

A Guide to the George Ring III Papers

George Ring III Papers 1925-1987
1925-1987

A Collection in the Special Collections Department 10553-h
Special Collections Department, University of Virginia Library
1997

History

Processed by: Special Collections Department Staff
Date Completed: 1997
Encoded by: Elizabeth Slomba

Title Statement

A Guide to the George Ring III Papers

Subtitle: Ring, George.

Collection: 10553-h

Author: Processed by Special Collections Dept. staff; machine-readable finding aid created by Elizabeth Slomba

Sponsor: Funded in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Publication Statement

File size: 45 Kilobytes

Date: © 1997 By the Rector and Visitors of the University of Virginia. All rights reserved.

Publisher: Special Collections Department, University of Virginia Library

[Conditions of Use](#)

Funded in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Profile Description

Creation: Machine-readable finding aid derived from WordPerfect. [Date of source: 1997.]

Language Usage: Description is in English.

Revision Description

Feb 18, 2004 PUBLIC "-//University of Virginia::Library::Special Collections Dept.//TEXT (US::ViU::viu01844::George Ring III Papers)//EN" "viu01844.xml" converted from EAD 1.0 to 2002 by v1to02.xsl (sy2003-10-15).

Feb 27, 2004 converted to conform to eadVIVA.dtd by vivastrict.xsl

Descriptive Summary

Collection Number

10553-h

Language

English

Provenance

George Ring III

Extent

2832 items

Repository

University of Virginia. Library. Special Collections Dept.

Alderman Library
University of Virginia
Charlottesville, Virginia 22903
USA

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Collection is open to research.

Use Restrictions

See the [University of Virginia Library's use policy](#).

Acquisition Information

Mr. George Ring III of Fairfax, Virginia, gave his papers to the Library on February 10, 1988.

Funding Note

Funded in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities

Preferred Citation

George Ring III Papers, Accession 10553-h, Special Collections Department, University of Virginia Library

Biographical Note

George W. Ring is employed by the U.S. Department of Transportation as a highway research engineer and has been a rhododendron enthusiast and hybridizer since about 1964. He has served as the Eastern Chairman of the American Rhododendron Society Ratings Committee, the Chairman of the Gable Study Group, a Director and past President of the Potomac Valley Chapter, and former President of the American Rhododendron Society.

Scope and Content

The papers of George Ring III of Fairfax, Virginia, consist of 2,832 items (17 Hollinger boxes, 5.5 linear feet), 1925-1987, chiefly correspondence, printed material, working notebooks, and questionnaires, all pertaining to his membership in the American Rhododendron Society and his interest in the hybridizers of rhododendrons, both contemporary and past.

Ring's correspondence with other rhododendron enthusiasts and members of the American Rhododendron Society, arranged alphabetically by correspondent or topic, constitute the first series of his papers and includes such general topics as advice about growing rhododendrons, the exchange of plants, pollen, seed, and cuttings, orders from nurseries, articles in the *Bulletin*, and requests that he give talks before various plant societies. Files on several rhododendron projects are also found in this first series.

The most prominent topic in this collection is the stellar contributions of nurseryman and fruit grower Joseph Benson Gable (1886-1972) of Stewartstown, Pennsylvania, in pioneering the development of hardy hybrids of rhododendrons, such as those found in his own special collection at "Little Woods."

Several files in the first series discuss the efforts of the Gable Study Group, a committee of the Potomac Valley Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society, formed in 1973, whose objective was to establish a listing of Gable evergreen azaleas and rhododendrons known to be growing in gardens and arboreta. Among these are: correspondence of Caroline Gable, especially about locating old letters between Guy Nearing and Gable; Phil Livingstone about the Gable chapter in *Hybrids and Hybridizers*; Orlando Pride about Gable (November 19, 1978) and copies of Gable letters (November 28, 1978); Maletta Yates about Gable's collaborative relationship with her husband, Henry Yates; and talks by George Ring about the contributions of Gable (July 1980 and n.d.). Much of the material pertaining to Joe Gable is located in the second series, which will be described later. The results of the work of the Gable Study Group was later published as a chapter in *Hybrids and Hybridizers*. George Ring was the chairman of the Gable Study Group.

Other studies or surveys represented in Ring's papers include: *Hybrids and Hybridizers* in the correspondence

of Phil Livingston and Frank West; the Nearing Study Group (see also Emil Bohnel, September 11, 1980); the Rating Project which attempted to rate various rhododendrons according to their performance in severe cold and heat conditions (Ring was the Eastern Chairman of the Rating Committee); and the "Good Doer" Rhododendron Survey of all American Rhododendron Society chapters. This survey resulted in a compilation of rhododendrons and azaleas which grow best for each area of the country to be included in the national American Rhododendron Society book of "good doers."

