

# Guide to the Colin F. McClare papers, 1960s-1970s

Colin F. McClare papers  
1960s-1970s

## Title Statement

Guide to the Colin F. McClare papers, 1960s-1970s

**Subtitle:** Colin F. McClare C0116

**Author:** Finding aid prepared by Jordan Patty

## Publication Statement

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## Profile Description

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**Language Usage:** Description is in English

**Descriptive Rules:** Describing Archives: A Content Standard

## Revision Description

**September 24, 2014** Added inventory.

**2019-02-13** Converted to schema conforming EAD by dtd2schema.vh.xsl.

## Descriptive Summary

### Collection Number

C0116

### Date

1960s-1970s

### Language

English

### Abstract

This collection contains revisions of a manuscript on biophysics as well as correspondence with George Mason University biology professor Harold Morowitz.

### Creator

Colin William Fraser McClare, 1937-1977

### Physical Characteristics

1.0 linear feet (2 boxes)

### Repository

George Mason University. Libraries. Special Collections & Archives

## Administrative Information

### Access Restrictions

There are no access restrictions.

## Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions on personal use. Permission to publish material from the Colin F. McClare papers must be obtained from Special Collections Research Center, George Mason University Libraries.

## Acquisition Information

Unknown.

## Processing Information

Processed by Special Collections and Archives staff. EAD markup completed by Eron Ackerman and Jordan Patty in August 2009.

## Preferred Citation

Colin F. McClare papers, C0116, Special Collections and Archives, George Mason University Libraries.

# Biographical Information

Colin F. McClare was a biophysics professor who spent much of his academic career trying to devise a new theory to explain biochemical processes. As a student, he attended Felsted School and Emmanuel College, Cambridge, where he studied chemistry. As a Medical Research Council student in 1958-1961, McClare conducted research on free radicals at Cambridge. As a Beit Fellow in 1961-1963, he researched energy transfer in nucleic acids. McClare was awarded a Ph.D. in 1962, after which he became a lecturer in Biophysics at King's College, London in 1963-1977. McClare's research in bioenergetics and the problems of muscle contraction led him to conclude that classical thermodynamics was inadequate to explain biological processes and that the application of the Second Law of Thermodynamics to biological machines required the introduction of time scales. His ideas were not generally accepted and, although he wrote extensively on the subject, his papers were denied publication until four controversial papers appeared in the *Journal of Theoretical Biology and Nature*, 1971-1972. The essays generated vigorous debates among scientists all over the world, but ultimately, McClare's unorthodox views failed to gain the approval of established scientific opinion.

# Scope and Content

This collection contains revisions of a manuscript on biophysics as well as correspondence with George Mason University biology professor Harold Morowitz.

# Related Material

Special Collections and Archives also holds the [Harold Morowitz papers](#).

# Index Terms

## Persons:

McClare, Colin William Fraser, 1937-1977.

Morowitz, Harold J.

## Subjects:

Biophysics.

# Arrangement

Organized by subject and date.

# Contents List

## Colin McClare papers,

Unit Date 1960s-1970s

**Correspondence: McClare/Morowitz,**

**Unit Date** 1972, 1974, 1976

**Container** 1 (Box)

**Container** 1 (Folder)

**Correspondence: Morowitz/McClare, G./Lieb/Rosenberg,**

**Unit Date** 1977-1988

**Container** 1 (Box)

**Container** 2 (Folder)

**Revised McClare Manuscript Edited by Harold Morowitz and Shalid Khan,**

**Unit Date** undated

**Container** 1 (Box)

**Container** 3 (Folder)

**Revised McClare Manuscript,**

**Unit Date** undated

**Container** 1 (Box)

**Container** 4 (Folder)

**Manuscript of Book: Colin F. McClare, Preface to pg. 90, notes ,**

**Unit Date** undated

**Container** 1 (Box)

**Container** 5 (Folder)

**Manuscript of Book: Colin F. McClare, pages 91-150, notes,**

**Unit Date** undated

**Container** 1 (Box)

**Container** 6 (Folder)

**Manuscript of Book: Colin F. McClare, pages 151-193,**

**Unit Date** undated

**Container** 1 (Box)

**Container** 7 (Folder)

**Manuscript of Book: Colin McClare, pages 194-250,**

**Unit Date** undated

**Container** 1 (Box)

**Container** 8 (Folder)

**Manuscript of Book: Colin McClare, pages 251-325,**

**Unit Date** undated

**Container** 1 (Box)

**Container** 9 (Folder)

**Manuscript of Book: Colin McClare, pages 326-369,**

**Unit Date** undated

**Container** 1 (Box)

**Container** 10 (Folder)

**Manuscript of Book: Colin F. McClare, pages 370-421,**

**Unit Date** undated

**Container** 2 (Box)  
**Container** 1 (Folder)

**Manuscript of Book: Colin F. McClare, pages 422-526,**

**Unit Date** undated

**Container** 2 (Box)  
**Container** 2 (Folder)

**Manuscript of Book: Colin F. McClare, notes,**

**Unit Date** undated

**Container** 2 (Box)  
**Container** 3 (Folder)

**Chemical Machines, Maxwell's Demon and Living Organisms,**

**Unit Date** undated

**Container** 2 (Box)  
**Container** 4 (Folder)

**Manuscript,**

**Unit Date** undated

**Container** 2 (Box)  
**Container** 5 (Folder)