

# Harrar (J. George) papers

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## **Summary Information**

**Repository:** Rockefeller Archive Center

**Creator - aut:** Harrar, J. George (Jacob George)

**Creator:** Rockefeller Foundation

**Title:** J. George Harrar papers

**ID:** FA046

**Date [inclusive]:** 1906-1982, bulk 1958-1982

**Physical Description:** 18.31 Cubic Feet 47 document cases, 1 oversize

**Language of the** English.

**Material:** 

### **Preferred Citation**

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## Biographical/Historical note

Jacob George Harrar was born in Painesville, Ohio, on December 2, 1906, to Ellwood Harrar, an engineer, and Lucetta Sternes Harrar. He attended Oberlin College from 1924 to 1928 where he majored in biology and excelled in athletics. After receiving the A.B. degree from Oberlin, Harrar continued his education at the Iowa State College of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts. He was awarded the M.S. degree in 1929 and immediately embarked on a career in teaching and agricultural research as an assistant professor at the College of Agriculture, University of Puerto Rico. Within a year Harrar became head of the department of biology. He left that position in 1934 to pursue a Ph.D. in plant pathology at the University of Minnesota. It was here he began a close personal and professional relationship with E. C. Stakman, under whom he studied. Later, in 1958, they collaborated on the book, "Principles of Plant Pathology."

In 1935, Harrar, having achieved a doctorate degree in plant pathology, once again resumed teaching, accepting an assistant professorship at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute. Rising to full professor in 1937,

Harrar remained at the Institute until 1941. From 1941 to 1942 he headed the Division of Plant Pathology and the Agricultural Experiment Station at Washington State College.

In 1942, Harrar left academics to create and administer in Mexico the Rockefeller Foundation's first cooperative assistance program in agricultural science. With his team of American specialists, Harrar implemented a Foundation program of soil and hybrid experimentation to improve wheat and corn yields. Within a few years the Mexican program proved enormously successful and the Foundation was invited to implement the same program in Colombia, Chile, and India. Harrar is generally regarded as the father of what soon became known as "The Green Revolution."

Harrar, in 1952, became Deputy Director for Agriculture, Division of Natural Sciences and Agriculture, of the Rockefeller Foundation. In 1955, he became Director for Agriculture organizing further projects in agricultural assistance and cooperation in all the Central American countries. He was appointed Vice President of the Foundation in 1959, and in 1961 succeeded Dean Rusk as its President. Under Harrar, the Rockefeller Foundation during the 1960s reoriented its programs to concentrate in five areas: the conquest of hunger, by improving the quantity and quality of food supplies; the solution of population problems; the strengthening of emerging centers of learning in developing nations; the provision of better educational opportunities for the disadvantaged groups in the U. S.; and the enhancement of the cultural lives of Americans.

Retiring in 1972, Harrar was the first man ever to be appointed a Life Fellow of the Rockefeller Foundation. During the 1970s he continued his involvement as a member of such professional and scientific organizations as the National Academy of Sciences and the Nutrition Foundation. In 1980 he was awarded the Aztec Eagle Award, the highest honor bestowed by the Mexican government for service to their country by a foreign citizen. He also, during his lifetime, received numerous honors, degrees, and citations from many other foreign governments and from both American and foreign universities.

In addition to "Strategy for the Conquest of Hunger, Selected Papers of J. George Harrar," he was the author of numerous scientific research papers in the fields of phytopathology and mycology, and many articles of general interest on world food problems, population, private philanthropy, economic development overseas, and environmental quality.

J. George Harrar died on April 18, 1982.

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## **Scope and Contents note**

The J. George Harrar Papers mainly consist of material relating to Harrar's various activities outside The Rockefeller Foundation between 1958 and 1982. The bulk of the collection is made up of correspondence, but it also contains publications, speeches, clippings, awards, interviews, photographs, and books.

