

RBGE Archives

The Joseph F. Rock Collection

GB235 JFR

The RBGE Joseph Rock collection consists mainly of items bequeathed to the Garden in Rock's will. This consists mainly of Rock's diaries, an extensive collection of photographs and negatives taken in China, Tibet and Hawaii, some field notes, unpublished manuscripts and maps. There is also some correspondence which forms from its inception part of the RBGE institutional archives.

Biography

Born Vienna, Austria 1884; died Hawaii 1962

Relatively uneducated, penniless and often in poor health Joseph Rock left Vienna as a young man in 1902, travelling through Europe and on to the United States. Moving to Hawaii where he was appointed by the Division of Forestry as its first botanical collector, he became a naturalised American in 1913. Although self taught as a botanist, Rock was appointed lecturer at the College in Hawaii, established its first herbarium, and served as its first curator from 1911 until 1920 when he was appointed by the US Department of Agriculture to find a tree in south east Asia the oil from which was supposed to be useful in treating leprosy. This was the start of his new life as an explorer and in 1922 he arrived in Lijiang, Yunnan which was to become his 'home' province though he also travelled widely in Szechuan, Gansu and also Tibet. He was to spend the next 27 years living among the people of the Western Provinces of China collecting plants for western museums and exploring and mapping mountains on the Tibetan border. Working for organisations such as Harvard University's Arnold Arboretum, the United States Department of Agriculture, the United States Natural History Museum and the National Geographic Society, he photographed and wrote about the indigenous plants, people and geography of the remote region. He entered the lamaseries of Tibet and became deeply involved in the social and political conditions that affected Western China, witnessing much brutality during various rebellions. He was forced to leave communist China in 1949, but continued travelling around the world, eventually returning to Hawaii where he died in 1962. Rock bequeathed his extensive photographic collection to the archives of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, alongside his diaries documenting his travels.

Source: 'In China's Border Provinces; The Turbulent Career of Joseph Rock' by S.B. Sutton and 'Joseph Rock and His Shangri-La' by Jim Goodman. D.W.

This collection may contain, either in its content or catalogue descriptions, terminology, language and attitudes which are today considered inappropriate, outdated, offensive or distressing.

JFR/1 Unpublished Manuscripts

JFR/1/1 Diaries and their Transcripts

JFR/1/1/1 Diary of J.F.C. Rock 1913

Diary includes monograph on the Island of Palmyra and Diary of "My trip around the World begun Honolulu, Sept 14 1913 on USA Transport Thomas"

There is a scan of a photocopy of the diary available for research on request.

JFR/1/1/2 Diary of J.F.C. Rock 1921-1923 and associated transcript

JFR/1/1/2/1 Diary of J.F. Rock 1921-1923

Includes:

- Dec. 30th 1921 to May 10th 1922 – Journey from Chiangmai to Li-kiang, NW Yun-nan [with 5 loose photographs];
- Ascent of Lichiang snow range [Yulong Xue Shan] up to little over 17,000 feet elevation
- Ascent of Lichiang Snow Range to an altitude of 16000 feet, August 27th 1922
- Vegetation on Likiang snow range in September
- Journey from Ta-li to T'eng-Yueh, September 23rd 1922 to October 9th 1922
- Journey from T'eng-Yueh to Lung-ling, October 19th 1922 to Oct 25th 1922
- Journey from T'eng-Yueh to Sadon in Burma, November 7th to 22nd 1922
- Tengyueh to Hsuehshan-ting, November 25th [1922?]
- Journey from Tzu-ku to Champutong on the Salwin, October 21st to November 1st 1923
- Trip to Chantabum from Bangkok, November 28th
There is a scan of a photocopy of the diary available for research on request.

JFR/1/1/2/2 Transcript of Rock's diary, 1921-1923, produced and annotated by Rock.

There is a scan of a photocopy of the transcript available for research on request.

JFR/1/1/3 Diary of J.F.C. Rock [1923-1924] and associated partial transcript

JFR/1/1/3/1 Diary of J.F.C. Rock [1923-1924]

The diary is written in three parts as follows:

- [pt1] Notes on Yunnan, 1923
- [pt2] Journey from Nguluko to Atuntze – Liu to Chiang; Dokerla – Tsarong – Penicashan[?] – Tungchuling[?] and return to Nguluko, October 2nd to December 14th inclusive, 1923

- [pt3] J.F. Rock, Agricultural Explorer, U.S. Department of Agriculture Bureau of Plant Industry, Washington D.C. [Jan. 16th – April 13th 1924]

There is a scan of a photocopy of the diary available for research on request.

JFR/1/1/3/2 Transcript of parts 2 and 3 of Rock's diary, 1923-1924

The transcript is unannotated, but spaces have been left for Rock to make additions.

There is a scan of a photocopy of the transcript available for research on request.

JFR/1/1/4 **Diary of J.F. Rock Volume 1; 1924-1925 and associated transcript**

JFR/1/1/4/1 Diary of J.F. Rock Volume 1; Yunnanfu to Ch'eng-tu, 1924 "From Yunnanfu to Chengtufu, Vol I; Diary of Joseph F. Rock, Botanical Explorer, Arnold Arboretum Harvard University and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington D.C.; From December 13th 1924 to March 16th 1925 inclusive."

There is a scan of a photocopy of the diary available for research on request.

JFR/1/1/4/2 Transcript of Rock's Diary, Vol.1, 1924-1925

The transcript is unannotated, but spaces have been left for Rock to make additions.

There is a scan of a photocopy of the transcript available for research on request.

JFR/1/1/5 **Diary of J.F. Rock Volume 2; Ch'eng-tu to Choni, 1925 and associated transcript**

JFR/1/1/5/1 Diary of J.F.C. Rock, 1925 entitled "Szechuan to Kansu, Vol. II; Diary of Joseph F. Rock, Director Harvard – Arnold Arboretum Expedition from Chengtu to Choni, March 17th to May 23rd 1925.

Includes loose papers including list of Choni lamaseries in Chinese and lists and maps written on some of Rock's Nakhi dictionary index cards

There is a scan of a photocopy of the diary available for research on request.

JFR/1/1/5/2 Transcript of Rock's Diary, Vol. 2, 1925

The transcript is unannotated, but spaces have been left for Rock to make additions.

There is a scan of a photocopy of the transcript available for research on request.

JFR/1/1/6 **Diary of J.F. Rock Volume 3; Cho-ni to T'ie-Pu and Lan-Chou, 1925 and associated transcript**

JFR/1/1/6/1 Diary of J.F.C. Rock, 1925 entitled "Volume III, Diary of Joseph F. Rock, Director Arnold Arboretum

Harvard University Central Asiatic Expedition from May 26th to August 31st 1925 inclusive.

Includes loose sheets of notes

There is a scan of a photocopy of the diary available for research on request.

JFR/1/1/6/2 Transcript of Rock's Diary, Vol. 3, 1925

The transcript is unannotated, but spaces have been left for Rock to make additions.

There is a scan of a photocopy of the transcript available for research on request.

JFR/1/1/7 **Diary of J.F. Rock Volume 4; Lan-Chou to Kokonor Babo 1925 and associated transcripts**

JFR/1/1/7/1 Diary of J.F.C. Rock, 1925 entitled "Kansu Province, Diary Vol. IV of Joseph F. Rock Director Harvard Arnold Arboretum Asiatic Expedition from August 31st in part to November 16th 1925. From Hsiangtang to Kokonor Babo and return to Sining

Includes sheet of Chinese writing on Chinese paper and loose notes, including lists [of plants? Photographs?]

There is a scan of a photocopy of the diary available for research on request.

JFR/1/1/7/2 Annotated transcript of Rock's Diary, Vol. 4, 1925

Transcript has been prepared for Rock and has been annotated by him to include corrections and Chinese characters.

There is a scan of a photocopy of the annotated transcript available for research on request.

JFR/1/1/7/3 Transcript of Rock's Diary, Vol. 4, 1925

Transcript has been prepared for Rock and includes the corrections made in his annotated copy and although space has been left for him to add Chinese characters, this was not done.

There is a scan of a photocopy of the transcript available for research on request.

JFR/1/1/8 **Diary of J.F. Rock Volume 5; His-ning to Cho-ni, 1925-1926 and associated transcript**

JFR/1/1/8/1 Diary Vol V of Joseph F. Rock, Director Arnold Arboretum Harvard Expedition, from Sining to Choni via Shunhoa[?] Labrang; November 21st 1925 to April 22nd 1926

Includes New Year 1945-1946

Includes loose sheet of Chinese writing

There is a scan of a photocopy of the diary available for research on request.

JFR/1/1/8/2 Rock's transcript of his diary volume 5, 1925-1926

The transcript is unannotated, but spaces have been left for Rock to make additions.

There is a scan of a photocopy of the transcript available for research on request.

JFR/1/1/9 Diary of J.F. Rock Volume 6; Cho-ni to Radja and Jupar 1926 and associated transcript

JFR/1/1/9/1 Diary of Joseph F.C. Rock Volume 6; Cho-ni to Radja and Jupar, 1926 entitled 'Diary of Joseph F. Rock, Director Arnold Arboretum Harvard Expedition, Vol. VI. Journey from Choni to Labrang and west to the Yellow River at Radja and beyond to the Amnyi Machen from April 23rd to August 20th 1926' [see also Volume 20] Includes Rock's hand drawn maps of the area and loose note

There is a scan of a photocopy of the diary available for research on request.

JFR/1/1/9/2 Joseph F.C. Rock's annotated transcript of his diary volume 6, 1926: Cho-ni to Radja [Ra-gya] and Jupar [Gyu-par].

Journey from Cho-ni to Labrang and west to the Yellow River at Radja and beyond to the Amnye-Machhen

There is a scan of a photocopy of the transcript available for research on request.

JFR/1/1/10 Diary of Joseph F.C. Rock Volume 7; Cho-ni to Wantsang 1926-1927 and associated transcript

JFR/1/1/10/1 Diary of Joseph F.C. Rock Volume 7; Cho-ni to Wantsang 1926-1927 entitled Diary Vol.VII, Joseph F. Rock, Director Arnold Arboretum Harvard Expedition to West China and Tibet from August 24th 1926 to February 28th 1927.

Includes loose notes, pressed flower and Tibetan script
There is a scan of a photocopy of the diary available for research on request.

JFR/1/1/10/2 Joseph F.C. Rock's annotated transcript of his diary volume 7, 1926-1927

There is a scan of a photocopy of the transcript available for research on request.

JFR/1/1/11 Diary of Joseph F.C. Rock Volume 8; Cho-ni to Sung-pan, 1927 and associated transcripts

JFR/1/1/11/1 Diary of Joseph F.C. Rock Volume 8, Cho-ni to Sung-pan, 1927 entitled Diary of Joseph F.C. Rock, Director Arnold Arboretum Expedition, Vol. VIII, Journey from Choni via Tebbu country to Chungking, March 9th to April 15th, 1927.

Includes Sept-Oct. 1952, Feb. 1954, New Year 1956-1957 and Aug. 1951.

Contains loose map of Minchow (with the compliments of J. McGillivray), pressed flowers and notes.

There is a scan of a photocopy of the diary available for research on request.

JFR/1/1/11/2 Annotated transcript of Rock's Diary, Vol. 8, 1927

Transcript has been prepared for Rock and has been annotated by him to include corrections and Chinese / Tibetan characters.

Transcript is missing pages relating to the end of April 16th, April 17th and early April 18th 1927.

There is a scan of a photocopy of the annotated transcript available for research on request.

JFR/1/1/11/3 Transcript of Rock's Diary, Vol. 8, 1927

Transcript has been prepared for Rock and includes the corrections made in his annotated copy and although space has been left for him to add Chinese / Tibetan characters, this was not done.

There is a scan of a photocopy of the transcript available for research on request.

[J.F. Rock's Volume 9 (as printed on spine); not a diary but a list of negatives taken in Kansu – see under JFR/5/3

JFR/1/1/12 **Diary of Joseph F.C. Rock Volume 9 [10 on spine]; Yunnanfu to Mu-li, Konka-ling, 1927-1928.**

Diary of Joseph F. Rock, Director National Geographic Society Expedition, Volume VIII, IX, from Dec. 31st 1927 to June 17th 1928.

Contains loose notes/indices.

There is a scan of a photocopy of the diary available for research on request.

JFR/1/1/13 **Diary of Joseph F.C. Rock Volume 10 [11 on spine]; Konka-ling to Li-chiang, 1928**

My journey to Mt Konka (Konkaling) from Muli, S.W. Szechuan. Diary of Joseph F. Rock, Sunday June 18th 1928 to October 24th 1928. Vol.X.

