DESCRIPTION

Correspondence and photographs relating to botanical and related research by Daniel T. MacDougal and other researchers at the Desert Botanical Laboratory. Correspondence with colleagues is about their research and professional associations. Photographs relate to western deserts particularly southern Arizona, the Colorado Delta, and the Salton Sea.  

45 boxes, 26 linear ft.

RELATED MATERIAL

Related collection at the University of Arizona, Special Collections Library, Carnegie Institution of Washington, Desert Botanical Laboratory Collection, AZ 356.

ACQUISITION


ACCESS

There are no restrictions on access to this collection.

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PROCESSING

The collection was processed by Kim Frontz, June 1999.

ARRANGEMENT


BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Botanist and Director of Carnegie Institution, Department of Botanical Research. The department included the Desert Botanical Laboratory, established in Tucson, Arizona in 1903, and the Coastal Laboratory, established in Carmel, California in 1908. MacDougal was
born in Indiana in 1865, received a B.S. degree from DePauw University in 1890, an M.S. in 1894, and an LL.D in 1912. He also earned a M.S. degree from Purdue University in 1891 and a Ph.D. in 1897. He worked with the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture in Arizona and Idaho, 1891-1892; married Louise Fisher in 1893; was Assistant Director of the New York Botanical Garden, 1899-1905; and director of the Dept. of Botanical Research of the Carnegie Institution from 1905 to 1933.

MacDougal, along with Frederick V. Coville, chief botanist of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, founded the Desert Botanical Laboratory in Tucson in 1903 to research desert plant life. In 1907, MacDougal organized the Pinacate Expedition into the lava fields of Mexico accompanied by Godfrey Sykes, William T. Hornaday, Jeff Milton, and others. Another expedition, in 1912, took MacDougal and Godfrey Sykes to the Libyan Desert on camel back to investigate desert conditions.

MacDougal was internationally known in the scientific community; was a prolific author in his field; was active in numerous professional organizations; and was part of a literary and amateur theatrical group in Carmel that included writer Mary Austin. He died in Carmel, California in 1958.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Chiefly correspondence and photographs relating to MacDougal’s work and his colleagues’ work in the field of botany. The correspondence (29 boxes) is mostly between MacDougal, his associates at the Laboratories, and members of the national scientific communities involved in botanical and related research. Correspondents discuss their research, appointments of colleagues, and administrative issues.

There is correspondence relating to the Pinacate Expedition, 1907 (f.97), and to Salton Sea explorations, 1909-1915 (f.152). Correspondence is present from MacDougal’s involvement in the formation of the Pacific Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1913. During 1917 to 1918, the correspondence is not so much about research as about World War I and the resulting lack of resources and involvement in civil defense organizations. There is correspondence relating to MacDougal’s involvement with the Arizona Council of Defense and letters from R.B. von Kleinsmid (f.347) discussing the effect of the war on the University of Arizona. Most of the correspondence from 1920 to 1927 relates to MacDougal’s role as secretary of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.


Photographs depict plant life in geographical areas of research including southern Arizona, Colorado Delta, Salton Sea, Mohave Desert, White Sands, N.M., and Mexico. There are photographs of researchers at work, experiments, and cacti. Although the photographs
chiefly document plant life there are some images of people, towns and other subjects; these are noted in the box and folder list. Highlights are the building of the laboratory, views of Tucson from Tumamoc Hill, the Santa Catalina Mountains, scenes of northeastern Tucson including Agua Caliente, Soldier Trail, and Tanque Verde Creek, demonstrations of extracting juice from cacti, and various Indian huts.

Note on arrangement: The correspondence is arranged by year, then within each year it is alphabetical by correspondent. In a very few cases, correspondence has been kept by subject such as f. 248 on eugenics and f. 363 on Spanish influenza. The photographs mostly follow the original order of MacDougal. There are loose photos and scrapbooks and there is some overlap. There are photographs in both series that are duplicates but there are also photographs in each series that are not duplicated.

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

Series 1: Correspondence, 1889-1927

Box 1
f.1 Letterbook, Aug. 1893 – Dec. 1896
f.2 Letterbook, Dec. 1896 – Mar. 1897
f.3 Letterbook, Mar. 1897 – Mar. 1899
f.4-5 Correspondence 1889-1893

Box 2
f.6-12 Correspondence 1894-1898
f.13 Correspondence - Douglass, A.E. 1898-1899
f.14 Correspondence - Britton, N.L. 1898-1899

Box 3
f.15-20 Correspondence 1899-1902
f.21 Correspondence - Coville, Frederick H. 1902
f.22 Correspondence 1903
f.23 Correspondence – Cannon, W.A. 1903
f.24 Correspondence – Coville, F.H. 1903

