Ernest Braunton Papers

Finding aid prepared by Stephanie Clayton.
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Descriptive Summary

Title: Ernest Braunton papers.
Inclusive Dates: 1889-1943
Bulk Dates: 1920-1937
Collection Number: mssBraunton papers
Creator: Braunton, Ernest
Extent: 69 items in 1 box
Repository: The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens. Manuscripts Department
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Abstract: This collection contains papers of horticulturist Ernest Braunton (1868-1945), an expert in the regional flora of Southern California and secretary of the Southern California Horticultural Society.

Language of Material: The records are in English.

Access
Open to qualified researchers by prior application through the Reader Services Department. For more information, contact Reader Services.

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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item]. Ernest Braunton Papers, The Huntington Library, San Marino, California.

Provenance
In Library, 1981.

Biographical Note
Ernest Braunton (1868-1945), horticulturist and author of The Garden Beautiful in California, was born in London, England, in 1868. He immigrated with his parents to Iowa in 1872. He moved to Los Angeles, California, in 1887 and married Addie M. Kirkpatrick two years later. They had five children together.

Braunton's first agricultural project was Singleton Court, the home of mining millionaire John Singleton. The popularity of Singleton Court helped establish Braunton as a respected consultant of landscape design and horticulture. He planned the layout of the Bryant Botanical Gardens, designed the lily ponds for Henry Huntington and designed ornamental grounds for hundreds of homes in Southern California. Landscape design was just one of Braunton's interests. His knowledge of horticulture, especially the regional flora of Southern California, was extensive and based upon his own exploration of the area. At one point his collection of specimens numbered 1,281. He also had a hand in the development of the avocado industry in Southern California.

Positions held at various times include: Lecturer for the University of California Farmers' Institutes; Professor of Landscape Design, University of Southern California; Associate Editor of the California Cultivator 1901-32; Editor Garden Department, Los Angeles Times 1903-36; Garden Doctor, Los Angeles Times 1942-45; Southern California section in Bailey's Cyclopedia of Horticulture; Fellow, Royal Botanical Society of England; and Secretary, Southern California Horticultural Society. Braunton died in 1945.

Scope and Content
The collection contains 69 items. There are three manuscripts, including an essay about horticulturist Theodore Payne and a poem read before the Illinois Association of Los Angeles, California. The 40 items in the correspondence section are arranged by author. Most of the correspondence is composed of replies to Ernest Braunton's inquiries regarding various horticultural statistics and facts. Other letters, including those from Walter Raymond, are in regard to the operation and dissolution of the Southern California Horticultural Society. The 26 items in the ephemera section are arranged alphabetically by type. The majority of the ephemera are records and documents of the Southern California Horticultural Society. There is also a pamphlet on Point Lomos, California. Subjects in the collection include: history of agriculture in...
California; horticulturalists of California; and history of horticulture in California. Notable participants include: H. M. Butterfield, Newton Drury, Gustavus Eisen, Francesco Franceschi, Theodore Lukens, Woodbridge Metcalf, Walter Raymond, Forrest Shreve, H. A. Spoehr, J. Harrison Wright, California Dept. of Parks and Recreation, Carnegie Institution of Washington's Division of Plant Biology, Los Angeles Time, Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, US Bureau of Plant Industry, US Forest Service, University of California's College of Agriculture and the University of Riverside's College of Natural and Agriculture Sciences.

**Arrangement**

The collection is arranged by genre: Manuscripts, Correspondence, Ephemera.

**Indexing Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Huntington Library's Online Catalog.

**Personal Names**
Butterfield, H. M. (Harry Morton), 1887-
Braunton, Ernest
Drury, Newton Bishop, 1889-1978
Eisen, Gustavus A., 1847-1940
Franceschi, Francesco, 1843-1924
Lukens, Theodore Parker, 1848-1918
Metcalf, Woodbridge, 1888-
Payne, Theodore
Raymond, W. (Walter)
Shreve, Forrest, 1878-1950
Spoehr, H. A. (Herman Augustus), 1885-1954
Wright, J. Harrison

**Corporate Names**
California. Department of Parks and Recreation. Division of Resource Management and Protection
Carnegie Institution of Washington. Division of Plant Biology
Los Angeles Times (Firm), addressee
Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden
Southern California Horticultural Society
United States. Bureau of Plant Industry
United States. Forest Service
University of California (1868-1952). College of Agriculture
University of California, Riverside. College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences

**Subjects**
Horticulture -- California
Horticulturists -- California
Gardeners -- California
Gardening -- California

**Geographic Areas**
California, Southern -- History --20th century -- Sources
Los Angeles County (Calif.)

**Genre**
Ephemera -- California -- 20th century
Letters (correspondence) -- California -- 20th century
Manuscripts -- California -- 19th century

Box 1 Manuscripts, Correspondence, and Ephemera.
Folder 1  Braunton, Ernest. “The Dragon Tree of Teberiffe:” essay. [undated]
1 item.

Folder 2  Hoyt, Ralph E. “A Tenderfoot’s Experience in Angel Town:” [poem]. (1889, Jan. 5)
1 item.

1 item.

Folder 4  Backus, W. H. Letter to Gustavus A. Eisen, 1847-1940. (1891, Apr. 17)

Folder 5  Braunton, Ernest. Letter to W.S. Kienholz. (1934)
Includes one copy.


Folder 8  Butterfield, H. M. (Harry Morton), 1887- Letter to Ernest Braunton. (1936, Feb. 21)


Folder 10 California. State Board of Equalization. Letter to Walter Raymond. Signed by M.D. Lack. (1922, Mar. 8)


Folder 12 Franceschi, Francesco, 1843-1924. Letter to Ernest Braunton. (1905, Sep. 4)

Folder 13 Grelick, W.R. Letter to Ernest Braunton. (1943, Jan. 10)

Folder 14 Hockridge, Sidney. Letter to Ernest Braunton. (1937, Apr. 27)


Folder 16 Knight, E. E. Two letters to Ernest Braunton. (1932)

Folder 17 Los Angeles (Calif.). Office of the Municipal Court. Letter to Ernest Braunton. (1936, Jan. 10)
Signed by James P. Power.

Folder 18 Los Angeles County (Calif.). Agricultural Commissioner. Letter to Ernest Braunton. (1932, Feb. 3)

Folder 19 Lukens, Theodore Parker, 1848-1918. Letter to Ernest Braunton. (1906, Sep. 23)

Folder 20 Metcalf, Woodbridge, 1888-. Letter to Ernest Braunton. (1936, Jan. 31)

Folder 21 Metcalf, Woodbridge, 1888-. Letter to P. S. Bunker. (1935, Nov. 21)

Folder 22 Nash, Joseph P., Mrs. Letter to [unknown addressee]. (1937, Oct. 25)
| Folder 23 | Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden. Letter to Ernest Braunton. (1940, Jan. 30) Signed by Carl B. (Carl Brandt) Wolf, 1905- |
| Folder 24 | Raymond, Walter. Two letters to Ernest Braunton. (1921-1922) |
| Folder 25 | Raymond, Walter. Two letters to California. State Board of Equalization. (1922) |
| Folder 26 | San Bernardino County (Calif.). Board of Supervisors. Letter to Ernest Braunton. (1934, Sep. 17) Signed by H. L. Way. |
| Folder 33 | Ventura County (Calif.). Letter to Ernest Braunton. (1926, Apr. 22) |
| Folder 34 | W.I. Hollingsworth & Co. Letter to Ernest Braunton. (1920) Includes one copy of a letter. |
| Folder 35 | Webber, Herbert John, 1865-1946. Letter to Ernest Braunton. (1934, Oct. 20) |
| Folder 36 | Wright, J. Harrison. Four letters to Ernest Braunton. (1913-1936) |
| Folder 37 | Ephemera: Miscellaneous. (1915-1941) 5 items. |
| Folder 38 | Ephemera: Point Lobos, California. (1936) 1 item. |
| Folder 39 | Ephemera: Southern California Horticultural Society. (1906-1922) 20 items. |