Guide to the Katherine Esau Papers

Preliminary arrangement and description by Special Collections staff; latest revision by A. Demeter on September 30, 2008.
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Katherine Esau Papers, 1870-1990 [bulk dates 1935-1987]

Collection number: UArch FacP 23

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Davidson Library
University of California, Santa Barbara

Processed by:
Preliminary arrangement and description by Special Collections staff

Date completed:
Sept. 30, 2008

Encoded by:
A. Demeter

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Katherine Esau Papers
Dates: 1870-1990
Bulk Dates: 1935-1987
Collection number: UArch FacP 23
Creator: Esau, Katherine, 1898-1997

Collection Size: 8 linear feet (16 document boxes and 1 oversize box).

Repository: University of California, Santa Barbara. Library. Dept. of Special Collections
Santa Barbara, CA 93106

Abstract: The collection contains copies of all of Esau's publications and research notebooks. There is also personal and biographical material including her awards, correspondence, and family history.

Physical location: Del Sur, University Archives, 29A; 30B (oversize).

Languages: English

Access Restrictions
Access to personal recommendations and reviews in Series VII restricted, pending review.

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Preferred Citation
Katherine Esau Papers. UArch FacP 23. Department of Special Collections, Davidson Library, University of California, Santa Barbara.

Acquisition Information

Biography
Katherine Esau (1898-1997), professor of biology at the University of California Santa Barbara, is best known as the author of the textbooks Plant Anatomy (1953) and Anatomy of Seed Plants (1960) and for her research on plant diseases and viruses, particularly on agricultural crops. In addition to her textbooks, Esau published over 100 articles. She was a Guggenheim Fellow in 1940, was the sixth woman chosen as a member of the National Academy of Sciences (1957), and was awarded the National Medal of Science in 1989 by President George H.W. Bush.

Esau was born in 1898 to a German Mennonite family in Ekaterinoslav, Russia (now Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine) where her father served as mayor in the years before the Russian Revolution. She studied agricultural science in Moscow, Russia, and, after the Revolution in Berlin, Germany, where her family fled to avoid persecution by the Bolsheviks. Shortly after Katherine's graduation in 1922, the Esau family immigrated to the United States and Katherine continued to study plant
anatomy at the University of California, Davis. Since UC Davis did not yet award doctorates at that time, she was granted her doctorate for her UC Davis-based research through UC Berkeley in 1931, at which point she joined the faculty of the Biology Department at UC Davis.

In 1963, Dr. Esau moved to the University of California, Santa Barbara, where she continued her research with former UC Davis botanist, and later UCSB Chancellor, Dr. Vernon I. Cheadle. Dr. Esau's research centered on the structure of plant tissues and the means by which viruses and other pathogens spread through the phloem. She was one of the first plant biologists to use an electron microscope and in 1969 was given an electron microscope solely for her use. She retired from teaching in 1965, but continued her research and writing until 1994.

Please also see http://www.botany.org/bsa/misc/esau.html for further biographical information.

Scope and Content of Collection
The collection contains copies of all of Esau's publications and research notebooks. There is also personal and biographical material including her awards, correspondence, and family history.

Arrangement
Series I contains biographical and bibliographic material, including Esau's awards.
Series II consists of a few academic files relating to teaching and administration.
Series III contains all of Esau's publications.
Series IV contains research notes from 1936 to 1987.
Series V contains professional correspondence.
Series VI contains personal photographs and material related to Esau's family, especially her brother, Paul.
Series VII contains confidential professional recommendations and reviews.

Related Materials
At UCSB:

Cheadle Center for Biodiversity & Ecological Restoration (CCBER)
Additional archival and research material for Katherine Esau. Per their website, http://ccber.lifesci.ucsb.edu/library/, they have "over 2,100 photographic prints, negatives, and lantern slides from light microscope slides; collection data; correspondence; publications, reprints" from her research on phloem structure and notebooks. The collection is 18.25 linear feet, not including reprints. Much of their material is still being used in current research but may still be accessed by patrons. For further information, contact CCBER librarian and archivist Laurie Hannah at hannah@lifesci.ucsb.edu. The collection guide is available online through the Online Archive of California (OAC), at http://www.oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/kt1s20304s/.

UCSB Oral History Program

University Archives: Public Information Office

University Archives: Faculty Papers

At Other Institutions:
Botanical Society of America: image collection.
UC Berkeley. University Archives. Records of the College of Agriculture, University of California, 1881-1945. One folder in Writings and Speeches, Box 29.

