

# Richard H. Fleming papers, 1924-1989

## Overview of the Collection

<b>Creator</b>	Fleming, Richard H. (Richard Howell), 1909-1989
<b>Title</b>	Richard H. Fleming papers
<b>Dates</b>	1924-1989 (inclusive) 1924 1989 1941-1968 (bulk) 1941 1968
<b>Quantity</b>	17.59 cubic feet (18 boxes)
<b>Collection Number</b>	4110 (Accession No. 4110-002)
<b>Summary</b>	Papers of an oceanographer who taught at the University of Washington and engaged in major research projects, such as the first comprehensive synoptic survey of the Northern Pacific Ocean.
<b>Repository</b>	<a href="#">University of Washington Libraries, Special Collections</a> Special Collections University of Washington Libraries Box 352900 Seattle, WA 98195-2900 Telephone: 206-543-1929 Fax: 206-543-1931 <a href="mailto:speccoll@uw.edu">speccoll@uw.edu</a>
<b>Access Restrictions</b>	The papers are open to all users.
<b>Languages</b>	English
<b>Sponsor</b>	Funding for encoding this finding aid was partially provided through a grant awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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## Biographical Note

Richard H. Fleming (1909-1989) was an oceanographer and chaired the University of Washington Oceanography Department from 1951 to 1967. He was born in Victoria, British Columbia, and attended the University of British Columbia, where he received his B.A. and an M.A. in chemistry. Afterward he pursued studies at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography of the University of California, receiving his Ph.D. in oceanography in 1935. Fleming taught at the Scripps Institution for several years and also worked for the Division of War Research of the University of California from 1941 to 1946, applying the study of oceanography to problems of undersea warfare. He continued his work in the military applications of oceanography as the chief oceanographer for the U.S. Navy Hydrographic Office in Washington, D.C. from 1946 to 1951. Dr. Fleming joined the faculty of the University of Washington in 1951 as the chairman of the Oceanography Department. He directed the expansion of the department's programs, including the development of undergraduate studies in oceanography.

Dr. Fleming also engaged in research during his time as chairman and participated in major projects at sea. The NORPAC (Northern Pacific Survey) project (1955-1956) was the first comprehensive synoptic survey of the Northern Pacific Ocean, charting currents, tides, winds, depths, and temperatures and observing plant and animal life over a two year period. Project Chariot (1959-1962), conducted for the

Atomic Energy Commission as part of Operation Plowshare, investigated the possibility of creating a harbor in Alaska by exploding nuclear devices. Dr. Fleming's career coincided with the beginning of the nuclear age, and his work included two studies on the disposal of atomic wastes in the ocean, the first for the National Bureau of Standards and the second for the National Research Council.

Fleming belonged to numerous scientific organizations and worked on many committees. These included an organizing committee of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics and several committees of the National Research Council. He engaged in and supervised research on grant projects sponsored by the Office of Naval Research, the Atomic Energy Commission, and the National Science Foundation.

Fleming served as chairman of the Department of Oceanography until 1967 and continued as a professor of oceanography until 1980, when he retired as professor emeritus. He was particularly interested in the development of education in oceanography and worked with committees to promote the training of secondary school teachers and the publication of textbooks in the field. He was the author, with Harold Sverdrup, of *The Oceans*, one of the standard works on oceanography. Fleming was also a Fulbright lecturer at the University of Istanbul in Turkey from 1964 to 1965.

## Content Description

Primarily relating to his career as an oceanographer and professor, the Richard H. Fleming papers include correspondence, speeches and writings, reports, cruise data and reports, research project files, curriculum materials, bibliographies, bibliographic cards, notebooks, notes, oceanographic charts, ephemera, legislation, photographs, minutes, and budgets, 1924-1989 (bulk 1941-1968).

Project files include his work for NORPAC and Project Chariot. The papers from Project Chariot include reports distributed to all the participants in the project. These provide details on many aspects of the project in addition to the oceanographic work of Fleming and others. Fleming's research work in Project Chariot is arranged in subseries of Cruise Reports and Cruise Data following the general series of Project Chariot reports.

Fleming's work as chairman of the University of Washington Oceanography Department is represented in both his general correspondence and in the series for the department. While the papers include those from throughout his career, the bulk correspond to his tenure as department chairman from 1951 to 1967. The papers from Dr. Fleming's work on scientific and other committees are arranged under the respective series.

