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Arber, Agnes Robertson 53

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English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation Archives

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Summary Information

Repository:	Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation Archives
Title:	Arber, Agnes Robertson (1879–1960) papers
ID:	HIBDARC.53
Date [inclusive]:	1886–1985
Physical Description:	13.5 Linear Feet 9 boxes, 16 volumes, 6 card-file boxes, 1 oversize item
Language of the Material:	English
Language of the Material:	English
Material Specific Details:	Many of the items in this collection are listed with a tag consisting of two letters and a number. This appears to be an inventory system created by either Agnes or Muriel Arber. There is no documentation currently available for this inventory system, but we have attempted to preserve it where possible. The tags are as follows: Booklets and reprints - Ab #; Catalogs - Ac #; Announcements and miscellany - Ad #, Ag #; File card boxes - Af #; Letters - Al #; Manuscript items (including figures and proofs) - Am #; Notebooks - An #; Printed clippings - Ap #; Articles and notes for articles - Ar #.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], [date(s) of item]. Depository: Arber, Agnes Robertson (1879–1960) papers, Hunt Institute Archives collection no. 53 (box [box number], folder [folder number]), Archives, Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, Pittsburgh, PA.

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Biographical / Historical

Agnes Robertson Arber (1879–1960) was a plant morphologist, historian of botany and a philosopher. She was the first female botanist and the third woman ever to be elected a fellow of the Royal Society. Her many publications covered the history of botany and the philosophy of biological observation.

She also wrote detailed monographs on cereals, bamboo, grasses and the general morphology of monocotyledons and aquatic angiosperms.

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Scope and Contents

This collection holds mostly material collected by Agnes Arber's daughter, Muriel Arber (1913–2004). It includes 31 of Agnes Arber's notebooks about herbals and plant morphology; atavism and the "law of loss," which she independently formulated from botanical evidence; the botany of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749–1832) and Guy de la Brosse (1586–1641); her first herbarium; drawings of plants; "botanical records and cuttings", which includes a letter from her friend and mentor, Ethel Sargent (1863–1918); and drawings and records of botanical work at La-Panne-Sur-Mer, Belgium, and Corfe Mullen, Dorset. Also included are letters mainly to Arber but also including some drafts of her replies and some original letters to Edgar Anderson (1897–1969) and Bernard C. Sharman (1913–?1996). Among the subjects described are early herbals, plant morphology, the "law of loss" and Arber's interest in gathering information on Nehemiah Grew (1641–1712) for an account of his life. In addition to these letters are two to Sargent from Eduard Strasburger (1844–1912) and an unsigned and apparently unfinished note presenting Joseph Hooker's (1817–1911) compliments to Sargent and thanking her for the material she sent him. Besides notebooks and letters, this collection contains seven file boxes of index cards with notes on herbals; page proofs, apparently from the first and second editions, for Arber's *Herbals: Their Origin and Evolution* (Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 1912), as well as original photographs for the figures in this book and proofs of the figures for *The Gramineae* (Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 1934) and *The Natural Philosophy of Plant Form* (Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 1950); reprints of articles by Arber and others; manuscripts of short writings by Arber and other related printed matter and illustrative material.

Added to this collection after the original donation: a series of bound books of articles and writings by Agnes Arber's husband, Edward Alexander Newell Arber (1870–1918); copies of books by Agnes Arber with related notes, articles and correspondence; editions of Agnes Arber's books in multiple languages and additional papers entrusted to the Hunt Institute by Muriel Arber.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation Archives

Processing Information

This collection was digitized by G. Boardman in 2015. This finding aid was created by Nancy Janda in 2023 and placed online by J. Dustin Williams in 2023.

