F. G. (Frank Getz) Ashbrook Papers, *circa* 1915-1965

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Collection Overview

Repository: Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu
Creator: Ashbrook, F. G, (Frank Getz), 1892-
Title: F. G. (Frank Getz) Ashbrook Papers
Dates: circa 1915-1965
Quantity: 2.6 linear meters.

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation
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Historical Note

The Bureau of Biological Survey, United States Department of Agriculture, developed an interest in the production of fur-bearing animals when fur prices began rising in the late 1890s and early 1900s and the depletion of wild fur-bearing animals increased. In 1911 the Bureau proposed that the National Zoological Park in Washington, D.C., conduct experiments in the breeding of minks. Experiment stations and research projects were later established in Saratoga Springs, New York (1923), Fontana, California (1927), and Petersberg, Alaska (1937). Cooperative research projects with Swarthmore College and Cornell University were started in 1938, and fur fiber investigations were initiated at Beltsville, Maryland, that same year. In 1924 the Bureau established the Division of Fur Resources to coordinate and conduct research investigations and gather statistics on fur farming.

Under the Reorganization Act of 1939 the Division along with the Bureau became part of the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of Interior. In 1946-1947 the Division's functions related to the breeding, producing, and marketing of domestically raised fur-bearing animals were transferred to the Animal Husbandry Research Division of the Department of Agriculture.

Most of these records belong to the files of Frank G. Ashbrook. Ashbrook was appointed Junior Animal Husbandman, USDA, in 1914. He was placed in charge of the fur animal experiment station in Saratoga Springs in 1923 and in 1924 became in charge of the newly organized Division of Fur Resources.

Ashbrook was appointed by Secretary of State Henry L. Stimson in 1930 as commissioner general to represent the United States at the International Fur Trade Exposition and Congress held in Leipzig, Germany. In 1942 he advised the War Department on the use of furs during wartime. Ashbrook transferred to the Department of Interior under the Reorganization Act of 1939 and in 1949 became civilian-in-charge of Wildfur Animal Investigations, Branch of Wildlife Research, Fish and Wildlife Service. In 1953 he was elected fur man of the year. Ashbrook retired from government service in 1957.
A small amount of material filed into the records belongs to Stanley P. Young and Richard H. Manville, former directors of the Bird and Mammal Laboratory located in the National Museum of Natural History.

Introduction

This finding aid was digitized with funds generously provided by the Smithsonian Institution Women's Committee.

Descriptive Entry

These records include correspondence, statistics, journal articles, and newspaper clippings concerning the fur industry, fur farming, and fur resources; research investigations on domestically raised fur animals; laws and tariffs concerning textiles and fur trading; correspondence concerning the China dog-skin case, 1934-1942; correspondence regarding the history of the fur trade and the Division of Fur Resources; Reorganization Act of 1939; the transfer of the Division's functions concerning domestic fur animals to the Animal Husbandry Research Division, 1946-1947; and reports by Frank G. Ashbrook and other staff members on trips to fur animal experiment stations, wildlife refuges, private fur farms, and fur association meetings.


Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:
Mammalogy

Names:
Animal Husbandry Research Division (USDA)
Ashbrook, F. G. (Frank Getz), 1892-
Division of Fur Resources. Bureau of Biological Survey.
Division of Fur Resources. Fish and Wildlife Service.
Fur Animal Experiment Station (Saratoga Springs, N.Y.) (USDA)
Fur Trade Exposition and Congress, International (1930 : Leipzig)
International Fur Trade Exposition and Congress (1930 : Leipzig)
Saratoga Springs (N.Y.). Fur Animal Experiment Station (USDA)
Container Listing


Box 1

Folder 1 New York Industry Advisory Committee, 1953

Folder 2 Master Furriers Guild of America, Inc., 1953-1954

Folder 3 National Institute of the Fur Industry


Folder 6 National Association of the Fur Industry; Western Conference, May 1929.