Many of Fleming's writings are included in the papers in draft form. Handwritten drafts in both the Writings subseries and the Project Chariot Cruise Reports include some prepared by Fleming's co-author, Diane Heggerty, in particular the "Drift Bottle Report" and the report on the oceanography of the southeastern Chukchi Sea. Some of the papers that were organized in notebooks or binders have been retained in this format. In addition there are some bound volumes of project reports and conference proceedings.

## Use of the Collection

### Restrictions on Use

The creator's literary rights have been transferred to the University of Washington Libraries.

# Administrative Information

## Arrangement

Arranged into 3 series:

- Personal and professional papers, 1924-1989
- Scientific and educational organizations, 1930-1968
- University of Washington committees and departmental records, 1932-1980

## Acquisition Information

Source: Alice S. Fleming (wife of Richard H. Fleming), 1989, 1990.

## Processing Note

The Richard H. Fleming papers include the papers from two accessions which have been merged. The papers from Accession No. 4110-89-45 had been stored on an oceanography barge. The papers constituting Accession No. 4114-90-15 were kept in the Fleming home.

Publications and duplicates included with the papers were removed during processing in 1996.

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# Detailed Description of the Collection

## Personal and Professional Papers, 1924-1989

Container(s)	Description	Dates
<b>Box</b>		
1	Biographical Information	1933-1967
1	Outgoing Letters	1960-1966
1	General Correspondence	1941-1986
1	General Correspondence Regarding Publications	1952-1963
1	General Correspondence Regarding Meetings	1962
1	Minutes and Agendas	1955-1968
1	Newsletters	1959-1963

Container(s)	Description	Dates
1-2	Writings	1953-1965
2-3	Writings of Others	1939-1966
3	Speeches and Lectures	1949-1980
3	Lists	1947-1966
3	Bibliographies	1950-1962
3	Reports	1955-1984
4	Conferences	1924-1963
4	Curriculum Files	1963-1965
4	Legislation	1960-1967
<b>Project Files</b>		
<b>Box</b>		
4	Bering Sea Trawler Project	1959-1961
	Norpac (Northern Pacific Survey, 1955-1956)	1955-1960
<b>Box</b>		
4	General Correspondence	1955-1959
4-5	Reports	1955-1957
4-5	Conference-Meeting on Oceanography of the North Pacific	1956
4-5	Cruise Plans	1956
4-5	Cruise Reports	1955-1956
5	Cruise Log	1956
5	Notes	1956

Container(s)	Description	Dates
5	Charts	1955-1956
5	Cruise Data	1955-1956
5	Clippings	1956
	Subject Files	
Box		
5	<i>Brown Bear</i> (research vessel)	1955-1956
5	Oshoru Maru	1955
5	POFI (Pacific Oceanic Fishery Investigations)	1955
Box		
5	Ephemera	1960
	Project Chariot	
Box		
5	General Correspondence	1959-1962
5	News Releases	1959-1962
5	Agendas	1961-1962
5	Personnel Rosters	1959
5	Proposals	1959-1960
5	Plans	1959-1961
5	Maps	1959-1961
	Subject Files	
Box		

Container(s)	Description	Dates
6	Budget	1959
6	Coordination Meeting	1959
6	Equipment	1959
6	Field Works	1959
6	Kivalina T. G.	1959
6	Marine Ecology Studies	1959
6	Personnel and Regulations	1959
6	Travel	1959
	Reports	
<b>Box</b>		
6	Phase II (1959)	1958-1960
6-7	Phase III (1960-1961)	1960-1962
6-7	Related to Project Chariot	1950-1961
7-8	Fleming's	
7-8	Related Material	
<b>Box</b>		
8-9	Cruise Reports and Cruise Data	1959-1962
8-9	Field Journals	1959
8-9	Field Notebooks	1959, undated
8-9	Writings of Others	1960
8-9	Bibliographies	

Container(s)	Description	Dates
<b>Box:Oversize</b>		
18	Charts	1960
<b>Box</b>		
9	Miscellany	1960-1961
<b>Box</b>		
9	Notebooks	<b>1948-1958</b>
10	Notes	<b>1953-1963</b>
10	Charts	<b>undated</b>
<b>Box:Oversize</b>		
18	Charts	<b>undated</b>
18	Cruise Data	<b>1959, undated</b>
<b>Box</b>		
10	Cruise Data	<b>1959-1962</b>
10	Cruise Reports of Others	<b>1963-1964</b>
10	Clippings	<b>1963-1981</b>
10	Publications - U.S. Government	<b>1960-1963</b>
10	Miscellany	<b>1960-1975</b>
10	Photographs	<b>undated</b>
10	Ephemera	<b>1945-1989</b>
11	Ephemera and Bibliographical Cards	<b>undated</b>
<b>Subject Files</b>		