Some pages are loose.

There is a scan of a photocopy of the diary available for research on request.

JFR/1/1/14 **Diary of Joseph F.C. Rock Volume 11 [12 on spine]; Li-chiang to K'u-lu and Yung-ning, 1928-1929 and associated partial transcript.**

JFR/1/1/14/1 Diary of Joseph F.C. Rock Volume 11 [12 on spine]; Li-chiang to K'u-lu and Yung-ning, 1928-1929, entitled 'Diary of Joseph F. Rock Volume XI, Journey from Nguluko – Likiang to Tatsienlu from November 8th 1928 to February 9th 1929.'
Diary contains map.
Diary contains loose notes.
There is a scan of a photocopy of the diary available for research on request.

JFR/1/1/14/2 Partial transcript of Joseph F.C. Rock's diary volume 11 [12 on spine], pp.190-298
The transcript is unannotated, but spaces have been left for Rock to make additions.
There is a scan of a photocopy of the partial transcript available for research on request.

JFR/1/1/15 **Diary of Joseph F.C. Rock Volume 12 [13 on spine]; Yung-ning to Ta-tsien-lu, 1929.**
Diary of Joseph F. Rock, Volume XII, from February 13th 1929 to June 3rd 1929.
Contains loose notes and maps.
There is a scan of a photocopy of the diary available for research on request.

JFR/1/1/16 **Diary of Joseph F.C. Rock Volume 13 [14 on spine]; Minya Konka to K'u-lu and Yung-ning, 1929.**
Diary of Joseph F. Rock, from June 5th 1929 to August 31st 1929, Volume XIII [scored out] XIV
Contains loose notes and correspondence.
There is a scan of a photocopy of the diary available for research on request.

JFR/1/1/17 **Diary of Joseph F.C. Rock Volume 14 [15 on spine]; Nyorop'u to Nv-lv-k'o Lu-feng, 1929-1930.**
Diary of Joseph F. Rock, Volume XIV, from September 1st 1929 to January 31st 1930.
Contains loose notes on Naxi pictograms and photograph of Rock with Chinese and Western gentlemen.
There is a scan of a photocopy of the diary available for research on request.

Due to numbering complications(?), there is no Volume 15, though lack of diary for 1930 implies that vol. 15 is missing, and this, along with the book of photo identifications that was added as vol. 9, leading to the numbering complications, has hidden this?

JFR/1/1/18 **Diary of Joseph F.C. Rock Volume 16; Yunnanfu to Lichiang A-ts'an-gko, 1931.**

Diary of Joseph F. Rock, Vol. XVI, from January 1st 1931 to May 1st 1931.

Contains pressed flower and loose photograph of Rock taken by Edgar Snow in 1930.

There is a scan of a photocopy of the diary available for research on request.

There are no diary volumes 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 or 22. The following diaries had previously been labelled as vol.'s 19, 20, 21, 22 and 24, but the actual diaries had not been annotated as such by Rock (only vol.23 had been numbered) so it was unclear as to why they had been numbered and ordered in the way they were – they were chronologically out of order, so in 2024, during re-cataloguing of the diaries, the last six diaries were re-ordered and re-numbered so that the sequence is now chronological (more or less), and the descriptions now only have a volume number in their title if it is there on Rock's title page in the diary.

JFR/1/1/19 Diary of Joseph F.C. Rock Volume 23; March 20th 1932 – April 29th 1933

Includes pasted in photograph of Rock age 5 with father and sister.

This diary had previously been catalogued as JFR/1/1/23 – the number was changed in July 2024 so that diaries could be ordered as chronologically as possible; there didn't seem to be any apparent reason for the way they were ordered in the original catalogue. L.P.

There is a scan of a photocopy of the diary available for research on request.

JFR/1/1/20 Diary of Joseph F.C. Rock; April to May 1926; May 1933 to March 1934.

