



Lotti M. Sears Papers (C4021)

Collection Number: C4021

Collection Title: Lotti M. Sears Papers

Dates: 1936-1991

Creator: Sears, L. M. S. (Lotti Maria Steinitz), 1916-1995

Abstract: The papers contain correspondence, papers, photos, research, and miscellaneous material of a University of Missouri geneticist involved with cytogenetics, a branch of genetics which is concerned with the study of chromosomes and cell division.

Collection Size: 2.5 cubic feet
(184 folders)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at columbia@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

Restrictions on Use: The donor has given and assigned to the University all rights of copyright, which the donor has in the Materials and in such of the Donor's works as may be found among any collections of Materials received by the University from others.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Lotti M. Sears Papers* (C4021); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Columbia].

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Lotti M. S. Sears on May 19, 1994 (Accession No. CA5427).

Related Materials: Additional materials related to the Lotti M. Sears Papers can be found in the following collection:

[Ernest R. Sears Papers](#), (C3892)

Processed by: Processed by John C. Konzal on June 5, 2008. Finding aid revised by Elizabeth Engel on April 4, 2022.

Biographical Note:

Dr. Lotti Maria Steinitz Sears was born on May 2, 1916, in Berlin, Germany, to Kate and Ernst Steinitz. She left Germany in 1933 to study horticulture at a vocational college in England before joining her parents and sister in the United States in 1936. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Pennsylvania State University in 1938. In 1942, she received a PhD in Genetics from the University of California at Berkeley. She became a naturalized citizen of the United States in 1943. After doing postdoctoral work at CalTech, the University of Southern California, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Steinitz accepted a position at the University of Missouri School of Medicine and was subsequently appointed to the Genetics Faculty at the University of Missouri.

Dr. Steinitz made noteworthy contributions with two plant species during her tenure at the University of Missouri, working on the development of a series of telocentric wheat lines and on the production of trisomics in *Arabidopsis*.

Steinitz married Dr. Ernest R. Sears on June 16, 1950. The couple had two daughters, Kathleen Sears Lindblad, and Barbara Beate Sears, and one son, John Jacob Sears.

Lotti and Ernest Sears traveled extensively throughout the world. They spent six months in both Israel and Australia, where they conducted research with former post-doctoral students. Dr. Lotti Sears died on January 28, 1995.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into the following four series:

- Correspondence
- Research Material
- Photographs
- Miscellaneous Material

Scope and Content Note:

The **Correspondence** series, arranged in alphabetical order by subject, consists of both personal and professional correspondence. The personal correspondence includes letters to Sears from friends and relatives discussing recent trips taken, family updates, and plans to visit. The professional correspondence includes letters Sears wrote and received from various colleagues, letters of recommendation, letters to various institutions for possible employment, as well as grant and research proposals. Some photographs of people and cytogenetic processes are included throughout the correspondence.

The **Research Material** series, arranged in alphabetical order by subject, includes lectures and lecture notes, class papers, and reports. Also included are reports which describe the various procedures and results of experiments, and research grant application material. The bulk of the research was done with agricultural plants.

The **Photographs** series, arranged in alphabetical order by subject, consists of photographs of family members, friends, professional colleagues, and glass plate negatives with images of genetic processes. A significant number of photographs show examples of cytogenetic processes.

The **Miscellaneous Material** series, arranged in alphabetical order by subject or topic, includes Sears's diplomas from various universities. This material also includes Red Cross cards, blood donor cards, memos and announcements, school commencement programs, cytology humor in the form of poems and songs, as well as both international and domestic professional business cards from fellow researchers and others in the field of cytology. Included are companies such as Leitz Scientific Instrument Division, Seiler Instrument & Manufacturing Company (Microscope Repair Service), Aloe Scientific, Carl Zeiss, Inc., and the Frank E. Fryer Company, Inc. (Optical Instrumentation).

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