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## **Archer, William Andrew 3**

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English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation Archives

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation Archives
<b>Title:</b>	William Andrew Archer (1894–1973) papers
<b>ID:</b>	HIBDARC.3
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1929–1964
<b>Physical Description:</b>	6.25 Linear Feet 19 boxes, 4 volumes, 1 oversized
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English

### Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], [date(s) of item]. Depository: William Andrew Archer (1894–1973) papers, Hunt Institute Archives collection no. 3 (box [box number], folder [folder number]), Archives, Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, Pittsburgh, Pa.

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## Biographical / Historical

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William Andrew Archer was born on 7 November 1894 into a family of farmers in Torreón, Mexico. He received his Ph.D. in mycology at the University of Michigan in 1925.

Archer began his professional career as an instructor at Oberlin College, Ohio in 1926. From there he initiated his career in the United States government as the assistant plant pathologist within the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) from late 1926 until 1929, where he focused on plant diseases. Archer was then employed at the Escuela de Agricultura as head of the Department of Botany and Plant Pathology from 1929 until 1931. During the years of the Great Depression he performed his greatest personal research on a one-man backpacking expedition throughout the Andes and Chocó region from 1931 until 1934. Following this expedition, Archer was employed for a short period of time as an editor of translation for the Division of Forest Pathology. He continued his government career as a plant explorer within the Division of Plant Exploration and Introduction in the USDA.

Arguably Archer's greatest accomplishment came in 1937, when he was made director of the Nevada Indian Medicine Project in which 16,000 specimens were collected and tested for potential medicinal

properties. The findings of this project were summarized in Train, Henrichs and Archer, *Medicinal Uses of Plants by Indian Tribes of Nevada* (1941, *Contr. Fl. Nevada* 33).

With the interruption of war during the Nevada Indian Medicine Project in 1942, Archer was given the chance to return to the Amazon basin to work at the Instituto Agronômico del Norte. Before returning to Nevada, he traveled to Ethiopia to explore native crops, seeds of cereals, forages and vegetables.

After helping to edit *Contributions* 45, Archer became plant taxonomist and curator at the United States National Arboretum Herbarium from 1947 until 1964. Lastly, he volunteered to organize the botanical archives of the Smithsonian Institution and the Carleton Ball willow and archival collections from 1964 until 1973, when he passed away.

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## Scope and Contents

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The William Andrew Archer papers (ca.1906–[1929–1964]–1972), HI Archives collection no. 3, consists of seventeen boxes of materials and four bound volumes. The majority of the collection includes reports, printed and mimeographed items, certificates and correspondence. Archer's publications and the published materials of fellow botanists, such as a listing of botanical paintings and drawings by Helen Joslin, are also available throughout the collection.

Much of the collection concerns Archer's international influence as head of the Department of Botany and Plant Pathology at the Escuela de Agricultura, as botanist at the Instituto Agronômico del Norte and as a plant explorer within the Amazon and the Colombian jungles. These explorations and occupations led to publications, reports and photographs that are included within the collection. Specifically, during his exploration of fish poison plants and economic plants in British Guiana, Suriname, Colombia, Mexico, Brazil, Paraguay, Ethiopia and other areas, Archer produced photographs that can be appreciated by users of the collection at the Hunt Institute.

Archer's collection also encompasses materials relating to his more domestic occupations. These resources focus on the topics of his curatorial career within the National Arboretum Herbarium, his years of volunteering with the Smithsonian Institution archives, and his work with the Nevada Indian Medicine Project. The Hunt Institute holds four bound volumes related to the project, which include data and correspondence from the Native American informants, the University of Nevada, the Works Projects Administration and the University of Minnesota that code and identify the native plants that were thought to have medicinal properties. Volume 4 offers a compilation of data that was received from the chemical and pharmaceutical studies that were performed on these plants.

