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Collection Description

Title: SUNY (State University of New York) Collection


Extent: 9.5 cubic feet

Physical Description: Paper, Books (Yearbooks and Logs)

Access Conditions: Unrestricted

Other access points: Inventory

Administrative History

Planting Fields Foundation came into custody of this Collection when William Robertson Coe, owner of the Collection, passed away in 1955.
Biographical Notes

The tenth of ten children, William Robertson was born on June 8, 1869 in England. He and his family immigrated to the United States in 1883. He began working in the mail office of what would become Johnson and Higgins Insurance Company and worked his way up to President and then Chairman of the Board. He married three times, and unfortunately his first two wives passed away before their time. His first marriage, which was childless, was to Jane (Jeannie) Hutchinson Falligant, in 1893. On June 4, 1900, Coe married Mai Huttleston Rogers. Their marriage produced four children and the development of Planting Fields. He leased and eventually purchased the Byrne estate, on the same property of today’s Planting Fields. That house burned down and Coe Hall was built in the same location. Mai died in 1924. In 1926, Coe married Caroline Graham Slaughter. At Planting Fields, W.R. Coe was actively involved with developing and improving the collections of rhododendrons, azaleas, camellias, and hibiscus. Coe had a particular liking for new plant varieties and modern growing techniques. In this spirit, he deeded the estate to the State of New York in 1949. W.R. Coe died in his recently acquired home in Palm Beach, Florida, on March 15, 1955 from an asthma attack.

Scope and Content

The SUNY Collection is arranged by basic information pertaining to each of the three colleges, the rehabilitation of the buildings during the period, gifts from the Agricultural and Technical Institute to Mr. Coe, Security Logs, and Guest Books. This collection can be used for the following research topics: development of Planting Fields Arboretum during the 1950’s-1960’s, social and political changes during the 1950’s and 1960’s and how this effected college students, and the history of the Agricultural and Technical Institute, or State University of New York at Old Westbury.
1. Annual Reports
2. Application for Admission
3. Budget Requests, 1959
5. Carlson, Dr. W.S., Resignation of, 1958
6. Chorus Memo, 5/15/1959
7. Chronology of Development of the College
8. Clarke University Alumni Oarsmen Day
9. Contract with Mill River Club
10. Council Correspondence, 1957-1961
11. Crew Polo Pattern
12. Curriculum, 1960
14. Early Planning, 1956
15. Faculty
16. Faculty, Newspaper Articles 1957-1960
17. First Annual North Shore Regatta
18. Housing Provisions for Staff
20. Interviews, Staff
21. Interviews, Students
22. Main Gates, Opening of 1959
23. Maintenance, Shared Responsibility 1957
24. Master Plan, 1961
25. Membership of Sub Committees
26. New York Athletic Club Regatta
27. Newspaper Articles Regarding
28. Newspaper Organization
29. Night Watchman’s Schedule
30. Opening of College, Brochure
34. Oral History, Flowers, 2007
38. Oral History, Roth, 2007
42. Newsletters, 1957-1967
43. Planting Fields Estate as Campus, Newspaper Articles on 1957-1960
44. Presidency Candidates 1962
45. Program Changes
46. Poem entitled “A Coney Island of the Mind: #5”
47. Second Annual North Shore Regatta Invitational
48. Spring Ball Invitation, June 4, 1960
49. Student Activities Budget 1960-1961
50. Student Directory
51. Tennis Courts
52. Third Annual Spring Concert May 21, 1961
53. Reunion at Coe Hall, May 24, 2008: Bottinger, Carr, Farnworth, Knuffke, Ritter, Rodin, Schubert
54. Floor plan
SUNY Collection

Series A

Box # 2

College on Long Island

Newspapers
Folder #:

1. The Sucolian, 2/1958
2. The Sucolian, 1/14/1959
3. The Sucolian, 2/18/1959
5. The Statesman, 5/13/1959
6. The Statesman, 11/18/1959
7. The Statesman, 12/16/1959
8. The Statesman, 1/20/1960
9. The Statesman, 2/14/1960
11. The Statesman, 3/16/1960
15. The Statesman, 10/12/1960
16. The Statesman, 10/26/1960
17. The Statesman, 12/14/1960
20. The Statesman, 4/1/1961
Agricultural and Technical Institute

