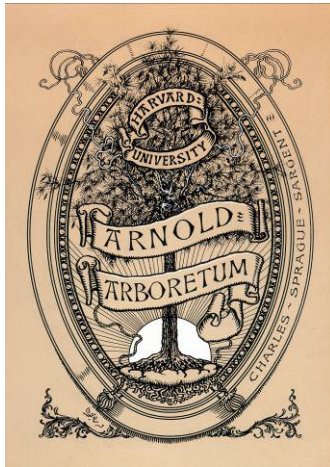


Archives IX A SPG

***Science in the Pleasure Ground: A History of the Arnold Arboretum* Ida Hay papers,
1981-1996: Guide**



The Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University

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IX A SPG

Science in the Pleasure Ground: A History of the Arnold Arboretum, Ida Hay papers 1981-1996: Guide

**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.: IX A SPG

Location: Archives

Title: *Science in the Pleasure Ground, A History of the Arnold Arboretum* Ida Hay papers 1981-1996

Date(s): 1981-1996

Creator: Hay, Ida (1948-)

Quantity: 5 linear feet, 12 boxes

Language of material: English

Abstract: Collection consists of primary and secondary research material on the Arnold Arboretum collected and assembled by Hay between 1981-1993 for her institutional history of the institution *Science in the Pleasure Ground* and includes: accounts of the Arboretum's beginnings, early uses of land, the Bussey Institution, material about the concept of an arboretum and the development of a privately defined public space, Frederick Law Olmsted, the Arboretum's design, construction, plantings and plant explorations, and descriptions of the landscape, its plants and the role staff members played in its development.

Preferred Citation: *Science in the Pleasure Ground, A History of the Arnold Arboretum* Ida Hay papers 1981-1996. Archives of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University.

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

Additional Material: For Ida Hay's records as Manager of the Herbarium in Jamaica Plain see [Archives II B-1 IH](#); for information on the exhibit "Science in the Pleasure Ground" see [Archives I G-9.1](#).

Processing Information

2012 Sheila Connor. Revised 2023, 2024 Larissa Glasser.

Acquisition Information

Provenance: The collection was assembled between 1981 and 1993 by Ida Hay and transferred to the archives in 1996.

Terms of Access

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or all its records. The extent and length of the restriction will be determined by the Director, office of origin, and the Archivist.

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Biographical Note

"Labours of love don't necessarily make for a good read which is why I cry Bravo! to Ida Hay for writing such an enjoyable account of one of the temperate world's great gardens."

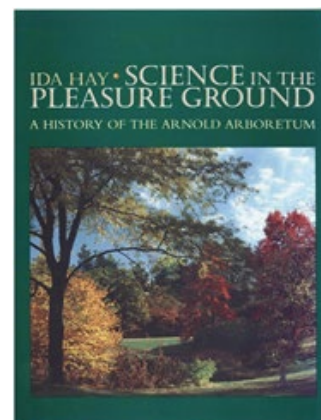
Roy Lancaster
The Horticulturist, 5 (1) 1996



Ida Hay, 1995

Born in Philadelphia in 1948, Ida Hay received a BA in botany from Swarthmore College in 1970. While pursuing her degree, she was the Horticultural Assistant at the Arthur Hoyt Scott Horticultural Foundation in 1967 and 1968. A member of the Arnold Arboretum's staff from 1970 to 1993, Hay's primary work at the Arboretum was as Manager of the Herbarium in Jamaica Plain. Hay, who also published under the name Ida Hay Burch, is the author of numerous articles in *Arnoldia* including [*George Barrell Emerson and the Establishment of the Arnold Arboretum*](#) and was coauthor in 1979 with Stephen Spongberg of [*"Lardizabalaceae Hardy in Temperate North America"*](#) which was published in the *Journal of the Arnold Arboretum*.

Consisting of primary and secondary research material on the history of the Arnold Arboretum collected and assembled by Hay from 1981 until 1993 the collection for *Science In The Pleasure Ground: A History of the Arnold Arboretum* includes: accounts of the Arboretum's beginnings, early uses of land, the Bussey Institution, material about the concept of an arboretum and the development of a privately defined public space, Frederick Law Olmsted, the Arboretum's design, construction, plantings and plant explorations, descriptions of staff members and their roles. Also included is correspondence with Northeastern University Press, reviewers' notes, unbound, annotated manuscript proofs, as well manuscript review notes



Northeastern University Press,
1995

by Mildred E. Mathias (1906-1995), and photographs and their corresponding negatives of images used in the publication.

