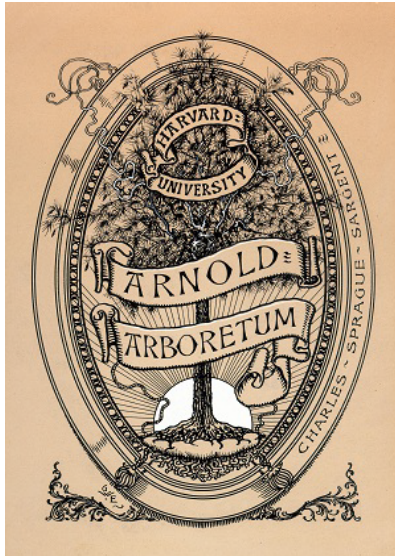


Archives II A-5

Stephanne (Silvia) Barry Sutton (1940-1997) papers, 1965-1994: Guide



Archives of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University

Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts

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II A-5

Stephanne (Silvia) Barry Sutton (1940-1997) papers, 1965-1994: Guide Archives of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University 125 Arborway, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

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Descriptive Summary

Repository: Arnold Arboretum, 125 Arborway, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

Call No.: II A-5

Creator: Sutton, Stephanne (Silvia) Barry, 1940-1997.

Title: Stephanne (Silvia) Barry Sutton (1940-1997) papers, 1965-1994.

Date(s): 1965-1994

Quantity: 20 linear inches

Abstract: Compiled during her tenure at the Arnold Arboretum, the papers of Stephanne (Silvia) Barry Sutton include correspondence, notes, histories, and manuscript. Sutton held several titles at the Arboretum, including Honorary Research Fellow and wrote biographies of both Charles Sprague Sargent and Joseph Rock.

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

Preferred Citation: Stephanne (Silvia) Barry Sutton papers. Archives of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University.

Acquisition Information

Provenance: Except for some biographical information, including images and correspondence with Richard A. Howard, and some material on her work on Joseph Rock (1972-1994) donated to the Arboretum's archives by her colleague and literary executor, Phyllis Anderson in January 2000, the Sutton papers reflect the years from 1965-1968 and are maintained in the order she created. Ms. Sutton's work at the Arboretum preceded the creation of the Arboretum's Archives and was transferred from the Arboretum's departmental holdings to the Archives in 1984, when the Archive was established. Some of the original manuscript material she gathered for her research has been relocated to the pertinent collections within the Archives. See notes throughout and at the end of the Guide.

Processing: 1998, Revised, 2001 Lisa Pearson, 2011 Sheila Connor, 2023, 2024 Larissa Glasser.

Terms of Access

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Biographical Note

Stephanne (Silvia) Barry Sutton, also S.B. Sutton, was the author of biographies of the Arnold Arboretum's first director, Charles Sprague Sargent, and of the plant explorer, Joseph Rock, who had a long affiliation with the Arboretum. A writer of fiction as well as biography and history, Ms. Sutton was on the staff of the Arboretum from 1963 to 1974.

Born in Ohio in 1940, Sutton was raised in upstate New York and graduated from Wells College in Aurora, New York. After a brief stint as a writer at the United Nations in New York, she joined the Arboretum staff as a business secretary and secretary to the director, Richard A. Howard. As Howard's secretary Sutton was aware of his attempt to find a suitable author to write a biography of Charles Sprague Sargent in time for the Arboretum's centennial in 1972. Sutton proceeded to resign her position at the Arboretum but, added a postscript to her letter of resignation stating, as recounted by Howard, "that she would like to stay around and do the job he had in mind ... [and] I accepted this audacious suggestion." In 1970, two years ahead of deadline, Harvard University Press published [*Charles Sprague Sargent and the Arnold Arboretum* by S.B. Sutton](#).



R.A. Howard and S.B. Sutton at the Arboretum during her book signing of *Charles Sprague Sargent and the Arnold Arboretum*, 1970



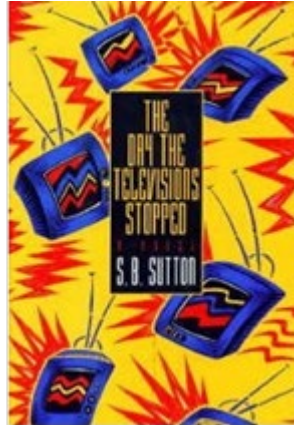
S.B. Sutton presenting *Charles Sprague Sargent and the Arnold Arboretum* to Governor Francis W. Sargent, Honorary Chairman of the Arboretum's Centennial Celebration and descendant of C.S. Sargent

During her research Sutton sought out and received copies of many of Sargent's early letters, especially those written from Holm Lea his family estate where he conducted Arboretum business prior to the construction of the Hunnewell Administration building in 1892. Her thoroughness and organization of these early records was an invaluable contribution in the creation of the Arboretum's Archive in 1984 and her diligent work continues to provide an important, accessible resource for researchers.