Joseph Rock's diary covering the dates 23 April 1926 – 22 May 1926; includes Notes on 'Amnyi Machen' [Amnye Machen]; Story of Dzambala and Notes on tribes around Amnyi Machen. (pp.3-22)

Followed by list of pictures sent to Washington (p.22);

Notes on diaries mailed in March 1927 (p.23);

Notes on Yunnan literature (p.24)

1 May 1933 – 28 March 1934 (pp.25-279; includes lists of books and articles relevant to Yunnan and China;

List of books in the Library of Joseph F. Rock (pp.57-72)

Trunks left in cold storage in Hong Kong (pp.132-133) and trunks to be taken along (p.134)

Monday November 13th 1933: "Alone as usual... As I looked out over the grey smoky landscape I pitied the Chinese to be forced upon them by outsiders the chaotic

artificial life of the west. My mind wandered to far away Nda za gko to the lovely alpine meadows on the Likiang Snow Range [Yulong Xue Shan] where reigns eternal peace. In spite of all the glitter and good food and comfort, etc on this boat it is all artificial. Here one loses [sic] contact with the great spirit of nature. I am longing for a quiet spot where I can stay with my Nakhi boys and live in peace, where I shall not have to move again except when the great day comes when I shall go to my eternal rest. When I behold the women on this ship, artificial, all flesh and no soul I shudder when I think what their life must be; a decorated painted shell ever moving but getting nowhere except farther away from what should be the real life of contemplation and unselfishness.” (pp.152-153)
Meeting Handel-Mazzetti in Vienna and discussing the government and Sacher (pp.219-222)
Transcription/translation of a Dongba book donated by Handel-Mazzetti to the Natural History Museum in Vienna (pp.235-239)
Brief discussion of a Dongba book donated by Frank Kingdon Ward to the British Museum (pp.261-262)
Meeting with Walter Rothschild, January 1934 (pp.273-278)
Letter in Chinese script pasted into the diary on p.279: ‘Letter from Y...gning announcing the death of my good old friend the Tsong Kwan, a descendant of the great Kubilai Khan’ [Kublai Khan]
Chinese script (pp.281-298)

Diary includes a loose photograph of the Watson family taken in 1947, and loose page of Chinese script.

Diary has a ‘35’ on its spine.

This diary had previously been catalogued as ‘Volume 20’ but it is unclear as to why as Rock has not annotated it as such. During re-ordering and re-cataloguing in 2024, ‘Volume 20’ has been removed from the title, but the catalogue reference of JFR/1/1/20 has been retained as this reflects where the diary is located now the last six diaries are in chronological order.

There is a scan of a photocopy of the diary available for research on request.

JFR/1/1/21 Diary of Joseph F.C. Rock; from January 29th 1934 – January 1st 1935

Includes pasted in photographs that include:

The Muli Kink (p.213) “The Muli King was murdered on the 2nd of the 8th moon or September 10th 1934”

“My good friend the Tsong Kwan of Yongning, died on July 20th 1933” (p215)

Christmas image (p.253)

3 taken at Hai tien in November 1934 that include Rock, Edgar Snow, [Mrs Snow?] and Nakhi [Naxi] men, (pp.260-263) “Edgar Snow, J.F. Rock, Ho-Chi hui and Chan Chung tien photographed at Hai tien, near Peiping, November 1934, in Snow’s compound – we had just returned from Wan shou shan”

Pressed flowers taped in at back (p,299); “Violets from the tomb of Emperor Young lo of the Ming Dynasty, May 18th 1934, see page...”; “From the court of the T’ai ho tien throne room of Kienlung, May 1934”; “Leaf from the coffin of Emperor Francis Joseph I of Austria, Kapuziner Gruft, Wien, See Vol. 35” [JFR/1/1/20 has a 35 on its spine – could this be vol.35?]

This diary had previously been catalogued as JFR/1/1/24 and as ‘Volume 24’ but it is unclear as to why, as Rock has not annotated it as such. During re-cataloguing in July 2024, the last six diaries were reordered so that the sequence is now as chronological as possible. At this point, ‘Volume 24’ has been removed from the title, and the catalogue reference changed to JFR/1/1/21.

There is a scan of a photocopy of the diary available for research on request.

JFR/1/1/22 Diary of Joseph F.C. Rock; Yunnanfu to Lichiang; January 13th 1935 to January 1st 1937

Also includes June 14th 1951

New Year 1953-1954

January 30th 1954

Sept 6th 1954

New Year 1958-1959, including January 13th 1959

January 13th 1962.