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Collection Inventory

Letters (AI), 1892–1959	box 1	
<u>Physical Description:</u> .25 Linear Feet 1 box		
Title/Description	Instances	
AI 1–AI 62, 1892–1952	box 1	folder 1
<u>Digital Object:</u> 53 Arber Box1FF1		
<u>Language of the Material:</u> English, German, French		
Scope and Contents		
This file also includes a booklet "Ab 44" reprinted from Nature, Vol. 154, p.579, 4 Nov. 1944: "Meristic Variation and Reversibility of Evolution" by A. J. E. Cave and R. Wheeler Haines.		
AI 63–AI 92, 1928–1953	box 1	folder 2
<u>Digital Object:</u> 53 Arber Box1FF2		
<u>Language of the Material:</u> English, German, French		
AI 94–AI 100, 1927–1939	box 1	folder 3
<u>Digital Object:</u> 53 Arber Box1FF3		
<u>Language of the Material:</u> English, German		
AI 111–AI 125, 1928–1953	box 1	folder 4
<u>Digital Object:</u> 53 Arber Box1FF4		
<u>Language of the Material:</u> English		
Scope and Contents		
This file also contains one booklet labeled "Ab 54": Notes from the General Meeting of 10 November 1932 of the Linnean Society of London.		
AI 126–AI 155, 1917–1959	box 1	folder 5
<u>Digital Object:</u> 53 Arber Box1FF5		

Language of the Material: English

Scope and Contents

This file also includes a booklet "Ab 56" reprinted from The Scottish Geographical Magazine, Vol. XL, March 1924: "The Origin of London: A Review" by D'arcy W. Thompson.

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Notebooks [An 1–25], 1886–1958

Creator: Arber, Agnes, 1879-1960

Physical Description: 3 Linear Feet 2 boxes

Title/Description	Instances	
Notebook An 1 -- "Agnes aged seven", 1886 <u>Digital Object:</u> 53 Arber AN1	box 2	folder An 1
Scope and Contents		
This notebook was used as a small herbarium, with 9 pages of pressed plants identified by their common names.		
Notebook An 2 -- "The Plants of LaPanne, Belgium; The Plants of Corfe Mullen, Dorset" (with additional notes), 1895–1900 <u>Digital Object:</u> 53 Arber AN2	box 2	folder An 2
Notebook An 3 -- "Botanical Notes & Cuttings", 1894–1905 <u>Digital Object:</u> 53 Arber AN3	box 2	folder An 3
Notebook An 4 -- "Book of Small Notions", 1903–1917 <u>Digital Object:</u> 53 Arber AN4	box 2	folder An 4
Notebook An 4a -- "Botanical Journal 1896", 1896–1897 <u>Digital Object:</u> 53 Arber AN4a	box 2	folder An 4a
Notebook An 5 -- "Herbals and Herbalists", 1901–1904 <u>Digital Object:</u> 53 Arber AN5	box 2	folder An 5
Notebook An 5a -- "Ms Herbals I", 1918–1919 <u>Digital Object:</u> 53 Arber AN5a	box 2	folder An 5a
Notebook An 6 -- "Goethe 1943--", 1943–1949 <u>Digital Object:</u> 53 Arber AN6	box 2	folder An 6
Notebook An 7 -- "Herbals; Originals; Early notes; H. O. I", 1935–1947, n.d.	box 2	folder An 7

<u>Digital Object:</u> 53 Arber AN7		
Notebook An 7b -- "Herbals Originals Early notes H. O. 2", 1937, n.d.	box 2	folder An 7b
<u>Digital Object:</u> 53 Arber AN7b		
Notebook An 8 -- "Gramineae: Good Proofs of text figures", 1934	box 2	folder An 8
<u>Digital Object:</u> 53 Arber AN8		
Notebook An 9a -- "Herbals Critical Literature Early notes H. C. 1", n.d. [1910–1940]	box 2	folder An 9a
<u>Digital Object:</u> 53 Arber AN9a		
Notebook An 9b -- "Herbals Critical Early notes H. C. 2", 1917-1936, n.d.	box 2	folder An 9b
<u>Digital Object:</u> 53 Arber AN9b		
Notebook An 10 -- Herbal Critical Later notes (post 1912) H. C. 3, 1928–1936, n.d.	box 2	folder An 10
<u>Digital Object:</u> 53 Arber AN10		
Notebook An 10a -- Herbal Originals Later notes (post 1912) H. O. 3, 1935–1942, n.d.	box 2	folder An 10a
<u>Digital Object:</u> 53 Arber AN10a		
(Handmade book) Am 97 -- "Six Wild Plants, Drawn by Anne Robertson: Form III", 1890	box 2	folder Am 97
(Bound sketchbook) Am 98 -- "Drawings of plants from La Panne sur Mer, Belgium & Corfe Mullen Dorset: see next book for description", 1895–1896	box 2	folder Am 98
Notebook An 11 -- "A. A. M0Bk", 1936–1942, n.d.	box 3	folder An 11
<u>Digital Object:</u> 53 Arber AN11		
Notebook An 12 -- "H C + (O) 4", 1913–1943, n.d.	box 3	folder An 12
<u>Digital Object:</u> 53 Arber AN12		
Notebook An 13 -- "H 17 I", 1915–1939, n.d.	box 3	folder An 13
<u>Digital Object:</u> 53 Arber AN13		
Notebook An 14 -- "H 6", 1926–1958, n.d.	box 3	folder An 14
<u>Digital Object:</u> 53 Arber AN14		
Notebook An 15 -- "Cambridge MS herbals II Colleges Libraries", 1919	box 3	folder An 15
<u>Digital Object:</u> 53 Arber AN15		
Notebook An 16 -- "Notes on Law of Loss and Atavism (now of course out of date)", 1918–1938, n.d.	box 3	folder An 16
<u>Digital Object:</u> 53 Arber AN16		
Notebook An 17 -- "17 III; Grew etc.", 1931–1943, n.d.	box 3	folder An 17

