

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

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Language of the English

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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.

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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.

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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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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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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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See also the files for the General Advisory Committee on Foreign Assistance Programs (Boxes 20-21, Folders 152-156).

President's General Advisory Committee on Foreign Assistance Programs (The World Food Program) box 33

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See also the files for the General Advisory Committee on Foreign Assistance Programs (Boxes 20-21, Folders 152-156).

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

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Related Materials

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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."

Title/Description	Instances	
"Principles of Plant Pathology", 1957-1958	box 38	folder 284
"Principles of Plant Pathology", 1957-1958	box 38	folder 285
"Principles of Plant Pathology", 1957-1958	box 38	folder 286
"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
Recollections of J. George Harrar On The Agricultural Program of The Rockefeller Foundation, with F. Fowle - Drafts, 1967	box 41	folder 303

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	
Scope and Contents			
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	
Scope and Contents			
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

Title/Description	Instances		
Oberlin College, 1926-1928	box 4	folder 34	
Scope and Contents note			
Schools, students, sports.			
Mexico, 1942-1944	box 4	folder 35	
Scope and Contents note			
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.			
Japan / Phillipines (President Lyndon B. Johnson Visit), 1953	box 5	folder 44	
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.			
Chistmas Photos, 1960 / Dinner for Dean Rusk, February 26, 1961, 1960-1961	box 5	folder 46	
Scope and Contents note			
Holidays, dinners, parties.			
Rockefeller Foundation 50th Anniversary Dinner, 1963 April 2	box 5	folder 47	

Dinners, speeches, parties.

Rockefeller Foundation 50th Anniversary Dinner, 1963 April 2	box 5	folder 48	
Scope and Contents note			
Dinners, parties, speeches.			
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Scope and Contents note			
Dinners, parties.			
Rockefeller Foundation 50th Anniversary Dinner, 1963 April 2	box 5	folder 50	
Scope and Contents note			
Dinners, parties.			
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Field Day, Mexico album	box 2		
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All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), 1960-1961	box 3		
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Harrar - Portraits	box 8		
Album 1, 1942	box 9		
Album 2, 1943-1950	box 9		
Album 3	box 10		
Album 4 - South America	box 10		
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