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.
Esau, Katherine, 1898-1997
Plant anatomy.
Virus diseases of plants.
University of California, Santa Barbara
Series I: **Biographical**

Subseries A: **General**

Box 1: 1  
*Curriculum Vitae and List of Publications, 1985, 1997*

Box 1: 2  
*Esau's doctoral thesis (original manuscript), c. 1927*

Box 1: 3  
*Handwritten autobiography of Esau covering period prior to UC Davis, c. 1985*

Box 1: 4  
*Information and correspondence on Esau's Oral History, 1977-1978*

Subseries B: **Awards**

Box 2  
*National Academy of Sciences, bronze medal, n.d.*

Box 2  
*Faculty Research Lecturer, bronze medal on a blue and gold ribbon, UC Davis, 1964*

Box 2  
*International Botanical Congress, bronze medal, 1969*

Box 2  
*National Medal of Science, gold medal in a mahogany box, 1989*

Box Oversize  
*American Academy of Arts and Sciences, 1939*

Box Oversize  
*American Philosophical Society, membership statement, n.d.*

Box Oversize  
*Botanical Society, Certificate of Merit, 1956*

Box Oversize  
*National Academy of Sciences, 1957*

Box Oversize  
*National Medal of Science, 1989*

Box Oversize  
*Ph.D. Diploma, U.C. Berkeley, 1931*

Box Oversize  
*Regia Academia Scientiarum (3 copies), n.d.*

Box Oversize  
*Sigma Xi, 1932*

Box 3: 1  

Box 3: 2  
*Ladies Home Journal* article: 75 Most Important Women in America, Jan. 1971

Box 3: 3  
*Mills College honorary doctoral diploma, June 10, 1962*

Series II: **Academic**

Box 3: 4  
*Biology 118: Final Exam, 1938*

Box 3: 5  
*Biology 12hf: Laboratory exercises, ca. 1935*

Box 3: 6  
*Botanical Society Fourth Summer Institute for College Teachers of Botany (Washington State University), 1961*

Box 3: 7  
*Summaries of dissertations reviewed by Esau, 1952-1962*

Series III: **Publications and Lectures**

Box 3: 8  
*Book reviews, 1969-1985*

Box 3: 9-12  
*Offprints, 1930-1953*

Box 4: 1-4  
*Offprints, 1954-1986*

Box 4: 5  
*Photomicrographs, n.d.*

Box 4: 6  
*Reviews by Esau for the* Journal of Ultrastructure Research, *1982-1983*

Box 4: 7  
*Slides for a talk presented by Esau at UC Davis in honor of the Davis centennial birthday, 1984*

Box 4: 8  
"The Stelar Anatomy of the Lepidodendrales," lecture, c. 1940

Series IV: **Research**

Box 5: 1  
*"Advanced Morphology" notes (Professor Bailey, Harvard), 1937-1938*

Box 5: 2  
*Botany notebook, c. 1953*

Box 5: 3  

Box 5: 4-5  
*Metcalf, C. R.: research, 1972-1981*

Box 6: 1  
*National Science Foundation grant research project: "Normal and Pathological Anatomy of Vascular Tissues in Plants" (4 notebooks)*

*Notebook 1, June 3, 1960-Nov. 18, 1968*
**Series IV: Research**

- **Box 6: 2** | Notebook 2, Sep. 20, 1968-Oct. 25, 1973
- **Box 6: 3** | Notebook 3, Jan. 2, 1975-Jan. 31, 1980
- **Box 6: 4** | Notebook 4, Nov. 4, 1978-Feb. 28, 1987
- **Box 6: 5** | "Plant Histology" notes (Professor Bailey, Harvard), 1936
- **Box 7: 1** | Virus book, manuscript, c. 1985