In her preface Hay notes that the book was written to “reveal the stories behind the scenery of this intricate garden” and it brings to life the engaging personalities whose leadership and creativity made the Arnold Arboretum a world-renowned institution. In Hay’s estimation “They all have had the patience, tenacity, and optimism needed to raise trees and complete encyclopedic tasks.” Her book also documents the development of scientific knowledge and portrays the Arboretum’s unique blending of scientific inquiry into woody plants with the recreational and aesthetic values of a green oasis created in an urban setting.



Ida Hay, on left, with colleagues Stephen A. Spongberg and Sheila Connor at the Arboretum’s celebration of Hay’s *Science in the Pleasure Ground*, 1995. Photograph by Susn Hardy Brown

Science in the Pleasure Ground (1995) is the third book in the series that includes *A Reunion of Trees* (1990) by Stephen A. Spongberg and *New England Natives* (1994), by Sheila Connor that was supported and championed by Peter Shaw Ashton (1934-) Director of the Arnold Arboretum 1978-1987. The concept for the series evolved from a number of discussions held by staff members that explored how the nature, content and arrangement of the Arboretum’s living collections of trees and shrubs might be best interpreted for visitors. The series was funded

for planning in 1981 and for completion in 1984 and 1987 with grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, which recognized the value of the Arnold Arboretum’s landscape as a resource and repository of both cultural and natural history.

Much of the material and information Hay collected was also used to inform the content and design of an interactive, multifaceted exhibition featuring an 8’x16’ scale model of the Arboretum landscape which was also entitled “Science in the Pleasure Ground.” The exhibit was installed in the Hunnewell Building in 1996 in celebration of the Arboretum’s 125th anniversary.

Scope and Content

Includes institutional reports, landscape designs and maps, letters, correspondence, drafts of the book including chapter revisions, and reviews

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in 1 series in the original order created and described by Ida Hay

Series I: Papers

Container List

Series I: Papers

Box 1

- 1:** Physical and Natural Features Special Collections
 - Arnold Arboretum before 1968, early uses of land, Raup Indian relics, land use, Arnold Arboretum, etc.
 - Peters Hill Name
 - Natural History geology, fauna
 - South Street and Weld Walter Tracts
 - Tsuga Hemlock Hill
- 2:** Chapter 1 James Arnold
 - James Arnold
 - Arnold's Garden and Home horticulture activities
 - New Bedford and Middle 19th Century America
 - New Bedford
- 3:** Bussey Institution
 - Bussey Institution to 1894 Getting Peters Hill
 - Bussey Institution to 1904
- 4:** Harvard University Botanic Garden (HUBG) and Gray Herbarium
 - HUBG
 - HUBG and Gray Herbarium Botany at Harvard University
 - New England Botany Club History, R. A. Howard 1894 1973
- 5:** Chapter 2 Boston Society of Natural History
 - Natural History and Botany 19th Century
 - Boston Society of Natural History
- 6:** Chapter 2 Asa Gray Science
 - Asa Gray 1810 1888
- 7:** Benjamin Bussey
 - Chapter 1 Social Scene 19th Century
 - Margaret Fuller and Transcendentalism
 - Jamaica Plain

Box 2

- 1:** Chapter 2, George B. Emerson (GBE) Biographies Chapter
 - Emerson's Report
 - George B. Emerson Biographies
 - GBE Massachusetts Historical Society
 - GBE Chapter
 - Chapter 2, S. K. Lothrop Society for Promoting Theological Education
- 2:** Chapter 2 Arboretum Concept
 - J. C. Loudon
 - Boston Public Garden, Arboretum Concept
 - Derby Arboretum, Chatsworth, Loudon
 - Arboretum Concept Origin *sensu stricta*
- 3:** Chapter 2, Landscape Design, Cemetery/Parks

- Horticulture 19th Century Massachusetts Horticultural Society
- Chapter 1, Landscape Gardening
- Landscape and Parks Movement, pre-1870
- Landscape Design, H. W. S. Cleveland Arboretum's unexecuted [designs?]
- Frederick Law Olmsted mainly for Chapter 1, FLO and Arboretum
- FLO biographical
- Mt. Auburn and Jacob Bigelow

Box 3

1: Histories of Arnold Arboretum Overview

- "The Arnold Arboretum 1872 1920, The Development of a Privately Defined Public Space" Segel, K.T.
- General Chronology
- Annual Report Summary
- Arnold Arboretum History notes
- Post 1900 Chronology, including *Bull. Pop. Information* 1911 1926

2: Chapter 2, Dixwell, Parker, and Parkman

- Francis Parkman
- Francis E. Parker
- John James Dixwell

3: C. S. Sargent

- CSS Early Years and Connections family relationships
- H.W. Sargent and H. H. Hunnewell
- Thomas Frank Lee
- CSS Biographical
- Holm Lea
- CSS Obituary immediate post 22 May 1927
- CSS Memorial Fund Drive 1927
- CSS Memorial June 8, 1927

4: C. S. Sargent and F. L. Olmsted #2

- "Pushing for the Agreement" City of Boston/Harvard University 1879-1882
- CSS and FLO Parks Department Correspondence
- Charles Eliot

Box 4

1: [no title]

- James Arnold Will and Relations
- Bussey Painting, Inventory, and Will originals in archives
- Bussey Land includes Weld Davis
- Benjamin Bussey Biography etc.
- Benjamin Bussey Land "Was It a Ghost?"

