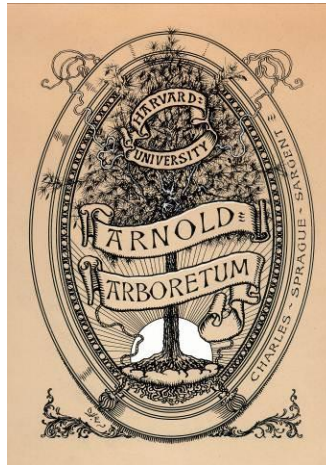


Archives I G-9.2

Exhibits collection, 1954-2006: Guide.



The Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University

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I G-9.2 Exhibits, 1954 - : Guide
Archives of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University
125 Arborway, Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts
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Descriptive Summary

Repository: Arnold Arboretum, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130.

Call No.: I G-9.2

Location: Archives

Title: Exhibits, 1954-

Date(s): 1954-

Creator: Arnold Arboretum

Quantity: 2 linear feet; 5 boxes (one flat)

Language of material: English

Abstract:

This collection was created by integrating several smaller collections dealing with exhibits at the Arnold Arboretum. Materials are varied and include pictures, negatives, articles, correspondence, notes, exhibit publicity, invoices, and videotapes. Some notable exhibits are *Flowering Trees*, *Flora from Shakespeare*, *Bridge of Trees*, and *Museum in the Garden*.

Note: Access to Finding Aid record in [HOLLIS](#).

Preferred Citation: Exhibits collection. Archives of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University.

Additional Material: For individual exhibits see [Science in the Pleasure Ground](#), [Woods of the United States](#), and I G-6 Arnold Arboretum Exhibitions at the Massachusetts Horticultural Society Spring Flower Show 1953-

Processing Information

Processed: Series I: Meghan Hardison, 2009; Series VI: Carol David 1998; Full collection formed and updated 2011 Sara Beneman, revised 2012 Sheila Connor, revised 2023 Larissa Glasser.

Acquisition Information

Provenance: Series I was created by the Arnold Arboretum in the 1960s for viewing in an exhibit or flower show. Series VI of the collection was transferred to the archives from the exhibit hall in 1993 when the Hunnewell Building was renovated. Other series were created by the Arnold Arboretum for or in relation to exhibits.

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Historical Note:

This collection contains materials from a variety of exhibits created by the Arnold Arboretum over the decades, including *Magical Floral Forms*, *Blossoms on the Bough*, *Sargentia*, *Flowering Trees*, *Flora from Shakespeare*, *Bridge of Trees*, and *Museum in the Garden*. There are also materials from pruning exhibits and annual exhibits such as Christmas wreath making, and the Camellia exhibitions.

Materials for the *Flowering Tree* were collated by Arnold Arboretum staff sometime during the 1960s, though its original date of creation and intended purpose is unknown. It appears to have been created as an exhibit for the Arboretum or for a flower show.

The *Flora from Shakespeare* was created and exhibited by the Arboretum in the late 1970s. It was researched and organized notably by Ida Hay and volunteer Cora Warren. The images showed a selection of flora mentioned in Shakespeare's plays and were exhibited next to the passage chosen. The images were photographed from illustrations in the library collection.

Bridge of Trees consisted of images taken by two Arboretum taxonomists, Stephen Spongberg and Richard Weaver, on a Sino-American botanical expedition in 1980. This expedition followed the Arboretum tradition of close ties with East Asia and was an opportunity to explore more specimens similar to those of America's Northeast region.



Images of the exhibition Art of the Olmsted Landscape: His Work in New York City

The exhibition *Art of the Olmsted Landscape: His Work in New York City* was created by the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York opened in September 1981 then travelled to other museums. It was shown in Boston in 1982 at the Arnold Arboretum. Sheila Connor and

Cornelia McMurtrie designed and mounted the exhibition which was augmented by archival material about the Olmsted's "Emerald Necklace" from local institutions including the Arboretum. A three session Olmsted lecture series and two walks focusing on Olmsted's design of the Arboretum were held by the Arboretum while the exhibition was on display. The book, [Art of the Olmsted Landscape](#) by Bruce Kelly, Gail Travis Guillet, Mary Ellen W. Hern was published in conjunction with the exhibit.