The collection strongly reflects Harrar's pre-eminence as a world agricultural expert. This is illustrated in his correspondence with organizations such as the Academy of Natural Sciences, the Agribusiness

Council, the International Development Service, the Institute of Nutrition Sciences, the National Academy of Sciences, the Nutrition Foundation, and the Cotton Research and Development Program. A related interest in population is represented in correspondence with the Dreyfus Third Century Fund, Projects for Population Action, and in letters to and from William Draper.

Harrar's views on foundations and private philanthropy are illustrated in his correspondence with the Council on Foundations, the Foundation Center, the Foundation Executives Group, and in material relating to the Patman Investigation and other House or Senate Committees before which Harrar appeared. Correspondence of a more personal nature can be found within the first three subseries: Outgoing, Confidential, and General.

Very few of Harrar's scientific writings are represented in the collection. Most of the written material relates to subjects that concerned him later in his career, such as world hunger, food production, and private philanthropy.

Material illustrating Harrar's thirty years (1942-1972) with the Rockefeller Foundation is contained within the Rockefeller Foundation Archives.

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## **Arrangement note**

The J. George Harrar Papers are divided into four series:

Series 1 - Correspondence Series 2 - Speeches, Manuscripts and Publications Series 3 - MiscellanySeries 1019 - Photographs

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### File Plan note

Former Classification: IV 2A 26

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### **Administrative Information**

#### **Publication Statement**

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### **Conditions Governing Access**

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## **Immediate Source of Acquisition note**

Mrs. Georgetta Harrar donated the papers of J. George Harrar to the Rockefeller Archive Center in 1982.

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## **Controlled Access Headings**

- Agriculture -- Research
- Population
- Agriculture
- Food production and natural resources
- Philanthropy

• Hunger

## **Collection Inventory**

### Correspondence, 1946-1982

Physical Description: 12.1 Cubic Feet

### Arrangement

This series is divided into five subseries:

Subseries 1 - OutgoingSubseries 2 - ConfidentialSubseries 3 - GeneralSubseries 4 - Collateral InterestsSubseries 5 - Correspondence Relating to Written Material (in Series 2)

### Correspondence - Outgoing, 1968-1982

### **Arrangement note**

This subseries is arranged chronologically, and thereunder alphabetically.

### **Scope and Contents note**

This subseries consists of Harrar's chronological file of outgoing correspondence. Correspondents for each year appear in alphabetical order. These letters are dispersed among a great number of correspondents that include Ralph Bunch, Howard Baker, Jr., John K. Galbraith, Norman Borlaug, Bill Moyers, David Rockefeller, John D. Rockefeller 3rd, Nelson Rockefeller, Dean Rusk, E. J. Wellhausen, as well as letters to several Latin American and Asian leaders.

Title/Description	Instances	
A-C, 1968	box 1	folder 1
D-G, 1968	box 1	folder 2
H-L, 1968	box 1	folder 3
M-P, 1968	box 1	folder 4
R-S, 1968	box 1	folder 5
T-Z, 1968	box 1	folder 6
A-B, 1969	box 2	folder 7
C-F, 1969	box 2	folder 8
G-I, 1969	box 2	folder 9
J-M, 1969	box 2	folder 10
N-R, 1969	box 2	folder 11
S-T, 1969	box 2	folder 12

U-Z, 1969	box 2	folder 13
·		
A-C, 1970	box 3	folder 14
D-H, 1970	box 3	folder 15
I-M, 1970	box 3	folder 16
N-R, 1970	box 3	folder 17
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S-Z, 1974	box 4	folder 26
A-K, 1975	box 4	folder 27
L-Z, 1975	box 5	folder 28
A-L, 1976	box 5	folder 29
M-Z, 1976	box 5	folder 30
A-Z, 1977	box 5	folder 31
A-Z, 1978	box 5	folder 32
A-Z, 1979	box 5	folder 33
A-E, 1980	box 5	folder 34
F-O, 1980	box 6	folder 35
P-Z, 1980	box 6	folder 36
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I-Q, 1981-1982	box 6	folder 38
R-Z, 1981-1982	box 6	folder 39

## Correspondence - Confidential, 1954-1982

### **Arrangement note**

This subseries is arranged chronologically.

