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Guide to the Louis G. Gentner Papers, 1829-1980

Title

Louis G. Gentner Papers (MSS Gentner)

Dates

1829-1980 (inclusive)

1914-1980 (bulk)

Creator

Gentner, Louis G., 1892-1980.

Summary

These papers were generated by Louis G. Gentner, entomologist, alumnus and faculty member at Oregon State College. They document his coursework at Oregon Agricultural College, species identification and his field research regarding insect damage to vegetation.

Quantity

2.2 cubic feet, including 100 photographs (8 boxes)

Restrictions on Access

Collection is open for research.

Oregon State University Archives
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Corvallis, OR 97331-4501
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Finding aid prepared by Faye Harkins; updated by Elizabeth Nielsen, 2009.

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Biographical Note

Alumnus and entomologist, Louis G. Gentner, was born in Portland, Oregon, in February 1892. Gentner received his B. S. from Oregon Agricultural College in 1915, his M. S. from the University of Wisconsin in 1918, and completed his doctorate at Oregon State College in 1953. He did his post-graduate work at Oregon State College in 1945 and 1946. After working as an entomologist in Wisconsin and Michigan, he became associate entomologist and assistant superintendent of the Southern Oregon Branch Experiment Station in Medford in 1930. Gentner's studies with alfalfa varieties led to the selection and naming of "Talent" alfalfa, now grown extensively for seed production exports. His work with beetles led to the elimination of the Klamath goat weed infestation on southern Oregon infested rangeland and enabling thousands of acres to become viable again. Gentner retired from the station in 1962 and died July 16, 1980. Additional biographical information is included in the collection.

Arrangement

This collection is organized into six series: I. Biographical Information; II. Correspondence; III. School Records and Materials; IV. Entomology Field Work and Research Notes; V. Organizations; and VI. Photographs.

Content Description

The Gentner Papers document the entomological research conducted by Gentner, primarily on flea beetles, as well as his professional activities and undergraduate and graduate education. The collection includes correspondence, class notebooks, publications, extensive field and research notes, and photographs.

Preferred Citation

Louis G. Gentner Papers, Oregon State University Archives, Corvallis, Oregon.

Custodial History

A portion of these papers were donated directly to the University Archives by Louis Gentner's daughter, Laura Gentner Dunwald, in December 1985. Other materials were donated to the Horner Museum by the OSU Archives in 1985 and were subsequently returned to the Archives in August 1996. It is likely that they were also donated by Laura Gentner Dunwald. A subsequent addition to the collection was transferred from the Entomology Department in 2001.

Related Material

Other materials relating to the Entomology Department can be found in the [Agricultural Experiment Station \(RG 025\)](#) and [Entomology Department \(RG 027\)](#) Records. Other entomological collections held by the OSU Archives are the papers of Ralph Berry, John D. Lattin, Merton Lane, Charles H. Martin, James McIver, Hugh E. Morrison, Paul W. Oman, Paul Ritcher, Robert G. Rosenstiel, and Herman A. Scullen and the [A.B. Cordley Entomological and Horticultural Scrapbook](#). Materials relating to Gentner's research on flea beetles are held by the Smithsonian Institution Archives ([Louis G. Gentner Papers, RU 7341](#)).

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.

Individuals

Gentner, Louis G., 1892-1980.

Organizations

Oregon Agricultural College.

Oregon State University. Dept. of Entomology.

Topics

Beneficial insects.

Entomology--Research--Oregon.

Entomology--Study and teaching (Higher)--Oregon.
Flea-beetles--Oregon.

Forms of Materials in the Collection

Nitrate negatives.

Photographic prints.

Series Outline

Series I. Biographical Information, 1926-1979

Series II. Correspondence, 1929-1978

Series III. School Records and Materials, 1908-1963

Series IV. Entomology Field Work and Research Notes, 1829-1975

Series V. Organizations, 1916-1980

Series VI. Photographs, 1914-1936

Detailed Description of the Collection

Box

Series I. Biographical Information, 1926-1979

Series I consists of a list of Gentner's publications and a biographical data sheet.

- 1 Biographical Information and List of Publications of Louis G. Gentner, 1926-1969
- 1 Entomological Publications, 1949-1979

Box

Series II. Correspondence, 1929-1978

Series II contains both professional correspondence relating to Gentner's Ph.D. thesis, coursework for students and entomological correspondence pertaining to specimen identification and supplies. Much of the correspondence relates to Gentner's work on his Ph.D. at Oregon State College.

