Archives IV A-3 DW


The Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University

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Descrptive Summary
Repository: Archives of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University, Jamaica Plain, MA
Call No.: IV A-3 DW
Location: Archives
Title: Donald Wyman (1904-1993) papers, 1935-1970
Date(s): 1935-1970
Creator: Donald Wyman, 1904-1993
Quantity: 8 boxes, 3.3 linear feet
Language of material: English
Abstract: Donald Wyman served as the Arnold Arboretum horticulturist from 1935-1969. His papers reflect his years of dedication to the study and advancement of horticulture within the academic community and in service of the gardening public.
Note: Access to Finding Aid record in HOLLIS.
Preferred Citation: Donald Wyman papers. Archives of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University.
Additional Material: In 2004, a collection of plant records pertaining to genera grown in the living collections, which included files created by Donald Wyman and by succeeding horticulturalists Gordon P. DeWolf, Robert Hebb, and Gary Koller, was discovered and deposited in the archives. These plant records are arranged alphabetically by genera and are available at Office of the Horticulturist records, 1938-1996.

Processing Information
Processed: June 1988 Carol David; revised 2003, 2005, 2012 Sheila Connor; revised 2023 Larissa Glasser.

Acquisition Information
Provenance: Most of the material was acquired upon Dr. Wyman's retirement in 1969 and transferred from department holdings to the Arboretum’s Archives in 1984 when the Archive was created. A small amount of biographical material was added after his death in 1993. With the exception of biographical material and a selection of his publications, the collection is maintained in the sequence created by Donald Wyman.

Terms of Access
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Biographical Note

"At a certain point in my studies, I had to choose which area of horticulture to devote myself to, and I chose to concentrate on ornamental woody plants. When I came to the Arboretum, there they all were, needing loving care and attention. I enjoyed working at the Arboretum. I loved every bit of it."

From an interview with Donald Wyman, 1991

Donald Wyman (1904-1993) served as Horticulturist of the Arnold Arboretum from 1935-1970. Taking responsibility at a difficult period - in the midst of the Great Depression and after the deaths of founding director Charles Sprague Sargent in 1927 and "Keeper" of the Arboretum E. H. Wilson in 1930 - proved to be a rigorous introduction for the young man who would become a renowned horticulturalist.

Although he and his older sister Pauline, the children of Paul and Lillian Wyman, were born on a ranch in Templeton, California when their father died when they were quite young the family returned to Philadelphia, their mother’s hometown. In his words, Wyman grew up “a city boy” whose first encounter with plants came when he collected leaves for botany class in high school. After receiving his B.A. in Horticulture from Pennsylvania State College, he attended Cornell where he received an M.A. in forestry and, in 1935, a Ph.D. in ornamental horticulture.

Wyman began writing about plants for Cornell’s University Extension Bulletin in 1930 and by graduation had published articles in The Florists Exchange and Horticultural Trade World, The Proceedings of the American Society for Horticultural Science, and The Shade Tree. Wyman’s lifelong interest in assessing and defining the ornamental attributes of plants was apparent in the titles of some of these early pieces: “A Survey of Clipped Hedges,” “The Best of the Philadelphus” and “The Best 24 Flowering Crabs.” Wyman also joined the lecture circuit. In Boston during 1934 he gave two talks to local horticultural groups, delivered a lecture on “Color in the Garden,” at Harvard’s School of Landscape Architecture, and spoke at the New England Nurserymen’s Meeting.

On January 12, 1934, Wyman wrote Professor Oakes Ames (1874-1950) supervisor of the Arboretum (1927-1935) about his intention to spend three months of independent study at the Arboretum and asked if an “official or semi-official connection” could be arranged. After meeting with Wyman, Ames offered a Corporation appointment as a research assistant but without monetary compensation noting that there were “… no funds for taking care of research men.”
Les than six months later, Ames would appoint Donald Wyman the Arboretum’s Horticultrist, effective January 1, 1936.

