

**Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site
Olmsted Archives
Landscape Design Records
Project Specific Records**

Sub-series: Job #8239 Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden

Accession number: FRLA-1

Catalog number: FRLA-47416

Collection number: 2001.001/04.08239

Quantity: 942 items; 1 linear foot

Storage: 2 document boxes

Date range: 1931-1950

Description:

Susanna Bixby Bryant founded Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden in 1927 on her property in Orange County, California. She was managing director of the institution until her death in 1946. The garden, which is still devoted to the native vegetation of California, was relocated to Claremont in the early 1950s when it became affiliated with Claremont College.¹

In 1929, Mrs. Bryant hired Olmsted Brothers to landscape the botanic garden. The firm produced plans for the project through 1939.² Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. is listed as “Honorary Councillor” on the inside front cover of the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden’s *Occasional Papers*, and two of the semiannual reports are marked “FLO’s personal copy.”

These documents were found with a large group of periodicals in the planting department of the office wing. The collection primarily consists of reports issued by the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden to its board of trustees, councilors, and staff. Each of the reports begins with contributions from the managing director, botanist, and superintendent, and ends with a survey of the garden’s condition. Many of the reports include at least one photograph of a portion of the garden. The collection contains several other publications of the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden: a series of *Informational Leaflets*, two volumes of *Occasional Papers*, one volume of *El Aliso*, and two booklets written by the garden’s botanist, Carl B. Wolf. In addition to the Rancho Santo Ana Botanic Garden materials, there are two publications generated by other institutions: an issue of *Golden Gardens*, a magazine devoted to plants of California, and several annual reports of the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden.

¹ An announcement of the move can be found in *Western Office Correspondence*, “#8239 Rancho Santa Ana.” Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, Brookline, Massachusetts (Olmsted NHS).

² See *Plans and Drawings Collection*, “Job #8239 Rancho Santa Ana.” Olmsted NHS.

Collection Listing:

Box 1

Folder:

1. Report, 1931
2. Semiannual Report, October 1935-April 1936
3. Semiannual Report, April-October 1936
4. Semiannual Report, October 1936-April 1937
5. Semiannual Report, April-October 1937
6. Semiannual Report, October 1937-April 1938
7. Semiannual Report, April-October 1938
8. Semiannual Report, October 1938-April 1939³
9. Semiannual Report, April-October 1939
10. Semiannual Report, October 1939-April 1940
11. Semiannual Report, April-October 1940
12. Semiannual Report, October 1940-April 1941
13. Semiannual Report, April-October 1941

Box 2

Folder:

1. Semiannual Report, October 1941-April 1942
2. Semiannual Report, April-October 1942
3. Semiannual Report, October 1942-April 1943
4. Annual Report, October 1943-January 1945
5. Quarterly Reports, 1945-1947
6. Summary Report for 1947
7. Monthly Reports, 1947-1948
8. Summary Report for 1948
9. *Occasional Papers*, 1935-1938
10. *Leaflets of Popular Information*, 1938-1940
11. *Leaflets of Popular Information*, 1941-1944
12. "Information for Visitors" Leaflets
13. "California Native Plants for Hedges, Windbreaks and Background Plantings" by Carl B. Wolf, 1942
14. "California Wild Tree Crops" by Carl B. Wolf, 1945
15. *El Aliso*, vol. 2, no. 2, 1950
16. *Golden Gardens*, vol. 10, no. 2, 1942
17. Santa Barbara Botanic Garden Annual Reports, 1944-1948

³ Includes an article written by Carl B. Wolf entitled "Other Species of California Cupressus as Substitutes for Cupressus Macrocarpa" when printed in 1938 and entitled "Other Species of Cypressess as Substitutes for the Monterey" when published in 1939.