Folder 7 National Association of the Fur Industry. Correspondence and articles, 1924-1925. Includes memorandum of agreement between the Association and the Bureau of Biological Survey.

Folder 8 Talks given at the Fur Consultant's Training Course, September 1940. Sponsored by the Associated Fur Coat and Trimming Manufacturers, Inc. Includes talk by Frank G. Ashbrook.

Box 2

Folder 1 Fur farming statistical data. Statement by Joseph H. Francis, Executive Secretary, National Board of Fur Farm Organizations, 1949, before the Senate Finance Committee.


Folder 3 Fur Dresses and Fur Dyers Association, New York City, 1924, 1944.


Folder 6 Reports from the American Fur Merchants' Association, Inc., 1953.

Folders 7-8 American Fur Merchants' Association, Inc., Executive Director's Annual Reports, 1940-1951.

Folder 9 American Fur Merchants' Association, Inc., market reports, merchandise reports, special reports, and President's addresses, 1934-1942.

Box 3

Folder 1 Retail Manufacturing Furriers of America. Correspondence, 1948.

Folder 2 National Board of Fur Farm Organizations, 1963.


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Box 3

Folder 4 Charles E. Kellogg, "The History of Federal Research and Some Achievements," 1949. History of federal programs and administrative changes within the government. Also see box 1, folder 4, for Frank G. Ashbrook's study.

Folder 5 Tariff and Quotas - Fur animals and furs. Correspondence, memoranda and reports, 1921-1922, 1929-1939, 1946.


Folder 8 Russian fur trade, 1946-1950.

Folder 9 Congress - American embargo; Seven Russian Furs, 1951-1955.


Folder 11 Origin of furs.

Folder 12 Tax on furs, c1944-1946.

Folder 13 Tax on furs; Internal Revenue Department, 1942-1963.


Folder 15 Miscellaneous articles on furs, 1942-1948.

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Series 4: FURS, MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION.

Box 3

Folder 16 Newspaper clippings and articles.
Folder 17 Coat color, variation, and pigmentation.

Box 4

Folder 1 Fur Fibers.
Folder 2 What do you know about furs. Newspaper clippings from Women's Wear Daily, and journal articles.
Folder 3 Uses made of fur.
Folder 4 Opposition to wearing furs.
Folder 5 Educational Fur Exhibit (Paris, France), Schwartz and Bluestein, 1950.
Folder 6 International Textile Exposition (Lille, France) 1951.
Folder 7 Wearing quality of furs.
Folder 8 Cleaning furs.
Folder 9 Care of furs.
Folder 10 Removing odors from furs.
Folder 11 Infection From Furs.
Folder 12 Felting, 1937-1941.
Folder 13 Trade name of furs.
Folder 14 Fur trade names; Federal Trade Commission.

Box 5

Folder 1 Molting or shedding.
Folder 3 Traps, 1931-1946, 1960.

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Box 5


Folder 5 Washington, D.C. 1933-1940. Comparative effects of cold storage and fumigation on the quality of dressed furs representing different species. (Mink, rabbits, Hudson seals).

Folder 6 Articles by David C. Mills in the Journal of Home Economics, 1926-1927, on the preparation of furs, fur dressing, fur dyeing, and care of furs.

Folder 7 Cold storage of furs, 1930-1955.

Folder 8 Taxidermy specimen letters.

Folder 9 Cedar closets, mothadors.

Folder 10 Fumigation of furs.

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Box 5


Folder 12 Canada: Hudson Bay Company statistics.

Box 6

Folder 1 Canada: Fur goods and fur dressing industries, 1923-1944.

Folder 2 Canada: Proposed schedule of royalty on raw furs.

Folder 3 Canada: Fur farming, 1940-1956.


Box 7


Folder 2 Alaska: Miscellaneous journals pertaining to Alaska; Alaska Game Commission reports (1950-1956).


