

CRANBROOK

ARCHIVES

Robert Torrens Hatt (1902 - 1989)

Papers, 1919-1984
1.75 linear ft.

Acquisition Number:	1999-14
Acquisition:	Gift of Jennifer Hatt Windus.
Access:	Access to the collection is unrestricted.
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Photographs:	Box 2.
Processing:	Amy James, January 2000



History

Robert Torrens Hatt was born on July 17, 1902 in Lafayette, Indiana. He was the son of William Kendrick Hatt, a professor of civil engineering at Purdue University, and Josie Belle Appleby Hatt.

Dr. Hatt grew up in Lafayette and attended Purdue University from 1919-1920. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in 1923 from the University of Michigan. Hatt began his career in museums at Michigan when one of his professors, Dr. Ruthven, assigned him a research desk at the old University Museum. Dr. Hatt pursued his interest in the study of mammals at Columbia University, where he was awarded a masters degree (1925), and a Ph.D. in zoology (1932). During this time, Dr. Hatt was an instructor of biology at New York University (1923-1928), and an Assistant Curator of Mammals at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City (1928-1935).

A long association with Cranbrook began on July 1, 1935, when Dr. Hatt was appointed Director of the Cranbrook Institute of Science (CIS), a position he held until retirement on June 30, 1967. Under his direction, CIS went through several building expansions and research conducted there drew the attention of the scientific community worldwide. In appreciation for his years of service, Dr. Hatt was awarded a Founders Medal in 1964 from the Cranbrook Foundation.

In addition to his administrative duties as CIS Director, Dr. Hatt spent a significant amount of time on field work and consultation. His research on the mammals of the United States, Mexico, Iraq, Pakistan, the Congo, and Southern Rhodesia [now Zimbabwe] resulted in many published papers and books. He was a Fellow in the Zoological Society of London and the New York Zoological Society, and the American Museum of Natural History. Hatt was a Research Fellow with the Fulbright Foundation in Iraq (1952-1953), and was appointed as the Ministry of Education, Consultant on Science Museums through UNESCO in Pakistan (1956).

Dr. Hatt married Marcelle Roigneau in 1929. The marriage produced two sons: Richard and Peter. After Marcelle's death in 1951, Hatt married Suzannah Beck Vaillant in 1953.

Following retirement, Dr. and Mrs. Hatt continued their research and world travels, with a home base in Littleton, New Hampshire. Dr. Hatt died in 1989 after suffering a stroke.

Scope and Content of Collection

The collection is divided into five series: **Personal, Travel Journals, Published Works, Photographs, and Ephemera.**

The **Personal** series document Dr. Hatt's life and work at Cranbrook Institute of Science and elsewhere. Within the correspondence folder are letters describing Dr. and Mrs.

Hatt's travel in Pakistan and Africa. Two diaries chronicle Dr. Hatt's activities during his retirement years.

Several decades of world travel and field work are described in the **Travel Journals** series. Starting in 1919 with his summer field work in Wyoming and Colorado, Dr. Hatt recorded both professional and personal observances in these journals. They are arranged chronologically.

Items in the **Published Works** series represent only a small part of the approximately 250 scientific papers and reports authored by Dr. Hatt during his career. The works are arranged chronologically. One book in this series, *Laboratory Manual of Testing Materials*, was written by Hatt's father, William Kendrick Hatt, a professor of civil engineering at Purdue University.

Materials in the **Photographs** series are of special interest to those studying early Cranbrook and CIS history. Subjects documented are: the first house built on Faculty Row (occupied by the Hatt family), the CIS original building and planetarium, ca. early 1930s, and the gardens at Milles House at Cranbrook during the Hatt family residence.

Dr. Hatt's metal field notebook clipboard is the only item in the **Ephemera** series. The condition of the clipboard indicates that it was used extensively during Dr. Hatt's field work and travels.

Related Collections

- CIS Director's Papers, 1990-31
- Cranbrook Publications collection
- E&M file, Robert T. Hatt

3. #55, World tour, 1968
4. #56, United States, West Indies, 1969-1970
5. #57, Europe, 1970
6. #58, Europe, 1970
7. #59, United States and Canada, 1970-1972
8. #60, Mexico, 1971
9. #61, Borneo, 1972
10. #62, United States, 1972-1974
11. #63, United States, Caribbean, South America, 1974
12. #64, Spain and France, 1977
13. #64, Cuba, China, California, Baja California, 1978
14. #23, Miscellaneous travel, 1979-1982
15. Costa Rica, Mexico, Isle Royale, Jamaica, various
United States, 1981-1984

Series III Published Works

16. *Laboratory Manual of Testing Materials*, William Kendrick Hatt & H.H. Scofield, McGraw Hill, 1926.
17. *The Red Squirrel: Its Life History and Habits*, Bulletin of The New York State College of Forestry at Syracuse University, Roosevelt Wild Life Annals, vol.2, no.1, March 1929
18. *A Thirteenth Century Tibetan Reliquary: An Iconographic And Physical Analysis*, Artibus Asiae, Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, 1930
19. *El Paricutin, Mexican Volcano*, Cranbrook Bulletin, Autumn-Winter 1944-1945
20. *Island Life: A Study of the Land Vertebrates of the Islands of Eastern Lake Michigan*, CIS Bulletin #27, 1948.
21. Second copy of *Island Life: A Study of.....Eastern Lake Michigan*.
22. *The Mammals of the Atlantica Ecological Research Station, Southern Rhodesia*, reprinted from Zoologica, Scientific Contributions of the New York Zoological Society, vol.48, issue 2, Summer 1963
23. *Chichen Remembered*, The Explorer, vol.14, no.1, Spring 1972
24. *James A. Hurst: New York's First State Taxidermist*, NAHO, vol.9, no.1, Spring 1976

Series IV Photographs

Box 2, cont.

25. Early Cranbrook, early CIS, 1935-1936. Milles House, undated.

Series V Ephemera

26. (1) metal field notebook clipboard