Includes loose air ticket and newspaper article and pasted in photographs of Rock including some with the plane on the Lijiang plain in 1936 (pp153-159) and others of ‘Viennese guests’ Herr Max Reisch and Herr Helmuth Hahmann (pp174-175).

There are some views drawn into the diary including more detailed sketches of Amichou (p22) and Chapa (p34).

Also a description and brief sketch of the skull of Homo Sinanthropus or ‘Peking Man’ (pp103-104), refers to Professor Weidenreich.

This diary had previously been catalogued as JFR/1/1/19 and as ‘Volume 19’ but it is unclear as to why, as Rock has not annotated it as such. During re-cataloguing in July

2024, the last six diaries were reordered so that the sequence is now as chronological as possible. At this point, 'Volume 19' has been removed from the title, and the catalogue reference changed to JFR/1/1/22.

There is a scan of a photocopy of the diary available for research on request.

JFR/1/1/23 Diary of Joseph F.C. Rock; 1936-1939

Also includes Christmas 1957
New Year 1957-1958
New Year 1959-1960
New Year 1961-1962

This diary had previously been catalogued as JFR/1/1/22 and as 'Volume 22' but it is unclear as to why, as Rock has not annotated it as such. During re-cataloguing in July 2024, the last six diaries were reordered so that the sequence is now as chronological as possible. At this point, 'Volume 22' has been removed from the title, and the catalogue reference changed to JFR/1/1/23.

There is a scan of a photocopy of the diary available for research on request.

JFR/1/1/24 Diary of Joseph F.C. Rock; May 1938 to February 1940

List of trunks in Hong Kong (p.2);
Index to Ceremonies – The Nv ceremonies or funerals, followed by volume and page references, but unclear as to what they refer to – it does not appear to be the diaries. (p.3)
Books sent to Kelly and Walsh to be rebound (p.4)
University of Hawaii books(?) (p.5)
'Sent to Ye Olde Printerie' (p.6)
Addresses (p.7)
'Left in Yunnan'; addresses (p.8)
Trunks left in Yunnanfu (p.9-12)
Diary – May 20 1938 (Hanoi) – May 24 1938 (pp.13-36)
Pp37-100 are blank, (small pressed flower between pp.58-59)
5 August 1938 – 28 February 1940 (pp.101-168) includes 3 pressed leaf specimens sellotaped into the diary (p.160, p.163)
Diary is blank between pp. 169-297 save for some more pressed plants: p189 (v. fragile); p.239 'Rapperswil'; p.255 Davos Pass 26th June with Robert; p.263 Davos Pass with Robert, June 26, [19]38; p.271, St Bernhard; p.285 Davos Pass
pp.298-299, Chinese text; 'wants yellow eye glasses, also a watch' Wrote Mr (?) Meyer that before leaving Honolulu

will wire "Leaving" Rock. He will then wire Miss Leburten(?) this message.

This diary had previously been catalogued as JFR/1/1/21 and as 'Volume 21' but it is unclear as to why, as Rock has not annotated it as such. During re-cataloguing in July 2024, the last six diaries were reordered so that the sequence is now as chronological as possible. At this point, 'Volume 21' has been removed from the title, and the catalogue reference changed to JFR/1/1/24.

There is a scan of a photocopy of the diary available for research on request.

JFR/1/2 Unpublished Papers and their Transcripts

JFR/2 Expedition Records / Field Notes

JFR/3 Correspondence

One box of correspondence relating to Joseph Rock, most of which dates from the time of its inception as part of the RBGE institutional archives and one bound volume of correspondence between Rock and C.S. Sargent, Arnold Arboretum.

JFR/3/1 Folder 1 – Correspondence between RBGE / William Wright Smith and the Arnold Arboretum / Charles Sprague Sargent, 1925-27

JFR/3/1/1/1-11 1925 includes seeds sent to RBGE from Rock's 1925 Kansu / N. Tibet expedition; field notes c.13243-13283; list of plants desired by Arnold Arboretum from RBGE and Kew[?] [in exchange for Rock's seeds?]

JFR/3/1/2/1-25 1926 includes seeds sent to RBGE from Rock's 1926 Kansu / Tebbu expedition; field notes c.14570-14983; few references to George Forrest rhododendron seed sent to Arnold Arboretum and beyond.