Museum in the Garden was completed after the renovation of the Hunnewell Visitor Center in 1994. The exhibit shows Alexander Wadsworth Longfellow's early work at the Arboretum and its relationship to his later buildings. It was curated by Professor Margaret Henderson



Daffodil bank near Visitors Center, photograph by Corliss Engle
[Click to see more](#)

Floyd of Tufts University.

Visiting Committee and Board member as well as longtime volunteer Corliss Knapp Engle worked with Mary Lou Amrhein, also an Arboretum volunteer, to create a twelve minute automated slide show entitled *An Introductory Tour of the Arnold Arboretum*. While many of the slides were from the Arboretum's collection of 6,000 35mm-color slides, Corliss Knapp Engle was responsible for a great number of the images used in the production. The slide collection had been labeled and organized by volunteers under Engle's management and leadership during the 1970s and 1980s. Slides depicting general views, people, and other locations remained in the Library the portion of the slide collection depicting individual specimens growing at the Arboretum was transferred to the Living Collections Department in the 1990s. This introductory tour, which begins at the Arboretum's Hunnewell Visitor Center and ends at Peters Hill, gives a concise overview of the 281 acres of woody plants and what it means to become member of the "Friends of the Arnold Arboretum."

This part of the collection is principally composed of images of plants in the Arboretum's living collection from the 1950s through the early 1990s. The original slide show, which was created in 1982, described the Arboretum's origins and highlighted selected plants from with the living collections. It also documented the public's use and enjoyment of the landscape through all four seasons. A special slide projector that included an audio tape player enabled the show to be automated and made available to visitors in the exhibit hall on the first floor. The slide show was revised in 1983-84 and was transformed into a 12-minute videotape production in 1991. In September 1997 Harvard Video Services Center made the tapes in their current format. One DVD copy was created in May 2006 [now missing-July 7, 2011]. Many of the exhibits were staged both in the Arboretum's lecture hall and at off-site locations such as the Massachusetts Horticultural Society's Annual Spring Flower show.

Scope and Content

This collection contains a variety of materials, including photographs, negatives, articles, correspondence, notes, exhibit publicity, invoices, and videotapes. The collection was created by combining a few smaller, semi-processed collections which were all about exhibits at the Arnold Arboretum. Items are arranged roughly chronologically within folders. Series VII is arranged alphabetically by exhibit name, maintaining its original order. The collection spans 1954-2006.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in 7 series.

- Series I:** Flowering Tree Exhibit, ca. 1960s
- Series II:** Shakespeare, 1977-1978
- Series III:** A Bridge of Trees, 1986
- Series IV:** Museum in the Garden, 1993
- Series V:** *COGdesign Exhibit: A Landscape of Time and Place*, 2003
- Series VI:** Exhibits, 1982-2000
- Series VII:** An Introductory Tour of the Arnold Arboretum, 1982-2006
- Series VIII:** Exhibit photographs and negatives, 1954-1985

Container List

Box 1

Series I: *Flowering Trees, 1960s*

- Golden Chain Tree, *Laburnum watereri* (2 photographs)
- Merrill Magnolia, *Magnolia* 'Merrill' (1 photograph)
- Sourwood, *Oxydendrum arboretum* (1 photograph)
- Silverbell, *Halesia monticola* (1 photograph)
- Korean Mountain Ash, *Sorbus alnifolia* (1 photograph)
- Katsura Tree, *Cercidiphyllum japonicum* (1 photograph)
- Japanese Maple, *Acer palmatum* (1 photograph)
- Dorothea Crabapple, *Malus* 'Dorothea' (1 photograph)
- American Holly, *Ilex opaca* and Long Stalk Holly, *Ilex pedunculosa* (2 photographs)

- Golden Rain Tree, *Koelreuteria paniculata* (1 photograph)
- Redbud, *Cercis Canadensis* (1 photograph)
- Korean Stewartia, *Stewartia koreana* (1 photograph – board cut for removal of second photograph)
- Flowering Dogwood, *Cornus florida* (2 photographs)
- Amur Maakia, *Maakia amurensis* (2 photographs)
- Sargent Cherry, *Prunus sargentii* (1 photograph)
- Hardy Silk Tree, *Albizia julibrissin* (1 photograph)
- Kousa Dogwood, *Cornus kousa* (2 photographs)

