Ray G. Peterson Papers SMC.0084

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Summary Information

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Repository Special Collections & Archives

Creator Peterson, Ray G., 1952-2001

Title Ray G. Peterson Papers

Date 1837-2004

Extent 1.85 Linear feet (4 manuscript boxes, 1/2 legal manuscript box, 1 map

folder)

Language English

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Biographical Note

After working as a meteorologist for the US Navy, Ray Peterson received his Ph.D. at Texas A&M University in 1987 under Worth Nowlin, measuring the transport and dynamics of the Antarctic Circumpolar Current through Drake Passage. His research was based on observations from the cruises and moorings of the International Southern Ocean Studies (ISOS) program. His postdoctoral work was done from 1988-1990 at the Institut fur Meereskunde in Kiel, Germany, under Gerold Siedler, measuring the circulation in the South Atlantic Basin from R/V *Polarstern*.

Peterson came to SIO in 1991 as an assistant research oceanographer and was promoted to associate research oceanographer in 1997. While at SIO he continued his studies of the circulation in the Southern Ocean, collaborating with Warren White on the Antarctic Circumpolar Wave, an oceanic/atmospheric wave circling the Southern Ocean which was considered controversial at the time of his research.

Peterson also worked with Janet Sprintall on establishing high-resolution XBT sections across Drake Passage and started a program of repeated temperature measurements from the US Antarctic supply vessel to Palmer Station. He also collaborated with Argentine scientists Alberto Piola and Ricardo Matano, and with German scientists aboard *Polarstern*. He published what was probably the earliest work using ALACE (Autonomous Lagrangian Circulation Explorer) floats in the Southern Ocean.

Teresa Chereskin and Peterson began a time series in the California Current using a free falling Conductivity, Temperature and Density (CTD) profiler called the "Fast Fish," which was developed by WHOI engineers under WOCE (World Ocean Circulation Experiment.) He also worked with Russ Davis on the Lagrangian drifter measurements of the Malvinas Current. Peterson passed away at the age of 49 on December 6, 2001 after a long illness. He was survived by his wife, Dorothy Nowroozian-Peterson.

Scope and Contents

The Ray Peterson Papers consist of correspondence, field reports, proposals, manuscripts, and reprints documenting his research on ocean currents, the Southern Ocean, and the Antarctic Circumpolar Wave. The collection also contains teaching materials for Oceanography 608, and copies of historical maps, charts, and texts used by Peterson for a paper on early concepts of ocean circulation.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Special Collections & Archives 2011

Controlled Access Headings

Subject(s)

• Oceanography -- History

Collection Inventory

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Antarktis X/5 Cruise Report, 1992	1	1
South Atlantic Review, 1991	1	2
Bottom Press - Tide Gauge, 1988	1	3
Wind-Transport, 1988	1	4
Boundary Currents - Originals, 1992	1	5
Ring Paper, 1982	1	6
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Aspects of the Thermohaline Circulation in a Simple Model 2000 September 19	4	7
On the World Ocean Circulation, Volume I 1996 June	4	8
South Western Atlantic Circulation Experiment 2000 January 1	4	9
Western South Atlantic Circulation Experiment 1999 January 1	5	1
South Atlantic Climate Change 1996 October	5	2
Inter-American Institute for Global Climate Change - IAI, 1996 August 12-14	5	3
Berichte zur Polarforschung/Reports on Polar Research, 1992	5	4
Figures for 2 Dissertation Papers, 1988-1989	5	5
Maps and Charts		
		Oversize
Peterson-Whitworth (1989) Fronts Paper, 1989		Map Case 105-01
Oceanographic Atlas of the North Atlantic Ocean. Section II: Physical Proper No. 700, 1967	ties. Publ.	Map Case 105-01

Deutsches Hydrographisches Institut, 1989	Map Case 105-01
Versuch Einer Karte zur Ubersicht der Fluthwellen (reproduction), 1838	Map Case 105-01
Warme Meeresstrom des Atlantischen und der Kalte Strom des Grossen Oceans (reproduction), 1852	Map Case 105-01
Karte vom Grossen Ocean (Mare Pacifico) (reproduction), 1837	Map Case 105-01
Karte vom Atlantischen Ocean (reproduction), 1837	Map Case 105-01
Physikalische Karte vom Indischen Meere (reproduction), 1840	Map Case 105-01
Kieler Forde, 1988-1990	Map Case 105-01
Argentine Basin/Scotia Sea/Mid-Atlantic Ridge, undated	Map Case 105-01