

JOHN DANA ARCHBOLD, 1910 -- 1993

Register of His Papers, 1935 – 1994

Overview of Collection

Creator: Archbold, John Dana, 1910 – 1993

Collection Number: MSS 261

Title: John Archbold Papers, 1934 – 1994

Abstract: John Archbold had a distinguished career as an agriculturalist, sportsman, philanthropist, engineer and conservationist. Beginning in the 1930s as a plantation owner on Dominica he developed a strong interest in tropical agriculture and ecosystems. He sponsored efforts to develop economically viable products for the island and supported research its fauna and flora. As part of these efforts he donated part of his plantation estate to the Nature Conservancy in 1975 and in 1989 another part to Clemson University to use for the Archbold Tropical Research Center.

Beginning with material documenting plantation operations during the 1940s-1960s, the papers document Archbold's many efforts to promote new crops and products as well as tourism. This lead to research sponsored in conjunction with a number of institutions including the Smithsonian and Clemson. The papers include copies of research about and a variety of publications concerning Dominica and its environment. There are also records documenting the Archbold/Springfield plantation operations and its donation.

Quantity: 3.5 cubic feet consisting of 89 folders in seven document boxes; three folders with approximately thirty photographs and one scrapbook; four oversize folders with three maps and reports; and seven reels of 16 mm motion picture film.

Dates: 1934 – 1993; bulk dates 1947 -- 1991

Scope and Content Note

The papers include correspondence, drawings, maps, motion picture films, photographs, reports, and a scrapbook.

The papers date from 1934 – 1993 with the bulk of the collection dating from 1947 – 1991. There is an album of photographs documenting the production of banana fiber, circa 1940s as well as 27 related to the Prince Ruperts Head and Cabrits area and a few other photographs.

The papers were transferred to Special Collections after Archbold's death on in no particular order but distinguished by their content of having something to do with his plantation and interests in Dominica. They have been arranged in an alphabetical subject file with items within folders in chronological order.

The papers document Archbold's various business and agricultural endeavors on his Dominican plantations as well as research that he sponsored related to commercial agriculture and a wide variety of studies of the island's fauna. There are records about efforts to develop a banana fiber plant and a variety of studies sponsored in conjunction with the Smithsonian Institution.

Oversize material includes maps of the plan of crops on the Archbold plantations, and a variety of drawings of machinery to be used in processing crops and renovating buildings. There are several maps documenting historic fortifications at Prince Ruperts Head in 1799 and of the island of Dominica in 1776 and in the 1980s.

There are two flags of Dominica and Archbold's Clemson Founders plaque.

Additional Collection Information

Cite as: [description of item such as "Letter from John Smith, Clemson, SC to Michael Jones, Columbia, SC"], box number, folder number, MSS 261, John Archbold Papers, Special Collections, Clemson University Libraries, Clemson, SC.

Biographical Note

John Dana Archbold was born on July 10, 1910 at Bar Harbor Maine the son of Anne Mills Archbold and Armar Desrolles Saunderson. His maternal grandfather, John Dustin Archbold, was the first president of Standard Oil of New Jersey and his paternal grandfather; Colonel Saunderson was a leader of the Unionist Party in Britain. Raised on a dairy farm in England, Archbold acquired a life long love of agriculture and the rural life. Educated at Sidwell Friends School and Choate School, he studied engineering at the University of Geneva and Princeton University. With this training he studied the internal combustion engine and developed a rotary combustion engine that he patented. As a young man Archbold developed a love of sailing and adventure that included sailboat racing across the Atlantic from Newport, Rhode Island to Bergen, Norway in 1934. The following year he crewed on a schooner that went on a treasure hunt in the Caribbean that included visiting Dominica.

Archbold came to love the island and bought a plantation, Springfield in 1935. He began as a producer of citrus crops but over the next fifty years grew a variety of other crops including bananas and coca as well as swine and poultry. After a lifetime of supporting a variety of agricultural enterprises on Dominica including a juice cannery, a banana fiber plant, and cocoa production, Archbold recognized that the island lacked the economies of scale necessary to successfully compete in the commercial production of almost all topical products. This convinced him of the value of Dominica as a center for tourism and the preservation of its unique topical ecological features.