JFR/3/1/3/1-12 1927 includes seed sent to RBGE from Rock's 1926-7 Tebbu expedition; field notes c.14931-15094, c.12893-14953

JFR/3/2 Folder 2 – Correspondence between Joseph F. Rock and RBGE / W. Wright Smith and John MacQueen Cowan, 1950-1956

JFR/3/2/1/1-37 1950-54 Correspondence between Joseph F. Rock and RBGE / Sir William Wright Smith and

- John MacQueen Cowan regarding 'Plant Geography of [North] West China' and plant determinations. Rock outlines plans to come to Edinburgh in 1952 which were never realized; also Cowan's resignation and Harold Fletcher's appointment is discussed. Rock writes from Kalimpong, London, Palermo in Italy, Hawaii and Seattle.
- JFR/3/2/2/1-25 1955 Correspondence between Joseph F. Rock and RBGE / Sir William Wright Smith regarding Rock's 'Monographic Study of the Am-nye Machen Range and adjacent Regions', plant determinations, and more unrealised plans to visit Edinburgh. Rock writes from Rome, London, Zurich, New York and Seattle.
- JFR/3/2/3/1-34 1956 Correspondence between Joseph F. Rock and RBGE / Sir William Wright Smith regarding seed determinations / exchanges; introduction of axis deer to Hawaii; Peter Goullart's 'Forgotten Kingdom'; also Rock's 'Ancient Na-khi Kingdom of SouthWest China' and 'Monographic Study of the Am-nye Machen Range and adjacent Regions'; seed lists of seeds received from Rock, and more plans to visit Edinburgh. Rock writes from Hawaii and London.
- JFR/3/3 Folder 3 – Correspondence between Joseph F. Rock and RBGE / Harold Fletcher, 1959-1962
- JFR/3/3/1/1-30 1959 Correspondence between Joseph F. Rock and RBGE / Harold Fletcher regarding seed exchanges, more aborted plans to visit Edinburgh, the weather (drought) Rock writes from Hawaii, London, Zürich, Rio de Janeiro, Panama
- JFR/3/3/2/1-28 1969 Correspondence between Joseph F. Rock and RBGE / Harold Fletcher regarding seed exchanges, more aborted plans to visit Edinburgh, plans for his photographs and diaries – intention to print and bind them and send to Edinburgh; mention of Paul Weissich, Rock's eventual executor. Rock writes from Hawaii, Zürich, Bonn and London.
- JFR/3/3/3/1-26 1961-2 Correspondence between Joseph F. Rock and RBGE / Harold Fletcher regarding seed exchanges, more aborted plans to visit Edinburgh, Rock's health (heart attacks and skull operation) and his photographs. Rock writes from Hawaii, Zürich, and London.

- JFR/3/4 Folder 4 – Correspondence between Joseph Rock and James Keenan / RBGE, 1957 – 2 letters regarding a proposed visit to Edinburgh, plus possibly a visit which has already happened? [he mentions Fletcher taking the blame for how Rock had found the Hawaiian seedlings], also seed exchanges and treatment of plants – silversword. Rock writes from Crans and Zürich, Switzerland.
- JFR/3/5 Folder 5 – mainly correspondence to Joseph F. Rock, much from the U.S.A., presumably mostly collated by Rock. Letters date between 1923 and 1960. – letters have been kept in their previously numbered order, but may be re-arranged and renumbered at a later date so that the collection is arranged chronologically.
- JFR/3/5/1-45 correspondents include:
- United States Department of Agriculture, 1923;
 - Alexandra David-Neel, 1924;
 - Arnold Arboretum / Charles Sprague Sargent, 1925-1927;
 - Lionel Walter Rothschild, Tring, 1934;
 - National Geographic Society, 1935;
 - Peiping Union Medical College, 1936;
 - American Consular Service / James Penfield [mention of Frank Kingdon Ward in Burma], 1937;
 - Embassy of the United States of America / Nelson Trusler Johnson, 1941; Smithsonian Institution / E.H. Walker, 1945-1954;
 - Colgate University / Wallace B. Danham, 1950;
 - Royal Horticultural Society / C.V.L. Lycett, Patrick Syngé, 1950;
 - Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh / John MacQueen Cowan, 1950;
 - Nepalese Embassy, 1950;
 - University of Washington / George Taylor, 1950;
 - Harvard – Yenching Institute / Wallace B. Danham, 1950;
 - Aberconway, 1950;
 - University of California / Woodbridge Bingham, 1950;
 - Foreign Service, United States of America / Loy W. Henderson [re Nakhi manuscripts], 1951;
 - Johannes Schubert, 1951;
 - Royal Horticultural Society / Lanning Roper to and from Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh / John MacQueen Cowan - photocopies , 1952-1953;
 - John Rylands University, Manchester [re MoSu manuscripts], 1954;
 - Botany Department, University of Michigan / Kenneth A. Wilson [Hawaiian plants], 1954;
 - J.B. Lippincott Co., publishers, 1954;

