



Smithsonian Institution Archives

Lucile Quarry Mann Oral History Interviews, 1977

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu
Title:	Lucile Quarry Mann Oral History Interviews
Identifier:	Record Unit 9513
Date:	1977
Extent:	10 audiotapes (Reference copies). 12 digital .mp3 files (Reference copies).
Creator::	Mann, Lucile Quarry, 1897-1986, interviewee
Language:	English

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 9513, Lucile Quarry Mann Oral History Interviews

Historical Note

Lucile Quarry Mann (1897-1986) was an editor and staff member of the National Zoological Park (NZIP). She was born in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and received the B.A. in English from the University of Michigan in 1919. During World War I, she worked in Washington, D.C., with Military Intelligence. After the war, she was appointed assistant editor of the Bureau of Entomology of the United States Department of Agriculture. Lucile Quarry left the bureau in 1922 and became an editor for *The Woman's Home Companion*. In 1926 she married William M. Mann (1886-1960), an entomologist specializing in ants and termites.

After receiving the Sc.D. from Harvard University in 1915, William Mann collected insects in Fiji and the Solomon Islands as the Sheldon traveling fellow. From 1917 to 1925, he was a specialist in ants for the Bureau of Entomology and, during 1921-1922, participated in the Mulford Biological Exploration of the Amazon Basin. In 1925, he was appointed director of the National Zoological Park, and in 1926 led the Smithsonian Institution-Chrysler Expedition to Africa to collect animals for the NZIP. Both the Manns traveled extensively for the NZIP: to European zoos in 1929, 1938, and 1948, Central America in 1930, British Guiana in 1931, the National Geographic Society-Smithsonian Institution Expedition to the East Indies in 1937, Argentina in 1939, and the Firestone-Smithsonian Institution Expedition to Liberia in 1940. William Mann represented the Explorers Club and Lucile Mann the Society of Women Geographers in their travels.

Lucile Mann began work in the administrative offices of the NZIP in 1951, continuing after William Mann's retirement in 1956 and death in 1960. She was primarily responsible for the NZIP's annual report until her retirement in 1971.

Both the Manns published about their lives and interests. In addition to his many scientific monographs, William Mann published *Wild Animals in and Out of the Zoo* (1929) and *Ant Hill Odyssey* (1948). Lucile Mann published *From Jungle to Zoo*, *Adventures of a Naturalist's Wife* (1934), *Tropical Aquarium Fishes* (1934), and *Friendly Animals, A Book of Unusual Pets* (1935). The Manns had a wide circle of friends in many walks of life. William Mann was a circus fan as well as an opera enthusiast.

Lucile Mann kept tropical aquarium fishes and published about her hobby. William Mann founded the Vivarium Society, a group of individuals interested in keeping cold-blooded pets. Many animals born in the NZP were raised in the Manns' home across the street.

Introduction

The Smithsonian Institution Archives began its Oral History Program in 1973. The purpose of the program is to supplement the written documentation of the Archives' record and manuscript collections with an Oral History Collection, focusing on the history of the Institution, research by its scholars, and contributions of its staff. Program staff conduct interviews with current and retired Smithsonian staff and others who have made significant contributions to the Institution. The collection also contains interviews conducted by researchers or students on topics related to the history of the Smithsonian or the holdings of the Smithsonian Institution Archives.

Lucile Quarry Mann was interviewed for the Oral History Collection because of her long association with the Smithsonian Institution and National Zoological Park spanning 58 years.

Descriptive Entry

Lucile Mann was interviewed on June 9 and 22, July 14 and 20, and August 11 and 16, 1977 by Pamela M. Henson. The interviews cover Lucile Mann's education; editorial and administrative careers with the Bureau of Entomology and National Zoological Park; marriage to William M. Mann and life as wife of the NZP Director; travels and expeditions for the Zoo; animals raised in their home; famous residents of the Zoo, such as N'Gi, the zoo's first gorilla, and Smokey the Bear; and reminiscences about famous scholars and personalities, such as Austin H. Clark, Leonhard Stejneger, Noel Coward and Alexander Woollcott.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Entomology
- Interviews
- Oral history
- Publishing
- Zoos

Types of Materials:

- Audiotapes
- Transcripts

Names:

Clark, Austin Hobart, 1880-1954
Coward, Noel, 1899-1973
Henson, Pamela M., interviewer
Mann, Lucile Quarry, 1897-1986
Mann, William M., 1886-1960
National Zoological Park (U.S.)
Stejneger, Leonhard, 1851-1943
United States. Bureau of Entomology
University of Michigan
Woolcott, Alexander, 1887-1943