Wyman’s work at the Arnold Arboretum focused on the horticultural evaluation of ornamental trees and shrubs, and the practical application of horticultural information for public consumption through lectures, publications, and public display. He led well-subscribed and highly regarded field classes at the Arboretum throughout his tenure. A prolific writer, Wyman published seven books, including *Shrubs and Vines for American Gardens*, *Trees for American Gardens*, and *Wyman's Gardening Encyclopedia* and over 1,000 articles in both academic and popular publications. Wyman became editor of the Arboretum’s *Bulletin of Popular Information* in 1936 and continued editing the *Bulletin’s* successor *Arnoldia*, which achieved even broader circulation through his efforts, until his retirement.

**SPRING 1954**

**Arnold Arboretum Field Classes**

Once again the Field Classes will be conducted in the Arnold Arboretum this spring by Dr. Donald Wyman. These will meet in front of the Administration Building at the Jamaica Plain Gate at 10 A.M. **Friday mornings, starting April 30th, and ending May 28th.** Two hours are spent in walking about the grounds (cars will be permitted for class members) studying the various plants of interest as they come into bloom and discussing their relative merits. Special information will be given on culture and pruning, and if desired one meeting will be held in the greenhouses. In case of rain, the class will meet indoors. Both men and women are welcome. A registration fee of $1.00 is requested in advance by mail, and checks should be made payable to Harvard University. Since it may be necessary to limit the size of the class this year, registrations will be accepted in the order in which they are received.

As head of living collections, Wyman promoted and introduced many cultivated varieties of plants new to the Arboretum and in many cases new to North America. Those of exceptional merit he planted in prominent locations, rather than in the Arboretum historic botanical sequence, to serve as focal points in the landscape. His interest in cultivars and his subsequent work with cooperating nurseries throughout North
American and Europe determined the course of the development of the Arboretum’s living collections for over half a century.

Donald Wyman was president, director, and trustee of the American Horticultural Society, the first president, and director for five years, of the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta, director of the American Institute of Park Executives, a trustee of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, and secretary-treasurer of the American Horticultural Council.

Many horticultural institutions recognized his contributions by awarding him their most prestigious medals: The Massachusetts Horticultural Society presented him with the George Robert White Medal of Honor, the American Horticultural Society conveyed the Liberty Hyde Bailey Gold Medal. He received the Arthur Hoyt Scott Gold Medal from Swarthmore College, the Distinguished Service Award of the New York Horticultural Society, the Medal of Honor of the Garden Club of America, the Silver Alder Leaf of the Scandinavian Horticultural Congress, a Distinguished Alumni Award from the Pennsylvania State University, and perhaps the most coveted award in all of horticulture, the Veitch Memorial Gold Medal of the Royal Horticultural Society of London. Gordon DeWolf, who would become Wyman’s successor as horticulturalist noted the awarding of this prestigious honor to Wyman in a special supplement of Arnoldia

Upon his retirement the President and Fellows of Harvard College honored Wyman with the exceptional title of Horticulturist, Emeritus. At his retirement party which was held on May 29th, 1969 [Wyman officially retired on August 31, 1970, the anniversary of his first appointment] at the Charles Stratton Dana Greenhouses following the final session of his popular and long-running series of Friday Morning Walks the staff presented Donald Wyman with a bound copy of A Cumulative Index to Arnoldia, Volumes 1-29 (1941-1969) that they had produced and dedicated to him.

Although Wyman championed many plants that displayed multi-seasonal attraction he was especially enthusiastic about the landscape attributes of the crab apples. In 1970 the Arboretum introduced Malus ‘Donald Wyman’ noting the retention of its large, glossy, and brilliant red fruits long into winter.

In his curation and development of the living collections Wyman focused on advancing the science of horticulture and the management of gardens and arboreta through observations and research conducted at the Arboretum and his papers and publications reflect these activities.

Scope and Content
The collection covers Wyman’s career and work at the Arboretum and includes notebooks, correspondence, publications, manuscripts, newspaper clippings and illustrations.

Arrangement
The collection is arranged in 3 series.

Series I: Biographical material, photographs, correspondence, manuscripts, newspaper clippings
Series II: Arboreta and Botanical Gardens
Series III: Subject Files

Container List
Box 1
Biographical material, correspondence, publications

Folder
1. Biographical Material
   - News clippings, “Horticultural Award to Dr. Donald Wyman” and “Dr. Wyman Wins Horticultural Award.” Publication not indicated, copies, undated, c1960
   - Biographical documentation, 5p.
   - Staff badge
• Obituary notice of Wyman’s son Donald Wyman Jr. December 2, 2007.