This subseries consists of correspondence that was originally contained within files designated as "Confidential" or "Personal." The letters concern a number of topics.

1954-1960, 1954-1960       box 6       folder 40         1961, 1961       box 6       folder 41         1962, 1962       box 7       folder 42         1963, 1963       box 7       folder 43         1964 (January-June), 1964       box 7       folder 44         1965, 1965       box 7       folder 46         1966, 1966       box 7       folder 47         1967, 1967       box 7       folder 48         1968 (January-June), 1968       box 7       folder 49         1969, 1969       box 8       folder 51         1970, 1970       box 8       folder 52         1971 (January-May), 1971       box 8       folder 53         1972 (January-June), 1972       box 8       folder 55         1972 (July-December), 1972       box 8       folder 55         1973, 1973       box 8       folder 57         1974, 1974       box 8       folder 59         1978 (July-December), 1978       box 9       folder 60         1979, 1979       box 9       folder 61         1979, 1979       box 9       folder 61         1980, 1982, 1980, 1982       box 9       folder 62	Title/Description	Instances	
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1974, 1974       box 8       folder 58         1976, 1978 (January-June), 1976-1978       box 9       folder 59         1978 (July-December), 1978       box 9       folder 60         1979, 1979       box 9       folder 61	1972 (July-December), 1972	box 8	folder 56
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<u>'</u>	1978 (July-December), 1978	box 9	folder 60
1980-1982, 1980-1982 box 9 folder 62	1979, 1979	box 9	folder 61
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## Correspondence - General, 1961-1982

### **Arrangement note**

This subseries is arranged chronologically.

This subseries consists of correspondence originally contained within files designated as "General." Included are letters of congratulations concerning Harrar's appointment as President of The Rockefeller Foundation, letters observing his retirement in 1972, and letters relating to his trip to China in 1973. Other, miscellaneous correspondence, is also included.

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Retirement Letters, 1972	box 10	folder 71	
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May 1978 - February 1979, 1978-1979	box 12	folder 83	
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1980 (September-December), 1980	box 12	folder 86	
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## Correspondence - Collateral Interests, 1960-1982

### **Arrangement note**

This subseries is arranged alphabetically by subject (e.g. Academy of Natural Sciences, Academia Nazionale di Agricoltura, Advisory Committee on ...).

### **Scope and Contents note**

This subseries, the largest, preserves Harrar's subject files pertaining to the corporations, clubs, professional associations, scientific societies, government committees, and other organizations Harrar was involved with either as a member, trustee, or advisor.

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The Americas Foundation, 1972	box 14	folder 102
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American Philosophical Society, 1962-1982	box 14	folder 104
The Atlantic Council, 1972-1975	box 14	folder 105
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Boys Club of America, 1964-1972	box 14	folder 108
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Foundation Executives Group, May-August 1965	box 19	folder 143
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Foundation Executives Group, September-December 1965

	box 19	folder 144
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General Advisory Committee on Foreign Assistance Programs, June-October 1965	box 20	folder 153
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See also the files for President's General Advisory Committee on Foreign Assistance Programs (Boxes 32-33, Folders 239-250).		
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General Advisory Committee on Foreign Assistance Programs, August-October 1966	box 21	folder 155
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See also the files for President's General Advisory Committee on Foreign Assistance Programs (Boxes 32-33, Folders 239-250).		
General Advisory Committee on Foreign Assistance Programs, November-December 1966	box 21	folder 156

### Related Materials:

### **Related Materials**

See also the files for President's General Advisory Committee on Foreign Assistance Programs (Boxes 32-33, Folders 239-250).

