Arnold Arboretum Photograph Collection. 

The Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University

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X A-6.2 L
Archives of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University
125 Arborway, Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts

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Descriptive Summary
Repository: Archives of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University, Jamaica Plain, MA
Call No.: X A-6.2 L
Location: Archives
Title: 35mm negatives (Series “L”) 1959-1970
Date(s): 1959-1970
Quantity: 2 linear feet (10 boxes in one phase box enclosure)
Language of material: English
Abstract: The collection consists of 76 rolls of 35mm black and white photographic negatives as well as several rolls of color negatives and accompanying data taken from April 1959 - March 1970. The images principally document plants grown in the Arboretum’s living collections both in Jamaica Plain and at the Case Estates in Weston, MA. Other items include 3 handwritten field books that contain exposure information, plant names and date of exposure; a corresponding transcription of the field notes; and four, small, color photograph flip books.
Note: This collection is located offsite at our Weld Hill facility. Access to Finding Aid record in HOLLIS.
Preferred Citation: Arnold Arboretum Photograph Collection, 35mm negatives (Series “L”) 1959-1970. Archives of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University.

Processing Information

Acquisition Information
Provenance: This collection was transferred from the Arnold Arboretum’s departmental holdings to the Arboretum’s Archives in 1984 when the Archive was created.

Terms of Access
Access to this collection must be requested at least one business day in advance of visit through our Special Collections Request Account system. A Harvard ID or affiliation is not required, but all visitors must register an account to request access. If you need assistance with this process, please contact hortlib@arnarb.harvard.edu.

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Historical Note
The collection consists of 76 rolls of 35mm black and white photographic negatives as well as several rolls of color negatives and accompanying data taken from April 1959 - March 1970. The negatives were either processed commercially or in the Arboretum’s dark room and the prints were added to the photograph collection maintained by the library. Heman Howard, Assistant Horticulturalist and unofficial Arboretum photographer, shot most of the film with a Leica camera at the Arboretum. There are also rolls shot by Dr. Donald Wyman, Horticulturalist and Harrison L. Flint, Taxonomist. Additionally, properties other than the Arboretum and the Case Estate in Weston, Massachusetts are represented- such as the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Brooklyn, N.Y. and the Justin S. Morrill Homestead, Stafford, VT.

The images, many of which were shot in the spring, principally document plants grown in the Arboretum’s living collections both in Jamaica Plain and at the Case Estates in Weston, MA between 1959 and 1970. Activities such as the Spring Flower Show and individual collections such as the Lars Anderson Bonsai Collection as well as images of Arboretum building construction are also represented. Several trips to other horticultural sites are represented in the collection. Other items include 3 handwritten field books that contain exposure information, plant names and date of exposure; a corresponding transcription of the field notes; and four, small, color photograph flip books. Although the numbering system reaches 109 rolls, 33 of that number are missing: 3 are presumed to be lost and 30 are thought to reside with Donald Wyman’s heirs. Also missing are field notebooks for numbers L 1-18 and L 56-87.

Each of the 76, 35mm rolls of film has a plastic or cardboard cylindrical container and were originally housed in 1 wooden film canister box approx. 9”x13”x2” and in 5, 6½”x8½”x1½” cardboard film canister boxes. The records transcribed from the field notes are entitled “Listing of Leica 35mm Black & White Photographs” and were organized in 3-ring binder labeled “B&W Leica Photo Listing.” There is a second copy of the Photo Listing. In 2006, the collection was re-housed and re-labeled in archival boxes. The original organization, with the exception of the 24 rolls of negatives which were housed in the wooden box that were divided into 2 groups of 12 each, remains the same.

Scope and Content
The collection consists of 76, 35mm rolls of film; 3 field books; 2 copies of transcribed notes made from the field books; and 4 small booklets of prints. The negatives represent images taken between 1959 and 1970 most often onsite at the Arnold Arboretum by Heman Howard.
**Arrangement**

The collection is arranged in 4 series:

- **Series 1. Negatives**
- **Series 2. Prints**
- **Series 3. Field Notebooks**
- **Series 4. Transcription**

**Series 1. Negatives.**

**Box 1. L-1 through L-12.**

- L-1: #0-12: Propagation.
- L-2: #1-16: not labeled.
- L-3: #00-20: Hedges.
- L-4: #00-15: not labeled.
- L-5: #1-14: Propagation 2-3-58.
- L-7: #00-37: 4-59.
- L-9: 00-36: May 1959.
- L-12: 00-37: May 1959.

