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Richard S. Cowan Papers, circa 1952-1985 and undated

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., <i>osiaref@si.edu</i>
Creator:	Cowan, Richard S., 1921-1997
Title:	Richard S. Cowan Papers
Dates:	circa 1952-1985 and undated
Quantity:	6 cu. ft. (6 record storage boxes)

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 7356, Richard S. Cowan Papers

Historical Note

Richard Sumner Cowan (1921-1997), a systematic botanist specializing in neotropical flora, received his Ph.D. from Columbia University in 1952. From 1952 to 1957, he served as Assistant Curator at the New York Botanical Garden. Cowan joined the United States National Museum (USNM) in 1957 when he was appointed Associate Curator in the Department of Botany. In 1962, he was appointed Assistant Director of the National Museum of Natural History (NMNH), and, in 1965, Director. Cowan retired from administration in 1973 and resumed his research as a Senior Botanist at NMNH. He remained in the position until his retirement in 1985. Cowan's primary research interest is the systematics of legumes in tropical America.

Descriptive Entry

This collection documents Cowan's career as a systematic botanist at the New York Botanical Garden, USNM, and NMNH. Included are incoming and outgoing correspondence concerning the identification of specimens, the preparation of scientific papers and monographs, and professional activities; a subject file mostly documenting his research; and files relating to his work as Secretary of the National Committee of the International Botanical Congress, 1969.

For additional materials documenting Cowan's botanical research and administrative career at NMNH, see Record Units 155, 197, and 9501.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Botanists
Botany

Types of Materials:

Manuscripts

Names:

Columbia University
Cowan, Richard S., 1921-1997
International Botanical Congress (1969)
National Committee of the International Botanical Congress
National Museum of Natural History (U.S.). Assistant Director
National Museum of Natural History (U.S.). Department of Botany
New York Botanical Garden
United States National Museum

Container Listing

Box 1

Folder 1 A

Folder 2 AIBS (American Institute of Biological Sciences) Washington Council

Folder 3 Annual Reports

Folder 4 Archives Committee

Folder 5 Aristiguieta, Dr. Leandro

Folder 6 Arnold Arboretum Visiting Committee

Folder 7 ASPT (American Society of Plant Taxonomists)

Folder 8 B

Folder 9 The Bean Bag (newsletter)

Folder 10 Botanical Congress (International)

Folder 11 The Botanical Society

Folder 12 Brenan, Dr. J. Patrick M.

Folder 13 C

Folder 14 D

Folder 15 Dugand, Dr. Armando

Folder 16 Dwyer, Dr. John D.

Folder 17 E

Folder 18 F

Folder 19 G

Folder 20 Grants

Folder 21 H

Folder 22 Howard, Richard A.

Folder 23 I

Folder 24 ICSEB, correspondence

Folder 25 ICSEB - II

Folder 26 Irwin, H.S.

Folder 27 J

Folder 28 K

Folder 29 Keck, David D.

Folder 30 Klawe, W. L.

Folder 31 L

Folder 32 Leonard, J. (Address to Residence)

Folder 33 M

Folder 34 Maguire, Bassett

Box 2

Folder 1 Mason, Herbert

Folder 2 NYBG Botany Committee

Folder 3 Moldenke, H. N.

Folder 4 Monachino, J.

Folder 5 Mathias, Mildred E.

Folder 6 McVaugh, Rogers

Folder 7 Mohlenbrock, Robert

Folder 8 N

Folder 9 O

Folder 10 Organization for Flora Neotropica

Folder 11 P

Folder 12 Q

Folder 13 R

Folder 14 Rickett, Dr. H. W.

Folder 15 Rollins, Reed C.

Folder 16 S

Folder 17 Schultes, Richard E.

Folder 18 Smith, A. C.

Folder 19 Stafleu, Frans

Folder 20 Stearn, William T.

Folder 21 Stern, William L.

Folder 22 Steyermark, Julian A.

Folder 23 St. John, Dr. Harold

Folder 24 T

Box 3

Folder 1 TL-2

Folder 2 TL-2

Folder 3 U

Folder 4 V

Folder 5 Wilbur, Robert

Folder 6 Wood, Carroll E.