- 1 Letters from Mont. A. Casier and Paul O. Ritcher, 1955 and undated
- 1 Letters regarding Gentner's Ph.D. thesis, 1951-1953
- 1 Information and Procedures for Graduate Students and County Extension Agents Seeking Master Degrees at OSC, 1948-1951
- 1 Entomology and Zoology Correspondence, 1962-1974
- 1 Professional Correspondence, 1930-1980 (2 folders)
- 1 Specimen Donations Correspondence, 1940-1978
- 1 Entomological Supplies Correspondence, 1960-1970
- 1 Flea Beetle Sales Correspondence, 1929-1978

Box

Series III. School Records and Materials, 1908-1963

Series III contains various materials ranging from receipts for graduate school classes to references to textbooks. The classroom materials include laboratory notebooks dating from 1911 to 1917 for undergraduate and graduate classes in English, zoology and economic entomology. An interesting item in this series is Gentner's high school laboratory book dated 1908. Other classroom-related materials include student seminar papers, a thesis written by Gentner for a Civil Service Examination, study outlines, and teaching notes.

- 1 Grades, tuition receipts and OSC Ph.D. program notes, 1945-1953
- OAC Class Notebooks
 - 1 English 32 and English 42, undated
 - 1 Animal Parasitology, 1914
 - 1 Zoology 302, 1914
 - 1 Zoology notebook with insect pencil drawings, 1916
 - 1 Zoology 315, 1913 [Entomology of Field Crops]
 - 1 Zoology 301, 1913 [Introductory Entomology]
 - 1 Zoology 107, 1913 [With bird pencil drawings]
 - 1 Zoology I, 1911 [With mollusks pencil drawings]

- 1 Zoology II, 1912 [With chordata pencil drawings]
- 1 Economic Entomology 105, 1916-1917
- 1 Student Lab Book, 1908
- 1 Student Seminar Papers, 1917
- 1 Photography, 1916
- 1 Thesis in Connection With United States Civil Service Examination for Scientific Assistant in Entomology, circa 1917
- 1 Class Study Outline for Economic Entomology , circa 1917
- 1 Teaching notes and outlines, 1946
- 1 Insects Injurious to Grapes talk delivered at Michigan State College, 1927
- 1 Entomology Books and Price Lists, 1936-1963

Box**Series IV. Entomology Field Work and Research Notes, 1829-1975**

Series IV includes tables, field notes, handwritten manuscripts, outlines, and articles written by Gentner. It also contains four card file boxes of detailed entomology research field notes and bibliographies.

- 1 Research tables, field notes, portion of handwritten manuscript, undated
- 1 Miscellaneous entomology outlines and notes, circa 1916
- 1 Typescripts of published articles by Gentner, undated
- 1 Articles published in Wisconsin Horticulture by Gentner, 1919-1920
- 1 List of Species Collected by Gentner, circa 1924-1975
- 1 Haltica Identification notes, undated
- 1 Coleoptera notes, 1931
- 1 Aphids(Cenara), 1961
- 1 Epitrix notes, undated
- 1 Chaetocnema semichalcea (flea beetle) Identification, 1951
- 1 Citations and Notes on Various Entomology Topics, undated
- 1 Techniques for Mounting and Preserving Specimens, 1922-1946
- 1 Potato Flea Beetle Projects, 1963-1964
- 1 Field and Research Notes, undated
- 1 Plant Identification Collections, 1939-1958
- 1 Flea Beetle and Distribution Information, 1914-1975
- 1 Herbarium Specimens of Flea Beetle Damage, 1924-1940 [Specimens discarded.]
- 1 Systematic Catalogue of British Insects , 1829 [Photocopy from microfilm.]
- 1 Illustrations of British Entomology, 1830 [Photocopy from microfilm.]
- 2 Reference notes on index cards, undated
- 3 Halticinae References Under Species, undated
- 4 Halticinae Field Notes and Data Distribution, undated
- 5 Halticinae Bibliography, undated

Box**Series V. Organizations, 1916-1980**

Series V documents Gentner's membership in various entomological organizations.

- 6 Entomological Society of America, 1916-1980
- 6 Biological Research Institute of America, 1973-1976
- 6 North American Beetle Fauna Project, 1972-1976

Box**Series VI. Photographs, 1914-1936**

Series VI includes approximately 100 black and white photographs documenting insect damage to vegetation. One photograph of Gentner, taken in 1914, is also included.

- 7 Black and white photographs showing insect damage, 1916-1929 (apx. 100)
- 7-8 *Haltica probata* Fall, leaves of a wild rose showing larval injury, 1936 (Print and nitrate negative.)
- 7 Louis Gentner holding a bug net, 1914