Box 2

Series II: *Flora from Shakespeare, 1977-1978*

Folder

1: Shakespeare

- *Flora from Shakespeare, 1977*
- Note from Amanda W. Freymann to Ida Burch
- Handwritten notes on illustrations
- Typed notes from various Shakespearian plays
- Typed sources of illustrations
- Handwritten notes from a notepad



Flora from Shakespeare 1978. Arboretum staff Donna Lynch, Sheila Connor, Margo Renolds, Ida Hay dressed as jesters

Series III: *A Bridge of Trees, 1986*

Folder

1: *A Bridge of Trees*

- Exhibition catalogue: *A bridge of trees*, September 4, 1986
- Catalog record, exhibition catalogue, 2002
- Exhibit invitation letter, August 25, 1986
- Schedule of exhibit events, 1986
- Exhibition article
- Photocopy of image slides

Series IV: *Museum in the Garden, 1993*

Folder

1: *Museum in the Garden*, notes and correspondence, 1993

- Notes, March 9, 1993
- Correspondence from Margaret Henderson Floyd to Sheila Connor,
 - May 26, 1993
 - August 9, 1993,
 - August 15, 1993
- Correspondence from Margaret Henderson Floyd to Robert Cook
 - August 9, 1993,
 - August 31, 1993

- September 15, 1993
- October 8, 1993
- December 6, 1993
- Letter from Robert Cook to Margaret Henderson Floyd, August 15, 1993
- Conservation agreement, October 19, 1993

2: Museum in the Garden materials, 1993-1997

- Curriculum vitae, Margaret Henderson Floyd, June 1993
- Curricula vitae, other applicants
- Job listing invoice, August 8, 1993
- Invoices
- Conservation agreement, October 22, 1993
- Exhibit costs list, October 22, 1993
- Hunnewell opening costs, Autumn 1993
- Loan request, November 8, 1993
- Invitation
- Tour information
- Hunnewell opening costs, January 5, 1994
- Margaret Henderson Floyd obituary, October 22, 1997
- Notes

Series V: *COGdesign Exhibit: A Landscape of Time and Place, 2003*

- COGdesign Proposal for Exhibit of Mendon-Upton Library District Landscape Master Plans
- Letter from Katherine Staton of Mendon-Upton Library to Lucia Droby of COGdesign, May 28, 2003.
- Images of COGdesign's proposal
- Notes. Julie Warsowe's meeting with Lucia Dobie and Patricia McGinnis. June 23, 2003
- Business cards.
- Correspondence from Caroline Richardson to Lucia Droby, Patricia McGinnis and arboretum staff regarding exhibit.
- Correspondence between Luica Droby and Caroline Richardson regarding Cogdesign reception. August 15, 2003.
- Brochure on COGdesign
- Invoice from Cogdesign to Arnold Arboretum. September 15, 2003.
- Drafts of exhibit announcement.
- Drafts of exhibit invitation/postcard.
- Correspondence between Luica Droby and Caroline Richardson regarding invitation/postcard, September 30, 2003.
- Notes. Julie Warsowe.
- E-mail from Michael Ames to Kristen Behn. October 6, 2003.
- Correspondence between Luica Droby and Caroline Richardson regarding invitation/postcard, October 1-6, 2003.

- Conditions of Involvement from Arnold Arboretum to Cogdesgin. October 21, 2003.
- *COGdesign Exhibition: A Landscape of Time and Place at the Arnold Arboretum* Postcard. (2)
- Invoice from Puritan Press. October 24, 2003.
- Letter from Lucia Droby to Caroline Richardson. December 1, 2003.

