



Smithsonian Institution Archives

G. Evelyn Hutchinson Biographical
Interviews, 1990-2000

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu
Title:	G. Evelyn Hutchinson Biographical Interviews
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Creator::	
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Administrative Information

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Use Restriction

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Historical Note

As background research for a biography of G. Evelyn Hutchinson, pioneer of American ecology and mentor of S. Dillon Ripley, eighth Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, Nancy G. Slack conducted oral history interviews with Hutchinson, family members and colleagues during the 1990s. Hutchinson was on several Smithsonian boards and commissions and was a mentor to several Smithsonian researchers. The interviews were recorded on audio cassette and mini-cassette tapes, and deposited in the Smithsonian Institution Archives Oral History Collection. A few of the tapes have been remastered in digital audio for preservation purposes.

Introduction

The Smithsonian Institution Archives (SIA) 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. There are also reminiscences and interviews recorded by researchers or students on topics related to the history of the Smithsonian or the holdings of the Smithsonian Institution Archives.

Descriptive Entry

The G. Evelyn Hutchinson Interviews include interviews with Myrdene Anderson, Yemaiel Aris, Anna Aschenbach, Anna Bidder, E. J. Browne, Robert Cook, Dian Deevey, Rosemary Dodd, Peter Dodd, M. J. Dunbar, W. T. Edmondson, Yvette H. Edmondson, David George Furth, Eville Gorham, Paul Hutchinson, Dorothea Hutchinson, A. Hutchinson, G. Evelyn Hutchinson, Hannah Hutchinson, Sophie Hutchinson, Penelope Jenkin, Alison Jolly, Susan Soltau Kilham, Alan J. Kohn, Stanley Leavy, Mary Leavy, Estella B. Leopold, Sibyl Marcuse, Clement L. Markert, Ernst Mayr, Ian McLaren, Eric Mills, Jane M. Oppenheimer, Ruth Patrick, Gilbert Poulson, Mary Poulson, Paul Richard, Anne Richard, S. Dillon Ripley, Howard Sanders, Lawrence B. Slobodkin, Sarah Twombly, Peter J. Wangersky, Maxine Watson, and Margaret Wright.

The interviews were recorded by Dr. Nancy G. Slack, professor biology at Russell Sage College and a botanist and historian of science. The interviews focus on reminiscences of G. Evelyn Hutchinson and information about their careers in biology and ecology.

The G. Evelyn Hutchinson Interviews consist of 38 interview sessions, totaling approximately 56 hours of recordings on audiotape cassettes or mini-cassettes. Note that recording times are approximate. The interviews have not been transcribed.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Advisory boards
- Biology
- Botanists
- Ecology
- Environmental sciences
- Interviews
- Oral history
- Science -- History

Types of Materials:

- Audiotapes

Names:

- Anderson, Myrdene, 1934-
- Aris, Yemaiel
- Aschenbach, Anna
- Bidder, Anna
- Browne, E. J. (E. Janet), 1950-
- Cook, Robert
- Deevey, Dian
- Dodd, Peter
- Dodd, Rosemary
- Dunbar, M. J. (Maxwell John), 1914-1995
- Edmondson, W. T. (Wallis Thomas), 1916-2000
- Edmondson, Yvette H.

Furth, David George
Gorham, Eville
Hutchinson, A.
Hutchinson, Dorothea
Hutchinson, G. Evelyn (George Evelyn), 1903-1991
Hutchinson, Hannah
Hutchinson, Paul
Hutchinson, Sophie
Jenkin, Penelope
Jolly, Alison
Kilham, Susan Soltau, 1943-
Kohn, Alan J.
Leavy, Mary
Leavy, Stanley
Leopold, Estella B.
Marcuse, Sibyl
Markert, Clement L. (Clement Lawrence), 1917-1999
Mayr, Ernst, 1904-2005
McLaren, Ian
Mills, Eric
Oppenheimer, Jane M. (Jane Marion), 1911-1996
Patrick, Ruth, 1907-2013
Poulson, Gilbert
Poulson, Mary
Richard, Anne
Ripley, S. Dillon (Sidney Dillon), 1913-2001
Russell Sage College
Sanders, Howard
Slack, Nancy G., interviewer
Slobodkin, Lawrence B.
Smithsonian Institution. Office of the Secretary
Twombly, Sarah
Wangersky, Peter J. (Peter John)
Watson, Maxine
Wright, Margaret

