

Dr. Edgar T. Wherry botanical lantern slides

04

**Finding aid prepared by Celia Caust-Ellenbogen and Faith Charlton through the
Historical Society of Pennsylvania's Hidden Collections Initiative for Pennsylvania Small
Archival Repositories.**

Last updated on August 23, 2013.

Morris Arboretum Archives

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Summary Information

Repository	Morris Arboretum Archives
Creator	Wherry, Edgar Theodore, 1885-1982
Title	Dr. Edgar T. Wherry botanical lantern slides
Call number	04
Date	circa 1924-1976
Extent	23 linear feet
Language	English
Abstract	<p>Dr. Edgar T. Wherry (1885-1982) was a mineralogist and botanist who specialized in ferns. He was a professor of botany at the University of Pennsylvania from 1930-1955, and in 1932 he was appointed ecologist to the Morris Arboretum. The Dr. Edgar T. Wherry botanical lantern slides, circa 1920s-1976, consist of dozens of lantern slides (primarily hand-painted photographs) created by Dr. Edgar T. Wherry depicting botanical specimens, some from the Morris Arboretum and others from locations throughout the world. There is also one slide script from a 1976 lecture on Phlox in the collection.</p>

Biography/History

"Edgar Theodore Wherry was born on September 10, 1885, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. After

graduating from the Friends Central School in 1902, he received a scholarship to the University of Pennsylvania, where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry in 1906 and a Ph.D. in Geology-Mineralogy in 1909.

"He taught for five years as an assistant professor in the Geological Department of Lehigh University. In 1913, he became the assistant curator of mineralogy at the U.S. National Museum in Washington, D.C. During his time in Washington, he began working with the Wild Flower Preservation Society and taught himself the principles of botany. He started exploring theories of soil chemistry in relation to plant growth.

"Dr. Wherry's work with ferns and their 'relationship to their geological-chemical environment' became the topic of many of his publications, and the focus of his membership and subsequent presidency of the American Fern Society from 1934 to 1938. Wherry published three key guides to the ferns of North America: *Guide to Eastern Ferns* in 1937, *The Fern Guide* in 1961, and *The Southern Fern Guide* in 1964.

"Wherry was a professor of botany at the University of Pennsylvania from 1930-1955, and in 1932 he was appointed ecologist to the Morris Arboretum. He also taught soil science, plant physiology, plant ecology, and taxonomy at the Arboretum School of the Barnes Foundation from 1941 to 1950, and again from 1953 to 1957.

"He is credited with discovering the mineral Wherryite, as well as several plants, including *Asplenium xtrudellii*, *Microgramma heterophylla*, *Sarracenia oreophila*, and *Sarracenia jonesii*. Plants named in honor of Dr. Wherry include *Tiarella wherryi*, *Spilene wherryi*, and *Dryopteris wherryi*.

"Wherry was awarded professor emeritus status upon his retirement from University of Pennsylvania in 1955. He was also awarded the Mary Soper Pope Medal by the Cranbrook Institute of Science in 1964 for his achievements in plant research.

"Dr. Wherry worked closely with many botanical organizations, such as the Bowman's Hill State Wildflower Preserve, the American Rock Garden Society, the Delaware Valley Chapter of the American Rock Garden Society, and the Delaware Valley Fern Society."

Bibliography:

Quoted text from: Friedman, Lindsay. Finding aid to Edgar Theodore Wherry Papers, 1907-1977, The Barnes Foundation Archives WHE. November 2010. Accessed January 25, 2013.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of over 1,00 of lantern slides created by Dr. Edgar T. Wherry depicting botanical specimens, some from the Morris Arboretum and others from locations throughout the world, circa 1924 to circa 1960s. Many of the black and white glass lantern slides were hand colored with transparent dyes by Dr. Wherry. There is also one slide script, from a 1976 lecture on Phlox.

Many of the lantern slides were copied to 35mm Kodachrome film and Kodak Ektachrome slides through initiatives in the 1970s and 1980s. Some of the copies were deposited at Longwood Gardens and the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia.

Administrative Information

Morris Arboretum Archives

Finding aid prepared by Celia Caust-Ellenbogen and Faith Charlton through the Historical Society of Pennsylvania's Hidden Collections Initiative for Pennsylvania Small Archival Repositories.

Sponsor

This preliminary finding aid was created as part of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania's Hidden Collections Initiative for Pennsylvania Small Archival Repositories. The HCI-PSAR project was made possible by a grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Access Restrictions

Contact Morris Arboretum Archives for information about accessing this collection.

Processing Information Note

Summary descriptive information on this collection was compiled in 2012-2014 as part of a project conducted by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania to make better known and more accessible the largely hidden collections of small, primarily volunteer run repositories in the Philadelphia area. The Hidden Collections Initiative for Pennsylvania Small Archival Repositories (HCI-PSAR) was funded by a grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

This is a preliminary finding aid. No physical processing, rehousing, reorganizing, or folder listing was accomplished during the HCI-PSAR project.

In some cases, more detailed inventories or finding aids may be available on-site at the repository where this collection is held; please contact Morris Arboretum Archives directly for more information.

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials Note

The Barnes Foundation Archives: Edgar Theodore Wherry Papers, 1907-1977, collection WHE.
Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania: Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania Historic Image Collection.

Controlled Access Headings

CORPORATE NAME(S)

- University of Pennsylvania. Morris Arboretum. Botany Dept.
- University of Pennsylvania. Morris Arboretum

GEOGRAPHIC NAME(S)

- Chestnut Hill (Philadelphia, Pa.)
- Montgomery County (Pa.)
- Philadelphia (Pa.)
- Springfield (Montgomery County, Pa. : Township)

PERSONAL NAME(S)

- Wherry, Edgar Theodore, 1885-1982

SUBJECT(S)

- Arboretums
- Botany
- Ferns