2: 1872-1879

- Annual Reports and Administrative Items 1872 1882
- Descriptions of Arnold Arboretum 1872 1879
- FLO Plans and Design Chronology list of plans/maps by BJH [b June Hutchinson] & SC [Sheila Connor]
- Park Department Reports see AA archives

- FLO Plans, Redbooks, etc. for AA
- Getting the Plan CSS and FLO
- Sargent Correspondence
- The Indenture, December 30, 1882
- Shrub Collection 1894
- Peters Hill Construction Planning see also Parks Dept. Report
- Hunnewell Building and donors of 1892 including FL Ames 1891

3: 1880-1900

- Annual Reports 1880 1889
- Description of Arnold Arboretum 1880 1889
- Annual Reports 1890 1900
- Descriptions of Arnold Arboretum 1890 1909
- Jackson Dawson Arnold Arboretum 1873 1916
- Construction and Planting 1883 1900
- Planting 1886 1911
- Public Programs Education 1885 1890
- John G. Jack Arnold Arboretum April 1889, 1935
- Peters Hill to Arboretum Use
- Sargent's Mission and Policy Statements 1874 1927
- Adams Nervine Asylum

Box 5

1: 1880 1900 continued

- Sargent and Forestry Tree Planting
- Forestry Arnold Arboretum's role
- Census
- Sargent's *Silva of North America*
- Francis Skinner
- John Robinson 1846 1925 Arnold Arboretum 1880 1882

2: Science Research Taxonomy

- Development of Harvard University since the Inauguration of President Eliot Morrison includes Bussey, GH [Gray herbarium], FH [Farlow Herbarium], Econ, [Economic Botany] etc.
- Bentham and Hooker Scheme in the Arnold Arboretum

3: 1900 1927

- Annual Reports

4: [no title]

- Descriptions of Arnold Arboretum 1900 1918
- Sargent Administration 1900 1927 fundraising, etc.
- Charles Faxon 1846 1918 Arnold Arboretum 1882 1918
- George R. Shaw 1848 1937 Arnold Arboretum 1909 1924
- Alfred Rehder 1863 1949 Arnold Arboretum 1898 1949
- Cultural/Social History 20th Century
- Parks and Landscape Architecture 20th Century Boston
- Nursery Industry teens

Box 6

1: E. H. Wilson as Administrator

- E. H. Wilson 1876 1930 Arnold Arboretum 1906 1930 Exploration 1900 1919
- E. H. Wilson 1920 1925
- C. K. Scheider
- Charles S. Sargent letterbooks post 1900
- South Street Tract 1919
- Asylum Lands and Weld Walter 1922 1927

2: [no title]

- Descriptions Arnold Arboretum 1920 1927#2
- Sargent: First 50 years Arnold Arboretum
- Susan D. McKelvey 1883 1964 Arnold Arboretum 1920 1964
- Ernest Palmer Arnold Arboretum 1921 1948
- Joseph Rock 1884 1962 Arnold Arboretum 1924 1927

3: [no title]

- EH Wilson Transition
- EH Wilson Public Relations, Edu (?)19271930
- EH Wilson as keeper of the Arboretum grounds 1927 (1926) 15 October 1930
- E H Wilson Administration 1927 1930 with Oakes Ames
- Wilson Accident Obituary Memorial Funeral

4: [no title]

- Annual Reports 1928 1935
- Ames Biographical
- Oakes Ames 1874 1950 Arnold Arboretum Administration 1927 1935
- Descriptions Arnold Arboretum 1928 1935

5: [no title]

- L. V. Schmitt Superintendent of Grounds 1927 1944
- C. E. Kobuski 1900 1963 Arnold Arboretums 1927 1963
- Palmer Indian Artifacts see also *Arnoldia* 31(3)1971
- "The Spontaneous Flora of Arnold Arboretum" Palmer
- "Notes on Early Land Use at the Arnold Arboretum" and Raup Biography Material 1935
- H. M. Raup Arnold Arboretum 1932 1946
- Joseph Faull 1870 1961 Arnold Arboretum 1928 1940
- Edgar Anderson 1897 1969 Gardens in City Bot of cult 1931 1935

