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## Guide to the George H. Atherton Papers, 1948-1979

### Title

George H. Atherton Papers (MSS Atherton)

### Dates

1948-1979 (inclusive)

1970-1979 (bulk)

### Creator

Atherton, George H. (George Harry), 1920-1987.

### Summary

The George H. Atherton Papers consist of materials created or assembled by Atherton in his work as a forest products researcher and teacher. Atherton was a research engineer with the Oregon Forest Products Laboratory from 1950 to 1961, when he became a Forest Products professor at Oregon State University.

### Quantity

1.8 cubic feet (2 boxes)

### Restrictions on Access

Collection is open for research. The student projects may include confidential student information and are subject to review by Archives' staff prior to researcher access.

Oregon State University Libraries, University Archives

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Finding aid prepared by Elizabeth Nielsen, 2009.

## Biographical Note

George H. Atherton was a faculty member in Forest Products at Oregon State University from 1961 until his retirement in 1982; he was honored by the forestry students as an outstanding teacher with the Aufderheide Award. Atherton earned his BS (1950) and MS (1966) degrees in Mechanical Engineering from Oregon State. From 1950 until 1961, Atherton was a research engineer with the Oregon Forest Products Laboratory; he was in charge of milling and engineering for the laboratory in 1954-1961. His research specialties included heat transfer and timber mechanics.

As a Professor of Forest Products he taught upper-level courses, including Forest Products 321 and 422 on the mechanical properties of wood and wood products; supervised graduate students; participated in various short courses and seminars concerning veneer and lumber drying, as well as timber construction; and conducted research projects.

## Content Description

The George H. Atherton Papers consist of materials created or assembled by Atherton in his work as a forest products researcher and teacher. These include student projects and reference files.

The student projects are papers written by students in Atherton's mechanical properties course (Forest Products 422) during the 1970s. A subject index and list of the papers is included with the collection. The papers represent substantive research projects and address the mechanical properties of solid wood, veneer, wood composites, laminates, and other wood products; interactions and effects between wood products and various fasteners, such as nails, staples, and screws; paper manufacture, include the effect of recycle pulp; and the effects of moisture, drying temperature, and chemical treatments on the mechanical properties of wood products. Some of the papers include evaluations and are subject to review by Archives staff prior to researcher access.

The reference files pertain to Atherton's research on heat transfer and timber mechanics and include reports, reprints, and publications; correspondence; research data; testing equipment manuals; and related documentation.

## Preferred Citation

George H. Atherton Papers, Oregon State University Archives, Corvallis, Oregon.

## Acquisition Information

The papers were transferred by the Forest Products Department to the Archives in 1999.

## Processing Note

This collection is not fully processed; this guide is preliminary.

## Related Material

A biographical file for Atherton is available in the [College of Forestry Records \(RG 139\)](#). The Forest Products Department Records (RG 003) include extensive documentation of forest products research and teaching at Oregon State. The Archives' collections include the papers of several other forest products faculty, including S.E. Corder, Leif Espenas, Douglas W. Glennie, [Robert. D. Graham](#), and James W. Johnson. The Augy H. Rauch Collection documents Rauch's wood products research.

## Subjects

This collection is indexed under the following headings in the OSU Libraries Catalog. Researchers desiring materials about related topics, persons, or places should search the catalog (<http://oasis.oregonstate.edu>) using these headings.

## Organizations

### Topics

Forest products--Oregon.

Forestry laboratories--Oregon--Corvallis.

Forestry schools and education--Curricula--Oregon--Corvallis.  
Lumber--Drying.  
Veneers and veneering.  
Wood--Mechanical properties.  
Wood--Testing.  
Wood--Thermal properties.

**Other Creators**

Oregon Forest Products Laboratory.  
Oregon State University. Dept. of Forest Products.  
Oregon State University. Forest Research Laboratory.