Digital Object: [53 Arber AN17](#)

Notebook An 18 -- "17 IV; Grew, etc", 1935–1951, n.d.	box 3	folder An 18
<u>Digital Object:</u> 53 Arber AN18		
Notebook An 19 -- "Morph. Bk 9", 1937–1938, n.d.	box 3	folder An 19
<u>Digital Object:</u> 53 Arber AN19		
Notebook An 20 -- "Morph Bk II", 1927–1940, n.d.	box 3	folder An 20
<u>Digital Object:</u> 53 Arber AN20		
Notebook An 21 -- "Herbals critical and originals H 5", 1937–1943, n.d.	box 3	folder An 21
<u>Digital Object:</u> 53 Arber AN21		
Notebook An 22 -- "17 II" ; Guy de la Brosse notebook & paper at beginning, 1939–1947, n.d.	box 3	folder An 22
<u>Digital Object:</u> 53 Arber AN22		
Notebook An 23 -- "Guy de la Brosse. May 4 1913. Seventeenth Century Botany", 1913	box 3	folder An 23
<u>Digital Object:</u> 53 Arber AN23		
Notebook An 24 -- R Sharrock, n.d.	box 3	folder An 24
<u>Digital Object:</u> 53 Arber AN24		
Notebook An 25 -- Chronica Botanica, 1944–1945	box 3	folder An 25
<u>Digital Object:</u> 53 Arber AN25		

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Loose papers, mostly by Agnes Arber, 1901–1959, n.d.

Physical Description: 1 Linear Feet 6 small boxes Contained in larger box with box 1 items

Title/Description	Instances	
Articles and notes for articles -- Ar [1], 2–5, 7–19, 1927–1958	box 4	folder 1
<u>Digital Object:</u> 53 Arber Box4FF1		
<u>Language of the Material:</u> English, German		
Scope and Contents		
This file also contains one undated newspaper clipping "Ar [1]", which contains the article "On a French Version of the Herbal of Leonard Fuchs" written by Agnes Arber.		
Newspaper clippings about D'Arcy Wentworth Thompson (Ap 124) and miscellaneous subjects (Ap 7–123)	box 4	folder 2
[Am 1–68] Photographs of figures from Arber's <u>Herbals</u> (59 Items), 1926–1951, n.d.	box 5	

Photographs of figures from Arber's <i>Herbals</i> , with page proofs of figures (155 items), 1912–1945, n.d.	box 6
[Am 75, 77–96, 99–116] Reproductions and Proofs, 1786–1959, n.d.	box 7
[Ab 1–53] Reprints of papers, mostly by Arber, 1901–1954	box 8
[Ac 1–4, 7, 9; Ad 9, 10; Ag 1-3] Catalogs, announcements, miscellany, 1945–1954	box 9