Box 7

1: 1936 1946

- Merrill Biography Obituary and Summary
- Arnold Arboretum Annual Reports 1936 1946
- Elmer D Merrill 1876 1956 Arnold Arboretum 1935 1946
- Bussey Institution 1930s Merrill, etc.
- William Judd 1888 1946 Propagator 1916 1946 Arnold Arboretums 1912 1946
- Ivan M Johnston 1898 1960 Arnold Arboretum 1931 1953(?)
- Lily May Perry
- Shiu Ying Hu
- Donald Wyman Biographies and Summaries

2: [no title]

- Donald Wyman Arnold Arboretum 1935 1969 memos, correspondence, notes
- Arnold Arboretum Map System 1938 1940
- Bonsai Collection and Lars Anderson 1937
- Hurricane 1938
- R G Williams Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds 1945 -1979
- Merrill Harvard University and Bailey Report
- IW Bailey 1884 1967 Harvard University 1903 1955

Box 8

1: [no title]

- Annual Reports 1947 1954
- Karl Sax 1892 1973 Arnold Arboretum 1946 1954 Administration and biography
- Descriptions of the Arnold Arboretum, etc 1947 1954

2: [no title]

- Controversy 1947 1965
- Annual Reports 1954 1978 incomplete
- Richard A Howard 1954
- Richard A Howard Administration
- Beatrix Farrand's Biography, etc.
- Beatrix Farrand Arnold Arboretum 1946 1950 correspondence
- Staff L H Schwarten and G H Pride
- Alfred Fordham, Propagator 1958 1976 and RG Coggeshall
- BG Schubert
- Dana Greenhouses 1962
- Wyman Summary 1970
- Centennial
- Arnold Arboretum Record System Labels

3: 1979

- Ashton 1979 1987 biography

4: no title

- Arnold Arboretum Guides 1970s
- Robert E. Cook 1988 end of Chapter 8

Box 9

Complete unbound proof of *Science in the Pleasure Ground* 12 August 1992 originally sent to Mildred E. Mathias for review returned, with accompanying letter and notes from Mathias, by UCLA after her death • Review Notes by Mildred E Mathias

- 4 handwritten note cards
- 2 handwritten pages

Box 10

Complete unbound proof of *Science in the Pleasure Ground* 19 October 1993

- New Chapter 6 Revised chapter 6 14 July 1993 Transition, introspection; Ames moves forward
- New Chapter 7 Revised chapter 7 28 July 1993 Merrill and Sax; horticulture merges

- New Chapter 8 Revised chapter 8 25 August 1993 Separate but equal; Centennial and beyond
- Northeastern University Press Contract and Notes
 - Correspondence with Northeastern University Press
 - Reviewers' Notes on *Science in the Pleasure Ground*

Box 11

- Spiral bound proof of *Science in the Pleasure Ground* 12 August 1992 Chapters 1 4
- Spiral bound proof of *Science in the Pleasure Ground* 19 August 1992 Chapter 5 and illustrations
- Photographs with Negatives 4/96
- Photo reproductions from journals and books used in *Science in the Pleasure Ground*
- Correspondence and Invitations
 - Richard A. Howard to Judith Warnement, April 21, 1995 (with corrections to the manuscript noted and page numbers cited)
 - Richard A. Howard to Ida Hay April 27, 1995 (with detailed notes and corrections to the manuscript, including cited page numbers)
 - Ida Hay to Richard A. Howard 9 May 1995 in response to Howard's letter of April 27, 1995
 - Richard A. Howard to Sheila Connor, June 7, 1995
 - Arnold Arboretum Invitation to attend a reception and book signing to mark the publication of *Science in the Pleasure Ground: A History of the Arnold Arboretum* 25 May 1995 (2 copies)
 - Location Guide to the photographs of *Science in the Pleasure Ground*

Box 12

Biographical Material and Selected Published Writings of Ida Hay

- Dust jacket cover *Science in the Pleasure Ground*
- Book Review of *Science in the Pleasure Ground* by Roy Lancaster *Horticulturist* (5) 1 January 1996
- Book Review of *Science in the Pleasure Ground*, by Charles W. Cares *Landscape Journal* Summer 1996. pp. 71, 72.
- Book Review of *Science in the Pleasure Ground* by Christopher Reed *Horticulture* (74) 1 pp. 68 69 January 1996
- Catalog "Northeastern University Press: New Books. Fall 1994"
- *Science in the Pleasure Ground: A History of the Arnold Arboretum* by Ida Hay
- *Science in the Pleasure Ground* advance uncorrected proof, bound 5 December 1994 Northeastern University Press



Ida Hay and her son, of whom she writes in her preface, "has never known his mother when she was not working on the book" celebrate its completion with sparklers, 1995. Photograph by Susan Hardy Brown.