The William Andrew Archer papers were processed and described in 2014 by Abigail Kirstein.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation Archives

### Processing Information

This collection was digitized by G. Boardman in 2014.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Archer, William Andrew, 1894–1973

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## Collection Inventory

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### Publications (third party), 1893–1959

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### Explorations , 1925–1951 (Bulk, 1931–1945)

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### Correspondence A–E, 1931–1969

box 6

Physical Description: .25 Linear Feet 1 box

#### Scope and Contents

Correspondence in this series:

Adams, Lee 1957–1960; Allee, R. H. 1942–1945; "A"  
Miscellaneous 1938–1962 (Bulk, 1940-1949); Baldwin, J.T.  
1942–1956; Barneby, Rupert C. 1941–1956; Bartlett, H.  
H. 1925–1956; Bieter, Raymond N 1939–1957; Billings,

W.D. 1948–1954; "B" Miscellaneous 1938–1957; Camargo, Felisberto 1942–1951; Castro, Rudolfo 1931–1932; Chase, Agnes 1935–1936; Clayton, E. E. 1935–1936; Constance, Lincoln 1953–1958; Correll, Donovan S. 1956–1959; Cronquist, Arthur 1958; "C" Miscellaneous 1931–1961; Descole, H.R. 1941–1942; Dunn, David B. 1953–1956; "D" Miscellaneous 1941–1953; Edwin, Gabriel 1951–1969; Erskine, Esme n/a; Erlanson, C.O. 1936–1942; Escuela de Agricultura Medellin, Colombia 1929–1931; "E" Miscellaneous 1954–1956

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## Correspondence F-K, 1930–1965

box 7

Physical Description: .25 Linear Feet 1 box

### Scope and Contents

Correspondence in this series:

Froes, Ricardo de Lemos 1944–1957; "F" Miscellaneous 1943–1965; "Fan" Mail 1932–1933; Grant, Verne E. 1953–1958; Gullion, G.W. 1953–1963; "G" Miscellaneous 1931–1964; Hartman, Carl G. 1956; Henrichs, J.R. 1938–1941; Hassler, Emilio 1939–1941; Hoehne, F.C. 1939–1940; Holmgren, Arthur H. 1953–1955; Horning, E.C. 1957; Howard, R.A. 1954; "H" Miscellaneous 1931–1945; Iltis, Hugh H. 1949–1956; "I- J" Miscellaneous 1954–1964 (Bulk, 1958); Keck, D.D. 1951–1953; Killip, E.P. 1930–1949; Krukoff, B.A. 1941–1943; "K" Miscellaneous 1944–1960

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## Correspondence L-S, 1933–1963

box 8

Physical Description: .25 Linear Feet 1 box

### Scope and Contents

Correspondence in this series:

Laszlo, Henry de 1952–1956; Lehenbauer, P.A. 1940–1954; Little, E. L. 1954–1956; Lutz, H.J. 1958–1960; "L" Miscellaneous 1945–1956; Maguire, B. 1943–1956; Mathias, Mildred E. 1955–1957; Merrill, E. D. 1939; Millar, Robert H. 1954–1957; Moncure, R.C. 1943–1945; Moore, R. E. 1943–1946; Morrison, B.Y. 1934–1942; Munz, P.A. 1955–1961; "M" Miscellaneous 1935–1955; "N-P" Miscellaneous 1932–1962 (Bulk, 1940–1949); "Outlanders" 1933; Porter, C.L. 1955–1957; Record, S.J. 1943–1944; Reifschneider, Olga 1955–1963; Robbins, W.J. 1940–1946; Rollins, R.C. 1954–1963; Ryerson, K.A. 1931–1947; "R" Miscellaneous 1931–

1957; Sandwith, N.Y. 1953–1955; Schultes, R.E. 1940–1962;  
Shaw, R.R. 1942–1946; Smith, Earle C. 1952; Smithsonian  
Institute 1931–1938

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## Correspondence S (continued)–Z , 1932–1963

box 9

Physical Description: .25 Linear Feet 1 box

### Scope and Contents

Correspondence in this series:

Stevenson, J.A. 1932–1951; "S" Miscellaneous 1936–1963; Train, Agnes and Perry 1937–1957; Train, Perry - Nevada Train Original Plant Survey Prom. Species 1937; Train, Perry - Nevada Train Original Plant Survey Prom. Species 1938; Train, Perry - Nevada Train Original Plant Survey Prom. Species 1939; Train, Perry - Nevada Train Original Plant Survey Prom. Species 1940; Tropical Plant Research Foundation 1930–1931; "T" Miscellaneous 1945–1963; Verdoorn, F. 1941–1954; Walker, E.H. 1945–1956; Wherry, E.T. 1954–1957; Whitehouse, W.E. 1936–1941; Williams, L.O. 1962–1963; Woodson, R.E. 1950–1954; "U-V" Miscellaneous 1942–1955; "W-Z" Miscellaneous 1946–1962; Yuncker, T.G. 1942–1954

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## Materials regarding Nevada Flora Project , 1937–1964

Physical Description: 1.25 Linear Feet 5 boxes

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## Correspondence and Materials Accessioned in 1971 , 1931–1971 (Bulk, 1960–1970)

Physical Description: .5 Linear Feet 2 boxes

### Scope and Contents

Correspondence and materials in this series:

Morrison Correspondence to W.A. Archer 1931–1961; Correspondence Regarding the Study of Nevada Medicinal Plants 1944–1949; Cinchona Mission Correspondence and Related Items 1944–1949; "Botanist abroad, or a philosophy for the 'Good Neighbor,'" by W.A. Archer 1944; Materials Regarding Papers Translated by Archer 1944–1945; The Museum of Agricultural Research Materials 1944–1946; Misc Letters and Printed Items 1947–1971 (Bulk, 1968–1971); Archer Awards and Certificates 1949–1957; Argus, G.W. 1965; Blaine, M.M. 1964–1966; Bye, Robert A 1970; Catalfomo, P. 1964–1965; Edwin, Gabriel 1964–1965; Gullion, G.W. 1959–1963; Janssen

(Train), Agnes 1965–1969; Latham, Marte 1964–1965; Palmer Notes 1955–1970; Bye, Robert A. Jr 1972; Correll, Donovan S. 1963–1970; Cowan, Richard S. 1954–1956; Fiala Outfits Inc. Colfax, Iowa 1944; Fletcher, Neal E. Jr. 1958; Glassman, S.F. 1956; Lawrence, George 1970; Mathias, M.E. 1965; Meyer, F.G. 1965; Millar, J.R. 1964–1965; Moore, H.E. Jr 1964–1965; Moran, Reid 1966; Mors, Walter 1965–1966; Reifschneider. Olga 1965; Rollins, Reed C. 1955–1963; Schultes, R.E. 1965; Stevenson, J.A. 1964; Templeton, B.C. 1964–1965; Vickery, Robert K. 1957; Williams, L.O. 1964–1965; Misc. Correspondence 1944–1972; Misc. Correspondence 1972; W. A. Archer Passports

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## Various Archival Publications, n. d.

box 17

Physical Description: .25 Linear Feet 1 box

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## Nevada Indian Drug Plant Project: Reports of Interviewers, 1937–1940

Physical Description: 1.0 Linear Feet 4 volumes

Title/Description	Instances
Volume 1, 1937 <u>Digital Object</u> : <a href="#">Archer Volume 1 1</a> <u>Digital Object</u> : <a href="#">Archer Volume 1 2</a> <u>Digital Object</u> : <a href="#">Archer Vol.1 3</a>	folder Volume 1
Volume 2, 1937–1939 <u>Digital Object</u> : <a href="#">Archer Vol.2 1</a> <u>Digital Object</u> : <a href="#">Archer Vol.2 2</a> <u>Digital Object</u> : <a href="#">Archer Vol.2 3</a>	folder Volume 2
Volume 3, 1937–1940 <u>Digital Object</u> : <a href="#">Archer Vol.3 1</a> <u>Digital Object</u> : <a href="#">Archer Vol.3 2</a>	folder Volume 3
Volume 4, 1940 <u>Digital Object</u> : <a href="#">Archer Vol. 4 1</a> <u>Digital Object</u> : <a href="#">Archer Vol. 4 2</a> <u>Digital Object</u> : <a href="#">Archer Vol. 4 3</a>	folder Volume 4

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