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Guide to the Elvin A. Duerst Papers, 1929-1993

Title

Elvin A. Duerst Papers (MSS Duerst)

Dates

1929-1993 (inclusive)
1939-1980 (bulk)

Creator

Duerst, Elvin A.

Summary

The Elvin A. Duerst Papers consist of materials created and assembled by Duerst in the course of his career as an international agricultural economist. Elvin Albert Duerst graduated from Oregon State College in 1937 with a degree in agricultural economics. He worked as a county agent for the Montana Extension Service from 1940 to 1945.

Quantity

80 cubic feet, including 400 photographs (79 boxes, including 1 oversize box, and 3 map folders)

Restrictions on Access

Collection is open for research.

Oregon State University Libraries, University Archives
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Oregon State University
Corvallis, OR 97331-4501
Phone: 541-737-2165
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Web: <http://osulibrary.oregonstate.edu/archives>

Finding aid prepared by Elizabeth Nielsen, 2007.

Biographical Note

Elvin Albert Duerst, from McMinnville, Oregon, graduated from Oregon State College in 1937 with a degree in agricultural economics. He earned a master's degree in agricultural economics at the University of Illinois in 1939 and worked as a county agent for the Montana Extension Service from 1940 to 1945.

Duerst's career as an international agricultural economist began with work for the United Nations on agricultural relief in China after World War II. From 1948 until his retirement in 1966, Duerst worked for the Institute of Inter-American Affairs, the International Cooperation Administration, and the Agency for International Development on agricultural development in Paraguay, Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, El Salvador, and other countries in Central America. In 1967, Duerst joined the Stanford Research Institute as an economic consultant and advised Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Iran, the Philippines, and Bolivia on transportation and community planning.

Duerst died in May 2006 in McMinnville, Oregon.

Content Description

The Elvin A. Duerst Papers consist of materials created and assembled by Duerst in the course of his career as an international agricultural economist. The Papers include biographical information, personal artifacts, correspondence, records of his student years at Oregon State College and the University of Illinois, and information materials pertaining to his art collection. The Oregon State College materials include class notes and projects for courses Duerst completed at Oregon State as well as documents pertaining to the Agricultural Club.

The bulk of the papers document Duerst's international work in agricultural economics for the United Nations, various U.S. government agencies, the Stanford Research Institute, and other organizations. These materials include correspondence, publications, reports, research data, photograph albums and photographs, a scrapbook, maps, and administrative flowcharts.

The individual photographs (approximately 400 prints) and photo albums (14 volumes) document Duerst's travel and work in China in 1946-1948 and in Latin America, Saudi Arabia, and the Philippines in the 1960s and 1970s; his work in Montana in 1940-1945; and his student years at the University of Illinois in the late 1930s. The China photographs are housed in several albums with detailed descriptions and include images of agriculture and development projects. The maps are primarily of Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Bolivia, and other regions of South and Central America.

Preferred Citation

Elvin A. Duerst Papers, Oregon State University Archives, Corvallis, Oregon.

Acquisition Information

The Duerst Papers were donated to the OSU Libraries by his estate in 2007.

Processing Note

This collection is not fully processed; this guide is preliminary.

Additional Reference Guides

[Preliminary container list](#) available online.

Related Material

The OSU Archives' holdings include other collections pertaining to international agricultural development, including the [Ava Milam Clark Papers](#) and the [Wallace L. Kadderly Papers](#). The Archives also holds several collections pertaining to agricultural and resource economics including the Agricultural and Resources Economics Department Records (RG 128); the papers of [Emery N. Castle](#), D. Curtis Mumford, and Fred W. Obermiller; and the [Western Agricultural Economics Research Council Records](#).

Subjects

This collection is indexed under the following headings in the OSU Libraries Catalog. Researchers desiring materials about related topics, persons, or places should search the catalog (<http://oasis.oregonstate.edu>) using these headings.

Organizations

Topics

Agricultural development projects--China.
Agricultural development projects--Latin America.
Agricultural development projects--Saudi Arabia.
Agricultural extension work--Montana.
Agriculture--Economic aspects.
World War, 1939-1945--Civilian relief--China.

Forms of Materials in the Collection

Maps.
Photograph albums.
Photographic prints.
Scrapbooks.
Sound recordings.

Other Creators

Institute of Inter-American Affairs (U.S.)
Montana Extension Service in Agriculture and Home Economics.
Stanford Research Institute.
United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration.
United States. Agency for International Development.
United States. International Cooperation Administration.