Sub-Series # 1: Budget and Expenses 1954-1972

Folder #:
1. Budget Approvals 1951-1964
2. Budget Expenses 1956-1958
5. Budget Expenses 1963-1964
7. Budget Requests 1961-1964
8. Budget Requests 1964-1965
13. Equipment Purchases 1961-1963
14. Fiscal Matters 1955
15. Grounds Maintenance, Costs and Wages 1954
Agricultural and Technical Institute

Sub-Series # 2: Personnel and Students

Folder #:

1. Advisory Committee  1955
2. Bowden, William C. – Class work
3. Classification of Personnel
4. Gould, Dr. Samuel B. 1965
5. Job Descriptions
7. Personnel Details  1955-1960
8. Personnel – Aebisher, Bellospirito, Casella, Crawley
9. Personnel – Dombek, Dunton, Florick, Fritch
10. Personnel – Gilmore, Jones (Edward), Kriese, Lelay, Lizza
11. Personnel – Martin, McCarthy, Monahan, Murphy
12. Personnel – Nichols, Nieri, Nixon, Ochterta
13. Personnel – Real, Simounet, Wedell, Wilson, Zukas
14. Personnel  1968
15. Reports of Exam Qualifications, 1956
16. Social Security  1955
17. Temporary Service, Pay Scale, Health Insurance
18. Work Performance Ratings  1960
Agricultural and Technical Institute

Sub-Series # 3: Use of Planting Fields

Folder #:
1. Alteration to Headhouse 1958
2. Authorization to Accept Planting Fields
3. Brochures, School of Horticulture
4. Campus Profile
5. Charging Admission, 1951
6. Class Outlines – of Prof. Titus, R. G.
7. Coe Estate, A Report
8. Correspondence, Knapp
9. Correspondence, Wedell
10. Correspondence, Miscellaneous
11. Correspondence, William Robertson Coe with Halsey Knapp
12. Correspondence, William Robertson Coe with Carl F. Wedell
13. Correspondence, William Robertson Coe with Miscellaneous
14. Department of Assessment, 1948
15. Early Development Program
16. Future of Planting Fields, Memo William Rogers Coe 1960
17. Gifts from Planting Fields, Plants
18. Gifts from Planting Fields, Land, 1949
19. Gift from Seymour, E.D.
20. Group Visits 1956
22. International Flower Show 1956
23. Lord and Burnham Proposal
24. Nematodes 1956
25. Opening Planting Fields to the Public 1952-2953
27. Potential Uses of Planting Fields
28. Proposed Use of Coe Property
29. Relationship with Planting Fields, 1963
30. Relationship with Planting Fields, 1970
32. Staff Housing 1957
33. Take Over of Planting Fields 1956
34. Taxes on Planting Fields, 1948, 1953
35. Threat of a Four Year College
36. Uses for Coe Estate
37. Visit by Heads of SUNY System 1951
38. Wedell Thanks William Robertson Coe
39. Interpreting the Law: Money Donations to the State
State University College at Old Westbury

Folder #:

1. Autopsy on Old Westbury
2. Change of Policy for Conference Center in Favor of Old Westbury
3. Faculty, Background Information
5. First Six Months 1970
6. Food Service 1968
7. Gym, Call for Applications
9. Logistics
10. Plan of Action
11. Plan of Action, News Articles
12. Previous Fire 1968
13. Rehabilitation of Facilities at Planting Fields, Correspondence 1968-1969
14. Rehabilitation of Facilities at Planting Fields, William A. Hall, Architect
17. Statement of First Program
18. Students and Staff 1969-1970
19. Students’ Concerns 1971
20. Students’ Publications
21. Troubles on Campus, Old Will Coe, News Articles
22. Vandalism 1970
Rehabilitation of Planting Fields

Sub-Series #1: Butler Building

Folder #:

1. Rehabilitation, General (1966-1968)
2. Schematic Report – Rehabilitation of Fire Alarm System
3. Specifications for Additions A, B, and C
4. Specifications for Completion of Construction
5. Specification for Construction Work
6. Specification for Construction Work on Temp Lab D
7. Specification for Construction Work on Temp Lab E
8. Specifications for Electric Work
9. Specification for Electrical Work on Additions A, B, and C
10. Specification for Electrical Work on Temp Lab D
11. Specification for Electrical Work on Temp Lab E
12. Specifications for Heating Work
13. Specifications for Heating Work on Additions A, B, and C
14. Specifications for Heating Work on Temp Lab D
15. Specifications for Heating Work on Temp Lab E
16. Specifications for Sanitary Work
17. Specifications for Sanitary Work on Additions A, B, and C
18. Specifications for Sanitary Work on Temp Lab D
19. Specifications for Sanitary Work on Temp Lab E
Rehabilitation of Planting Fields