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Harvard University - Visiting Committee to Department of Biology, 1957-1963	box 21	folder 158	
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President's General Advisory Committee on Foreign Assistance Programs (The World Food Program) box 33

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President's General Advisory Committee on Foreign Assistance Programs, May-August 1967 box 33

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## **Correspondence - Relating to Written Materials, 1958-1975**

### **Arrangement note**

This subseries is arranged chronologically.

### **Scope and Contents note**

This subseries complements the material in Series 2. Included are acknowledgements from many scientists concerning the Harrar and Stakman book, "Principles of Plant Pathology."

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"Principles of Plant Pathology", 1957-1958	box 39	folder 287
"Principles of Plant Pathology", 1957-1958	box 39	folder 288
"Principles of Plant Pathology", 1957-1958	box 39	folder 288A
"Principles of Plant Pathology", 1958-1967	box 39	folder 289
Miscellaneous, 1960-1962	box 39	folder 290
Miscellaneous, 1963-1966	box 39	folder 291
Miscellaneous, 1967	box 39	folder 292
Miscellaneous, 1968	box 40	folder 293
Miscellaneous, 1969-1974	box 40	folder 294
Miscellaneous, 1974	box 40	folder 295
Miscellaneous, 1975	box 40	folder 295A

Miscellaneous, 1976-1981

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## Speeches, Manuscripts and Publications, 1930-1979

### **Arrangement note**

This series is divided into five subseries:

Subseries 1 - Book Manuscripts Subseries 2 - InterviewsSubseries 3 - Publications (and Reprints) Subseries 4 - Speeches Subseries 5 - Miscellaneous Papers

### Speeches, Manuscripts and Publications - Book Manuscripts, 1958-1979

### **Arrangement note**

The subseries is arranged chronologically.

### **Scope and Contents note**

Subseries 1 contains drafts and outlines of both published and proposed books, including the F. Fowle manuscript entitled "Recollections of J. George Harrar on the Agricultural Program of The Rockefeller Foundation," 1967. Also included are various reviews of "The Principles of Plant Pathology."

Title/Description	Instances	
"Principles of Plant Pathology" - Reviews, 1958	box 41	folder 297
"Principles of Plant Pathology" - Reviews, 1958	box 41	folder 298
Blueprint for Hungry Nations: The Mexican Agricultural Program of the Rockefeller Foundation, 1961	box 41	folder 298A
Book Manuscripts	box 41	folder 299
Scope and Contents		
Principles and Problems of Technical Assistance and Their Application to the Rockefeller Foundation's Program of Technical Collaboration in Mexico, 1964.		
Recollections of J. George Harrar On The Agricultural Program of The Rockefeller Foundation, with F. Fowle, 1967	box 41	folder 300
Recollections of J. George Harrar On The Agricultural Program of The Rockefeller Foundation, with F. Fowle - Drafts, 1967	box 41	folder 301
Recollections of J. George Harrar On The Agricultural Program of The Rockefeller Foundation, with F. Fowle - Drafts, 1967	box 41	folder 302
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Recollections of J. George Harrar On The Agricultural Program of The Rockefeller Foundation, with F. Fowle - J. Allen Revision, 1969	box 41	folder 304	
The Years with the Rockefeller Foundation, 1979	box 42	folder 305	

## Speeches, Manuscripts and Publications - Interviews, 1949-1978

### **Arrangement note**

This subseries is arranged chronologically.

### **Scope and Contents note**

Subseries 2 contains transcripts of radio and TV interviews relating to agriculture, world hunger, and Harrar's role as President of the Rockefeller Foundation.

Title/Description	Instances	
Miscellaneous, 1949-1969	box 42	folder 306
Miscellaneous, 1969-1970	box 42	folder 307
Oral History - Rockefeller Foundation Program in Agriculture, 1961	box 42	folder 308
Excerpts - Interview Concerning Mexican Agricultural Program, 1978	box 42	folder 309

# Speeches, Manuscripts and Publications - Publications (and Reprints), 1930-1979

### **Arrangement note**

This subseries is arranged chronologically.