Archbold served in the US Navy during World War II and worked in the Office of Strategic Services. He served on the staff of Lord Louis Mountbatten in the China-India-Burma Theater. After the war, he participated in a natural science exploration with his mother Anne Archbold who had an ocean going junk built in China for exploration in Southeast Asia.

A noted philanthropist, Archbold was a member of the Board of Trustees of Syracuse University from 1976 until his death. He served on boards of companies including the

Marshal National Bank, the Commonwealth Scientific Corporation, and Jahn – Strades, Ltd. as well as on the boards of Shenandoah University, the Hill School, Skowhegan School of Painting, and Choate – Rosemary Hall. John Archbold received the Order of the British Empire and the Order of St. Olaf from Norway. In 1989, Archbold donated his beloved Springfield Plantation and adjacent estates to Clemson University to create the Archbold Tropical Research Center and received an honorary doctorate from Clemson the following year.

His first wife, the former Elizabeth Brown died in 1939. His 1947 marriage to the former Lucie Seronde ended in divorce. His third wife, Betrande Benoit died in 1966 and his marriage to his fourth wife, the former Phoebe Wildman van Buren, ended in divorce. Archbold had four daughters, Anne Collins, Moira O'Connor, Schellie Archbold, and Jennifer Archbold.

John Dana Archbold died of congestive heart failure on November 29, 1993 at his farm in Upperville, Virginia.

Information for this biography can be found in the biographical materials folder in the papers.

Subjects:

Archbold, John Dana, 1910 -- 1993
Ecotourism
Dominica
Dominica -- Maps
Tropical Crops
Tropical Ecology

Correspondents

Box, Benton

Document Types

Architectural drawings
Maps
Motion pictures
Photograph album
Photographs
Technical drawings

Administrative Information

Acquired from:

The Archbold estate donated the papers to Clemson University in 1996.

Processing information

Cameron Warren prepared this register in 2003 as part of work in History 893 Archives Practicum with further editorial work done by Michael Kohl and processing help from student assistant Christine Mollineaux in 2004.

SEPARATION LIST

Oversize

Folder 1 *VWA Diablotin* Vol. 1 No. 1 – 4, 1983

Folder 2 2 copies of Plan of Mount Joy Estate, 1951, copied 1989. 23.5 x 14 inches.
2 copies of Plan of portion of Springfield Estate, 1983. 17.5 x 12 inches.
Inventory of crops of Clarke Hall, South Chiltern, and Springfield Plantations,
October 1957 – June 1961, 23 pages. 11 x 16.5 to 12.75 x 16 inches.
Drawing of Cocoa Drying Plant, no date. 24.5 x 20 inches.
Copy of Certificate of Title for Springfield Estate, 1950. 16.25 x 13.5 inches.
Plan of Springfield Estate, 1935. 22 x 14 inches.
Reprint of front page of *Trinidad Guardian*. February 2, 1963. 23 x 17 inches.
Reprint of advertisement section of *The Wall Street Journal*, December 2, 1987.
 22 x 15.5 inches.
Map of Dominica, 1971-1972. 17.75 x 21.75 inches.
Map of Dominica, 1982. 14.25 x 19 inches.
9 maps of British Honduras, 1938, 1943, 1947. 14.5 x 11.5 inches.
Matted Sketch of Woman by Thurmond? Nasiey ?, no date. 20 x 23.5 inches.
Matted Color Photograph of Springfield Plantation, 1975. 18.5 x 15.5 inches.
The New Chronicle, August 22, 1990.