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Juvenilia, 1888–1942	box 10
<u>Physical Description</u> : .75 Linear Feet 1/2 box	
Title/Description	Instances
"North London Collegiate School for Girls. BOTANY", 1893–1894 <u>Digital Object</u> : 53 Arber Juvenilia1	box 10 folder Juvenilia 1
"Botany Notebook I", 1894 <u>Digital Object</u> : 53 Arber Juvenilia2	box 10 folder Juvenilia 2
"Summer Holiday 1894: Ivy-Leaved Toadflax (<i>Linaria Cymbalaria</i>)", 1894–1897 <u>Digital Object</u> : 53 Arber Juvenilia3	box 10 folder Juvenilia 3
"General Botany Notes", 1895–1897, n.d. <u>Digital Object</u> : 53 Arber Juvenilia4	box 10 folder Juvenilia 4
"My Notes on: Books & Reading", 1896–1898, n.d. <u>Digital Object</u> : 53 Arber Juvenilia5	box 10 folder Juvenilia 5
"Palaeobotany", 1901–1905, n.d. <u>Digital Object</u> : 53 Arber Juvenilia6	box 10 folder Juvenilia 6
"Childish & early efforts", 1888–1942, n.d. <u>Digital Object</u> : 53 Arber Juvenilia7 <u>Language of the Material</u> : English, French	box 10 folder Juvenilia 7

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Commonplace books, 1898–1943	box 10
<u>Physical Description</u> : .75 Linear Feet 1/2 box	
Title/Description	Instances
"Commonplace Book, Agnes Robertson", 1898–1899	

<u>Digital Object:</u> 53 Arber CommonplaceBooks1	box 10	folder Commonplace Books 1
"Commonplace Book II", 1904–1916 <u>Digital Object:</u> 53 Arber CommonplaceBooks2	box 10	folder Commonplace Books 2
"Commonplace Book III", 1918–1919 <u>Digital Object:</u> 53 Arber CommonplaceBooks3	box 10	folder Commonplace Books 3
"Commonplace Book IV", 1920–1922 <u>Digital Object:</u> 53 Arber CommonplaceBooks4	box 10	folder Commonplace Books 4
[Commonplace Book V], 1922–1923 <u>Digital Object:</u> 53 Arber CommonplaceBooks5 <u>Language of the Material:</u> English, French	box 10	folder Commonplace Books 5
[Commonplace Book VI], 1923–1928 <u>Digital Object:</u> 53 Arber CommonplaceBooks6	box 10	folder Commonplace Books 6
[Commonplace Book VII], 1924–1931 <u>Digital Object:</u> 53 Arber CommonplaceBooks7	box 10	folder Commonplace Books 7
"Commonplace Book A. A. 1929– (The Cabinet Note Book)", 1929–1933 <u>Digital Object:</u> 53 Arber CommonplaceBooks8	box 10	folder Commonplace Books 8
"Q. 1; A. A." , 1935– <u>Digital Object:</u> 53 Arber CommonplaceBooks9	box 10	folder Commonplace Books 9
"Q 2.", 1935– <u>Digital Object:</u> 53 Arber CommonplaceBooks10	box 10	folder Commonplace Books 10
"Q3; Geology, Midland & other coalfields...", 1929–1951 <u>Digital Object:</u> 53 Arber CommonplaceBooks11	box 10	folder Commonplace Books 11
"Commonplace Book 1933–1952", 1928–1954 <u>Digital Object:</u> 53 Arber CommonplaceBooks12	box 10	folder Commonplace Books 12
"Commonplace Book, Sept 1952–", 1952–1959 <u>Digital Object:</u> 53 Arber CommonplaceBooks13	box 10	folder Commonplace Books 13

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Scope and Contents

This series consists of 7 boxes of Agnes Arber's reference card files. Af1 and Af2 are labeled "Herbals - Subject Index", Af3 and Af4 are labeled "Herbals - Originals", and Af5–Af7 are labeled "Herbals (and later) Critical".

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Addition to collection from Muriel Arber, 1899–1995, n.d.

Scope and Contents

Materials in this series were sent to the Hunt Institute by Muriel Arber, years after the original donation.

