

Massey, Arthur B., Papers

Arthur B. Massey Papers

1902-1961



Title Statement

Massey, Arthur B., Papers Arthur B. Massey Papers, 1902-1961 Ms.1962.002

Author: John M. Jackson, Archivist

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specref@vt.edu
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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.1962.002

Unit Date

1902-1961

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

The collection contains field notes; essays and studies; laboratory course outlines; printed materials; and photographs of trees on the Virginia Tech Campus from Arthur Ballard Massey, plant pathologist, assistant professor of botany at Alabama Polytechnic Institute, professor of biology at Virginia Tech, and member of the Virginia Academy of Science.

Creator

Massey, A. B. (Arthur Ballard)

Extent

0.5 Cubic Feet 1 box

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

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Source of Acquisition

The Arthur B. Massey Papers were acquired by Special Collections in three accruals: the first accrual, consisting entirely of photographs, was donated in 1962. The remaining material was transferred to Special Collections from the Newman Library book collection in 1969 and 1970.

Processing Information

The processing, arrangement, and description of the Arthur B. Massey Papers commenced and was completed in February 2011.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], Arthur B. Massey Papers, Ms1962-002, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Biographical Note

Arthur Ballard Massey, the son of botanist W. F. Massey, was born in Albemarle County, Virginia in 1889. After graduating from North Carolina State University in 1909, the younger Massey studied in Florida and Chicago. Meanwhile, he also served as an instructor of botany at Clemson University from 1910 to 1913, then as assistant botanist for the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station from 1913 to 1918. In the latter year, Massey was hired by Virginia Polytechnic Institute as a bacteriologist in the school's botany department. He would earn his master's degree at VPI in 1928. In addition to his duties as an instructor, which included teaching all bacteriology courses, Massey held an appointment on the research staff of the Agricultural Experiment Station. In 1935, Massey became botanist for the Virginia Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, a position that included instruction and that he would hold until retirement. Massey is also credited with establishing the university's herbarium, depositing within it more than 25,000 specimens, and was an instrumental force in the creation of the Mountain Lake Biological Station. Arthur Ballard Massey retired in 1959 and died in 1981.

Scope and Content

This collection contains papers of Arthur Ballard Massey, a botanist at Virginia Tech from 1918 to 1959. Included are materials relating to Massey's research and instruction. The collection contains a small set of correspondence and a notebook full of observations made by Massey while in the area of Clemson University, as well as several studies and essays written by him. Among these are pieces on identification of evergreens, wild flower conservation, livestock poisoning, and trees of the Virginia Tech campus. Also among Massey's writings are working copies of three publications: "Legumes in Virginia," "Gramineae in Virginia," and "Grass Identification." Several issues of *Virginia Wildlife* housed within the collection also contain pieces by Massey.

The collection also includes numerous laboratory course outlines from Alabama Polytechnic Institute and a number of uncredited notes and bibliographies, including a piece titled "Plant Suggestions for Food Patches on V.P.I. Farm and at Mt. Lake." Also included is a 1930 research paper by Charlotte Buckland titled "The Vegetation of Mountain Lake, Virginia" and a syllabus for a conference on fruit diseases (sponsored by the Advisory Board of American Plant Pathologists) in portions of Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania.

Also found within the collection is a large set of photographs of trees on the Virginia Tech campus, taken in 1902. (Descriptions for the individual photos may be found in a separate folder within the collection.) The collection also contains several photos of tree removal during the construction of the Alumni Mall in 1950, and a few campus scenes from the 1920s. A small set of miscellaneous printed materials completes the

collection and includes, among other items, a 1910 University of Florida promotional booklet and an article about botanist Thomas Walter.

Related Archival Materials

See the W. F. Massey Papers, Ms1984-171, also at Virginia Tech Special Collections and University Archives.

Keywords

Faculty and staff

Science and Technology

Students and alumni

University History

Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College and Polytechnic Institute (1896-1944)

Virginia Polytechnic Institute (1944-1970)

Rights Statement for Archival Description

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Arrangement

The collection is arranged by document type.

Description of Subordinate Components

Correspondence

Unit Date 1930-1961

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

"Wanderings Around and From Clemson College"

Unit Date 1910-1911

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Essays and studies

Unit Date 1936-1940, n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

"Characteristics of Common Coniferous Evergreens"

Unit Date 1938

"Characteristics of Needle-leaved Coniferous Evergreens"

Unit Date n.d.

"The Needle-leaf Evergreens--Their Recognition"

Unit Date n.d.

"Wild Flower Conservation"

Unit Date n.d.

"Livestock Poisoning in Winter"

Unit Date n.d.

"Trees of the V.P.I. Campus"

Unit Date 1940

"Trees of the V.P.I. Grounds"

Unit Date 1936

"Legumes in Virginia: Native and Naturalized" by A. B. Massey

Unit Date 1956

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

"Gramineae in Virginia" by A. B. Massey

Unit Date 1959

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

"Grass Identification" by A. B. Massey

Unit Date 1959

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Virginia Wildlife

Unit Date 1937-1939

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Extent [5 items]

Laboratory course outlines

Unit Date 1916-1918, n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Extent [2 folders]

Botanical notes and bibliographies

Unit Date 1940, n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

"The Vegetation of Mountain Lake, Virginia" by Charlotte Buckland

Unit Date 1930

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

"Inspection Tour and Conference on Fruit Diseases"

Unit Date 1920

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Laboratory & Field Work in General botany by Transeau and Sampson

Unit Date 1929

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Pages from unidentified botany workbook

Unit Date n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

Photograph descriptions

Unit Date 1902-1950

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 14 (folder)

Photographs of trees on Virginia Tech campus

Unit Date ca. 1902

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 15 (folder)

Extent [2 folders; 75 items]

Photographs of Virginia Tech campus scenes

Unit Date ca.1918-1950

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 16 (folder)

Field house

Unit Date ca. 1918

Chestnut tree with English ivy near McBryde Hall

Unit Date ca. 1920

"Lover's Walk" in front of academic buildings

Unit Date 1923

Snow scene, with tower of former library in background

Unit Date 1923

Grading for Miles Stadium

Unit Date 1923

Construction of Alumni Mall

Unit Date 1950

Extent [8 items]

Cows in pasture at Smithfield Plantation

Unit Date n.d.

Miscellaneous printed materials

Unit Date 1910-1935, n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 17 (folder)

University of Florida, Gainesville

Unit Date 1910

Certificate authorizing A. B. Massey as a lay reader in the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia

Unit Date 1926

"Second American Botanical Garden That Established on Santee River by Walter, Who Was Buried There" - The State (Columbia, SC)

Unit Date 1935

Letterhead for Virginia Tech Department of Botany and Plant Pathology

Unit Date n.d.

Extent [2 items]