Talks by George Ring include: "Value of *R. Yakusiniianum* for Hybridizing" (October 24, 1982); "Rhododendrons and Hot Weather" (September 1980); "Rhododendron Growers and New Instructions" (June 1980); "The Gable Azaleas" (July 1980); "Rhododendron Hybridizing" (1979); "Small Rhododendrons and Azaleas for Rock Gardens in the Washington, D.C. Area" (January 29, 1978); "Species vs Hybrids" (January 14, 1978); "Talk for Peg" (April 28, 1977); and "Talk Given at Anna Arundel Community College (September 1975).

Other undated talks include: "Rhododendron Growers and New Introductions," "The Best of the East for Western Gardens," "Who is a Hybridizer?", "An Absolutely Up-to-Date Method of Growing Rhododendrons and Azaleas from Seed," "Hybrids and Species Selected by Joseph Gable," "Culture of Rhododendrons and Azaleas," and "Hybridizing and Growing Rhododendrons."

Other topics include: Ring's correspondence with Japanese nurserymen such as Kenichi Arisumi, Koichiro Wada (see also Walter Beasley, December 2, 1982), and Hideo Suzuki; the International Rhododendron Body (Ralph Sangster, June 19, 1983); Taiwan species of rhododendrons (John Patrick, May 21, 1973); "A Fifty Year Report on Rhododendrons in Western Pennsylvania" by Orlando Pride; "hardy" forms of rhododendron species (Esther Berry, December 1, 1977); and a photograph of John Wister, Frank West, Raymond and Jane Goodrich and George Ring, 1975 (see John Wister).

The second series contains several notebooks of research material pertaining to Joseph Gable and his career as a hybridizer and other material which formed the basis for two chapters in the book, *Hybrids and Hybridizers*, "Joseph Benson Gable" and "Contemporary Hybridizers."

Several of these notebooks contain copies of old letters between Gable and Guy Nearing (1890-?), who corresponded (ca. 1930-1950) about hybridizing thousands of rhododendrons and exchanged ideas and methods, and letters between Gable and Henry and Maletta Yates of Frostburg, Maryland. Yates collaborated with Gable for many years, growing many of Gable's seedlings and developing several azalea and rhododendron hybrids from them.

Other notebooks include: one with articles about rhododendrons from *The National Horticultural Magazine* (1932-1952); four of Joe Gable's own working notebooks concerning rhododendrons, including notes of his hybrids (1925-1935), a rhododendron bed list (1932), inventory (1936) and azalea cuttings (1936); a notebook containing the questionnaires sent out to Eastern rhododendron hybridizers in order to identify contemporary hybridizers working to develop attractive plants hardy for particular areas of the country for a chapter in *Hybrids and Hybridizers*; a working notebook for *Hybrids and Hybridizers*; a notebook containing the Gable Study Group Returns used for the Gable chapter; and a Gable notebook which contains transcripts of the notebooks and file cards kept by Gable and other miscellaneous material relevant to the Gable Study Group.

A third series contains an alphabetical arrangement of various nursery and supply company catalogs.

Organization

The original alphabetical arrangement of this collection has been preserved, with the individual folders in reverse chronological order. The catalogs have all been placed together, and the notebooks' original order has been maintained.

The papers are arranged in three series: 1) Correspondence Files (Boxes 1-8), 2) Papers re the Joseph Gable Study Group (Boxes 9-11), 3) Nursery and Supply Catalogs (Boxes 12-17).

Container List

Series I: Correspondence Files

American Horticultural Society

Unit Date 1973-1974

Container Box 1

American Rhododendron Society

Unit Date 1971-1978

Container Box 1
Extent (2 folders)

Arisumi, Kenichi

Unit Date 1986
Container Box 1

Awards

Unit Date n.d.
Container Box 1

Azalea Notes

Unit Date 1973-1980, n.d.
Container Box 1

Azalea Society of America

Unit Date 1979-1982
Container Box 1

Baldanza, Sam

Unit Date 1969-1970
Container Box 1

Beasley, Walter G.

Unit Date 1982-1983
Container Box 1

Behring, Rudy

Unit Date 1979
Container Box 1

Berry, Esther

Unit Date 1977-1979
Container Box 1

Berry Garden

Unit Date 1979, n.d.
Container Box 1

Binford, Janet

Unit Date 1977-1985
Container Box 1

Bohnel, Emil V.

Unit Date 1971-1980
Container Box 1

Bovees Nursery

Unit Date 1964-1983
Container Box 1

Brockenbrough, Edwin C.

Unit Date 1971-1978
Container Box 1

Bulbs

Unit Date 1974-1975

Container Box 1

Case, L. C.

Unit Date 1970-1979

Container Box 2

Childers, M. M. and A. A.