Title/Description	Instances	
Books, mostly E. A. Newell Arber, 1899–1959 <u>Physical Description</u> : 3 Linear Feet 1 shelf	box Shelf 1	
Arber Vol 1, 1899–1910	box Shelf 1	folder 1
Scope and Contents This is a hardbound book of reprints, publications and notes, mostly by E. A. Newell Arber.		
Arber Vol 2, 1901–1910	box Shelf 1	folder 2
Scope and Contents This is a hardbound book of reprints, publications and notes, mostly by E. A. Newell Arber.		
Arber Vol 3, 1903–1912	box Shelf 1	folder 3
Scope and Contents This is a hardbound book of reprints, publications and notes, mostly by E. A. Newell Arber.		
Arber Vol 4, 1910–1915	box Shelf 1	folder 4
Scope and Contents This is a hardbound book of reprints, publications and notes, mostly by E. A. Newell Arber.		
Arber Vol 5 "1916 & Later", 1915–1924	box Shelf 1	folder 5

Scope and Contents

This is a hardbound book of reprints, publications and notes, mostly by E. A. Newell Arber and Agnes Arber.

Origin of Monocotyledons - Sargent, 1898–1903	box Shelf 1	folder 6
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Scope and Contents

This is a hardbound book of reprints and articles by Ethel Sargent.

British Fungi & Lichens - Masee, 1911	box Shelf 1	folder 7
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Families of Flowering Plants: Monocots - Hutchinson, 1934–1972	box Shelf 1	folder 8
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Scope and Contents

This book is accompanied by a London *Times* obituary for the author, John Hutchinson.

Spinoza's Ethics and "De Intellectus Emendatione" - Ernest Rhys, Editor; J.M. Dent, London, 1928–1956	box Shelf 1	folder 9
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Scope and Contents

This 1928 edition (Full title: Everyman's Library - Edited by Ernest Rhys - Philosophy and Theology - Spinoza's Ethics and "De Intellectus Emendatione" - translated by A. Boyle, Introduction by Professor G. Santayana) contains notes by both Agnes and Muriel Arber as well as a December 8, 1956 London Times obituary for translator Andrew Boyle.

The Glossopteris Flora, British Museum of Natural History, 1905	box Shelf 1	folder 10
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Scope and Contents

There are annotations and corrections throughout this volume.

Devonian Floras ("Corrected copy"), E. A. Newell Arber, Cambridge Univ. Press, 1918–1923	box Shelf 1	folder 11
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Scope and Contents

Letters addressed to E. A. Newell Arber, correcting errors in the first edition, and notes by Agnes Arber are included with this book.

Reprint - Linnean Society Journal of Botany Vol XXXVIII - On the Origin of Angiosperms, by E. A. Newell Arber, 1907	box Shelf 1	folder 12
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Fossil Plants by E. A. Newell Arber, Gowan and Gray, Glasgow, 1909	box Shelf 1	folder 13
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Material Specific Details: This book is inscribed: "A. R. - with compliments of the author"

##### (Natural History of Coal) by E. A. N. Arber, Moscow, 1914	box Shelf 1	folder 14
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Evolution Studies - Sargent, Arber, Parkin, 1903–1908	box Shelf 1	folder 15
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Scope and Contents

This book is a bound set of various article reprints by the authors.

The Early Mesozoic Flora of NZ by E. A. N. Arber, Wellington, 1917	box Shelf 1	folder 16
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Interleaved copies of books by Agnes Arber, 1920–1956, n.d.	box Addition 1
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Scope and Contents

This box contains seven of Agnes Arber's books and the notes, articles and correspondence that arrived interleaved with each book.

The books, in order of their location in the box, are:
Monocotyledons - working copy
Water Plants - working copy
Herbals ed. 2 - working copy
Gramineae - working copy
Plant Form The Mind and the Eye The Manifold and the One

Editions of Agnes Arber's works in various languages, 1913–1985, n.d.	box Addition 2
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Scope and Contents

This box contains multiple editions of several of Agnes Arber's publications, in multiple languages including but not limited to English, Italian and Portuguese.

Bound volumes of papers by Agnes Arber, also text figures drawn by Agnes Arber, 1910–1960	box Addition 3
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Miscellaneous papers and correspondence, 1929–1995, n.d.	box Addition 4
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Scope and Contents

The materials in this box include correspondence, notes, publications, reviews and reprints, by and about both Agnes Arber and Muriel Arber.

Processing Information:

Processing Information

These materials have not been digitized.

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