- Interviews Audio Recording of Interviews: Total recording time: 1.5 hours
Note: • Original Master: 1 90-minute audiotape cassette
- Interviews **Interview 6: June 20, 1993**
- Interviews Interview of M. J. Dunbar, Max, Hutchinson student and Professor emeritus at McGill University, recorded at the home of Professor Sarah P. Gibbs, in Montreal, Canada.
- Interviews Audio Recording of Interviews: Total recording time: 1.5 hours
Note: • Original Master: 1 90-minute audiotape cassette
- Interviews **Interview 7: April 30, 1991**
- Interviews Interview of W. T. Edmondson, Hutchinson student and Professor emeritus at the University of Washington, and his wife Yvette Edmondson, recorded at the National Academy of Sciences, in Washington, D.C.
- Interviews Audio Recording of Interviews: Total recording time: 1.5 hours
Note: • Original Master: 1 90-minute audiotape cassette
- Interviews **Interview 8: April 30, 1991**
- Interviews Interview of Yvette Edmondson, former editor of *Limnology and Oceanography* recorded at the National Academy of Sciences, in Washington, D.C.
- Interviews Audio Recording of Interviews: Total recording time: 1.5 hours
Note: • Original Master: 1 90-minute audiotape cassette
- Interviews **Interview 9: October 3, 1992**
- Interviews Interview of David Furth, systematic entomologist, formerly at Peabody Museum, Yale University, now at the Smithsonian Institution, recorded at Harvard University.
- Interviews Audio Recording of Interviews: Total recording time: 1.5 hours
Note: • Original Master: 1 90-minute audiotape cassette

- Interviews **Interview 10: October 6, 1997**
- Interviews Interview of John Gilbert, Hutchinson student and Professor at Dartmouth College, and Mary Poulson, former Hutchinson assistant at Yale, recorded at the Biology Department, Dartmouth College.
- Interviews Audio Recording of Interviews: Total recording time: 1.25 hours
Note:
 - Original Master: 1 74-minute audiotape cassette
- Interviews **Interview 11: May 2, 1995**
- Interviews Interview Eville Gorham, biogeochemist and ecologist, Professor in the Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior, at the University of Minnesota, recorded at the University of Minnesota, St. Paul campus.
- Interviews Audio Recording of Interviews: Total recording time: 1.5 hours
Note:
 - Original Master: 1 90-minute audiotape cassette
- Interviews **Interview 12: April 25, 1991**
- Interviews Interview of Andrew Hutchinson, Hutchinson's nephew, and Anna Aschenbach, a long-time Hutchinson assistant, recorded at Yale University.
- Interviews Audio Recording of Interviews: Total recording time: 1.5 hours
Note:
 - Original Master: 1 90-minute audiotape cassette
- Interviews **Interview 13: July 26, 1991**
- Interviews Interview of Dorothea Hutchinson, Hutchinson's sister, and Anna Bidder, recorded at Joseph Needham Institute in Cambridge, England.
- Interviews Audio Recording of Interviews: Total recording time: 00:45:06 hour
Note:
 - Original Master: 1 90-minute audiotape cassette
 - Preservation Master: 1 digital .wav file
 - Reference Copy: 1 digital .mp3 file
- Interviews **Interview 14: July 24, 1991**
- Interviews Interview of Francis Hutchinson, nephew of Hutchinson, and his wife, Joyce, recorded in London, England.

