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Collection Overview

Repository: Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu
Title: Archie F. Wilson Papers
Identifier: Record Unit 7285
Date: 1949-1961
Extent: 5 cu. ft. (10 document boxes)
Creator: Wilson, Archie F., 1903-1960
Language: Language of Materials: English

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 7285, Archie F. Wilson Papers

Historical Note

Archie F. Wilson (1903-1960) was a wood enthusiast who assembled the foremost private wood collection in the United States. Although for most of his life he held managerial positions in the manufacturing industry, he devoted most of his free time to his avocation. During the 1950s he was a Research Associate in woods at the Chicago Natural History Museum (now the Field Museum of Natural History) and at various times between 1949 and 1960 he served as Editor, Secretary, Vice-President, and President of the International Wood Collectors Society (IWCS).

Descriptive Entry

These papers consist primarily of correspondence, 1949-1961, which documents Wilson's activities in the IWCS, the growth of his collection, and his range of contacts with botanists, foresters, and other wood collectors around the world. Topics include collecting trips, specimens, and identifications, as well as IWCS business. Of special interest is Wilson's correspondence with William L. Stern, who became Curator of the Division of Woods at the Smithsonian in 1960. The long association of the two men resulted in Wilson's gift to the Institution, at his death in 1960, of his extensive wood collection. Also included are the constitution and by-laws of the IWCS, much taxonomic data, and specimen lists.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:
Subjects:
   Botanists
   Botany
   Wood

Types of Materials:
   Black-and-white photographs
   Manuscripts

Names:
   Chicago Natural History Museum
   Field Museum of Natural History
   International Wood Collectors Society
   Stern, William Louis, 1926-
   Wilson, Archie F., 1903-1960
Container Listing

Series 1: CORRESPONDENCE, 1949-1961. ARRANGED ALPHABETICALLY.
This series consists of correspondence between Archie F. Wilson and officers of the IWCS, contacts in botany and forestry departments, and other fellow wood collectors.

Box 1


Box 1 of 10  Folder 2 Paul H. Allen, 1958.

Box 1 of 10  Folder 3 Todd E. Binford, 1949-1951, 1953-1954. Includes photographs.


Box 1 of 10  Folder 6 Dennis Brett, 1953-1954, 1959.


Box 1 of 10  Folder 9 Erwin W. Carls, 1949-1951, 1956.


Box 1 of 10  Folder 12 Claude C. Clevenger, 1949-1952. President of the IWCS.

Box 1 of 10  Folder 13 Collecting Permits, 1950-1955.

Box 1 of 10  Folder 14 Albert Constantine, Jr., 1957-1958.


Box 2

Box 2 of 10  Folder 2 Edward F. Dival, 1949, 1951-1952.


Box 2 of 10  Folder 5 C. Wesley Ferguson, 1959.

Box 2 of 10  Folder 6 D.J. Ferreira, 1949-1954.


Box 2 of 10  Folder 8 Formosa, 1953-1957.


Box 2 of 10  Folder 11 Ricardo de Lemos Froes, 1951.

Box 3


Box 3 of 10  Folder 3 Arthur N. Green, 1959-1960.

Box 3 of 10  Folder 4 O. Groedel, 1951-1954.

Box 3 of 10  Folder 5 O. Groedel, 1955-1959.

Box 3 of 10  Folder 6 Robert W. Hess, 1949-1951.

Box 3 of 10  Folder 7 Norman C. Higgins, 1950-1954.

Box 3 of 10  Folder 8 Bernard G. Hildebrand, 1949-1951.

Box 3 of 10  Folder 9 Frank Holland, 1949-1960.


Box 4
| Box 4 of 10 | Folder 1 Theodor Just, 1949-1960. |
| Box 4 of 10 | Folder 3 B. Francis Kukachka, 1949-1952. |
| Box 4 of 10 | Folder 8 R.G. Lawrie, 1957. |
| Box 5 of 10 | Folder 2 Madagascar, 1958. Includes list of Madagascar woods. |
| Box 5 of 10 | Folder 4 Wolfgang Mautz, 1952-1957. |
| Box 5 of 10 | Folder 7 George L. Miller, 1949-1953, 1957. |
| Box 5 of 10 | Folder 8 Peter J. Moore, 1950-1958. |
| Box 5 of 10 | Folder 11 Nigeria, 1949-1951. |
| Box 5 of 10 | Folder 12 Harold Nogle, 1953-1957. |
| Box 5 of 10 | Folder 13 Harold Nogle, 1958. |


Box 6 of 10  Folder 5 Wilbur F. Opdyke, 1949-1953.


Box 7


Box 7 of 10  Folder 3 Frank J. Richards, 1955-1960.


Box 7 of 10  Folder 5 Sarawak, 1957.

Box 7 of 10  Folder 6 Jose Schiffino, 1949-1950.

Box 7 of 10  Folder 7 Felix O. Schmidt, 1949-1951.


Box 7 of 10  Folder 9 Paul J. Shank, 1950-1952.

Box 7 of 10  Folder 10 Sierra Leone, 1949.


Box 7 of 10  Folder 15 Florencio Tamesis, 1949-1951, 1956-1957.

Box 8

Box 8 of 10          Folder 1 John W. Thieret, 1955-1959.
Box 8 of 10          Folder 2 William D. Thompson, 1951-1952.
Box 8 of 10          Folder 4 William S. Tuttle, 1951-1953, 1955.
Box 8 of 10          Folder 5 Uganda, 1949-1950.
Box 8 of 10          Folder 6 Edith M. Vincent, 1955-1960.
Box 8 of 10          Folder 8 William J. Wetzel, 1949-1954.
Box 8 of 10          Folder 9 Howard Whipple, 1953-1954, 1957.
Series 2: MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE, 1949-1961. ARRANGED
ALPHABETICALLY.

This series consists of correspondence similar to that in Series 1 but with Wilson's more casual contacts. Also included is correspondence with botanists and forestry departments.

Box 8

Box 8 of 10
Folders 11-17 A - K

Box 9

Box 9 of 10
Folders 1-6 L - W

Box 9 of 10

Box 9 of 10
Folder 8 Forestry departments, 1951-1957.

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Series 3: CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE IWCS.

Box 10

Folder 1 Constitution and By-Laws of the IWCS, undated.

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Series 4: TAXONOMIC DATA AND SPECIMEN LISTS.

Box 10

Box 10 of 10  Folders 2-5 Notes on taxonomy.

Box 10 of 10  Folders 6-10 Lists. Includes lists kept by Wilson of specimens desired, specimens for sale or exchange, specimens from collecting trips, and lists of woods of various countries.

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Series 5: CARD FILE OF INFORMATION ON COLLECTIONS.

Box 10

Box 10 of 10 Card file of information on collectors.

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