvanometer for use in Large Classrooms****Unit Date** 1946**box-folder** 5 (box)**Container** 21 (folder)**Electricity and Magnetism****Unit Date** 1946**box-folder** 5 (box)**Container** 22 (folder)**Electricity and Magnetism****Unit Date** 1947**box-folder** 5 (box)**Container** 23 (folder)**Correspondence****box-folder** 6 (box)**Container** 1 (folder)**An Exercise on the Sphere of Geom. of Space****box-folder** 6 (box)**Container** 2 (folder)

Electrostatics**box-folder** 6 (box)**Container** 3 (folder)**Electricity and Magnetism****box-folder** 6 (box)**Container** 4 (folder)**Illustrations of Stem Engines, Steam Turbines, Pumping Engines****box-folder** 6 (box)**Container** 5 (folder)**Manuscript Index to Notes on Physics****box-folder** 6 (box)**Container** 6 (folder)**Negatives****box-folder** 6 (box)**Container** 7 (folder)**Notes for a course in Thermodynamics****box-folder** 6 (box)**Container** 8 (folder)**Photographs****box-folder** 6 (box)**Container** 9 (folder)**Physics 3 - Experiments in Electricity and Magnetism****box-folder** 6 (box)**Container** 10 (folder)**Radiation****box-folder** 6 (box)**Container** 11 (folder)**Thermodynamics, Second term****box-folder** 6 (box)**Container** 12 (folder)