

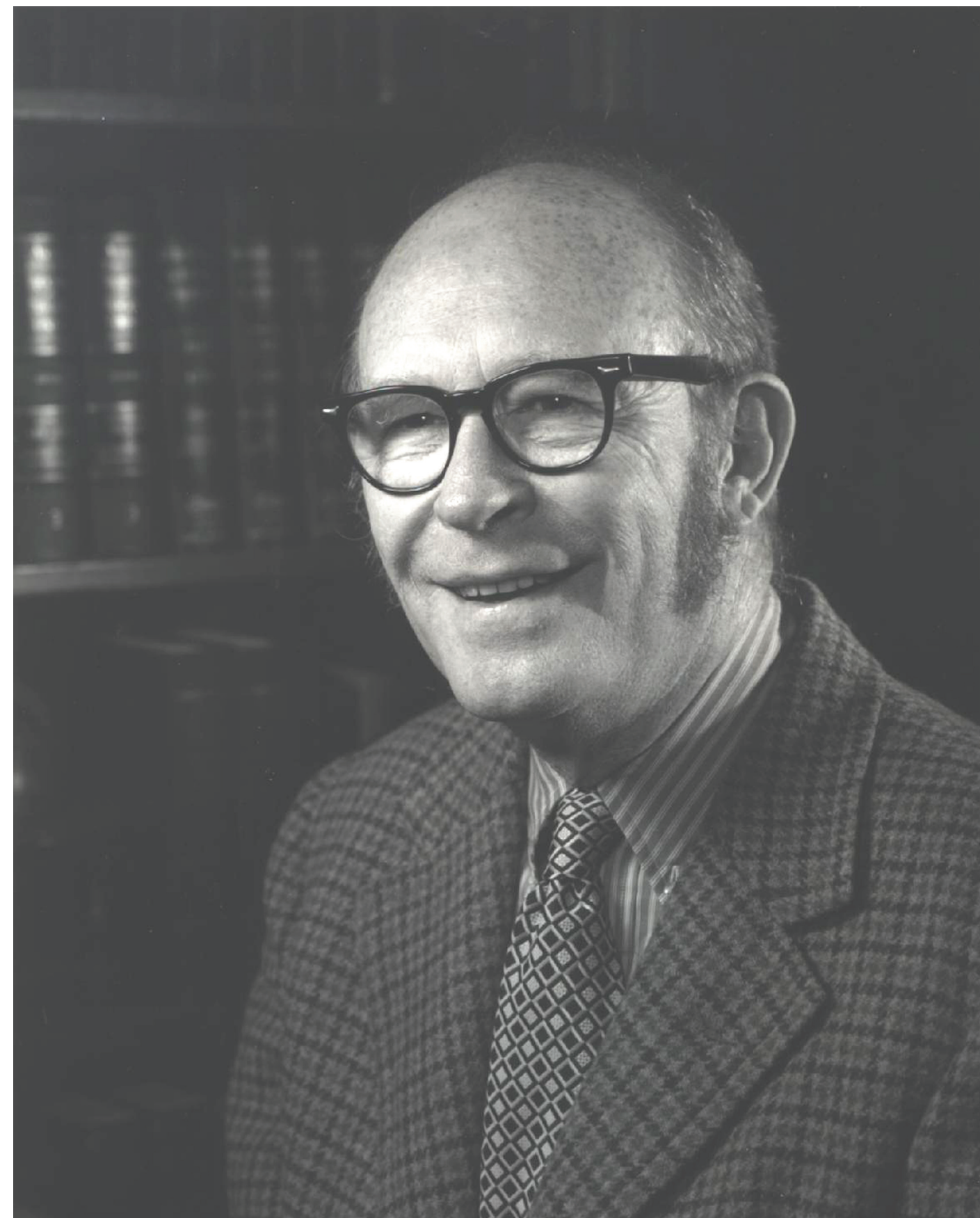
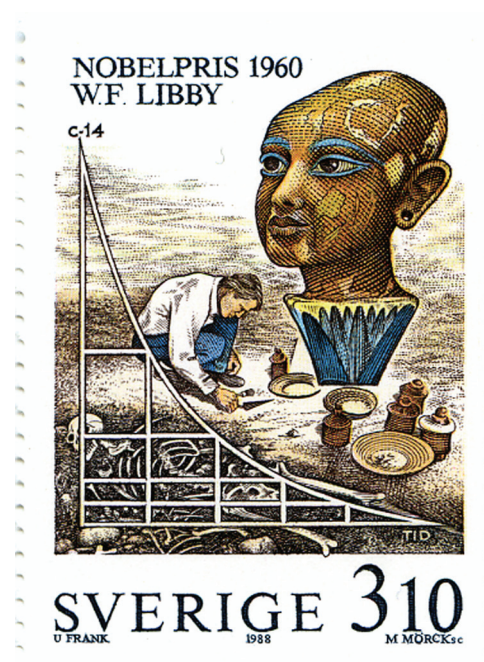
Willard Libby

Chemist, Nobel Laureate (1908 – 1980)

Willard Libby was a physical chemist and a specialist in radiochemistry, particularly hot atom chemistry, tracer techniques, and isotope tracer work. He became well known at the University of Chicago for his work on natural carbon-14 (radio-carbon). Besides the Nobel Prize for Chemistry for 1960, he held many other distinctions, including the Research Corporation Award in 1951 for the radiocarbon dating technique.

Libby was born in Colorado and attended grammar and high schools near Sebastopol, California. He studied at UC-Berkeley receiving his B.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees in 1931 and 1933 respectively. He stayed there for the next decade teaching chemistry. In 1941 he was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship and elected to work at Princeton University, but with the start of the war, Libby went to Columbia University to work on the Manhattan Project.

At the end of the war Libby accepted the post of Professor of Chemistry at the University of Chicago, remaining there until his appointment by President DWIGHT EISENHOWER to the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission. He resigned in 1959 to become Professor of Chemistry at UCLA, and was appointed Director of the Institute of Geophysics and Planetary Physics in 1962.



Courtesy of UCLA Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry