

Conway Zirkle Collection
1948-1966
Mss.B.Z67

American Philosophical Society
2002
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Summary Information

Repository	American Philosophical Society
Creator	Zirkle, Conway, 1895-1972
Title	Conway Zirkle Collection
Date	1948-1966
Call number	Mss.B.Z67
Extent	1.5 Linear feet
Extent	1.5 linear feet
Location	LH-B-30-7
Language	German
Container	1-3
Abstract	<p>A botanist and historian of science at the University of Pennsylvania, Conway Zirkle published on the history of evolutionary thought and genetics, with a particular interest in the discipline as practiced in the Soviet Union.</p> <p>The Zirkle Papers consist of approximately one linear foot of materials accrued by Zirkle during research for his book on Lysenko-era biology in the Soviet Union, <i>The Death of Science in Russia</i> (1949). Among the miscellaneous materials in the collection are four volumes (0.5 linear feet) of pressed specimens of ferns and algae.</p>

Preferred Citation

Cite as: Conway Zirkle Collection, American Philosophical Society.

Background note

A botanist and historian of science at the University of Pennsylvania, Conway Zirkle published on the history of evolutionary thought, with a particular interest in the discipline as practiced in the Soviet Union. His major works included *The Death of Science in Russia* (Philadelphia, 1949) and *Evolution, Marxian Biology, and the Social Scene* (Philadelphia, 1959).

Scope & content

Consisting largely of newspaper clippings and translations from *Pravda*, the Zirkle Collection was assembled by Conway Zirkle while preparing his book on Soviet biology during the Lysenko era, *Death of Science in Russia*. It focuses primarily on the Soviet rejection of the chromosomal theory of inheritance and Mendel-Morgan genetics in favor of the biology of Michurin and Lysenko, and the social and political context. In addition to a small volume of correspondence, the collection includes typescript essays on Lysenko by L.C. Dunn, H.J. Muller, Theodosius Dobzhansky, and N.I. Vavilov.

Among the even smaller number of miscellaneous items in the collection is an important 10 page letter from James McKeen Cattell addressed to Allyn A. Young of the Committee on Academic Freedom regarding Cattell's dismissal from Columbia in 1917. There are, in addition, a group of 22 letters of congratulations to Zirkle upon his retirement from the University of Pennsylvania, a copy of Henry H. Dale's resignation from the USSR Academy of Sciences in 1948, materials used by Zirkle in research for his article "Animals impregnated by the wind," and four volumes containing specimens of pressed ferns and algae.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

American Philosophical Society 2002

Provenance

Acquisition Information

The Zirkle Papers were presented to the APS by the Bryn Mawr College Library, 1972.

Processing Information

Recatalogued by rsc, 2002.

Related Materials

Related Material

Additional material on Soviet biology and Lysenko is located in the papers of [L. C. Dunn \(B D917\)](#), , [Theodosius Dobzhansky \(B D65\)](#), , [Michael Lerner \(B L563\)](#), , and [Curt Stern \(Ms. Coll. 5\)](#), among others.

Indexing Terms

Personal Name(s)

- Cattell, James McKeen, 1860-1944
- Dale, Henry H. (Henry Hallett), 1875-
- Davitashvili, L.
- Demidov, Sergei Federovich
- Deutsch, Albert, 1905-1961
- Dimitrova, Elena
- Dobzhansky, Theodosius Grigorievich, 1900-1975
- Dunn, L. C. , (Leslie Clarence), 1893-1974

- Goldschmidt, Richard Benedict, 1878-1958
- Lysenko, Trofim Denisovich, 1898-1976
- Muller, H. J., (Hermann Joseph), 1890-1967
- Nachtsheim, Hans, 1890-1979
- Shmalgauzen, I. I. (Ivan Ivanovich), 1884-1963
- Vavilov, N. I. (Nikolai Ivanovich), 1887-1943

Subject(s)

- Agriculture--Soviet Union
- Algae.
- Evolution (Biology)--Soviet Union
- Ferns
- Genetics--Soviet Union

Other Descriptive Information

This collection contains materials which relate to the history of genetics.

Author	Format	Date
Academic Freedom of Science in Russia	Manuscripts (13 pages)	Circa 1957
An Appraisal of Science in the U.S.S.R.	Manuscripts (23 pages)	1951
Biology in the U.S.S.R.	Manuscripts (4 pages)	1949
Cattell, James McKeen	Correspondence (9 pages)	1917
Communist Pseudo-Science in Agriculture	Manuscripts (10 pages)	1955
Concerning the Inheritance of Acquired Characteristics	Manuscripts (21 pages)	n.d.