2. Obituaries and Memorial Services
• Personnel card, Mrs. Donald (Florence) Wyman. undated, c1950s?
• News clipping, [Obituary]. "Mrs. Florence D. Wyman. Publication not indicated, copy. undated, c1973
• Appreciation note, Donald Wyman to Arnold Arboretum Staff. undated, c1973
• Memorandum from Richard A. Howard to Arnold Arboretum staff regarding death of Donald Wyman. September 7, 1993
• News clipping, Obituary. "Donald Wyman, 89; horticulturist of Arnold Arboretum for 33 years." Boston Globe, copy, September 9, 1993
• Program. A Celebration of the Life of Donald Wyman, 1903-1993. First Parish Church, Weston, MA. 2 copies. September 13, 1993

3. Photographs
• In front of Hunnewell Building, Arnold Arboretum, 4\(\frac{1}{4}\)\"x3 \(\frac{1}{8}\)" b&w print, unknown photographer, 1948
• With Brian O. Mulligan, Director, University of Washington Arboretum, Seattle, WA, 2, 10"x8" b&w prints, 1 mounted on board. unknown photographer, July 28, 1949
• In front of Hunnewell Building, Arnold Arboretum. 2, 7"x5" b&w prints, 1 negative, unknown photographer, March 1950
• Leading Spring Field Class. 9\(\frac{3}{4}\)''x6\(\frac{1}{2}\)" b&w print mounted on board, unknown photographer, undated, c1950
• With cytisus praecox. 3, 5"x7" b&w prints, unknown photographer, May 25, 1952
• Dijon (côte-d’or), 4"x4" b&w print, unknown photographer, September 4, 1957
• 2, 5"x7" b&w portraits, side view and front view, Herman Howard, photographer, August 29, 1961
• [Fall] field class. 7"x5" b&w print, Herman Howard, photographer, October 18, 1963
• Speaking to a field class, 7"x5" b&w print, unknown photographer, October 18, 1963
• Vietch Memorial Medal, 7"x5" b&w print, unknown photographer, 1968
• Verso of Vietch Memorial Medal showing inscription, 7"x5" b&w print, unknown photographer, 1968
• Retirement Party, 4, 7"x5" b&w prints and 1 5"x5" b&w print, unknown photographer, 1969
• With George Pride, Arboretum staff, 7"x5" b&w print, unknown photographer, late 1960s
• Final class, 4 color slides of Wyman with students in front of Bonsai house, May 29, 1970
• Delivering lecture at Arnold Arboretum Centennial, 2, 9\(\frac{3}{4}\)''x7\(\frac{1}{2}\)" b&w prints, unknown photographer, 1972
• With Henry Norweb, Arnold Arboretum Centennial, 9\(\frac{3}{4}\)''x7\(\frac{1}{2}\)" b&w print, unknown photographer, 1972
• Donald Wyman, Jr. and Donald Wyman Thomas with portrait of Donald Wyman, Sr. 10"x8" b&w print, Karen Madsen, photographer, May 26, 1994
• Leading various field classes both at the Arboretum and the Case Estates 1954-1970, 24, 35mm slides (1 duplicate), many photographer[s] unknown
4. Bibliographies
   - Wyman, Donald. 1987. Bibliography of the Books and Articles Written by Donald Wyman, Complete 1935-1967. [Also includes, on last two pages, listing of publications from 1930 -1935] typewritten manuscript, unnumbered pages, 1 bound copy, 1 loose-leaf in mylar binding
   - Publications of Donald Wyman, 1954-1962, carbon copy
   - Publications of Donald Wyman July 1, 1969- June 30, 1970 (Handwritten)
   - Illustrated Lectures by Dr. Donald Wyman, Horticulturalist, mimeograph, not dated
     For articles Wyman published in Arnoldia

5. Donald Wyman correspondence (1936-1990)
   - Mrs. Bayard James
   - H. Clinton Taylor
   - Malcolm Johnson
   - Dr. Carroll Wood
   - Richard A. Howard
   - Francis Brown
   - Sargent Kennedy
   - Dorothea F. Talbot
   - Gordon DeWolf
   - Arno B. Commerer
   - Harlan P. Kelsey
   - Mrs. Donald Wyman
   - John W. Teele
   - Daniel C. Weaver
   - John Beaman
   - Nathan Pusey
   - John H. Hanley
   - Albert G. Johnson
   - M. Walter Pesman
   - Charles Adams

6. "Horticulture at the Arnold Arboretum (Jamaica Plain) 1936-1970” by Donald Wyman [manuscript]
7. Travel for Arboretum [1958-1963]
8. Personnel Correspondence [Restricted Access]
9. Keeping Pollen notes
10. Case Estates, Trellis Vines, and Notes on Vines for Trellis
11. The Arboretums and Botanical Gardens of North America, with Elizabeth D. Bennett, 1959, interleaved copy
15. “Key to Cultivated Trees in the Boston Area,” 1903 [Typewritten Manuscript]

Box 2
Series II Arboreta and Botanical Gardens

Folder

1.
- Guide to the Botanic Garden of the East Bay Regional Park District in Charles Lee Tilden Regional Park. [1951]
- List of Woody Plant Materials; the Arboretum of the Barnes Foundation, Merion PA. January 1956.
- Newspaper clipping- Berkshire Garden Club, Stockbridge MA.
- Horticultural Features in the Union Country Park System. The Union County Park System, Warinanco Park, Elizabeth NJ.
- The Garden Journal of the New York Botanical Garden. Vol. 6, No. 4, July/August 1956

2.
- Flamingo Groves Botanic Garden, Fort Lauderdale FL.
- Postcards
- Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square PA (Brochure)
- The Fairchild Tropical Garden, Miami FL (Brochure)
- Edison Winter Home, Fort Myers, FL (Brochures)
- Tree Facts – Arborets – Asplundh Chipper Co. Jenkintown PA. (Brochure)
- Botanical Institute and Garden. The University of Pavla Italy. (Postcards)
- List of Special Collections at various gardens and arboreta.
• List of Sources for Rare Plants in European Arboreta and Botanic Gardens.

3.  
• Brookgreen Gardens, Murrells Inlet, SC  
• C.M. Goethe, Sacramento CA  
• Carribbean Gardens, Naples FL  
• Coover Arboretum, Arlington VA  
• Foster Park Botanical Garden, Honolulu HI  
• General Electric grounds plant listing  
• Keilworth Aquatic Gardens, Washington D.C.  
• Marco Polo Park, Daytona Beach FL  
• Meadowvale Botanic Garden, Toronto Canada (Proposed)  
• Meyer Arboretum, White Plains NY  
• Royal Botanic Gardens, Port of Spain, Trinidad, West Indies  
• Tennessee Botanical Gardens and Fine Arts Center, Nashville TN  
• University of British Columbia Botanical Garden, Vancouver Canada  
• Wahiawa Botanical Garden, Oahu HI  
• Westchester NY Public Arboretum (Proposed)

4.  Cornell University Arboretum  
5.  Golden Gate Park  
6.  Highland Park  
7.  Arboreta and Botanical Gardens:  Questionnaire U. S. National Arboretum  

**Box 3**  
**Series III Subject Files**  
**Folder**  
1.  Arnold Arboretum Plant Introductions 1923 -1972  
2.  Books  
   • Book advertisements and recommended reading  
3.  Autumn Color Notes  
   • Correspondence from John O’Connor, Royal Botanic Gardens, England to Donald Wyman  
   • Various *Arnoldia* articles  
4.  Bonsai  
   • Data on Arnold Arboretum Bonsai Collection (1961)  
   • Bonsai reference articles  
   • Information on bonsai show exhibits  
   • Duncan Findlayson’s “Notes on Japanese Plants”  
5.  Bulbs  
   • Lists of Narcissus, Iris and Hemerocallis.
   • Notes on columnar trees for American Nurseries article
   • List of fastigate trees
   • Pictures of two columnar trees
   • Correspondence with the following individuals:
     ▪ A.M. Augustine, Augustine Nurseries, Normal IL
     ▪ Clarence Godshalk, Morton Arboretum, Lisle, IL
     ▪ Robert E. More, Dines, Dines & Holme, Denver, CO
     ▪ R.L. Parks, Parks Landscape Service, Waverly, NY
     ▪ H.J. Hohman, Kingsville Nurseries Inc., Kingsville, MD