Folder 5 Alaska: Game and Fur Take (other than seals), 1934, 1944-1959.

Folder 6 Alaska: Furs Shipped From the Territory - Species and Value, 1919-1954.

Folder 7 Alaska: Miscellaneous Reports, Wildlife.

Series 7: FUR ANIMALS, SPECIES, ARRANGED ALPHABETICALLY.

Box 7

Folder 9 Scientific Names of Fur Bearers.

Folder 10 Badger

Folder 11 Beaver. Article and newspaper clippings.

Folder 12 Beaver Breeding.

Box 8

Folders 1-3 Beaver Management.


Folders 5-9 Blue Foxes. Pribilof Islands, Work Plans and Memoranda.

Folder 10 Blue Fox Takes, Pribilof Islands, 1890-1951.

Box 9

Folder 1 Chinchilla.

Folder 2 Coyote.

Folders 3-4 Ferret.

Folder 5 Fox.

Folder 6 Fox. Report of the Kodiak Fox Farm, Kodiak, Alaska, December 1915

Folder 7 Marten.

Folder 8 Marmots.

Folder 9 Ranch-Raised Mink.

Folder 10 Wild Mink.

Folder 11 Moles.

Folder 12 Musk Ox.


Folder 16 Muskrats. Scent Glands.

Folder 17 Muskrats. Meat

Folder 18 Muskrats. Analysis of Muskrat Meat Meal.

Folder 19 Muskrats. Preparation of Muskrat Pelts.
Folder 20 Muskrats. Diseases and Parasites.

Box 10


Folder 2 Muskrats. Feeding.

Folder 3 Muskrats. Breeding.

Folder 4 Muskrats. Skinning Muskrats.


Folder 6 Muskrats. Florida Muskrats.

Folder 7 Muskrats. March Management.

Folders 8-10 Muskrats. Management, Bulletins and Newspaper Clippings.

Folders 11-12 Nutria. Management.

Folder 13 Nutria. Breeding.

Folder 14 Nutria. Feeding.

Folder 15 Opossums.

Box 11

Folder 1 Otters. Management.

Folder 2 Wild Rabbits. Cottontails.


Folder 4 Wild Rabbits. Snowshoe Hares.

Folders 5-6 Raccoons. Management.

Folder 7 Raccoons. Breeding.

Folder 8 Raccoons. Alaskan.

Folder 9 Raccoons. Blood.

Folder 10 Raccoons. Feeding.

Folder 11 Raccoons. Genetics.

Folder 12 Sables. Breeding.

Folder 13 Sables. Management.

Folder 16 Skunks. Breeding.
Folder 17 Skunks. Feeding.
Folder 18 Skunks. Management.

Box 12
Folder 1 Squirrels. Breeding.
Folder 2 Squirrels. Management.
Folder 3 White Mice and Rats.
Folder 4 Weasels. Management.
Folder 5 Wolverine. Management.
Folder 6 Wolves.

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Folders 7-8 Correspondence, Contracts, and Memoranda concerning the cooperation between the Bureau of Biological Survey, USDA, and other governmental agencies and private industries, 1924-1940.

Folder 9 Correspondence, contracts, and memoranda concerning the Beltsville Research Center (Maryland), 1936-1946.

Folder 10 Agreement between the Bureau of Biological Survey and the Bureau of Animal Industry to cooperate on sheep breeding investigations at the Beltsville Research Center (Maryland), 1935-1940.


Box 13


Folder 10 Johns Hopkins University, 1930-1939. Contracts, Correspondence, and Memoranda.

Folders 11-12 Maryland. Mostly correspondence and memoranda with the Carnegie Institution of Washington, Department of Embryology, Baltimore, Maryland, 1932-1937.


Folder 14 Swarthmore College, 1946-1948.


Box 14


Series 9: BEAVER INVESTIGATIONS. ARRANGED ALPHABETICALLY BY STATE.

