



Smithsonian *Gardens*

Starr Ockenga Garden Photography Collection

Archives of American Gardens
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Gardens
Title:	Starr Ockenga Garden Photography Collection
Date:	1995-2001
Identifier:	AAG.OCK
Creator:	Ockenga, Starr (Photographer)
Extent:	5.5 Cubic feet (photographic images; files)
Language:	English .
Summary:	The Starr Ockenga Collection includes materials generated or compiled by Ockenga for the writing of her books, 'Earth on Her Hands: The American Woman in Her Garden' (1998, Clarkson Potter) and 'Eden on Their Minds: American Gardeners with Bold Visions' (2001, Clarkson Potter).' Both books feature several individual chapters, each describing a garden owner and their garden.

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition Note

Collection of photographic images and garden files generated by Starr Ockenga during the course of writing and providing photography for her books, *Earth on Her Hands: The American Woman in Her Garden* and *Eden on Their Minds: American Gardeners with Bold Visions*, donated by Ockenga to the Archives of American Gardens in 2014.

Preferred Citation

Smithsonian Institution, Archives of American Gardens, Starr Ockenga Collection.

Conditions Governing Access Note

Access to original archival materials by appointment only. Researcher must submit request for appointment in writing. Certain items may be restricted and not available to researchers. Please direct reference inquiries to the Archives of American Gardens: aag@si.edu.

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Biographical Note

Starr Ockenga is a writer, photographer, and lecturer. Her photographs have been exhibited in museums and galleries and are included in both public and private collections. Her images and writings have appeared in numerous publications including *Life*, *Esquire*, *Camera*, and *Horticulture*. She is the author of several books including 'Earth on Her Hands: The American Woman in Her Garden,' 'Eden on Their Minds: American Gardeners with Bold Visions,' and 'Amaryllis.' *Earth on Her Hands* received the American Horticultural Society's Annual Book Award in 1999. Ockenga received her Master's degree in photography from the Rhode Island School of Design and has been awarded fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Massachusetts Artists Foundation. She is a former associate professor of photography at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Her studio is located in New York City.

Scope and Contents Note

The Starr Ockenga Collection includes photographic images, notes, correspondence, questionnaires, garden plans, planting lists, releases and drafts generated or compiled by Ockenga for the writing and illustrating of her books, 'Earth on Her Hands: The American Woman in Her Garden' (1998, Clarkson Potter) and 'Eden on Their Minds: American Gardeners with Bold Visions' (2001, Clarkson Potter). Both books consist of several individual chapters, each describing a garden owner and their garden and featuring a portrait of the garden owner in their garden. The 40 gardens included in the collection are located across the United States. In addition to the hundreds of images published in 'Eden' and 'Earth,' the Ockenga Collection includes thousands of additional images that, together with the research notes and garden descriptions in the books, provide a rich source of documentation. A number of the images show panoramic garden views.

Arrangement Note

The collection was organized into two major components by Starr Ockenga, representing materials generated for two books she authored and photographed, *Earth on Her Hands: The American Woman in Her Garden* and *Eden on Their Minds: American Gardeners with Bold Visions*. Within each of the two divisions, the garden files and book chapters, garden images, and garden owner portraits are arranged according to specific garden.

Container Listing

Gardens Featured in *Earth on Her Hands: The American Woman in Her Garden*

Alabama

AL028_OCK: Birmingham -- Agee-Wrinkle Garden

California

CA260_OCK: Pasadena -- Erskine Garden, The Paul and Georgianna

Connecticut

CT730_OCK: Redding -- Spingarn Garden

Georgia

GA231_OCK: Atlanta -- Allen Garden

GA074_OCK: Atlanta -- Carr Garden

Illinois

IL177_OCK: Barrington -- Paulson Garden

IL102_OCK: Winnetka -- Dorothy's Garden

Maine

ME086_OCK: York -- Braveboat Harbor Farm

Massachusetts

MA604_OCK: West Tisbury -- The Polly Hill Arboretum

Michigan

MI113_OCK: Onsted -- Blake Garden

Missouri

MO114_OCK: Kansas City -- Overesch Garden

New Jersey

NJ178_OCK: Middletown (Locust) -- Scott Garden

New York

NY464_OCK: Bedford -- Lockwood Garden

Oregon

OR056_OCK: Lake Oswego -- Grothaus Garden

Pennsylvania

PA469_OCK: Malvern -- Longview Farm

Washington

WA034_OCK: Orting -- Chase Garden

WA027_OCK: Poulsbo -- Elverhoj (Hill of the Elves)

Wisconsin

WI012_OCK: Milwaukee -- Purtell Garden

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Gardens Featured in *Eden on Their Minds: American Gardeners with Bold Visions*

Alabama

AL024_OCK: Birmingham -- Smith Garden

California

CA154_OCK: Berkeley -- Marcia Donahue's Garden

CA604_OCK: San Francisco -- Garcia-Valva Garden

Connecticut

CT717_OCK: Westport -- Held Garden

Illinois

IL004_OCK: Lake Bluff -- Crab Tree Farm

IL176_OCK: Moline -- Harper Garden

Iowa

IA032_OCK: Clinton -- Bickelhaupt Arboretum

Notes: Images were found in file for AAG Garden #IL176 Harper Garden. A note in that file indicated that the owner of the Harper Garden was involved with the creation of Bickelhaupt Arboretum.

IA006_OCK: Macksburg -- Strohbeen & Luchsinger Garden

Louisiana

LA032_OCK: St. Francisville (Bains) -- Afton Villa Gardens

Maine

ME073_OCK: Islesboro -- Homans Garden

New York

NY1030_OCK: Accord -- Draney Garden

NY1029_OCK: East Hampton (Springs) -- Kerr Garden

NY1031_OCK: Germantown -- Anagnost Garden

NY1028_OCK: New York -- Bramble Garden

Oregon

OR033_OCK: Sherwood -- Bella Madrona

OR055_OCK: Williams -- Reames Garden

Pennsylvania

PA627_OCK: Collegeville -- Dans La Foret

PA738_OCK: Devon -- Roughwood

PA737_OCK: Malvern -- Howell Garden

Washington

WA036_OCK: Bainbridge Island -- Froggy Bottom

Wisconsin

WI046_OCK: Milwaukee -- Radler Garden

WI047_OCK: Waunakee -- Sachtjen Garden

Unidentified Location

OCK001: Diggs Garden

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