### **Scope and Contents note**

This subseries includes a few of Harrar's earliest published scientific articles.

Title/Description	Instances		
Miscellaneous, 1930-1953	box 42	folder 310	
Miscellaneous, 1953-1958	box 42	folder 311	
Miscellaneous, 1959-1963	box 42	folder 312	
<b>Scope and Contents</b>			
Includes list of technical publications, 1930-19	962.		
Miscellaneous, 1964-1966	box 43	folder 313	
Miscellaneous, 1967-1968	box 43	folder 314	
Miscellaneous, 1968	box 43	folder 315	

## Speeches, Manuscripts and Publications - Speeches, 1953-1979

### **Arrangement note**

This subseries is arranged chronologically.

### **Scope and Contents note**

This subseries contains texts of commencement addresses, awards acceptance speeches, eulogies, and other speeches addressing a variety of subjects.

Title/Description	Instances		
Miscellaneous, 1954-1959	box 43	folder 317	
Scope and Contents			
Includes list of speeches, 1953-1976.			
Miscellaneous, 1960-1962	box 43	folder 318	
Miscellaneous, 1963	box 43	folder 319	
Miscellaneous, 1964	box 43	folder 320	
Miscellaneous, 1965-1966	box 44	folder 321	
Miscellaneous, 1967-1968	box 44	folder 322	
Miscellaneous, 1969	box 44	folder 323	
Miscellaneous, 1972	box 44	folder 324	
Miscellaneous, 1973-1979	box 44	folder 325	

## Speeches, Manuscripts and Publications - Miscellaneous Papers, 1954-1975

Title/Description	Instances	
1954-1967, 1954-1967	box 44	folder 326
1968-1971, 1968-1971	box 44	folder 327
1972-1975, 1972-1975	box 44	folder 328
1979, 1979	box 45	folder 329

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## Miscellany, 1926-1982

### **Arrangement note**

This series is arranged chronologically.

Series 3 contains biographical information, honors and awards, and clippings. Included among the clippings is material from Harrar's college years at Oberlin. A memorial book to J. George Harrar is also included.

Title/Description	Instances		
Biographical Information	box 45	folder 330	
Honors and Awards, 1953-1971	box 45	folder 331	
Honors and Awards, 1972-1982	box 45	folder 332	
<b>Scope and Contents</b>			
Includes memorial tributes.			
Miscellaneous Clippings, 1927-1968	box 45	folder 333	
Miscellaneous Clippings, 1968-1975, n.d.	box 45	folder 334	
Miscellaneous Clippings - Mexico, 1969	box 45	folder 335	
J. G. Harrar, 1906-1982	box 45	folder 336	

box 45

folder 337

Calendars, 1975, 1977

## J. George Harrar photographs, 1926-1971

Physical Description: 5.26 Cubic Feet 7 document boxes and 4 flat boxes

### **Biographical / Historical**

Jacob George Harrar was born in Painesville, Ohio, on December 2, 1906, to Ellwood Harrar, an engineer, and Lucetta Sternes Harrar. He attended Oberlin College from 1924 to 1928 where he majored in biology and excelled in athletics. After receiving the A.B. degree from Oberlin, Harrar continued his education at the Iowa State College of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts. He was awarded the M.S. degree in 1929 and immediately embarked on a career in teaching and agricultural research as an assistant professor at the College of Agriculture, University of Puerto Rico. Within a year Harrar became head of the department of biology. He left that position in 1934 to pursue a Ph.D. in plant pathology at the University of Minnesota. It was here he began a close personal and professional relationship with E. C. Stakman, under whom he studied. Later, in 1958, they collaborated on the book, "Principles of Plant Pathology."

In 1935, Harrar, having achieved a doctorate degree in plant pathology, once again resumed teaching, accepting an assistant professorship at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute. Rising to full professor in 1937, Harrar remained at the Institute until 1941. From 1941 to 1942 he headed the Division of Plant Pathology and the Agricultural Experiment Station at Washington State College.