Box 14
Folder 8 California
Folder 9 Colorado
Folder 10 Idaho
Folder 11 Iowa
Folder 12 Massachusetts
Folder 13 Michigan
Folder 14 Minnesota
Folder 15 Mississippi
Folder 16 Mississippi River Wildlife Refuge, 1927-1934.
Folder 17 Nevada
Folder 18 New Hampshire
Folder 19 New York
Folder 20 North Dakota
Folder 21 Ohio
Folder 22 Oregon, 1936-1949.

Box 15
Folder 1 Pennsylvania
Folder 2 Utah
Folder 3 Virginia
Folder 4 West Virginia
Folder 5 Wisconsin
Folder 6 Wyoming
Folder 7 Canada

Box 15


Folder 9 W. B. Bell, 1920. Trip to Silver and Black Fox Farms.


Folder 12 Karl B. Hanson, 1920. Fox Farms Visited in Muskegon.


Box 16


Folder 2 Frank G. Ashbrook. FY 1921. Information Obtained in New York City Regarding the Silver-Fox Business and Allied Fur Interests.

Folder 3 Frank G. Ashbrook. FY 1922. A Comparison of the Fox Industry in Canada with that of the United States.


Folder 5 Frank G. Ashbrook. FY 1922. Report of the Annual Meeting of the American Fox Breeders Association, Boston, Massachusetts; Report of Trip made October 16 to December 14, 1921, to Fox Ranches in the United States and Canada.

Folder 7 Frank G. Ashbrook. FY 1923. Fox Farmers Meetings in Alaska to Organize Fox Breeders Associations; Report on the Methods of Feeding, Breeding, and Management of Blue Foxes on the Islands of Alaska; American Fox Breeders Association Meeting, Boston; International Live Stock Show, Chicago, and, Third Annual Live Silver Fox Show, Muskegon.

Folders 8-11 Frank G. Ashbrook. FY 1923. Detailed report on Alaskan Trip, June 16 to October 15, 1922. Includes photographs of Alaskan Islands and their terrain, inhabitants, towns, buildings, fur ranches, and two photographs of Ashbrook.


Folder 13 Frank G. Ashbrook. FY 1924. Experimental Fur Farm, Saratoga Springs, New York; Muskrat Conditions, Dorchester County, Maryland.

Folder 14 Frank G. Ashbrook. FY 1925. Fur Week Rally, New York City; First Annual Live Fox Exhibit under the Auspices of the American National Fox Breeders Association; New York State Fox Breeders Association, Watertown, New York; Field Trip, Ottawa, Saratoga Springs, New York City, and Marlboro, Massachusetts; Ottawa Conference of Canadian and United States Fox Men.

Folder 15 Frank G. Ashbrook. FY 1926. Conference with David C. Mills, General Director, National Association of the Fur Industry, New York City; Field trips and meetings with various persons; First Biennial Convention, National Association of Fur Industry, New York City; Live Fox Show and Convention, American National Fox Breeders Association, Buffalo, New York; Examination of Silver Fox Skins, Quebec, Canada and New York City; Museum of Natural History (N.Y.C.) and Society of Mammalogists Meeting; Muskrat Marshes, Maryland, and Trap manufacturing Plant, Chester, Pennsylvania; Experimental Fur Farm and Fox Ranches.

Box 17

Folder 1 Frank G. Ashbrook. FY 1927. Includes - International Fish, Game and Conservation Commissioners Convention, Mobile, Alabama; Experimental Fur Farm and American Fox Breeders Association Meeting, Wells River, Vermont.
Folder 2 Frank G. Ashbrook. FY 1928. Includes - International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners; Muskrat Raising; American Game Protective Association; and Various Trips.

Folder 3 Frank G. Ashbrook. FY 1929.

Folder 4 Frank G. Ashbrook. FY 1930. Includes - International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners.

Folder 5 Frank G. Ashbrook. FY 1931. Annual Conference of the Massachusetts Game and Fish Association, Boston.