Box 4
f.25 Correspondence – de Vries, Hugo 1903-1905
f.26 Correspondence – Forbes, Robert H. 1903
f.27 Correspondence – Sykes, Godfrey 1903
f.28 Correspondence – Chamber of Commerce (Tucson) 1903
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f.36 Correspondence – Sykes, Godfrey 1904
f.37 Correspondence – Carnegie Institute. Station for Experimental Evolution 1904
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- Hornaday, William T. 1907
- I – L 1907
- Knox, Alice A. (asst. Carnegie Institute, New York) 1907
- Livingston, Burton E. 1907
- M – N 1907
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- Phillips, John M. 1907
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- Raasloff, H. de 1907
- Rose, J.N. 1907
- Shreve, Forrest 1907
- Shull, George 1907
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<tr>
<td>f.213</td>
<td>Correspondence – Huntingdon, Ellsworth</td>
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<td>Correspondence – R – S</td>
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<td>Correspondence – A – B</td>
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<td>f.226</td>
<td>Correspondence – Britton, N.L.</td>
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<td>Correspondence – C – D</td>
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<td>f.228</td>
<td>Correspondence – Cannon, W.A.</td>
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<td>Correspondence – Dellenbaugh, F.S.</td>
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<td>Correspondence – H – I</td>
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Salton Sea – Indio, Calif. 1903
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Salton Sea – Travertine Inscriptions 1914-1915
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Salton Sea – Travertine Terrace 1906-1916
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Subseries 6: Mohave Desert photos, 1912-1914

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Mohave Desert – May 1913 1913
Mohave Desert – near Barstow 1914
Mohave Desert – near Victorville 1914
Mohave Desert – near Rodriguez Lake 1914
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Subseries 8: White Sands, N.M. photos, 1903-1911

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f.605  Mexico – Port Libertad trip  1903
f.606  Mexico – Mexico City  1906
f.607  Mexico – Oaxaca to Mitla  1906
f.608  Mexico – Pinacate Mtns.  1907
f.609  Mexico – Torres, Sonora (incl. ranch home and family)  1903
f.610  Mexico – Torres, Sonora – Yaqui hut  1906
f.611-2  Mexico – Tehuacan – homes, people, cacti  1906
f.613  Mexico – Tourellin  1906

Subseries 10: Sudan photographs, 1912

f.614  Kamabsau, Sudan  1912
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f.616  Seukat, Sudan  1912
f.617  Suakim, Sudan  1912
f.618  Talgwareb, Sudan  1912
f.619  Sudan – Other  1912
f.620  Baharia, Egypt  1912

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Series 4: Photograph albums, 1903-1915

Note: Many images in the photo albums are identical to the images in the preceding files.

f.621  Photo album pages, p. 1-47 of album A  1904-1906
(Includes Desert Botanical Laboratory, Tumamoc Hill, Stanley Sykes getting water from a barrel cactus, Coahuila, Cocopah, and Yaqui Indian homes and granaries, northern Nevada, White Sands, N.M., Salton Basin, Colorado River)

f.622  Photo album pages, p. 48-77 of album A  1904-1906
(Includes Mexico, San Felipe Bay, Baja California, Puebla and Tehuacan, Mexico)

f.623  Photo album pages, p. 1-30 of album B  1903-1915
(Includes Sabino Canyon flooding, Tortolita Mountains, Harqua Hala Mountains, Grand Canyon Bright Angel Trail and Indian Gardens and Colorado River)

f.624  Photo album pages, p. 31-77  1904-1907
(Includes Hardy River, Colorado River, Volcano Lake, Colonia Lerdo)

f.625  Photo album pages, p. 78-112  1906-1912
(Mostly Nevada)
Box 40

f.626-

628  Photo album pages, p. 1-90 of album C  1906-1909
   Salton basin

Box 41

f.629-

631  Photo album pages, p. 91-195 of album C  1906-1909
   Salton basin (one photo of William P. Blake)

Box 42

Photograph album of Egypt trip by McDougal and Godfrey Sykes, incl. camels, palms and sands 1912

Box 43

Photograph album chiefly vegetation of outlying Tucson area including southeast of Vail, Sabino Canyon, gila monsters, Tortolita Mountains, Tanque Verde Creek, Santa Rita Mountains, Robles Pass, and Rillito Wash 1909-1913

Box 44

Photograph album chiefly vegetation of White Sands, N.M., and Tehuacan, Tourellin, and Oaxaca, Mexico 1906-1911

Box 45

Photograph album including Tumamoc Hill, exteriors and interiors of Desert Carnegie Lab, views from lab, cactus and vegetation, Comobabi Village, Weldon Mine of Quijotaa Mountains, Tohono O’odham house and grave near Little Tucson, adobe and mesquite home and corral, view of Tucson and Tumamoc from ne corner of Park & 2nd, Pinacate Mountain expedition incl. Milton, Hornaday, and group, Sonoyta River, and Baja California 1903-1911