- Harry E. Bauer to Prof George E. Taylor, both University of Washington – copy letter regarding purchase of Rock's library, 1954;
- Memo regarding Rock Library, see above, 1954;
- American Rhododendron Society / C.I. Sersanous, regarding proposed Plant Geography of West China, 1954, 1956;
- Outline of proposed Plant Geography of West China, see above, [1954];
- Department of Agriculture, Canada, 1954;
- Four pages entitled 'The Genus Saroseris, plant lists and descriptions in Rock's hand, 1955;
- Pensione Pitscheider, hotel in Merano, Italy? Regarding room booking?, 1956;
- National Geographic Magazine / Tip Ross, regarding copies of Rock's photograph legends from Society Archives, 1958;
- Merrill F. McLane, regarding photographs, negatives and numbering, 1960.

JFR/3/6 Folder 6 – Last Will and Testament of Dr. Joseph F. Rock, and associated letters with the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. Photocopies sent by Rock's executor Paul Weissich, via Donald R. Hodel, June 2006.

JFR/3/6/1-10 1960-1964, ten photocopies covering Joseph Rock's last will and testament and correspondence between Harold R. Fletcher of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh and Paul R. Weissich, Director of the Honolulu Botanic Gardens and Rock's executor regarding dispatch of material to Edinburgh to satisfy the conditions of the will. Photocopies sent to RBGE in June 2006 by Donald Hodel. Acquisition number RBGEA2006.10

JFR/3/7 One volume of bound correspondence mainly between J.F. Rock and Professor Charles Sprague Sargent (also E.H. Wilson), July 1924-June 1927. Letters are all typed transcripts and seem to be from the same set held by the Arnold Arboretum and available from their Archives catalogue ([arboretum.harvard.edu › uploads › 2020/07 › III_JFR_2012](http://arboretum.harvard.edu/uploads/2020/07/III_JFR_2012)). There is also the addition of one loose letter, Sargent to Rock, March 2nd 1925 (also available from above catalogue).

Volume divided into sections as follows:

Title: "Correspondence between J.F. Rock, Leader of the Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University Northwest China and Northeast Tibet Expedition. From July 19th 24 to June 29th 1927, and C.S. Sargent, Director of the Arnold Arboretum."

First Section: "Rockland, Maine, July 19th 1924 to Tung-ch'uan December 22nd 1924." All Rock to Sargent

Second Section: "Chao-t'ung January 5th 1925 to Choni December 29th 1925." All Rock to Sargent

Third Section: "Choni January 1st to Choni December 28th 1926"
All Rock to Sargent, Rehder, E.H. Wilson
Fourth Section: "Choni January 1st to June 29th 1927" Rock to
Sargent and Wilson
Fifth Section: "Letters received by J.F.Rock from Prof Charles
Sprague Sargent between 1924 and 1927"

JFR/4 Publications

JFR/5 Photographs

JFR/5/1 Prints

JFR/5/1/1 China, Tibet

46 A4 boxes of China / Tibet photographs, numbered 15-4248
by RBGE (not indicative of number of photos), also includes
many unnumbered (and therefore not databased) photographs
7 larger boxes from Rock's bound collection of photographs,
numbered Albums 1-6 and 1 box of photographs from an
unknown source. Album 2: "Minya Konka 1929", Albums 3 and 5
"North West Yunnan, 1931-1933"

1 box of printed scans from Rhododendron Exhibition in 2002.

JFR/5/1/2 Hawaii, etc

10 A4 boxes of photographs taken mainly in Hawaii, also
Palmyra, Japan, Burma, Siam, Innisfree, Millbrook, New York,
Java, Laos.

JFR/5/2 Negatives

JFR/5/3 Captions / Legends to accompany photographs

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