- Interviews Audio Recording of Interviews: Total recording time: 1.5 hours
Note: • Original Master: 1 90-minute audiotape cassette
- Interviews **Interview 15: October-November 1990**
- Interviews Interview of G. Evelyn Hutchinson, recorded at Yale University.
- Interviews Audio Recording of Interviews: Total recording time: 01:21:38 hours
Note: • Original Master: 1 90-minute audiotape microcassette
• Preservation Masters: 2 digital .wav files
• Reference Copies: 2 digital .mp3 files
- Interviews **Interview 16: January 31, 1991**
- Interviews Interview of Paul Hutchinson, nephew, and Marie Dodd, niece of Hutchinson, recorded in New Haven, Connecticut.
- Interviews Audio Recording of Interviews: Total recording time: 00:19:01 hour
Note: • Original Master: 1 60-minute audiotape microcassette
• Preservation Master: 1 digital .wav file
• Reference Copy: 1 digital .mp3 file
- Interviews **Interview 17: July 28, 1991**
- Interviews Interview of Hannah Hutchinson, Hutchinson's sister-in-law and wife of his brother Leslie, and Hannah's sister Sophie, recorded at Owl Cottage, Isle of Wight, England.
- Interviews Audio Recording of Interviews: Total recording time: 1.5 hours
Note: • Original Master: 1 90-minute audiotape cassette
- Interviews **Interview 18: August 5, 1993**
- Interviews Interview of Penelope Jenkin, limnologist and student with Hutchinson at Cambridge University in 1921 to 1925, recorded in Ruthin, North Wales.
- Interviews Audio Recording of Interviews: Total recording time: 1.5 hours
Note: • Original Master: 1 90-minute audiotape cassette
- Interviews **Interview 19: March 17, 1993**

Interviews Interview of Alison Jolly, student of Hutchinson, lemur expert, professor and author, recorded at Russell Sage College, Troy, New York.

Interviews Audio Recording of Interviews: Total recording time: 1.5 hours
Note: • Original Master: 1 90-minute audiotape cassette

Interviews **Interview 20: May 8, 1996**

Interviews Interview of Susan Kilham, professor at Drexel University and wife of Peter Kilham.

Interviews Audio Recording of Interviews: Total recording time: 1.5 hours
Note: • Original Master: 1 90-minute audiotape cassette

Interviews **Interview 21: May 3, 1992**

Interviews Interview of Alan Kohn, a student of Hutchinson's and Professor at the University of Washington, recorded at the Edmondsons' house in Seattle, Washington.

Interviews Audio Recording of Interviews: Total recording time: 1.5 hours
Note: • Original Master: 1 90-minute audiotape cassette

Interviews **Interview 22: September 15, 1991**

Interviews Interview of Stanley Leavy, M.D. psychiatrist and friend of Hutchinson and his wife Mary, recorded in New Haven, Connecticut.

Interviews Audio Recording of Interviews: Total recording time: 1.5 hours
Note: • Original Master: 1 90-minute audiotape cassette

Interviews **Interview 23: May 4, 1992**

Interviews Interview of Estella Leopold, Yale Ph.D. student and Professor at the University of Washington, recorded at the University of Washington, Seattle, Washington.

Interviews Audio Recording of Interviews: Total recording time: 1.5 hours

Note: • Original Master: 1 90-minute audiotape cassette

Interviews **Interview 24: August 1, 1991**

Interviews Interview of Sibyl Marcuse, Sibyl, authority on musical instruments, formerly at Yale, recorded in San Francisco.

Interviews Audio Recording of Interviews: Total recording time: 1.5 hours

Note: • Original Master: 1 90-minute audiotape cassette

Interviews **Interview 25: April 24, 1991**

Interviews Interview of Clement Markert, former chairman of the Yale University Biology Department in 1965, recorded at Yale University.

Interviews Audio Recording of Interviews: Total recording time: 1.5 hours

Note: • Original Master: 1 90-minute audiotape cassette

Interviews **Interview 26: April 4, 1994**

Interviews Interview of Ernst Mayr, Professor Emeritus at Harvard, recorded at the Harvard University Faculty Club.

Interviews Audio Recording of Interviews: Total recording time: 00:40:59 hour

Note: • Original Master: 1 90-minute audiotape cassette
• Preservation Masters: 2 digital .wav files
• Reference Copies: 2 digital .mp3 files

Interviews **Interview 27: August 21, 1996**

Interviews Interview of Ian McLaren, a student of Hutchinson and Professor at Dalhousie University, recorded at Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.