Container Listing

Interviews

- Interviews **Interview 1: June 9, 1977**
- Interviews Interview of Lucile Mann covers her youth; education; early career as an editor, especially for the Bureau of Entomology, U.S. Department of Agriculture; marriage to William M. Mann; life as wife of the Director of the National Zoological Park; recollections of Austin H. Clark and Leonhard Stejneger; activities with the Washington Biologists' Field Club, Vivarium Society, and the Snake Society of Liberia; Works Progress Administration and Public Works of Art additions to the Zoo during the Great Depression; and animal collecting, c. 1897-1940.
- Interviews Transcript, pages 1-56, of audiotape recording, 1.5 hours.
[Digital Content: Transcript - Front Matter](#)
[Digital Content: Transcript - Interview with Lucile Quarry Mann, Session 1](#)
- Interviews Recording of Interview: Total Recording Time: 1.5 hours
 Note:
 - Original Masters: 2 5" reel-to-reel analog audiotapes
 - Preservation Masters: 3 digital .wav files
 - Reference Copies: 2 cassette audiotapes; 3 .mp3 files.
- Interviews **Interview 2: June 22, 1977**
- Interviews Interview of Lucile Mann covers the Manns' 1929 trip to European zoos, 1930 collecting trip to Central America, 1931 collecting trip to British Guiana, and expeditions to Liberia and Sumatra; her role in the Society of Women Geographers; her relationship to the National Geographic Society; and the Manns' annual circus parties; c. 1925-1940.
- Interviews Transcript, pp. 57-101, of audiotape recording, 2 hours.
[Digital Content: Transcript - Interview with Lucile Quarry Mann, Session 2](#)
- Interviews Recording of Interview: Total Recording Time: 2 hours
 Note:
 - Original Masters: 2 5" reel-to-reel analog audiotapes
 - Preservation Masters: 4 digital .wav files
 - Reference Copies: 2 cassette audiotapes; 4 .mp3 files.
- Interviews **Interview 3: July 14, 1977**

- Interviews Interview of Lucile Mann covers the Manns' participation in the National Geographic Society-Smithsonian Institution Expedition to the East Indies in 1937, visit to European zoos in 1938, collecting trip to the Argentine in 1939, acquisition of Indian rhinoceroses, and the Firestone-Smithsonian Institution Expedition to Liberia in 1940, c. 1937-1948.
- Interviews Transcript, pp. 102-128, of audiotape recording, 1 hour.
[Digital Content: Transcript - Interview with Lucile Quarry Mann, Session 3](#)
- Interviews Recording of Interview: Total Recording Time: 1 hour
Note:
- Original Masters: 1 5" reel-to-reel analog audiotape
 - Preservation Masters: 2 digital .wav files
 - Reference Copies: 1 cassette audiotape; 2 .mp3 files.
- Interviews **Interview 4: July 20, 1977**
- Interviews Interview of Lucile Mann covers the Manns' participation in the Firestone-Smithsonian Expedition to Liberia in 1940; Malcolm Davis' collecting with the Byrd Antarctic Expeditions; the effects of World War II on the NZP, including William Mann's appointment as a "Technical Observer" for the military; and Lucile Mann's recollections of NZP staff, including William H. Blackburne, Head Keeper, and Ernest Pillsbury Walker, Assistant Director, c. 1925-1956.
- Interviews Transcript, pp. 129-175, of audiotape recording, 1.5 hours.
[Digital Content: Transcript - Interview with Lucile Quarry Mann, Session 4](#)
- Interviews Recording of Interview: Total Recording Time: 1.5 hours
Note:
- Original Masters: 2 5" reel-to-reel analog audiotapes
 - Preservation Masters: 3 digital .wav files
 - Reference Copies: 2 cassette audiotapes; 3 .mp3 files.
- Interviews **Interview 5: August 11, 1977**
- Interviews Interview of Lucile Mann covers the Anteaters' Association; the Manns' 1948 trip to European zoos; *Ant Hill Odyssey*; administration and funding of the NZP; the Friends of the National Zoo; famous zoo residents, including N'Gi, Smokey the Bear, Ham, Hsing-Hsing and Ling-Ling; Lucile Mann's career in the director's office of the NZP; and recollections of Theodore H. Reed, Director of the NZP, c. 1925-1971.
- Interviews Transcript, pp. 176-219, of audiotape recording, 1.5 hours.

[Digital Content: Transcript - Interview with Lucile Quarry Mann, Session 5](#)

Interviews

Recording of Interview: Total Recording Time: 1.5 hours

- Note:
- Original Masters: 2 5" reel-to-reel analog audiotapes
 - Reference Copies: 2 cassette audiotapes.

Interviews

Interview 6: August 16, 1977

Interviews

Interview of Lucile Mann includes reminiscences about William M. Mann's life and personality, his retirement from the NZP and founding of the Vivarium Society; reminiscences of Alexander Woollcott and Noel Coward; Theodore H. Reed's administration of the NZP; Lucile Mann's editorial work for the NZP; funding for the zoo; and the history of Holt House, the old NZP administration building; c. 1922-1977.

Interviews

Transcript, pp. 220-250, of audiotape recording, 1 hour.

[Digital Content: Transcript - Interview with Lucile Quarry Mann, Session 6](#)

Interviews

Recording of Interview: Total Recording Time: 1 hour

- Note:
- Original Masters: 1 5" reel-to-reel analog audiotape
 - Reference Copies: 1 cassette audiotape.