Unit Date 1969-1976

Container Box 2

Clarke, George

Unit Date 1973-1976

Container Box 2

Clarke, J. Harold

Unit Date 1976-1979

Container Box 2

"A Classic Study and Planting Guide for Botanical Areas"

Unit Date 1967

Container Box 2

Colchicine

Unit Date 1963, n.d.

Container Box 2

Cox, Peter A.

Unit Date 1982-1983

Container Box 2

Davis, Ross B., Jr.

Unit Date 1978-1987

Container Box 2

Delp, Weldon

Unit Date 1977-1987

Container Box 2

Deul, Carl A.

Unit Date 1977-1978

Container Box 2

Dexter Rhododendron Cultivar

Unit Date 1971-1973

Container Box 2

Disease

Unit Date 1971-1975

Container Box 2

Editing

Unit Date 1983, n.d.

Container Box 2

Elliott, Jim

Unit Date 1969-1970

Container Box 2

Exbury

Unit Date 1980-1986

Container Box 2

Fetterhoff, Bill

Unit Date 1975-1978

Container Box 2

Foster, H. Lincoln

Unit Date 1969-1977

Container Box 2

Fuller, Henry

Unit Date 1974-1975

Container Box 2

Gable, Caroline

Unit Date 1969-1985, n.d.

Container Box 3

Gartrell, R. D.- Robin Hill Azaleas

Unit Date 1972-1975

Container Box 3

"Good Doer" Survey of the Potomac Valley Chapter

Unit Date ca. 1980

Container Box 3

Extent (3 folders)

Groszkiewicz, Ted

Unit Date 1981-1982

Container Box 3

Haag, Russand Velma

Unit Date 1980-1987, n.d.

Container Box 3

Hinerman, D. L.

Unit Date 1980-1987, n.d.

Container Box 3

Hobbie, Dietrich

Unit Date 1969

Container Box 3

Holly Hills, Inc.(H. Roland Schroeder, Jr.)

Unit Date 1977-1984

Container Box 3

Holsonbach, [Alin]

Unit Date 1969-1972

Container Box 3

Hybridizers

Unit Date 1967-1975

Container Box 3

Insects

Unit Date 1974-1979

Container Box 3

Inventory

Unit Date 1973-1979

Container Box 3

Kehr, August

Unit Date 1967-1985

Container Box 3

Kellam, Don

Unit Date 1981-1982

Container Box 4

Kennell, Austin

Unit Date 1974-1984

Container Box 4

King, Robert P.

Unit Date 1976-1981

Container Box 4

Kuhn, Howard

Unit Date 1980-1986

Container Box 4

Landscaping

Unit Date 1961-1974

Container Box 4

Leach, David G.

Unit Date 1968-1977

Container Box 4

Lehmann, Carl Adam

Unit Date 1979-1981

Container Box 4

LEM Nursery

Unit Date 1965-1970

Container Box 4

Linwood Hardy Azaleas

Unit Date 1977-1979, n.d.

Container Box 4

Livingston, Phil

Unit Date 1976-1978

Container Box 4

McDonald, Sandra

Unit Date 1985

Container Box 4

Malesian Rhododendrons

Unit Date 1976

Container Box 4

Massachusetts Chapter

Unit Date 1977-1979, n.d.

Container Box 4

May, Marion

Unit Date 1981-1987, n.d.

Container Box 4

Maynard, Walter

Unit Date 1970

Container Box 4

Miller, George

Unit Date 1967-1982

Container Box 4

Miscellaneous Letters

Unit Date 1963-1987, n.d.

Container Box 5

Extent (2 folders)

Mist Control

Unit Date n.d.

Container Box 5

Mossman, Frank D.

Unit Date 1976-1979

Container Box 5

Murcott, Richard

Unit Date 1974-1979

Container Box 5

National Arboretum

Unit Date 1967-1981

Container Box 5

Neal, John

Unit Date 1975-1980

Container Box 5

Nearing, Guy G.and the Nearing Study Group

Unit Date 1971-1981, n.d.

Container Box 5

Newsclippings & Miscellaneous Printed

Unit Date 1967-1973

Container Box 5

Notes

Unit Date 1972-1975

Container Box 5

Oleri, Mary

Unit Date 1973-1986

Container Box 5

Orr, Porter

Unit Date 1971

Container Box 5

Pacific Rhododendron Society

Unit Date 1968-1969

Container Box 5

Parker, Ed(Registrar)

Unit Date 1976-1981

Container Box 6

Patrick, John

Unit Date 1970 & 1973

Container Box 6

Pennington, Ralph W.

Unit Date 1976-1977

Container Box 6

Phetteplace, Carl H.