Ms. Sutton was also the author of [*The Arnold Arboretum: the First Century*](#), with a forward by Walter Muir Whitehill, Arnold Arboretum, 1971. As an Honorary Research Fellow of the Arboretum, she researched the life and work of Joseph Rock, which culminated in her book, [*In China's Border Provinces: the Turbulent Career of Joseph Rock, Botanist-Explorer*](#). Hastings House, 1974.

Stephanne Sutton went on to write a history of Cambridge: [*Cambridge Reconsidered: 3 1/2 Centuries on the Charles*](#), M.I.T. Press, 1976 and wrote two institutional histories: [*The Massachusetts General*](#)

[Hospital, 1955-1980](#). Little, Brown, 1983 and [Crossroads in Psychiatry: A History of the McLean Hospital](#). American Psychiatric Association, 1986. Sutton predeceased her husband Imre Halasz (1926-2003), an architect and professor at the Massachusetts Institute of technology. Her only novel, *The Day the Televisions Stopped* was published by Knopf in 1992.



Scope and Content

The papers of Stephanie Sutton contain correspondence; detailed notes on city parks; information regarding Boston, the Arnold Arboretum, and Kew Gardens of London and the history of science. The bulk of the collection spans the years 1965-1968 covering the period Sutton's worked on *Charles Sprague Sargent and the Arnold Arboretum* with a large portion of the collection consisting of annotated and marked up drafts of the Sargent biography.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in 4 series:

- Series I: Biographical
- Series II: Images
- Series III: Correspondence with Richard A. Howard
- Series IV: Research

With a few exceptions, principally the biographical material and correspondence with Richard A. Howard, the Sutton's papers are titled and maintained in the order in which they were created. Some original documents have been relocated to other collections within the Arboretum's archives. These transfers are noted.

Container List

Box 1

Series I: Biographical Folder

1. Recommendations for fellowships. 1970-71
2. Obituaries of Sutton and her husband Imre Halasz. 1997 and 2003

Series II: Images Folder

1. Portraits of Sutton. 1969



2. Photographs of book signing for *Charles Sprague Sargent*. 1971
3. Photographs of Sutton's presentation of *Charles Sprague Sargent* to Governor Francis W. Sargent. 1972

Series III: Correspondence with Richard A. Howard

Folder

1. Correspondence regarding *Charles Sprague Sargent: A Man and His Trees*. 1964-70
2. Correspondence regarding *Arnoldia*. November 17, c1968
3. Correspondence regarding fellowship. 1970
4. Correspondence regarding *The Arnold Arboretum: The First Century*. 1971-72
5. Correspondence regarding *In China's Border Provinces: The Turbulent Career of Joseph Rock . . .* 1971-76

Series IV: Research



Folder

1. Saturday Club, CSS [Charles Sprague Sargent] FLO [Frederick Law Olmsted] Leech on McKinley
2. Domestic 1969-70: SBS [Sylvia Barry Sutton] correspondence
3. Domestic 1965: SBS correspondence
4. Arboretum History: RAH [Richard Alden Howard] correspondence of CSS
5. New Yorker, Dec. 10, 1966, pp. 149-70 Notes on Sargent's Silva
6. Articles on AA [Arnold Arboretum]
7. Books: Gen. notes of secondary sources (Veitch, Pinchot, CSS)
8. Sargent Index: manuscript
9. Manuscript, plant lists, centennial ideas
10. Answers to queries
11. Domestic 1967: SBS correspondence
12. Permissions & Related Info (to quote letters)
13. City Parks - 1967
14. Notes on letters pre-1912
15. Correspondence: January 1966 - February 1966
16. Domestic Correspondence: March 1966 - December 1966

Box 2**Folder**

1. Sutton, Stephanie B. Reviews
2. General Biographical Notes: inc. Hunnewell, HWS, Misc. Ewan; John Singer Sargent
3. AA Sargent
4. From CSS- Misc. Unbound- inc. DuPont, Eastwood, Lemmon, Morris ARB
5. Small Guidebook
6. Muir, John
7. AA & City of Boston; inc. letters from CSS: Letters to Pringle, 1876-1879
8. Notes on letters in GRAY
9. SS [Stephanne Sutton] - New Book Project
10. Articles for Publication: Book Review
11. UK [United Kingdom] Correspondence - Foreign
12. KEW Material
13. AA - Staff Memos
14. Smithsonian: Letters to & from CSS, Rose, [Vagey] 1893
15. Progress Reports to RAH!
16. Mail & Misc. Notes Pending
17. Photographs
18. Periodical Literature - Notes from Bot. Gaz., Gard. Chron., Transcript
19. Biographic Chart
20. Misc. MS/Probably by Trelease on Bot. Gardens, w/refs to AA
21. Memo for Dr. E. D. Merrill
22. Material for Typing
23. Domestic 1968
24. Misc. Notes: esp. CSS Family
25. Misc. Notes: For Sargent Biography
26. CSS, Personal
27. Post - Mortem
28. Personal Interviews
29. Post 1912 - To CSS
30. Miscellaneous Notes
31. Dr. Woods Taxonomy Class
32. Post 1960 - AA
33. History of Science
34. Misc., annotated and marked up draft 1 Chapter I
35. Misc., annotated and marked up draft 1 Chapter II
36. Misc., annotated and marked up draft 1 Chapter III
37. Misc., annotated and marked up draft 1 Chapter IV
38. Misc., annotated and marked up draft 1 Chapter V
39. Misc., annotated and marked up draft 1 Chapter VI
40. Misc., annotated and marked up draft 1 Chapter VII
41. Misc., annotated and marked up draft 1 Chapter VIII
42. Misc., annotated and marked up draft 1 Chapter VIII, different version
43. Misc., annotated and marked up draft 1 Chapter IX