7. Columnar Trees, Sources
   • Sources for Columnar Upright Trees, October 1938
   • Columnar trees Worthy of Growing for their Peculiar Habit, 1946
   • Photograph of *Ulmus moline D-1-M*
   • Correspondence [1937-1946]

8. Contacts
   • Arnold Arboretum Personnel, December 1969
   • Massachusetts Nurseriesmen’s Association Inc., 1969
   • Massachusetts Department of Agriculture

9. Dwarf Conifers
   • Correspondence & Lists [1941-1969].
   • Pictures of Dwarf Conifers
   • Reference articles

10. Dwarf Conifers, Gotelli Arboretum
    • Correspondence between Donald Wyman and William T. Gotelli, Gotelli Arboretum, NJ. [1960-1962].
    • List of species at Gotelli Arboretum

11. Dwarf Conifers Raraflora, F. W. Bergman
    • Correspondence with F.W. Bergman [1960-1961] 1965

12. Dutch Elm Disease
    • *Cumulative Report on Dutch Elm Disease Trees.* Shade Tree Laboratories, University of Massachusetts, Amherst. [1951-1955]
    • Donald Wyman. *The Dutch Elm Disease in Massachusetts.*
    • Dutch Elm Disease Report on Regional Meeting, Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, November 7, 1947, Boston MA
    • Reference materials
    • Newspaper clippings
    • Correspondence [1947-1952].

13. Espalier
    • Arnold Arboretum Greenhouse Espaliers [1964-1969]

14. Export Regulations
    • Notices and correspondence [1956-1958]

15. Fences
    • Examples and Sources for various types of fencing.

Box 4

Series III Subject Files

Folder

1. Fertilizers
2. Flower Show - Christmas 1954
3. Flower Show - Christmas 1960
4. Flower Show - Christmas 1966
5. Flower Shows
- Correspondence and notes on exhibits
- Schedule of the 47th, 48th and 49th International Flower Show [1964-1966], New York Coliseum

6. Fragrant Plants
   - Correspondence between Donald Wyman and
   - Clarence McK. Lewis,
   - William H. Judd
   - Florence Fitzpatrick. 1939

7. Fruits and Nuts
   - Lists of plants
   - Reference articles
   - Correspondence [1923-1966]

8. Ground Covers
   - Lists of plants
   - Sources
   - Reference articles
   - Correspondence.

9. Hardiness
   - Notes
   - Testing
   - Correspondence 1935-1941

10. Hardiness
    - Notes
    - Testing
    - Correspondence 1943-1955

11. Hardiness
    - Notes
    - Testing
    - Correspondence 1956-1970

12. Hardiness
    - Reference articles

13. Hardiness Zone maps
    - Correspondence (see map case drawer 7, folder 21 for maps)

Box 5
Series III Subject Files
Folder
1. Hedges
   - Reference material on hedges and topiaries

2. Hurricane
   - Correspondence with Mt. Auburn Cemetery regarding 1938 hurricane damage.
   - Articles
   - Newspaper clippings on hurricane destruction and monetary value of trees

3. Insects, Diseases, & Pest Control
   - Correspondence
   - Reference material [1952-1958]
     - Rabbits
4. Insects, Diseases, & Pest Control Publications
   - Clifford S. Chater *Tree News.*
   - Shade Tree Laboratory, University of Massachusetts and Cooperative Extension Newsletters. [1959-1969]

5. Instructions for typing and spelling plant names [1958-1959], Instructions for typing Accession Lists 8/59, Policy for Typing Labeling and Publishing the Names for the Woody Plants in the Arnold Arboretum 1/1/1959, Dead Plants, How to Change Records, undated, Driving Permits and Gate openings and closings, undated

6. Instructions to Secretary
   - contact list with telephone numbers

7. Landscape Judges Course 1960, 1963 Pittsburgh, PA and Boston, MA Reference material
   - Donald Wyman. “The Use of Trees in Landscape Composition”
   - Donald Wyman. [1963]. *Plant Composition* Lecture at Landscape Design School
   - Watts. *Reading the Landscape*
   - Study Manual of the garden Club Federation of Massachusetts, INC.
   - Landscape Design School Instructors Duties
   - Procedure for Landscape Design study sources handbook