Container(s)	Description	Dates
<b>Box</b>		
11	George Clarke	1947
11	EPOC 20th Anniversary	1983
11	Oceanographic Research at Scripps 1946-1947	1947
11	Scholarships	1931
11	Sverdrup Award	1945-1948
11	Turkey	1963-1966

## Scientific and Educational Organizations, 1930-1968

Container(s)	Description	Dates
<b>Box</b>		
11	American Society of Limnology and Oceanography	<b>1952-1961</b>
11	Council on Wave Research	<b>1951-1959</b>
11	Earth Science Curriculum Project	<b>1963-1964</b>

### Eastern Pacific Ocean Conference (EPOC)

<b>Box</b>		
12	General Correspondence	1958-1964
12	Minutes	1958-1968
12	Reports	1959-1967

### International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics

<b>Box</b>		
12	General Correspondence	1955-1962



Container(s)	Description	Dates
12	Conference-Seventh General Assembly, Washington, D.C.	1939
	Conference-Tenth General Assembly, Rome, 1954	
<b>Box</b>		
12	General Correspondence	1951-1954
12	Agenda	1954
12	Minutes - Executive Council	1954
12	Newsletters	1953-1954
12	Reports	1954
12	Budget Files	1953-1955
12	Lists	1954
12	Certificate	1954
12	Miscellany	1948-1954
<b>National Research Council</b>		
<b>Box</b>		
12	General Correspondence	1956-1967
<b>National Research Council, American Geophysical Union</b>		
<b>Box</b>		
12	General Correspondence	1951-1963
12	Minutes	1937
12	Programs	1955-1956
12	Reports	1934-1956

Container(s)	Description	Dates
12	Membership List	1957
<b>National Research Council, Biological Effects of Atomic Radiation Committee</b>		
Box		
12	General Correspondence	1956-1957
12-13	Reports	1957-1960
<b>National Research Council, Biological Effects of Atomic Radiation Committee, Effects of Radiation on Oceanography and Fisheries Committee</b>		
Box		
12-13	General Correspondence	1956-1959
12-13	Proceedings	1956-1960
12-13	Conferences	1956
12-13	Reports	1955-1959
12-13	Membership List	1956
Box		
12-13	National Research Council, Geology and Geography Division	<b>1947-1953</b>
12-13	National Research Council, Geophysics Research Board	<b>1962-1964</b>
<b>National Research Council, United States National Committee for the International Geophysical Year</b>		
Box		
12-13	General Correspondence	1956-1962
12-13	Minutes	1956

Container(s)	Description	Dates
12-13	Budget	1956
12-13	Reports	1956-1960
<b>National Research Council, Oceanography Committee</b>		
<b>Box</b>		
12-13	General Correspondence	1959-1963
13	Minutes	1960
13	Newsletters	1963
13	Reports	1930,1959-1962
13	Membership List	1964
<b>Box</b>		
13	National Research Council, Undersea Warfare Committee	<b>1956-1960</b>
<b>National Science Foundation</b>		
<b>Box</b>		
13	General Correspondence	1955-1967
13	Minutes	1961
13	Conference on Research and Education in the Marine Sciences, October 1960	1960
13	Conference on Marine Laboratories, February 1962	1962
13	Reports	1960, 1962
14	Proposals	1959-1964
14	Ephemera	1957-1963
<b>Box</b>		

Container(s)	Description	Dates
14	National Science Foundation, Undergraduate Instructional Scientific Equipment Panel	1962
<b>National Science Foundation, United States Japan Committee on Scientific Cooperation</b>		
Box		
14	General Correspondence	1963
14	Minutes	1963
14	Reports	1963-1964
14	Proposals	1963
<b>Southern Regional Education Board</b>		
Box		
14	General Correspondence	1953-1954
14	Minutes	1953-1954
14	Newsletters	1954-1958
14	Reports	1952-1954
14	Miscellany	1952-1957
<b>U. S. National Bureau of Standards, Radiation National Committee, Waste Disposal and Decontamination Subcommittee</b>		
Box		
14	General Correspondence	1949-1955
14	Minutes	1951-1953
14	Reports	1949-1955