Dale, Henry Hallett, Sir	Correspondence (3 pages)	1948
Death of a Science in Russia	Manuscripts (7 folders)	1948-1959
Destruction of Science in Russia	Manuscripts (4 pages)	n.d.
Deutsch, Albert -- Degradation of Soviet Science	Manuscripts (3 pages)	1948
Dimitrova, Elena -- Lysenko in Bulgaria	Manuscripts (3 pages)	1949
Divergent attitudes toward science in east-west tension	Manuscripts (7 pages)	n.d.
Dobzhansky, Theodosius -- End of Genetics in the Soviet Union	Manuscripts (2 folders)	1948-1949
Dunn, Leslie Clarence -- Concerning the Lysenko Report	Manuscripts (4 pages)	1948
Evolution, Marxian Biology and the Social Scene	Manuscripts (16 pages)	1959
Fall of a Charlatan	Manuscripts (4 pages)	1956
Genetics in Russia	Manuscripts (8 pages)	1956
Genetics, the science of heredity	Manuscripts (3 pages)	n.d.

Goldschmidt, Richard Benedict -- Presidential address to Phi Sigma	Manuscripts (5 pages)	n.d.
Lysenko, Trofim Denisovich	Manuscripts (3 folders)	1952-1958, n.d.
Moore, Barrington -- Terror and Progress, U.S.S.R.	Manuscripts (7 pages)	1954
Muller, Hermann Joseph -- Destruction of a science in the U.S.S.R.	Manuscripts (2 folders)	1948-1949
Muller, Hermann Joseph -- Genetics in relation to modern science	Manuscripts (9 pages)	Circa 1948
Muller, Hermann Joseph -- Rise and fall of genetics in the U.S.S.R.	Manuscripts (6 pages)	n.d.
Pravda	Records (5 folders)	1948, n.d.
Prezent, Isaac Israilevich -- Creative Darwinism in the Soviet Union	Manuscripts (31 pages)	1947
Science and the Scientist in the Soviet Union	Manuscripts (20 pages)	Circa 1956
Science in Russia	Manuscripts (3 pages)	n.d.

Vavilov, Nikolai Ivanovich Manuscripts (84 pages) 1935
-- Botanical-geographic
principles of selection

Bibliography

Zirkle, Conway, *Death of Science in Russia: the Fate of Genetics as Described in Pravda and elsewhere* (Philadelphia: Univ. of Pennsylvania, 1949).

Call no.: 575.12 Z6d.

Zirkle, Conway, *Evolution, Marxian Biology, and the Social Scene* (Philadelphia: Univ. of Pennsylvania, 1949).

Call no.: 575 Z6

Correspondence and manuscripts

Collection Inventory

Correspondence and manuscripts	1948-1966	2 boxes	
Academic Freedom of Science in Russia	Circa 1957	13.0 p.	Box 1
Animals Impregnated by the wind. [see also: Impregnation by the wind]			Box 1
An Appraisal of Science in the USSR	1951	23.0 p.	Box 1
Biological Abstracts			Box 1
Biology in the USSR	1949	4.0 p.	Box 1
Birthday Greetings, 1966			Box 1
British literature in the Eighteenth Century			Box 1
Cattell, J. McKeen (James McKeen)	1917	9.0 p.	Box 1
Checkmenev, E. M.			Box 1
Communist Pseudo-Science in Agriculture	1955	10.0 p.	Box 1
Conant, George H.			Box 1
Concerning a hemophilic family			Box 1
Concerning the inheritance of acquired characteristics	n.d.	21.0 p.	Box 1
Dale, Henry Hallett, Sir	1948	3.0 p.	Box 1
Davitashvili, L. An Institute's Serious Mistakes			Box 1
Death of a Science in Russia	1948-1959	7 folders	Box 1

Correspondence and manuscripts

Death of a Science in Russia			Box 1
Death of a Science in Russia [Preface to the Japanese Edition]			Box 1
Death of a Science in Russia [Manuscripts - not used]		5 folders	Box 1
Degeneration of plants			Box 1
Demidov, S. F.			Box 1
Destruction of Science in Russia	n.d.	4.0 p.	Box 1
Deutsch, Albert, 1905-1961 Degradation of Soviet Science	1948	3.0 p.	Box 1
Dimitrova, Elena Lysenko in Bulgaria	1949	3.0 p.	Box 1
Divergent attitudes toward science in east-west tension	n.d.	7.0 p.	Box 1
Dobzhansky, Theodosius Grigorievich, 1900-1975			Box 1
Dobzhansky, Theodosius Grigorievich, 1900-1975 End of genetics in the Soviet Union	1948-1949	9.0 p.	Box 1
Dunn, L. C. , (Leslie Clarence), 1893-1974 Concerning the Lysenko report	1948	4.0 p.	Box 1
Early ideas of inbreeding crossbreeding and hybrid-vigor			Box 1
Evolution, Marxian Biology, and the Social Scene	1959	16.0 p.	Box 1