9. Moisture Loving Plants
   - Reference lists

10. Mulches, Peat Moss, Etc.
    - Reference articles
    - manufacture material on the various types of mulch available [1956-1967].
      - Correspondence and test results with Hershey Co. regarding cocoa bean shells as mulch.
      - Arnold Arboretum. *Mulches for New England*

11. Plant Introduction and Introducers
    - Correspondence
    - Reference material on new and recently introduced trees and shrubs. [1939-1941]

**Box 6**

**Series III Subject Files**

**Folder**

1. Plant Quarantine, Foreign Countries, Permits, Inspections, Releases
   - Import Permits [1949-1950]
   - Notice of Shipment/Inspection Notices [1946-1965]
   - Release from Quarantine Notices [1956-1969]

2. Plant Quarantine, Foreign Countries, USDA Rules and Regulations

3. Plant Quarantine, Foreign Countries, Correspondence
   - Inspection, import and quarantine information [1950-1970]

4. Plant Quarantine, Interstate
   - USDA Rules and Regulations [1937-1966]
   - Certificates of Nursery Inspection [1952-1959]
   - Correspondence [1944-1959].

5. Plants requested by the Arnold Arboretum
6. Plants requested from nurseries
   • 1951, 1953
7. Plants that have died in the nursery
   • Lists for 1951 and 1953
8. Positions opened or wanted [1970]
9. Rootstocks
   • Reference articles.
10. Soil Sterilization and Testing
    • Fumigation products
    • Reference material. 1940-1944.
11. Trees, Street Planting
    • 1956-1969
12. Visitors
    • Massachusetts Horticultural Society Field Day, May 9, 1956
13. Weeds and Weed Eradication

Box 7
Series III Subject Files
Folder
   • Dr. Raymond Allen
   • John L. Creech.
2. Plants Requested, 1961
   • Lists and correspondence arranged by date
3. Plants Requested, 1962
   • Lists and correspondence arranged by date
4. Plants Requested, 1963
   • Lists and correspondence arranged by date
5. Plants Requested- 1964
   • Lists and correspondence arranged by date
6. Plants Requested- 1965
   • Lists and correspondence arranged by date
7. Plants Requested- 1966
   • Lists and correspondence arranged by date
8. Plants Requested- 1967
   • Lists and correspondence arranged by date
10. Sources for Plants to Request
    • 1960-1967
11. Sources for Rare Plants
    • Results of first and second questionnaire to American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arborettums and photographs of trees
12. White Rhodora
    • List and Sources

Box 8
Series III Subject Files
Azalea
[Knapp Hill Azaleas, rating of size of blossom and color?]
On first sheet in Wyman’s hand “Do not copy x ratings in left hand column, Do not throw away these sheets but return them to DW”
34, 3”x5” paper slips with handwritten annotations arranged in alphabetical order by cultivar name, in envelope
Malus

Wyman’s informal outdoor talks, known as his “Friday Morning Walks,” were held annually, for four sessions, spring and fall from ten until noon on the Arboretum grounds. On his last walk, on May 29th, 1969, the entire Arboretum staff, former staff members, members of the Arboretum’s Visiting Committee, his associates in professional organizations, the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, the Boston Horticultural Club, the American Horticultural Society, and the American Association of Botanic Gardens and Arboreta were all in attendance. Also in attendance was Mary “Polly” May Binney Wakefield, a member of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society’s Library Committee and Sheila Connor, cataloger at the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. They met during this last Friday morning session and Sheila Connor would join the Arboretum staff the following year. Their friendship would continue until Polly’s death in 2004. In 2005, The Horticultural Library of the Arnold Arboretum located in Jamaica Plan was endowed by a gift from the Wakefield Estate. Sheila Connor retired as Horticultural Research Archivist on April 30, 2012.

Donald Wyman, on right in olive colored suit addressing the audience in both images. Polly Wakefield, in center in blue suit and hat (above on left); Sheila Connor, in pink sweater and pink sunglasses (above on right)