Container(s)	Description	Dates
14	Lists	1949-1955
<b>Box</b>		
14	United States Hydrographic Office	<b>1946-1951</b>
<b>United States Office of Naval Research</b>		
<b>Box</b>		
14	General Correspondence	1952-1964
14	Reports	1949-1958
14	Catalog - Oceanographic Vessels in the U.S.	1953

## University of Washington Committees and Departmental Papers, 1932-1980

Container(s)	Description	Dates
<b>Box</b>		
14	University of Washington, Biology Committee	<b>1960-1962</b>
14	University of Washington, Contract Research Committee	<b>1963-1964</b>
14	University of Washington, Educational Policy Ad Hoc Committee	<b>1961</b>
<b>University of Washington, Graduate School</b>		
<b>Box</b>		
15	Interdepartmental Correspondence	1953-1964
15	Minutes	1953-1962
15	Annual Reports	1962-1964
15	Proposals	1964

Container(s)	Description	Dates
<b>University of Washington, Oceanography Department</b>		
<b>Box</b>		
15	Organizational Information	1962-1963
15	Interdepartmental Correspondence - University of Washington Arts and Sciences College	1953-1967
15	Interdepartmental Correspondence	1951-1980
15	Intradepartmental Correspondence	1953-1968
15	Minutes	1965-1966
15	Newsletters	1967-1968
15	Reports	1956-1967
15	Proposals	1957-1984
15	Personnel Rosters	1959-1980
15	Position Descriptions	1964
15	Seminars	1951-1952
15	Budget Files	1953-1964
15	List - Students	1961-1963
15	Curriculum Files	1953-1979
15	Class Surveys	1961
15	Cruise Plans	1956-1963
15	Cruise Report	1956
15-16	Cruise Summaries	1961-1966
15-16	Oceanographic Data	1932-1942

Container(s)	Description	Dates
	Subject Files	
<b>Box</b>		
17	Richard H. Fleming's Activities	1963-1964
17	Century 21	1958-1962
17	Civil Service	1954
17	Employment Brochures	1953-1957
17	Enrollment and Grade Statistics	1967-1968
17	Jobs	1961
17	Oceanographic Laboratories	1946-1958
17	Plans	1960-1967
17	R.V. Hoh Replacement	1961-1966
17	R.V.T.G. Thompson, Operations	1966-1967
17	Sea Water System	1953-1954
17	T. G. T. Fund	1961-1962
17	Vessels	1956-1964
<b>Box</b>		
17	Ephemera	1952-1962
17	Miscellany	1953-1974
<b>Box</b>		
17	University of Washington, Oceanography School, Faculty Council	<b>1985</b>

# Names and Subjects

## **Subject Terms :**

College teachers--Washington (State)--Seattle--Archives  
Departmental chairmen (Universities)--Washington (State)--Seattle--Archives  
Military oceanography--United States  
Nuclear energy--Industrial applications--Alaska  
Oceanographers--Washington (State)--Seattle--Archives  
Oceanography--Charts, diagrams, etc  
Oceanography--North Pacific Ocean--Observations  
Oceanography--Research--Chukchi Sea  
Oceanography--Research--North Pacific Ocean  
Oceanography--Research--United States  
Oceanography--Societies, etc  
Oceanography--Study and teaching (Higher)--Washington (State)--Seattle  
Radioactive waste disposal in the ocean

## **Personal Names :**

Fleming, Richard H. (Richard Howell), 1909-1989--Archives

## **Corporate Names :**

American Society of Limnology and Oceanography  
Council on Wave Research  
International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics  
National Research Council (U.S.)  
National Research Council (U.S.). Committee on Oceanography  
National Science Foundation (U.S.)  
Project Chariot  
Project Norpac  
Southern Regional Education Board  
United States. Hydrographic Office  
United States. Office of Naval Research  
University of Washington. Dept. of Oceanography  
University of Washington. Graduate School  
University of Washington--Faculty--Archives

## **Form or Genre Terms :**

bibliographies  
budgets  
Clippings (Books, newspapers, etc.)  
conferences  
correspondence  
curricula  
ephemera  
logs (records)  
marine charts  
minutes  
Newsletters  
notes  
Photographs  
project files  
proposals



reports  
research (document genres)  
technical reports  
writings

**Other Creators :**

**Corporate Names :**

University of Washington. University Archives

## Names and Subjects

**Subject Terms :**

University Archives/Faculty Papers (University of Washington)

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