Correspondence and manuscripts

Evolution: Miscellaneous notes			Box 1
Fall of a charlatan	1956	4.0 p.	Box 1
Fast, Howard I write as I please... the Lysenko theory and the Saturday Review			Box 1
Genetics in Russia	1956	8.0 p.	Box 1
Genetics: the science of heredity	n.d.	3.0 p.	Box 1
Glushchenko, I			Box 1
Goldschmidt, Richard Presidential address to Phi Sigma Societies	n.d.	5.0 p.	Box 1
Havas, László			Box 1
Herbert, Danby			Box 1
Herbert, Henry L.			Box 1
How to find a book in a Library			Box 1
Howard, Milton Column In <i>Daily Worker</i>			Box 1
Impregnation by the wind - Miscellany.			Box 1
Items in the history of biology			Box 1
Kaftanov, S.			Box 2
The knowledge of generation in the Renaissance			Box 2
Life of science. Introduction			Box 2
Lysenko, Trofim Denishovich	1952-1958	3 folders	Box 2

Correspondence and manuscripts

Lysenko, Trofim Denishovich			Box 2
Lysenko miscellaneous notes		2 folders	Box 2
Marxism and the arts			Box 2
Mitin, M. B.			Box 2
Moore, Barrington, Jr.	1954	7.0 p.	Box 2
"Terror and Progress, USSR"			
Mossige, Jeanne Coyne			Box 2
Muller, H. J.	1948-1949		Box 2
Destruction of a science in the USSR (Manuscript)			
Muller, H. J.	1948-1949		Box 2
Destruction of a science in the USSR (Published)			
Muller, H. J.	Circa 1948	9.0 p.	Box 2
Genetics in relation to modern science			
Muller, H. J.	n.d.	6.0 p.	Box 2
Rise and fall of genetics in the USSR			
Nachtsheim, Hans, 1890-1979			Box 2
Das Ende der sowjetischen Pseudogenetik			
Nemchinov, V.			Box 2
Newspaper clippings			Box 2
<i>Pravda</i>	1948, n.d.	5 folders	Box 2
<i>Pravda</i> : At the Session of the V.I. Lenin All-Union Academy of Agricultural Sciences			Box 2

Correspondence and manuscripts

<i>Pravda</i> : Higher the Banners of Advanced, Michurinist Biological Science			Box 2
<i>Pravda</i> : [Lysenko] various dates	1948		Box 2
<i>Pravda</i> : [Lysenko] Editorial			Box 2
<i>Pravda</i> : Reply to Muller; 1948 December 14			Box 2
Prezent, I. I. Creative Darwinism in the Soviet Union	1947	31.0 p.	Box 2
Printed items on Lysenko			Box 2
Refutation of Joravsky's review of his book			Box 2
Rehabilitating a Soviet scientist			Box 2
Return of quackery to Russian medicine			Box 2
Review of Alexander G. Korol: Soviet Education for Science and Technology			Box 2
Review of Darwin's Biological work			Box 2
Review of Evolution of Life			Box 2
Review of Robert Nachtweg: Der Irrweg des Darwinismus			Box 2
Roberts, Brian A visit to the USSR on behalf of the Scott Polar Research Institute			Box 2
Schmalhausen, I. I.			Box 2
Science and the Scientist in the Soviet Union	Circa 1956	20.0 p.	Box 2

Correspondence and manuscripts

Science in Russia	n.d.	3.0 p.	Box 2
Scientific method in communist lands			Box 2
Scientists and the visa problem			Box 2
Soviet science and technology			Box 2
Soviet scientific and technological capabilities			Box 2
Status and trends in Soviet scientific and technical manpower resources			Box 2
Stoletov, V. N.			Box 2
Strohm, John L Excerpt from "Just tell the truth."			Box 2
Unknown			Box 2
Vasilenko, I. F.			Box 2
Vavilov, N. I. Botanical-geographic principles of selection	1935	84.0 p.	Box 2
Warecki, A.			Box 2
Weterynaryjna, Med			Box 2
Yudin, V. M.			Box 2
Zhuravsky, V Agrotechnical research on the sidewalk			Box 2

Botanical specimen books

Botanical specimen books**4 volumes**

Ferns, part 1

Volume 1

Ferns, part 2

Volume 2

Algae, part 1

Volume 3

Algae, part 2

Volume 4