Series VI: Exhibits, 1982-2000

Folder

1: Exhibits, 1982- 1993

- *Magical Floral Forms* opening, July 27, 1984
- Depiction of Botanical Classifications article, May 8, 1986
- Postcard for Thomas Rebek Watercolors, February 1987
- Flyer, spring exhibits at the AA, 1988
- *Blossoms on the Bough* exhibit information
- *Healing Trees: Plants as Medicine Across Culture* correspondence, July-November 1993

2: Exhibits, 1994- 2000

- *Into the Landscape: Boston's Emerald Necklace Parks*, information, 1994
- Exhibit Ideas, March 3rd, 1994
- *Samuel Parsons, Jr. and the Art of Landscape Architecture*, Draft of exhibit, 1995
- *Lichen Exhibit*, packing list and correspondence, 1995
- Winter visitor statistics, 1998-2000

Box 3

Series VII: An Introductory Tour of the Arnold Arboretum, 1982-2006

Folder

1: *An Introductory Tour of the Arnold Arboretum*, draft manuscripts, 1982

- Draft: text and names of images pasted onto paper
- Slide show text
- Slide Show 1: 12 minutes, 70 slides, June 1982
- Test presentation, May 12, 1982
- Draft
- Draft with attached correspondence from Sheila Connor
- List of slides
- List of plant material
- Draft

2: *An Introductory Tour of the Arnold Arboretum*, final script, June 1982

- Slide show instructions
- Slide Show 1: 12 minutes, 70 slides, June 1982

- Inventory list of tapes

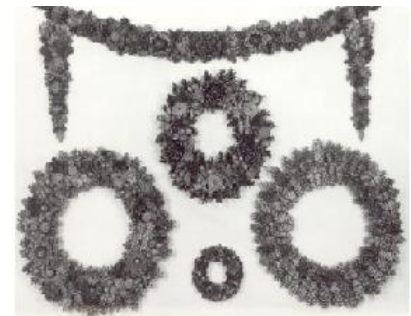


Fall view of ponds, photograph taken by Corliss Engle

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3: *An Introductory Tour of the Arnold Arboretum*, additional information, 1984

- "An Introductory Tour of the Arnold Arboretum," addendum, April 6, 1984
- Weekly tour draft, April 24, 1984
- Weekly tour draft
- Weekly tour draft, May 11, 1984
- Weekly tour draft, May 18, 1984
- Slides used for Arbor Day
- Plants in bloom, May 9, [1984]
- Plants in bloom, May 16, [1984]
 - Five ¾" videotapes
 - One VHS tape
 - One DVD, May 2006 [Missing-July 7, 2011]



Examples from Christmas exhibits created by Florence D. Wyman
[Click to read an extensive article on the subject by Florence and Donald Wyman](#)

Box 4

Series VIII: Exhibit photographs and negatives, 1954-1985

Folder

- 1: Bee garden, 2 photographs
- 2: Caribbean, 59 photographs
- 3: Christmas, 1954, 52 photographs
- 4: Christmas, 1956, 18 photographs
- 5: Christmas, 1960, 19 photographs
- 6: Christmas, 1966, 13 photographs
- 7: Christmas, 1968, 60 photographs
- 8: Conifers, 5 negatives
- 9: Herbarium specimens, 35 photographs
- 10: Herbarium mounting and collecting, 22 photographs
- 11: Herbarium, 1979, 9 negatives
- 12: *Magical Floral Forms*, 1984, 2 photographs
- 13: Miscellaneous, 1982-1985, 5 photographs
- 14: *Art of the Olmsted Landscape: His Work in New York City*, 10 35mm slides

Box 5

Folder

- 1: Preserved foliage, 22 photographs,
- 2: Pruning, 1955, 26 photographs
- 3: Pruning, 1960, 28 photographs
- 4: Pruning, 1961, 11 photographs at the Massachusetts Horticultural Society Spring Flower Show



Pruning exhibit displayed in the Arboretum's lecture hall and at Massachusetts Horticultural Society's Annual Spring Flower show.

- 5: *Sargentia*, 4 photographs
- 6: Shade Trees, National Shade Tree Convention, 1952, 11 photographs of the entire

exhibition, unclear as to the Arboretum's exhibit

7: *Flora from Shakespeare*, 17 photographs

- Photographs in case
- Negatives

8: *Spreading Roots*, September 1978, 12 photographs