Box 3**Folder**

1. Misc., Annotated and marked up draft 1, Chapter X
2. Misc., Annotated and marked up draft 1 Chapter XI
3. Misc., Annotated and marked up draft 1 Chapter XII
4. Misc., Annotated and marked up draft 1 Chapter XIII

5. Misc., Annotated and marked up draft 1 Chapter XIV
6. Part II, Chapter X, Wilson at AA
7. Chapter VI Intro.
8. Chapter VII - X Silva Intro
9. Chapter I Birth and Family
10. Chapter II Harvard 1872
11. Chapter III Arboretum beginnings
12. Chapter IV Census background
13. Chapter V Jesup Collection
14. Part II - Chapter VIII Intro. to Orient
15. Part III - Chapter XII Arboretum
16. Part II - Chapter IX Intro.
17. Part III - Chapter XI *Crataegus*, Intro.
18. Sargent
19. Part III - Chapter XII, AA ca. 1900 planting arrangements

**Box 4
Folder**

1. Notes made by S. B. Sutton
2. Davenport, Mrs. Natalie Potter
3. Batchelder, Katherine Abbott
4. Correspondence regarding donations to the Trowbridge Memorial Fund
July 7, 2011 material has been transferred to the Development Department
5. Correspondence: Sargent biography
6. Correspondence: Moodly, Ambert G. To Sargent
7. Correspondence: Nuts
8. Envelope sent by Steve Spongberg from Japan 1977
9. The Endemic Flora of Tasmania - An Exhibition of Watercolors
10. Merrill Administration letter from Susan D. McKelvey
July 7, 2011 original correspondence has been transferred to the Susan Delano McKelvey Papers Archives II A-4
11. Notes on Plants in Collections See NOTE 2
12. Correspondence: Merrill
March 27, 2000 original correspondence has been transferred to the Merrill Archives IB EDM Box 2, Folder Stf-Sz.
13. *Malus sargentii* Karl Sax material
July 7, 2011 original Karl Sax material has been transferred to the Sax Papers Archives I B KS
14. Correspondence: Wagenknecht, *Buxus*
July 7, 2011 original correspondence has been transferred to the Burdette L. Wagenknecht Papers Archives II A-21
15. Correspondence: Wagenknecht, Christmas plants
July 7, 2011 original correspondence has been transferred to the Burdette L. Wagenknecht Papers Archives II A-21
16. Karl Sax paper: The effect of temperature on x-ray induced chromosome aberrations.
July 7, 2011 original Karl Sax material has been transferred to the Sax Papers Archives I B KS
17. Misc. Correspondence
18. Publishers – Rock (1972-73): Acquired 1/2000
19. J. F. Rock /1991 – : Acquired 1/2000
20. Harold Beckman paper: Naxi Studies in China: Acquired 2001

21. Publicity Photographs 1972: Acquired 2001
22. Bernard Harkness pamphlet: Excerpts, *Letters of Charles Sprague Sargent to Rochester Park Personnel* Inscribed copy to S.B.S.
23. S.B. Sutton book: Cambridge Reconsidered
24. Maps of China and Japan. 1947
25. Reprint of Joseph Rock article in *The Rosebay*, publication of the American Rhododendron Society Massachusetts Chapter. 1982
26. Transcript: Sutton's oral history interview of botanist Lily May Perry. July 9, 1976

Note 1

A portion of S. B. Sutton's notes and correspondence relating to the Jessup Wood Collection were relocated to VI JC. Jessup Wood Collection. This material was the basis for several pages of Sutton's book on Sargent, specifically the chapter titled "In Nation's Forest," Ida Hay, September 1990.

Note 2

The following 2 items were relocated from the folder titled "Notes on Plant Collections" to Living Collections IV B-1.4 "Hurricane/Blizzard/Storm Damage"

- Hurricane Damage 1938 – "The following trees are either uprooted or so severely damaged that they will have to come down."
- Hurricane Damage 1938 – "Plants destroyed by wind storm, September 21, 1938."

The following five items were relocated from the folder titled "Notes on Plant Collections" Living Collections IV C-6 Special Lists

- "Name Changes of Woody Plants in the Living Collections of the Arnold Arboretum" December 27, 1938.
- "Crosses (Hand Pollinated and Open) Made by George Skirm during Spring of 1938"
- "Questionable Names and Plants in the A. A." October 21, 1938.
- "Species and Varieties in the Arnold Arboretum, January 1, 1942."
- "Amelanchier Along Meadow Road" 12-15-47.

Sheila Connor, 2011.