Unit Date 1976-1978

Container Box 6

Planting Fields Arboretum

Unit Date 1977

Container Box 6

Pollen Bank

Unit Date 1968-1979

Container Box 6

Potomac Valley Chapter

Unit Date 1968-1986

Container Box 6

Extent (3 folders)

Potter, Basil C.

Unit Date 1968-1981

Container Box 6

Pride, Orlando S.

Unit Date 1968-1982

Container Box 6

Rachinsky, Mike

Unit Date [1971]-1979

Container Box 6

Rating Project

Unit Date 1973-1978, n.d.

Container Box 6

Rating Project

Unit Date n.d.

Container Box 7

Registration Forms

Unit Date n.d.

Container Box 7

Ring, Tom

Unit Date 1977-1983

Container Box 7

Rosenthal, Jack

Unit Date 1977-1987

Container Box 7

Royal Horticultural Society

Unit Date 1967

Container Box 7

Sangster, Ralph C. J.

Unit Date 1979-1983

Container Box 7

Seed Exchange

Unit Date 1979-1983

Container Box 7

Shammarello, Anthony

Unit Date 1981

Container Box 7

Sheild, Francis Warren

Unit Date 1971-1976, n.d.

Container Box 7

Shevchenko, Terry

Unit Date 1981-1986

Container Box 7

Shows and Judging

Unit Date 1968-1982

Container Box 7

Skonieczny, Jim

Unit Date 1968-1969

Container Box 7

Smith, A.W.

Unit Date 1982

Container Box 7

Smith, Cecil

Unit Date 1972-1986, n.d.

Container Box 7

Spady, Herbert A.

Unit Date 1983

Container Box 7

Species Foundation

Unit Date 1972-1987, n.d.

Container Box 7

Extent (2 folders)

Steele, Dick

Unit Date 1975

Container Box 7

"A Survey of Rhododendron Species of Washington, D.C. and Vicinity"

Unit Date 1969

Container Box 7

Suzuki, Hideo

Unit Date 1972-1986

Container Box 7

Talks by George Ring

Unit Date 1975-1984, n.d.

Container Box 8

Extent (3 folders)

Thomson, William

Unit Date 1976-1979

Container Box 8

Ticknor, Robert L.

Unit Date 1981-1985

Container Box 8

Tolstead, W. L.

Unit Date 1976

Container Box 8

University of Washington Arboretum

Unit Date 1965-1971

Container Box 8

Wada K.

Unit Date 1969-1972

Container Box 8

Ward, Cyril H.

Unit Date 1978-1983

Container Box 8

West, Franklin Howard

Unit Date 1974-1979

Container Box 8

White, Frank

Unit Date 1973-1979

Container Box 8

Wildfong, Milton

Unit Date 1970-1971

Container Box 8

Wister, John C.

Unit Date 1971-1979

Container Box 8

Withers, D. D.

Unit Date 1970-1976

Container Box 8

Wrzesinski, Conrad J.

Unit Date 1974-1980

Container Box 8

Yates, Maletta

Unit Date 1965-1982

Container Box 8

Series II: Papers re the Joseph Gable Study Group

Notebook of Correspondence between Guy Nearing and Joseph Gable

Unit Date n.d.

Container Box 9

Extent (2 folders)

Joseph Gable and Henry and Maletta Yates Correspondence (Copies)

Unit Date 1975, n.d.

Container Box 9

Articles from The National Horticultural Magazine

Unit Date 1932-1952

Container Box 9

Extent (2 folders)

Notebooks Kept by Joseph Gable

Unit Date 1925-1936

Container Box 10

Notebook re Questionnaire to Eastern Rhododendron Hybridizers

Unit Date ca. 1975-1976

Container Box 10

Extent (2 folders)

Working Notebook for Hybrids and Hybridizers

Unit Date ca. 1974-1975

Container Box 10

Gable, Joseph- Miscellaneous Material re

Unit Date 1929-1967, n.d.

Container Box 10

Notebook containing Gable Rhododendron Study Group Returns

Unit Date ca. 1974-1975

Container Box 11

Extent (2 folders)

Gable Study Group Notebook

Unit Date n.d.

Container Box 11

Extent (3 folders)

Series III: Nursey & Supply Catalogs

Catalogs: A - The Bovees

Unit Date 1970-1987

Container Box 12

Extent (5 folders)

Catalogs: C - Day Lilies

Unit Date 1961-1985, n.d.

Container Box 13

Extent (6 folders)

Catalogs: E - L

Unit Date 1955-1986

Container Box 14

Extent (6 folders)

Catalogs: Labels & Tags - Roses

Unit Date 1961-1987

Container Box 15

Extent (5 folders)

Catalogs: S - W

Unit Date 1963-1985

Container Box 16

Extent (5 folders)

Catalogs: W - Z

Unit Date 1967-1986, n.d.

Container Box 17

Extent (3 folders)