Guide to the Edgar Sanders Papers 1845-1898
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Descriptive Summary

Identifier                ICU.SPCL.CRMS250
Title                    Sanders, Edgar. Papers
Date                     1845-1898
Size                     2.5 linear feet (2 boxes)
Repository               Special Collections Research Center
                         University of Chicago Library
                         1100 East 57th Street
                         Chicago, Illinois 60637 U.S.A.

Abstract                  Edgar Sanders (1827-1907) was a horticulturist who opened Chicago’s first permanent flower store in 1864. This collection contains correspondence, diaries, essays, photographs, and a scrapbook. Material spans 1845-1898.

Information on Use

Access                    The collection is open for research.

Citation                  When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is: Sanders, Edgar. Papers, Crerar Ms 250, [Box #, Folder #], Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library

Biographical Note

Edgar Sanders was a horticulturist who opened Chicago's first permanent flower store in 1864.

Sanders was born on 10 October, 1827 in East Grinstead, Sussex, England. His father was also a gardener, and Sanders' early career was as head gardener for two Surrey estates. In 1853 he left England with his wife, where he established a nursery with a Mr. Rathbone in Albany, New York.

In 1857 Sanders moved to Chicago, building a fifty-foot greenhouse and organizing the Chicago Gardener’s Club. His pioneering flower store was destroyed in the fire of 1871 but reopened in 1874. Sanders variously chief executive and treasurer of the Chicago Florist’s Club, an active member of the Cook County and Northern Illinois Agricultural and Horticultural Societies, and president of the American Association of Nurserymen. He also wrote for The Country

Sanders died in 1907. He was remembered in The Florist’s Exchange for his "rugged honesty," "unvarying amiability," and "complete unselfishness." The Illinois Horticultural Society called his life "a story of progressive achievement and kindly living in a world of the beautiful."

Scope Note
This collection spans 1845-1898 and contains correspondence, diaries, essays, photographs, and a scrapbook. Sanders' diaries detail his gardening pursuits, conversations he found interesting, and his journey from England to New York in 1853. Also of note are photographs of the Horticulture Building at the 1893 Chicago World’s Fair, the World’s Columbian Exposition.

Related Resources
The following related resources are located in the Department of Special Collections:

http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/spcl/select.html

Edgar Sanders. Scrapbooks

Subject Headings
• Sanders, Edgar
• World’s Columbian Exposition (1893 : Chicago, Ill.)
• Horticulture
• Horticulturists

INVENTORY

Box 1
Folder 1
"A catalogue of remarkable plants," 1848

Box 1
Folder 2
Correspondence, 1893

Box 1
Folder 3
Diary, 1852-1853

Box 1
Folder 4
"Diary and Useful Information," circa 1845-1849

Box 1
Folder 5
Diary and "Essay on Alcohol," 1851-1852
Folder 6
   "Essay on Mechanic Institutions," 1850
Box 1
Folder 7
   Farms and landscapes, photographs, circa 1880s
Box 1
Folder 8
   Greenhouses, possibly Chicago World’s Fair, photographs, circa 1880s-1890s
Box 1
Folder 9-10
   Horticulture at the Chicago World’s Fair, photographs, 1893
Box 1
Folder 11
   Landscaping in a cemetery, photographs, circa 1880s-1890s
Box 1
Folder 12
   Lectures on horticulture, undated
Box 1
Folder 13
   "Manuscript on a few of the words taken out of Johnson’s Dictionary," undated
Box 1
Folder 14
   Memorandum, 1898
Box 1
Folder 15
   Parks and landscapes, photographs, circa 1880s-1890s
Box 1
Folder 16
   Rosedale Nursery display, East Texas Fair, 1889
Box 2
Folder 1
   Design for proposed New York State Prison, Isaac Perry, circa 1880s
Box 2
Folder 2-3
   Greenhouse, possibly Chicago World’s Fair, photograph, circa 1880s-1890s
Box 2
Folder 4
   Horticulture at the Chicago World’s Fair, photograph, 1893
Box 2
Folder 5
   Ornamental stock, possibly Rosedale Nurseries, Texas, photograph, circa 1880s
Box 2
Folder 6
   Railroad tracks, photograph, circa 1880s
Box 2
Folder 7
Scrapbook of Prairie Farmer clippings, 1882-1890

Box 2
Folder 8
Specimen grounds at Rosedale Nurseries, Texas, photograph, circa 1889