Folder 3 Drawing of Pulping Section of Cocoa Plant, 1964. 19.75 x 27 inches.
Drawing of Hulling Section of Cocoa Plant, 1964. 19.75 x 27 inches.
Drawing of Electric Motor Drive System of Cocoa Plant, 1964. 31.75 x 21 inches.
Drawing of Building for Coconut Fibre Plant, 1959. 26.75 x 19.5 inches.
Drawing of Coconut Husker, 1959. 23.5 x 17.75 inches.
5 Drawings of Dominican Guest House for John Archbold, Plan, Sections,
 Revisions 1960. 31.5 x 42.5 inches.
Contoured Plan of House Site at Mount Joy Estate, 1952. 22 x 24 inches.
11 Drawings of Alterations and Additions to Springfield for John Archbold, 1971.
 31.5 x 24 (3), 21.5 x 21.5, 21 x 17, 21.5 x 17, 24.5 x 22.5, 21x15 (3),
 15 x 11 inches.
2 Signs Dominica Hotels Ltd., West Indies Dominica Roseau, no date. 20.5 x
 30.75 inches.

Folder 4 4 Drawings of Cultivations of Springfield and Mount Joy Estates, 1957 and 1986.
 21 x 24.75, 23.5 x 33, 23.5 x 34, and 21.75 x 25.5 inches.
5 Drawings of Coffee Pulper Plant and Machinery, 1962. 38.5 x 21.5, 26 x 21,
 26 x 19.75, 24 x 20, 23 x 15 inches.
3 Drawing of water pipeline for turbine at Springfield, 1950 – 1953. 40 x 27.5 (2),
 30 x 20 inches.
2 Drawing of Steel Roof for Springfield Trading Building, 1959. 40 x 25.75,
 19.5 x 36 inches.
Drawing of floor plan of Russell House, no date. 13 x 11 inches.
Drawing of Stone Wall for Russell House, no date. 16 x 11 inches.

Drawing of Poll Design and Landscape, 1973. 33.5 x 27.25 inches.
Sketch of Proposed Pool, 1973. 30.5 x 21 inches.
Plan of the Island of Dominica, 1776 (positive photograph) 27.25 x 41.5 inches.
Plan of the Island of Dominica, 1776 (negative photograph) 32 x 42 inches.
General Plan of Prince Ruperts Head, Dominica, 1799 (copy) 27.5 x 41.5 inches.
Plan of Fort Shirley, 1799 (copy). 22x30.75 inches
Plan of the Lines of Communication and Batteries at the North Gorge of the
Valley at Prince Ruperts Head Dominica, 1799 (copy). 25.5 x 31.75
inches.

2. Motion Picture Films:

Reel 1 [Sailing film]. Produced by Explorers Club?, no date. 16 mm film 7 inches, no audio.

Reel 2 [Sailing and Dominica]. Produced by Explorers Club?, no date. 16 mm film, 4.5 inches, no audio.

Reel 3 *Waitukubuli*. Michael Brandt Productions, Ltd. for Dominican Tourism Board, no date. 9.5 inches.

Reel 4 *Tomorrow's Island..* The Rank Organization, no date. 16 mm film 27 minutes, 11.75 inches.

Reel 5 *The World About Us: The Price of Paradise*. Produced by BBC Enterprises, 1973. 16 mm, 14 inches.

Reel 6 *Dominica*. Produced by Canadian Films in cooperation with Dominican National Parks Service, 1978. 16 mm, 10 inches.

Reel 7 *Once Upon a Sunday*. Produced by Gerald Holdsworth Productions, no date. 16 mm, 9.5 inches

3. Artifacts:

Flag: Flag with blue background with red and white star-like design in upper left corner with parrots and motto “Apres Bondie C'est La Ter” on right hand side.

Flag: Flag of Dominica. Green, yellow, black and white flag with red circle in center and yellow stars and blue-green parrot in circle.

Plaque: White seal of Clemson University in center, matted with blue and linen signed by Dot Goodwin. Frame has metal plate: “The Founders/ John Archbold”.