**Box 2. L-13 through L24.**

- L-14: 0-35: May 1959.
- L-18: 00-37: June 12-July 8, 1959.
- L-23: 00-36: May 1960.

**Box 3. L-25 through L36**

- L-32: 1-11 only: March 1961 Flower Show, Rest of roll not used.
- L-33: Test Roll of New Focoslide: 2-8-62.
- L-36: May 1962.
Note: Negative rolls L-37 through L-39 are missing, however their content is described in the "Listing of Leica 35mm Black & White Photographs."

Box 4. L-39 through L48

L-40: Feb. '63.
L-41: Flower Show Exhibit: 3/17/63.
L-43: Flower Show & Propagation: 4-30-63.
L-44: 7-9-63.
L-45: 8-2-63.
L-46: Strobe Test Roll: August '63.

Box 5. L-49 through L-55

L-50: Copies of pages in book on Witches Broom for A. Fordham
L-51: Misc. A.A.: Sept. '64.
L-52: Entire Roll Dumping in South St. Tract. Oct. '64.
L-54: Tropical sdlg. Growth for Mercer student. 7-15-64.

Note: L-56 through L-83 are missing. They are described in the "Listing of Leica 35mm Black & White Photographs" as being "taken by Donald Wyman on his European trip, April-July, 1965" and "the personal property of Dr. Wyman. There is no description of the individual negatives, however prints were made and added to the Arboretum's photograph collection.

Box 6. L-84 through L-95

L-85: Kodacolor Film: Brooklyn Botanic Garden by D[onald] W[yman]:
5-66 (see Small color photo books approx. 2"x 4" in Box _.)
L-86: Kodacolor: Arn. Arb. May 1966 by H[eman] H[oward]: (see small color photo books approx. 2”x 4” in Box _.)
L-87: Kodacolor: Arn. Arb. 6-66 by D[onald] W[yman] : (see small color photo books approx. 2”x 4” in Box _.)
L-88: Kodacolor Arn. Arb. Spring '66 by H[eman] H[oward]: (see Small color photo books approx. 2”x 4” in Box _.)
L-91: Hf trial roll Nov. 9, 1966 by H[arrison] F[lint]
L-92: 0-17: Cherry Hill Nursery etc. 18-44: Christmas Exhibit.
L-93: Kodacolor by H[arrison] Flint.
L-95: Forsythia Winter Hardiness Expar.: Spring '67 H[eman] H[oward]
Box 7. L-96 through L-109


**Note:** L-100 through L-102 are missing. They are described in the “Listing of Leica 35mm Black & White Photographs” as being “taken by Dr. Wyman in Puerto Rico, November 1967” and “The negatives the personal property of Dr. Wyman.”

L-104: A.A. Hedge Collection by H[eman] H[oward]: July ’68.
L-105: A.A. Hedge Collection by H[eman] H[oward]: July ’68.

**Series 2. Prints**

**Box 1.** 4 Small, 2”x4”, booklets of color prints of Rolls L-85, L-86, L-87, L-88.

**Series 3. Field Notebooks**

**Box 1.** Three Field Notebooks. 4”x6”. Each labeled on both front and back.
  - Field book [1]
    - Photographs 1960. 35 mm. Color
    - Photographs 1960. 35 mm. Roll L-19 to L-31.
  - Field book [2]
    - Photographs 1961. 35 mm. Color
  - Field book [3]
    - Photographs. 1966. 35 mm. Color
    - Photographs. 1966-68. B&W. 35 mm [L88 to L-109]

**Series 4. Transcription of Field Notebooks**

**Box 10.** “Listing of Leica 35mm Black & White Photographs from Roll L-6 taken April 1959 to Roll [L-109 March 17, 1970] by H. Howard.

**Note:** This document describes the subject and date of each negative and is further annotated with comments about either the subject or the photographic process, 2 copies.