Sub-Series #2: Carriage House / Garage

Folder #:

1. Rehabilitation, General
2. Sewage Disposal
Rehabilitation of Planting Fields

Sub-Series #3: Coe Cottage

Folder #:

1. Decorators – Baccarat, Inc.
3. Decorators – I. Freeman & Son, Inc.
5. Decorators – Nassau Decorators
7. Decorators – Thedlow, Inc. – Accessories
8. Decorators – Thedlow, Inc. – Furniture
11. Furnishing – Problems
12. Gift to State – Coe Cottage
13. Heating
14. Hot Water
15. Manor House Conversion (1956)
16. Rehabilitation, General
17. Utilities – Problems
18. Windows
19. ISWA Rehab of Manor House
20. 1955 Assessment of House
Rehabilitation of Planting Fields

Sub-Series #4: Coe Hall (Bldg. #1)

Folder #:

1. Specification for Alterations and Improvements (1955)
2. Specification for Electric Work (1955)
4. Specification for Gutters, Leaders, Metal Roofs, etc. (1960)
5. Specification for Heating Work (1955)
7. Specification for Roof Repairs (W. Porch, NE Deck)
10. Fire Inspection
Rehabilitation of Planting Fields

Sub-Series #5: Coe Hall + I.S.W.A Rehabilitation Program

Folder #:

1. Buffalo Room
2. Library (Gallery)
3. Chimneys (1971)
4. Den (Dr. Whitford’s Office)
5. Donations
6. Entrance Hall (1967)
7. Heat (1968)
8. Roof
9. Second Floor (1965)
10. Stonework Reports (1971)
11. Third Floor
12. Use of Space
Rehabilitation of Planting Fields

Sub-Series #6: Employee Residences: Duplex House, Superintendent’s House, Assistant
Superintendent’s House (Bldgs. #7, 10, 11)

Folder #:

1. Rehabilitation, General
Rehabilitation of Planting Fields

Sub-Series #7: Gate House (Bldg. #12)

Folder #:

1. Rehabilitation, General
Sub-Series #8: Geodesic Domes (Bldgs. #26, 27, 28, 29)

Folder #:

1. Construction and Additions
Rehabilitation of Planting Fields

Sub-Series #9: Greenhouses, Camellia and Main (Bldgs. #2, 3)

Folder #:

1. Bids Contract – Rehabilitation of Greenhouses, Phase I
2. Camellia House, Special Fund Estimate
3. Heating Replacement – Meeting Minutes (1977)
4. Heating Replacement – Problems with Perma-Pipe
7. Main Greenhouse – Rehabilitation, General
8. Replacement of Heating Lines, Sketch
11. Roof Repairs, Contract for (Camellia House) (1975)
12. Specification for Alterations to Head House (Main Greenhouse) (1955)
Rehabilitation of Planting Fields

Sub-Series #10: Haybarn (Bldg. #4)

Folder #:

1. Addendum to Specification Number 14900-C  4/15/1958
2. Boilers
3. Dormitory Peepholes
4. Rehabilitation, General
5. Specifications for Alterations and Additions  11/01/1955
7. Specifications for Correction of Storm Water Drainage  01/02/1960
8. Specifications for Electric Work  11/01/1955
9. Specifications for Heating Work
10. Specifications for Sanitary Work
11. Upkeep of Dormitories before Transfer to State
12. Specifications for Wet Basement Problems
Rehabilitation of Planting Fields

Sub-Series #11: Laundry / Music Building (Bldg. #5)

Folder #:

1. Construction Work
2. Electric Work
3. Heating, Sanitary Work
4. Heating Work
5. Rehabilitation, General
6. Sanitary Work
7. Sewage Disposal
Rehabilitation of Planting Fields

Sub-Series #12: Miscellaneous

Folder #:

1. Alarm System Rehabilitation Specifications
2. Carpenter and Maintenance Shop
3. Electric Service Specifications
4. Electric and Telephone Services
5. Fire Alarm Rehabilitation
7. Parking Expansion, Contract for (1977)
9. Replacement of Primary Electric Feeders
10. Resurfacing of Parking Field No.1, Contract for (1978)
11. Roof Repairs (1972)
12. Roof Repairs, Contract for (1977)
17. Specification for Storm Drainage (1960)
18. State University Construction Fund – Survey and Estimate for Conversion of Building
19. Entrance Kiosk
20. Synoptic Garden
21. Street Lighting
22. Carpenter Maintenance Shop
Rehabilitation of Planting Fields

Sub-Series #13: Recreation Building (Bldg. #23)

Folder #:

1. Specification for Completion of Recreation Building (1959)
2. Specification for Construction Work (1958)
SUNY Conference Center

Folder #:

1. Activities 1967
2. American Studies Library 1968
3. Art Show and Sale 1968
5. Conferences September 1968-August 1969
6. Conferences 1969
7. Conferences January 1969
8. Conferences February and March 1969
9. Conferences April 1969
10. Conferences May 1-17, 1969
11. Conferences May 19-26, 1969
12. Conferences June-December 1969
13. Conferences in Residence Halls April 1967-March 1968
14. Congratulatory Remarks
16. Cooperative Food Service with Old Westbury 1968-1969
17. Director
18. Facilities
19. Fees for Use of
20. General Information
21. History of
22. Legislative Services Conference 1967
23. Naming Rooms and Buildings 1967
26. Whitford, Dr. Richard, Director 1968
Center for International Studies and World Affairs

Folder #:

1. Activities 1966
2. Advisory Council 1967
3. Agreement for Affiliation, Vocational Education and Extension Board 1968-1973
5. Building Rehabilitation of Planting Fields
7. Conference 1967
9. Dissolution of Foundation 1968
10. Existing Furnishings at Planting Fields 1965
11. Facilities Planning
15. “It’s Role and Programs” 1967
17. Move to Albany 1968-1969
18. Newspaper Articles, Reports to Trustees 1966
19. Olds, Dr. Glen, Executive Dean 1965
20. Olds, Dr. Glen, Resignation of
22. Petition for Charter 1967
23. Proposal for American Studies Organizations at Planting Fields
24. Regulations for Visitors
25. Rehabilitation of Planting Fields, Newspaper Articles on
27. Restrictive Gift from Planting Fields Foundation 1967-1968
28. Sharify, Dr. Nassar, Talk by 1967
29. Summary of Accommodations 1967
30. Vocational Education and Extension Board 1965-1967
31. Letterhead
Gifts to William Robertson Coe

Folder #:

1. Nyssan 1943
2. The Islander 1948
3. The Islander 1949
4. The Islander 1950
Gifts to William Robertson Coe

1. The Islander 1951
2. The Islander 1953
3. The Islander 1955
Security Logs

Security Logs

2. December 10, 1968 – November 6, 1970
Water Systems

Sub-Series #1: Well and Pumping Equipment

Folder #:

4. Mathies Well and Pump Company – Supplemental Agreement with Department of Public Works 1962
6. Notice to Bidders 1961
8. Pump Equipment – Concrete Work, Waterproofing 1961
15. Well Pump 1961
16. Well Repair 1977
Water Systems

Sub-Series #2: New Water Supply

Folder #:

1. Actual Work Done 1962
2. Jericho Water District 1967
3. Location of Original Well
4. Main Building Corp.
5. Nassau County Department of Health 1969
6. Outline Specifications for Water System
7. Piping Rock Water Company 1961
8. Proposed Well and Pump Installation, Irrigation 1959
10. Specification for New Water Supply 1957
12. Spec #16816 GE Alstid Construction Corp., Change Orders 1962, Correspondence
13. Spec #16816 GE Alstid Construction Corp., Contractor 1961
17. Spec #16816 GE Electrical Equipment 1962
20. Well System Permit
21. Well Project # W-1891 1959-1962
### Water Systems

**Sub-Series #3: Water Meter Records**

**Folder #:**

1. Consumption of Water at P. F. (1959)
2. Water Meter Charts (1963-66)
3. Water Meter Readings (1963)
4. Water Meter Readings (1964)
5. Water Meter Readings (1965)
Folder #:

1. Manor House Guest Log  August 1, 1968 – February 5, 1969