Mss 261 John Archbold Papers

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>
1	1	Alien Land Holding and Expulsion 1963, 1965
	2	American Friends of the University College of the West Indies, 1930s, 1960-1964
	3	Archbold Center for Tropical Studies, Dominica, West Indies by Steve A Wells, 1988
		Archbold/ Springfield Plantations
	4	1952-1986, no date
	5	Construction and Renovations, 1970-1972, no date
		Tourist Rentals and Advertising
	6	1959-1963
	7	1964-1987, no date
	8	Miscellaneous Advertising, 1959-1962
		Archbold Tropical Research Center
	9	1987-1990
	10	1990-1991, no date
	11	Avian Research, 1975-1987, no date
2	1	Bamboo, 1943
		Banana
		Cultivation and Marketing
	2	1934-1954
	3	1955-1964, no date
		Fiber Production
	4	1948-1953
	5	1954-1958, no date
	6	Banking and Exchange Controls 1961, 1971, 1974
	7	Bat Research on Dominica, 1970-1979, no date
	8	Bees for Springfield Plantation, 1951
	9	Bicentennial Celebration of Birth of James Smithson, 1965
	9A	Biographical Material, 1937-1994
	10	Botanical Gardens in Dominica after Hurricane David 1979-1981, 1990, no date
		Bredin Archbold Smithsonian Biological Survey
	11	1963
	12	1964
	13	1965
3	1	1966
	2	1967
	3	1968-1974
	4	Publications, 1966-1972
	5	Butterflies and Other Insects , 1971-1974
	6	Citrus Production, 1938-1970
		Cabrits National Park and other Historic Sites
	7	1965-1978

	8	1979
	9	1982-1984, no date
4		Clemson University
	1	Honorary Degree, August 11, 1990
	2	1989-1990
	3	1991
		Cocoa Production
	4	no date
	5	1951-1956
	6	1957-1969
		Coconuts and Copra
	7	1953-1961
	8	1962-1977, no date
	9	Coffee Pulper, 1947-1964, no date
	10	Correspondence, 1963-1986, no date
	11	Coors, Holland H, 1991
	12	Crapaud Frog Research, 1960-1970
5	1	Dedication of Strom Thurmond Institute, 1989
		Dominica
	2	A Chance for a Choice, 1970
	3	Conservation Association, 1982
	4	Constitution Order, 1967
	5	Environmental Profile, Draft 1990
	6	Environmental Profile, 1991
	7	Government Correspondence, 1954-1987
	8	Lumber Projects, 1962-1980
	9	Market Ordnances, 1968-1971
	10	National Parks
	11	Preliminary Data Atlas, 1980
	12	Prince Rupert Bay Area 1964, no date
	13	Dominican Labor and Tenant Ordinances 1951, 1953
		Donation of Springfield Estate
	14	1986-1987
	15	1988
6	1	1989
	2	1990-1993, no date
	3	Forest Management Demonstration Project, 1990-1993, no date
	4	Freshwater Shrimp Cultivation, 1964-1970
	5	Geothermal Energy of Dominica Study, 1981
	6	Inventory of Crops on Plantations, 1951-1962
	7	Livestock for Springfield Plantations 1947-1954, no date
	8	“Marne Trois Pitons National Park in Dominica: A Case Study in Park Establishment in the Developing World” R. Michael Wright, 1985

9	National Park Creation in a Developing Nation: A Case Study of Dominica, West Indies by Bruce Weber, 1973
10	National Tropical Botanical Garden, 1992
7	1 Nature Conservancy, 1975
2	Nutmeg Productions, 1948-1963, no date
3	Operation Caribbean, 1949
4	Oxford University Research on Dominica, 1983-1986
5	Protozoan Research in Dominica, 1978-1979
6	Parrot Conservation Efforts in the Islands of the Antilles (From Puerto Rico to Grenada) by Colmore Christian, 1991
7	Policy Guidelines Relating to Management of the National Park System in Dominica, 1979
8	Proposals to Archbold, 1979-1990, no date
9	References to the Plan of the Island of Dominica by John Byrnes, 1777 (copy)
10	Refrigerated Cargo Ship, 1949
11	Research about Miscellaneous Crops, 1947-1964, no date
12	Scientific Research in Agriculture and Horticulture-Synopsis of Potential Plant for Dominica, circa 1963
13	Snail Research on Dominica, 1964-1972
14	Soil content studies on Dominica Plantations and fertilizer orders, 1947-1953, no date
15	Tariffs and Taxation Regulations
16	Tung Oil Nut Tree, 1935
17	Vanilla Cultivation, 1945
18	Water Turbines for Springfield Plantation, 1950-1963
19	World Wildlife Foundation 1979-1992