Folder 7 Wurdack, John J.

Folder 8 W

Folder 9 XYZ

Folder 10 A-R General File 1981- 1984

Folder 11 S-Z General File

Folder 12 Leslie Watson, old material

Folder 13 Miscellaneous - Administrative

Folder 14 Miscellaneous - Botanical Societies

Folder 15 Legume Meetings

Box 4

Folder 1 Correlation (Vegetation-Ore)

Folder 2 Cowan Personal Papers, 1951-1969

Folder 3 Cowan Personal Papers, 1970-1979

Folder 4 Cowan Personal Papers, 1980-1982

Folder 5 Cowan Personal Papers, 1983

Folder 6 Cowan Personal Papers, 1984

Folder 7 Cowan Personal Papers, 1985

Folder 8 Library (Liasion) Committee

Folder 9 FNA

Folder 10 Photographic Lists (copies)

Folder 11 Policy/Planning

Folder 12 SRF - 460102

Folder 13 SRF - Grant (SRF - 450102) (SIR Award)

Box 5

Folder 1 Directory of Scientists in the National Museum of Natural History

Folder 2 Identifications

Folder 3 Cowan, Dr. R. S. (Pers. File) 5 Purch. Trans. 1965 thru (1975)

Folder 4 Cowan, Dr. R. S. (Pers. File) 2 Res. & Pub. 1968

Folder 5 Personal & Travel - 1981

Folder 6 Cowan, Dr. R. S. (Pers. File) 5 Purch. Trans. 1964 & Earlier

Folder 7 Cowan, Dr. R. S. (Personal File) 1 General Correspondence 1969- .

Folder 8 Cowan, Dr. R. S. (Pers. File) 1 General Correspondence 1968 & Earlier

Folder 9 Cowan, Dr. R. S. (Pers. File) 6 Clubs - General

Folder 10 Cowan, Dr. R. S. (Pers. File) 6-2 TORCH CLUB

Folder 11 FNA

Folder 12 Travel, 1973

Folder 13 Travel, 1975

Folder 14 Travel, 1976

Folder 15 Travel, 1977

Folder 16 Travel, 1978

Folder 17 Travel, 1979

Folder 18 Travel, 1980

Folder 19 Travel, 1981

Folder 20 Plant Press, 1982

Folder 21 Plant Press, 1981

Folder 22 Plant Press, 1980

Folder 23 Plant Press, 1979

Folder 24 Plant Press, 1978
Folder 25 Plant Press, 1977
Folder 26 Plant Press, 1976
Folder 27 Plant Press, 1973-1975
Folder 28 Personnel (Memos, 171 Forms)
Folder 29 Post-Doc Program
Folder 30 Requisition
Folder 31 Loans In or Out
Folder 32 "Wash. Biol. Field Club"
Folder 33 Workmen's Compensation
Folder 34 Boletin Botanico Latinoamericano
Folder 35 *Flora Venezuela* Leguminosae - Caesalpinioideae

Box 6

Folder 1 AIBS - Congress Relations (AIBS - USNC)
Folder 2 Finance (General)
Folder 3 Grants (Non-Federal)
Folder 4 Publications - Newsletter
Folder 5 IBC - NC Membership
Folder 6 USNC - Meeting Correspondence, general
Folder 7 IBC - INC
Folder 8 Executive Committee Minutes
Folder 9 Stamp Comm. (Symbol File)
Folder 10 Publications - Notices of IBC
Folder 11 Publications - Circulars, Registration Form
Folder 12 Vice Presidents
Folder 13 International Relations - PL-480 Support (General)
Folder 14 Grants - Federal - Agencies
Folder 15 USNC - Minutes of Meetings
Folder 16 IBC (Blank Letterhead Paper)

Folder 17 Bureau of Nomenclature

Folder 18 Mailing Lists

Folder 19 Society Participation

Folder 20 Publications - Proceedings, Programs, Abstracts (Sales of)

Folder 21 Financial Statements

Folder 22 Proposals National Science Foundation (NSF) - Grant

Folder 23 International Relations

Folder 24 Congress Organization

Folder 25 IBC Administrative (Correspondence)