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Guide to the Robert D. Graham Papers, 1903-1973

Title

Robert D. Graham Papers (MSS GrahamRobert)

Dates

1903-1973 (inclusive)

1949-1973 (bulk)

Creator

Graham, R. D. (Robert D.)

Summary

The Robert D. Graham Papers consist of research project files, reference materials, and photographs pertaining to wood preservation research and the wood preservation industry. Graham was Professor of Forest Products at Oregon State University and in charge of wood preservation studies at the Oregon Forest Products Laboratory and Forest Research Laboratory from 1948 until his retirement in 1982.

Quantity

2.6 cubic feet, including 500 photographs (5 boxes, including 1 oversize box)

Restrictions on Access

Collection is open for research.

Oregon State University Libraries, University Archives

121 The Valley Library

Oregon State University

Corvallis, OR 97331-4501

Phone: 541-737-2165

Email: archives@oregonstate.edu

Web: <http://osulibrary.oregonstate.edu/archives>

Finding aid prepared by Elizabeth Nielsen, 2009.

Biographical Note

Robert Douglas Graham was Professor of Forest Products at Oregon State University and in charge of wood preservation studies at the Oregon Forest Products Laboratory and Forest Research Laboratory from 1948 until his retirement in 1982. Graham earned his BS degree from Pennsylvania State University in 1941 and his MS in forest products from Oregon State College in 1947. Graham died in Corvallis, Oregon, on April 26, 2004.

Content Description

The Robert D. Graham Papers consist of research project files created and assembled by Graham in his work in wood preservation studies with the Oregon Forest Products Laboratory and Forest Research Laboratory and materials pertaining to wood preservation assembled by Graham, which are identified as the Wood Preservation Collection.

The research project files are primarily arranged by project and include correspondence, reports, research data, Graham's daily log of activities, and photographic prints and negatives of equipment and wood samples. The projects address a wide range of topics including the use of wood products and by-products for a variety of uses; development and testing of equipment; testing of laminates; treatment with creosote and creosote coal tar; pressure treating; improved mill burner and stack performance to reduce air pollution; and studies of power poles and other wood products, especially for the Bonneville Power Administration. The photographs consist of both 4x5 camera negatives and prints.

The Wood Preservation Collection component of the papers consists of materials assembled by Graham pertaining to wood preservation research and the wood preservation industry. These materials include photographs, reports, and publications. Many of the photographs document creosoting, especially of railroad ties, and the development of wood products for the housing and construction industry, especially pre-fabricated structures. Some of the photographs may have been assembled by Richard (Dick) Alpen. Most of the photographs in this component of the collection are prints; many were taken by commercial or industry photographers.

Also of note in the Wood Preservation Collection are a report of experimental charges treated by the reuping process at the St. Helens (Oregon) Creosoting Company in 1912-1913 and a 1911 booklet, *Wood Preservation and Creosoting by the Reuping Process*, published in 1911 by Hulsberg and Company in Berlin.

Preferred Citation

Robert D. Graham Papers, Oregon State University Archives, Corvallis, Oregon.

Acquisition Information

The wood preservation collection materials were donated to the Archives by Graham in 1991; the research project files were transferred to the Archives from the Forest Products Department in 1999.

Processing Note

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

Additional Reference Guides

[Preliminary container list](#) available online.

Related Material

The Forest Products Department Records (RG 003) include extensive documentation of the research conducted in the department and at the Oregon Forest Products Laboratory. The Archives collections include the papers of other Forest Products faculty: S.E. Corder; Leif Espenas; Douglas W. Glennie; and James W. Johnson. Biographical information about Graham is available in the [College of Forestry Records \(RG 139\)](#).

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

United States. Bonneville Power Administration.

Topics

Building materials.

Creosote.

Forest products--Research--Oregon.

Railroad ties--Preservation.

Wood poles--Preservation-Oregon.

Wood preservatives--Testing.

Wood--Preservation--Oregon.

Forms of Materials in the Collection

Film negatives.

Photographic prints.

Other Creators

Oregon Forest Products Laboratory.

Oregon State University. Forest Research Laboratory.