In 1942, Harrar left academics to create and administer in Mexico the Rockefeller Foundation's first cooperative assistance program in agricultural science. With his team of American specialists, Harrar implemented a Foundation program of soil and hybrid experimentation to improve wheat and corn yields. Within a few years the Mexican program proved enormously successful and the Foundation was invited to implement the same program in Colombia, Chile, and India. Harrar is generally regarded as the father of what soon became known as "The Green Revolution."

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Harrar, in 1952, became Deputy Director for Agriculture, Division of Natural Sciences and Agriculture, of the Rockefeller Foundation. In 1955, he became Director for Agriculture organizing further projects in agricultural assistance and cooperation in all the Central American countries. He was appointed Vice President of the Foundation in 1959, and in 1961 succeeded Dean Rusk as its President. Under Harrar, the Rockefeller Foundation during the 1960s reoriented its programs to concentrate in five areas: the conquest of hunger, by improving the quantity and quality of food supplies; the solution of population problems; the strengthening of emerging centers of learning in developing nations; the provision of better educational opportunities for the disadvantaged groups in the U. S.; and the enhancement of the cultural lives of Americans.

Retiring in 1972, Harrar was the first man ever to be appointed a Life Fellow of the Rockefeller Foundation. During the 1970s he continued his involvement as a member of such professional and scientific organizations as the National Academy of Sciences and the Nutrition Foundation. In 1980 he was awarded the Aztec Eagle Award, the highest honor bestowed by the Mexican government for service to their country by a foreign citizen. He also, during his lifetime, received numerous honors, degrees, and citations from many other foreign governments and from both American and foreign universities.

In addition to "Strategy for the Conquest of Hunger, Selected Papers of J. George Harrar," he was the author of numerous scientific research papers in the fields of phytopathology and mycology, and many articles of general interest on world food problems, population, private philanthropy, economic development overseas, and environmental quality.

J. George Harrar died on April 18, 1982.

#### **Controlled Access Headings:**

• Photographs

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<b>Scope and Contents note</b>			
Schools, students, sports.			
Mexico, 1942-1944	box 4	folder 35	
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>			
Harrar family, volcanos, agriculture, farming, potatoes, granaries, festivals, Chapingo, meetings, field studies, corn, dances.			
Chile, 1962	box 4	folder 36	
Scope and Contents note			
Awards, South America, conferences, ceremonies.			
Colombia, 1964	box 4	folder 37	
Scope and Contents note			
John D. Rockefeller 3rd, conferences, meetings, South America.			
Latin America, circa 1954-1966	box 4	folder 38	

South America, conferences, meetings, graduations, agriculture.

Latin America, undated	box 4	folder 39	
Scope and Contents note			
Families, conferences, awards, ceremonies, buildings.			
African Schools, undated	box 4	folder 40	
Scope and Contents note			
Africa, Liberia, Nigeria, Kenya, Rhodesia, Uganda. Schools, buildings, hospitals.			
African Schools, undated	box 5	folder 41	
Scope and Contents note			
Africa, Congo, Ghana, Liberia, Ethiopia. Schools, hospitals, agriculture.			
Asian Visit, 1971	box 5	folder 42	
Scope and Contents note			
India, libraries, laboratories, museums, schools.			
Asian Visit, 1971	box 5	folder 43	
Scope and Contents note			
India, irrigation, agriculture, wheat.			
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Scope and Contents note			
Agriculture, wheat, conferences.			
America - Award Ceremonies, 1960s	box 5	folder 45	
Scope and Contents note			
Ceremonies, awards, dinners, graduations, Harrar family.			
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Scope and Contents note			
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Dinners, speeches, parties.

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Dinners, parties, speeches.			
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Scope and Contents note			
Dinners, parties.			
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Dinners, parties.			
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