



Smithsonian Institution Archives

Rolla Kent Beattie Papers, circa 1928-1947

Finding aid prepared by Smithsonian Institution Archives

Smithsonian Institution Archives
Washington, D.C.
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Collection Overview

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| Repository: | Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu |
| Title: | Rolla Kent Beattie Papers |
| Identifier: | Record Unit 7271 |
| Date: | circa 1928-1947 |
| Extent: | 0.25 cu. ft. (1 half document box) |
| Creator:: | Beattie, R. Kent (Rolla Kent), 1875- |
| Language: | Language of Materials: English |

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 7271, Rolla Kent Beattie Papers

Historical Note

Rolla Kent Beattie (1875-1960), botanist and plant pathologist, was born in Ashland, Ohio. Beattie received his A.B. degree from Cotner University in 1895, and his B.S. and M.A. degrees from the University of Nebraska in 1896 and 1898, respectively. While at Nebraska, Beattie came under the influence of Charles Edwin Bessey, and remained a disciple of the Besseyan school of botany throughout his career.

Beattie taught high school in Colorado and Wyoming before becoming an instructor of botany at Washington State College in 1899. At Washington State he collaborated with Charles Vancouver Piper on researching the flora of Washington, Idaho, and the Northwest coast. In 1903 Beattie succeeded Piper as department head and botanist at the College's Agricultural Experiment Station.

Beattie began his studies on plant diseases while at Washington State. His studies eventually led to his working intermittently for the Federal Horticultural Board and the Bureau of Plant Industry, United States Department of Agriculture. While working for these federal agencies, Beattie helped establish inspection procedures for plants and undertook the task of solving the chestnut blight and Dutch elm disease.

Beattie retired in 1945 and began a study of David Douglas, pioneer plant explorer in the Pacific Northwest. Ill health prevented Beattie from completing his task.

Introduction

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

Descriptive Entry

These papers consist of correspondence from Mary Agnes Chase, William Ralph Maxon, and Egbert Hamilton Walker, Division of Plants, United States National Museum, concerning the receipt, examination, and determination of Beattie's Japanese ferns and grasses; correspondence concerning Merritt Lyndon Fernald's critical remarks about government scientists; field notes taken in Washington and Idaho, 1946; notes concerning botanical publications, bibliographies, and explorations in China, with a list of books shelved in the Hong Kong Herbarium Library, undated; and newspaper clippings regarding scientific research and explorations in China and the Far East, 1928-1932.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Botany

Types of Materials:

Clippings
Manuscripts

Names:

Beattie, R. Kent (Rolla Kent), 1875-
Bessey, Charles E. (Charles Edwin), 1845-1915
Chase, Agnes, 1869-1963
Cotner University
Douglas, David, 1799-1834
Fernald, Merritt Lyndon, 1873-1950
Hong Kong Herbarium
Maxon, William R. (William Ralph), 1877-1948
Piper, Charles V. (Charles Vancouver), 1867-1926
State College of Washington
United States National Museum. Division of Plants
United States. Bureau of Plant Industry
United States. Department of Agriculture
United States. Federal Horticultural Board
University of Nebraska
Walker, Egbert H. (Egbert Hamilton), 1899-1991

Container Listing

Box 1

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|------------|---|
| Box 1 of 1 | Folder 1 Beattie, R. Kent, Correspondence |
| Box 1 of 1 | Folder 2 Beattie, R. Kent, Field Notes |
| Box 1 of 1 | Folder 3 Beattie, R. Kent, Explorers, Clippings, and Data |
| Box 1 of 1 | Folder 4 Beattie, R. Kent, Notes on Explorers and Bibliography in China |