Guide to the Clifton F. Smith Papers

Collection number: MSS-05

Blaksley Library
Santa Barbara Botanic Garden
Santa Barbara, California

Processed by:
Laurie Hannah
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Descriptive Summary
Title: Clifton F. Smith papers,
Date (inclusive): 1861-1998
Collection number: MSS-05
Creator: Smith, Clifton F.
Extent: 15 linear feet23 boxes and 2 oversize folders
Repository: Santa Barbara Botanic Garden. Blaksley Library.
Santa Barbara, California 93105
Abstract: Research notes, correspondence, photographs, maps, field notebooks, and other materials of regional botanist and collector Clifton Smith.

Physical location: For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Librarian.

Language: English.

Access
Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights
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Preferred Citation
Clifton F. Smith papers, Blaksley Library, Santa Barbara Botanic Garden.

Acquisition Information
Bequest, 1999.

Biography / Administrative History

Scope and Content of Collection
Research notes, correspondence, publications, photographs, maps, printed matter, and memorabilia are included in this collection. The bulk of the textual materials constitute two series: Regional history files pertaining to the history of Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, and Ventura counties, and research materials and drafts for A Flora of the Santa Barbara Region in its two editions. Smith interfiled notes, correspondence, and published materials into subject folders, instead of keeping separate files for different types of materials. Ephemeral materials, such as advertisements, newspaper clippings, promotional brochures, menus, napkins, invitations, and stationery are interspersed throughout the subject files, although there are several separate ephemera folders. Subjects pertaining to regional history represented in the collection include education, events, missions, ranching, art, organizations, and business. Research materials for Smith’s books focus on the
natural history and vegetation of Santa Barbara County and the northern Channel Islands, with an emphasis on plant
distribution, ethnobotanical uses of native plants, rare plants, and the history of exploration and plant collection in the
region. A separate series of field notebooks and card files on individual plants is kept in the Garden Herbarium and
corresponds to plant specimens collected by Smith.

The photograph series contains approximately 380 items depicting the Santa Barbara region from the late 1800s to the
present. Topics include landscapes, plants, buildings, missions, transportation, events, and people. Formats are mostly
black and white prints of various sizes with some transparencies.

The memorabilia series contains personal items used by Smith, such as his typewriter, or items, often humorous, created
for him by friends.

Arrangement
Arranged in 8 series: 1. Biographical materials; 2. Correspondence; 3. Regional history files; 4. Publications; 5. Field
notebooks and card files; 6. Photographs; 7. Oversize materials; and 8. Memorabilia.

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Subjects
Smith, Clifton F.
Margelli, Maria.
Stanton, Carey. 1923-
Santa Barbara County (Calif.)--History.
Santa Barbara County (Calif.)--History--Photographs.
Santa Barbara County (Calif.)--Description and travel.
San Luis Obispo County (Calif.)--History.
Ventura County (Calif.)--History.
Channel Islands (Calif.)
Plants--California--Santa Barbara County.

Genres and Forms of Material
Ephemera.
Promotional materials.
Photographic prints.
Maps.

Bibliography
Smith, Clifton F. *A Flora of the Santa Barbara Region, California*2nd ed. (Santa Barbara: Santa Barbara Botanic Garden and


Books and other selected printed materials have been transferred to the Blaksley Library book collection.
Field notebooks and card files have been transferred to the Herbarium.