Folder 7 Frank G. Ashbrook. FY 1933. Includes material on the Rabbit Experiment Station, Fontana, California; Puget Sound Fox and Fur Farmers' Association; Fur Animal Experiment Station, Saratoga Springs, New York.

Folder 8 Frank G. Ashbrook. FY 1935. Includes material on the excise tax on fur; Fur Station on Beachwater Migratory Bird Refuge, Cambridge, Maryland; Division of the Russian fur industry with Arthur K. Stashevsky, head of the Soviet Fur Syndicate, Moscow.

Folder 9 Frank G. Ashbrook. FY 1936. Hearing and brief in protest to a proposed PWA project to construct a canal through the Blackwater Migratory Bird Refuge; The effect of the proposed Sea Level Canal from Cambridge, Maryland to Fishing Bay via Little Blackwater River on the Federal Blackwater Migratory Bird Refuge.

Folder 10 Frank G. Ashbrook. FY 1937. Includes material on Regional Directors and Game Management Agents; Blackwater Migratory Bird Refuge; Conference at the Bureau of Standards; Tax Exemption for Fur Farmers (Conference with the Commissioner of Internal Revenue); North American Wildlife Conference.

Folder 11 Frank G. Ashbrook. FY 1938. Includes material on the Dog Skin Case; Blackwater Refuge, Maryland; Fur Animal Experiment Station, Saratoga Springs, New York; Trade Practice Conference for the Fur Industry; North American Wildlife Conference.

Folder 12 Frank G. Ashbrook. FY 1939. Includes material on various trips; Prince Edward Island, Canada; Improvement of Cambridge Harbor, Maryland, and a waterway between Cambridge Creek and Fishing Bay via Little Black River, Maryland.


Box 18

Folder 1 Frank G. Ashbrook. FY 1941. Includes material on the Blackwater Refuge; Oregon and Breeding Habits of Muskrat.


Folder 4 Frank G. Ashbrook. FY 1944. Includes material on the "Fur Farmers' Wartime Problem Conference."

Folders 5-18 Frank G. Ashbrook. China Dog-Skin Case, 1934-1942. Includes correspondence, reports, memoranda, and newspaper clippings.

Folder 19 Frank G. Ashbrook. 1947. "Procedures in Trapping, Handling and Selling Furs Taken on State Refuges in Louisiana."

Box 19

Folder 1 Frank G. Ashbrook. FY 1947. Includes material on Wildlife Refuges in Louisiana and Arkansas.


Folder 4 Frank G. Ashbrook. July-December 1949. Correspondence and reports concerning fur specifications for the Quartermaster General, United States Army (Fur-Ruff Strip).


Series 11: REORGANIZATION PLANS, PUBLICATIONS, HEARINGS, AND COURT CASES.

Box 19

Folder 10 Correspondence, memoranda, and testimony concerning the history of the Division of Fur Resources; classification of fur-bearing animals as domestic livestock; transferring the Division along with the Bureau of Biological Survey to the Department of Interior (under the Reorganization Act of 1939) and recommendations that its functions become part of the Division of Animal Husbandry, Department of Agriculture, 1933, 1937-1939. Correspondents include Gerald J. Boileau, Ira N. Gabrielson, Harold L. Ickes, Marvin Jones, Harold N. Marsh, David C. Mills, Harold D. Smith, Edwin M. Watson, M. L. Wilson.

Folder 11 Correspondence pertaining to the transfer of all functions related to the breeding, raising, producing, and marketing of domestically raised fur-bearing animals from the United States Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, to the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry Research Division, 1946-1947.


Folder 13 Agriculture Yearbook. 1950-1951. Article by Frank G. Ashbrook, "Transcendental Gastronomic Art," and correspondence concerning the article.

Box 20


Folder 9 Correspondence concerning the Federal Trade Commission complaint regarding The Tailored Woman, 1944-1946.