Interviews Audio Recording of Interviews: Total recording time: 1.5 hours

Note: • Original Master: 1 90-minute audiotape cassette

Interviews **Interview 28: November 1, 1991**

- Interviews Interview of Eric Mills, a student of Hutchinson and Professor at Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, recorded at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin.
- Interviews Audio Recording of Interviews: Total recording time: 1.5 hours
Note: • Original Master: 1 90-minute audiotape cassette
- Interviews **Interview 29: September 25, 1991**
- Interviews Interview of Jane Oppenheimer, Professor Emerita, Bryn Mahr College, who received her Ph.D. at Yale University, and Ruth Patrick, diatom specialist and Hutchinson co-worker, recorded at the Philadelphia Academy of Sciences.
- Interviews Audio Recording of Interviews: Total recording time: 1.5 hours
Note: • Original Master: 1 90-minute audiotape cassette
- Interviews **Interview 30: July 17, 1991**
- Interviews Interview of Paul Richard, who was a student at Cambridge University with Hutchinson and later Professor emeritus, Cambridge University, and his wife Anne, recorded at the Richards' home in Cambridge, England.
- Interviews Audio Recording of Interviews: Total recording time: 1.5 hours
Note: • Original Master: 1 90-minute audiotape cassette
- Interviews **Interview 31: October 16, 1991**
- Interviews Interview of S. Dillon Ripley, Director of Peabody Museum at Yale and Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, 1964-1984, recorded at the Ripley home, Litchfield, Connecticut.
- Interviews Audio Recording of Interviews: Total recording time: 1.5 hours
Note: • Original Master: 1 90-minute audiotape cassette
- Interviews **Interview 32: August 8, 1991**
- Interviews Interview of Howard Sanders, student of Hutchinson and now at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, recorded at Woods Hole, Massachusetts.
- Interviews Audio Recording of Interviews: Total recording time: 1.5 hours

Note: • Original Master: 1 90-minute audiotape cassette

Interviews **Interview 33: September 12, 1991**

Interviews Interview of Lawrence B. Slobodkin, Hutchinson's student and Professor at the State University of New York at Stonybrook, recorded at a Long Island, New York restaurant.

Interviews Audio Recording of Interviews: Total recording time: 1.5 hours

Note: • Original Master: 1 90-minute audiotape cassette

Interviews **Interview 34: May 30, 1992**

Interviews Interview of Sarah Twombly, who received her Ph.D. from Yale and became a Professor at the University of Rhode Island, recorded in Rhode Island.

Interviews Audio Recording of Interviews: Total recording time: 1.5 hours

Note: • Original Master: 1 90-minute audiotape cassette

Interviews **Interview 35: November 6, 2000**

Interviews Interview of Peter Wangersky, a student of Hutchinson's and Professor at Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia and the University of Victoria, British Columbia, recorded at Victoria, British Columbia.

Interviews Audio Recording of Interviews: Total recording time: 1.5 hours

Note: • Original Master: 1 90-minute audiotape cassette

Interviews **Interview 36: April 4, 1991**

Interviews Interview of Maxine Watson, student of Hutchinson and Professor at the University of Indiana.

Interviews Audio Recording of Interviews: Total recording time: 1.5 hours

Note: • Original Master: 1 90-minute audiotape cassette

Interviews **Interview 37: November 29, 1996**

Interviews Interview of Margaret Wright, a former Yale University Ph.D. student and Professor emerita, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, New York, recorded in Poughkeepsie, New York.

Interviews Audio Recording of Interviews: Total recording time: 1.5 hours
Note: • Original Master: 1 90-minute audiotape cassette

Interviews **Interview 38: August 2, 1993**

Interviews Interview of E. Janet Browne, historian of science.
Note: • Total recording time: 0:35:58 hour

Interviews Audio Recording of Interviews: Original Master: 1 90-minute audiotape cassette
Note: • Preservation Master: 1 digital .wav file
• Reference Copy: 1 digital .mp3 file