**Series V: Professional Correspondence**

**Subseries A: Subject Files**

- **Box 7: 2** | Borntraeger, 1964-1981
- **Box 7: 3** | Brochure, 1984-1985
- **Box 7: 4** | Encyclopedia Americana, 1983
- **Box 7: 5** | Encyclopedia Britannica, 1965
- **Box 7: 6** | Harvard, 1960-1963
- **Box 7: 7** | Holt, Rinehart, and Winston, 1962-1982
- **Box 7: 8** | Inquiries and replies, 1975-1985
- **Box 7: 9** | Invitations, 1967-1986
- **Box 8: 1** | Loans and research, 1982-1988
- **Box 8: 2** | Magyarosy, A. C., 1978-1985
- **Box 8: 3** | National Academy of Sciences, 1978-1985
- **Box 8: 4** | No response or refusals, 1975-1985
- **Box 8: 5** | Phytomorphology, 1965-1984
- **Box 8: 6** | Publications, 1978-1981
- **Box 8: 7** | Requests for the use of Esau's research for articles and lectures, 1965-1982
- **Box 8: 8** | Requests for the use of Esau's research in texts, 1960-1982
- **Box 8: 9** | Shah, J. J., 1981-1982
- **Box 8: 10** | Sheppardson, S., 1978-1980
- **Box 9: 1** | Verlag, Fischer, 1963-1968
- **Box 9: 2** | Virus book, 1985-1987
- **Box 9: 3** | Wisconsin, 1973-1981
- **Box 9: 4** | Miscellany, 1973-1988

**Subseries B: Chronological Files**

- **Box 9: 5** | Correspondence, 1972
- **Box 9: 6** | Correspondence, 1978-1987
- **Box 9: 7** | Correspondence, 1980-1986
- **Box 10: 1** | Hermans lawsuit, 1978-1980

**Series VI: Family**

**Subseries A: Subject Files**

- **Correspondence**
  - **Box 11: 1** | Esau and her mother, 1954
  - **Box 11: 2** | Esau's parents' letters, 1882-1955
  - **Box 11: 3** | "Henry-Karbe-Schutte Briefe", c. 1920-1940
  - **Box 11: 4** | Personal, 1930-1980
  - **Box 11: 5** | Personal, 1980-1990
  - **Box 11: 6** | Personal family, 1955
  - **Box 11: 7** | Genealogy notes on the Esau family, n.d.
  - **Box 11: 8** | Important family documents (i.e. photocopies of naturalization papers, birth certificates, etc.), 1885-1981
  - **Box 11: 9** | Information regarding the death of Esau's parents, 1940, 1955
  - **Box 11: 10** | Newspaper clippings: Spreckles, 1984
  - **Box 11: 11** | Notes on Russia: Mennonites, n.d.
### Series VI: Family

#### Subseries A: Subject Files

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 12: 1</th>
<th>Photos: Esau family, friends</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1870-1920</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 12: 2</td>
<td>Posts:</td>
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<td>1920-1952</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 12: 3</td>
<td>Postcards, n.d.</td>
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<td>1953-1973</td>
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<td>Box 12: 4</td>
<td>Russian art memorabilia, n.d.</td>
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<td>1974-1990</td>
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<td>Box 12: 5</td>
<td>Scrapbook: John Esau (1859-1941, K. Esau’s father), n.d.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 12: 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 12: 7</td>
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#### Subseries B: Paul Esau

**Scope and Content Note**

1894-1987, Katherine Esau’s brother

| Box 12: 8 | Newspaper clippings, 1986-1989 |
| Box 12: 9 | Offprints, 1933, 1956-1966    |
| Box 13: 1 | Photo albums                  |
| Box 13: 2 | Esau family and friends, c. 1900-1920 |
| Box 13: 3 | World War I                   |
| Box 13: 4 | German army in Russia         |
| Box 13: 5 | German navy                   |
| Box 13: 6 | German army, "Westfront"     |
| Box 13: 7 | Photos: family, colleagues, places, postcards (Paul Esau), c. 1920s |

### Series VII: Confidential Files: Correspondence

#### Subseries A: Recommendations and References

| Box 14: 1 | A, 1953-? |
| Box 14: 2-3 | B, 1951-1975 |
| Box 14: 4-9 | C, 1954-1981 |
| Box 14: 10-12 | D, 1975-1986 |
| Box 14: 13-14 | E, 1959-1988 |
| Box 14: 15 | F, 1953-1979 |
| Box 14: 16-17 | G, 1955-1984 |
| Box 15: 1-3 | H, 1951-1979 |
| Box 15: 4-6 | JKL, 1969-1978 |
| Box 15: 7-13 | M, 1952-1987 |
| Box 15: 14 | N, 1968-1973 |
| Box 15: 15 | P, 1955-1976 |
| Box 15: 16-18 | R, 1951-1979 |
| Box 15: 19-22 | S, 1951-1980 |
| Box 16: 1-4 | T, 1953-1985 |
| Box 16: 5 | W, 1950-1980 |

#### Subseries B: Reviews

| Box 16: 6 | *Journal of Ultrastructure Research* reviews, 1984-1987 |
| Box 16: 7 | National Science Foundation proposal reviews, 1973-1976 |
| Box 16: 8 | Manuscript reviews, 1971-1981 |