



E.G. Anderson Papers (C4046)

Collection Number: C4046

Collection Title: E.G. Anderson Papers

Dates: 1905-1975

Creator: Anderson, Ernest Gustav, 1891-1973

Abstract: The papers of E.G. Anderson, a plant geneticist who spent most of his career researching corn genetics, including studying the effects of high energy radiation on corn, mainly contain professional material. The collection largely consists of correspondence, research material, and publications.

Collection Size: 5.7 cubic feet
(232 folders, 30 lantern slides)

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.

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Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *E.G. Anderson Papers* (C4046); 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 Florence Anderson on May 10, 1978 (Accession No. CA4161). An addition was made by Edward H. Coe, Jr. on April 20, 1982 (Accession No. CA4423).

Related Materials: Additional materials related to the E.G. Anderson Papers can be found in the following collection:

[Edward H. Coe Papers](#), (CA4221)

[Lewis John Stadler Papers](#), (C2429)

Processed by: Processed by Elizabeth Engel on November 17, 2009. Finding aid revised by Elizabeth Engel on August 13, 2021.

Biographical Note:

Ernest Gustav Anderson was born on March 3, 1891. He grew up in Concord, Nebraska and received a bachelor's degree from the University of Nebraska in 1915. Anderson attended graduate school at Cornell University and studied genetics. He received his master's degree in 1920 and then spent two years as a research associate at the Carnegie Institution of Washington at Cold Harbor Springs, New York.

Anderson became a biology instructor at City College of New York in 1922. Around this time, he also began collaborating with Calvin Bridges on a study of triploid drosophila. From 1923 to 1928, Anderson worked at the University of Michigan's Botany Department, where he was a Fellow of the National Research Council from 1923 to 1926.

In 1928, Anderson was selected by T.H. Morgan to help establish the Division of Biology at California Institute of Technology, where Anderson studied corn genetics. During his early years at Caltech, Anderson organized an experimental field and conducted research on the hereditary effects of radiation. After the Bikini "Able" atomic bomb test in 1946, Anderson began collaborating with A.E. Longley on a study for the Office of Naval Research concerning the genetic effects induced in corn by high energy radiation.

Anderson retired from Caltech in 1961. He spent a year as a visiting professor at the University of Illinois before joining the University of Missouri's Department of Genetics where he ended his career.

Anderson married Florence Larson late in life and they had one daughter, Jean. He died on January 30, 1973.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into the following six series:

Correspondence
Education
Professional
Publications
Personal
Photographs

Scope and Content Note:

The E.G. Anderson Papers contain the professional papers of a plant geneticist, who spent most of his career studying corn genetics. The bulk of the collection covers his years at Caltech, with very little material from his time at the University of Missouri.

The **Correspondence** series mainly contains Anderson's professional correspondence with colleagues and largely focuses on genetic research. Also included in this series are letters written between Anderson and high school students he met at the National Science Fair in 1957. Anderson arranged some of this correspondence chronologically and some alphabetically. This original order has been maintained.

The **Education** series is largely comprised of material from Anderson's graduate work in genetics at Cornell University during the late 1910s. The material consists mainly of lecture notes and course materials and has been arranged alphabetically.

The **Professional** series contains research files and materials created and used by Anderson. Most of the material, which has been arranged alphabetically, relates to Anderson's corn research and includes information concerning the effects of high energy radiation on corn, including research on irradiated seeds exposed during the Bikini atomic bomb test. Much of the material in this series was originally loose or in unlabeled folders. While some of this material has been identified, most now comprises the miscellaneous data and research section of the series.

The **Publications** series contains articles and manuscripts written by Anderson and his colleagues, as well as other publications collected by Anderson concerning genetic research. The series has been arranged alphabetically.

The **Personal** series contains journals from a 1925 research trip and obituaries and memorial service material. Also included in this series is material concerning the Temple City (California) High School Science Club in which Anderson was heavily involved.

The **Photographs** series consists mainly of photographs pertaining to Anderson's research, especially his research at Caltech regarding the effects of high energy radiation on corn. The series also includes lantern slides, some of which depict the effects of x-ray-induced radiation on corn. The Cornell University photographs largely consist of candid snapshots of individuals Anderson met while attending graduate school.

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