

**Chicago Academy of Sciences / Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum**  
**ARCHIVES – FINDING AID**

**Collection Title:** Donald T. Ries Papers

**Creator:** Ries, Donald T. (1904-1968)

**Dates:** 1923-1967, undated, 1953-1967 (bulk)

**Language:** English

**Extent:** 3 Linear Feet (3 flat storage boxes, slides)

**Level of Description:** Folder Level

**Repository:** Museum Collections and Archives, Chicago Academy of Sciences /Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, Chicago, Illinois.

**Access Conditions:** Open for research.

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**Citation:** Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [item], [folder], [box], Donald T. Ries Papers, Chicago Academy of Sciences / Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum.

**Acquisition Information:** Accession 1969.9. Bequest from the Donald T. Ries estate. Credit: "Gift of Donald T. Ries".

**Processor and Date:** Amber King, November 2010; updated March 2017 by Dawn Roberts

**Processing Note:** Paper materials were found in various locations in the library. The notecards listing slides accepted for exhibition were found in the wooden cabinet that originally housed his 35mm slides. Three of the notebooks appear to have been catalogued into the library collection at one time (evidenced by attached catalog numbers on the bindings). Slides have been transferred into archival housing and are currently being entered into the 35mm slide catalog file.

**Biographical Sketch:** Donald T. Ries was born in 1904 to Heinrich and Millie (Timmerman) Ries. His father was a noted geology professor at Cornell University. Ries continued in his father's scientific study, but chose entomology for his personal research. Ries received both his B.S. and Ph.D. from Cornell University. He worked for the Cranbrook Institute of Science in Bloomfield Hills, MI first as Curator of Entomology and Education and then as Assistant Director. Ries then worked as a park naturalist at Starved Rock State Park in Utica, Illinois before he started his service as captain in the Sanitary Corps Reserve in 1943. When he completed his military service, he was appointed assistant professor of biology at the Illinois State Normal University (now the Illinois State University) in September of 1946. There he worked as an Assistant Professor of Biology at Illinois Wesleyan University. In addition to his academic and scholarly pursuits, Ries was also a well known amateur nature photographer. As a member of the Photographic Society of America, he submitted his images to photographic shows all over the world. Ries passed away in 1968.

**Scope and Content:** The materials in the collection are varied. Contained are class notes from his own schooling, class notes from classes he taught, and copies of an entomological publication. There are also paper materials related to his color 35mm slides regarding photographic shows to which he submitted with notations when he placed, as well as many of the slides themselves.

**Series Description:**

**Series 1: Notebooks (1923-1967, undated)**

This series consists of three notebooks sorted into three sub-series: Undergraduate Class Notes, Teaching Class Notes, and Research/ Publications.. The first sub-series, "Undergraduate Class Notes," contains a small notebook of handwritten and typed notes from an undergraduate class on forestry and woods. The second sub-series, "Teaching Class Notes," contains one three-ring binder of handwritten/ typed notes and magazine clippings related to three classes he assisted with ca. 1965-1966 while teaching at Illinois Wesleyan University. The third sub-series, "Research/ Publications," contains two typescript copies of one publication bound together, one containing notes for revisions.

**Series 2: 35mm Slides (1953-1967, undated)**

This series encompasses the 35mm slides taken by Ries or collected from fellow photographers. The images are loosely organized by headers related to nature, such as "Insects" or "Reptiles." There is also a small selection of personal slides included. In addition there is one sub-series for this section, Photography Submissions. It contains a three-ring binder of handwritten notes relating to slides Ries submitted to various photographic shows including printed materials related to two of these shows found loose in the notebook. It also consists of notecards for each submitted slide in alphabetical order. This 35mm slides in this series have been re-housed and are currently being catalogued.

**Container List:**

<b>Box 1</b>		
<b>Series 1: Notebooks (1923-1967, undated)</b>		
<i>Undergraduate Class Notes</i>		
	Notebook: "Forestry: Laboratory Notes"	1923-1924
<i>Research/ Publications</i>		
	Bound typescripts: "A Revision of the Nearctic and Neotropical Xiphydriidae (Hymenoptera-Tenthredinoidea)"	undated
<b>Box 2</b>		
<b>Series 1: Notebooks (1923-1967, undated)</b>		
<i>Teaching Class Notes</i>		
	"Ecology Notebook:" Biology: Biological Interrelations, General Biology, Organismic Biology	ca. 1965-1966
<b>Box 3</b>		
<b>Series 2: 35mm Slides (1953-1967, undated)</b>		
<i>Photography Submissions</i>		
	Exhibition Submission Announcements/ Forms	1962, 1967
	Notebook: "Salons/Salons Acceptances, Vol. I:" Listing of slide images submitted to various photographic shows with placements mentioned where applicable	1953-1967
<b>Box 4</b>		
<b>Series 2: 35mm Slides (1953-1967, undated)</b>		
<i>Photography Submissions</i>		
	Alphabetical List of Accepted Slides for Exhibition, 1-189	undated
	Alphabetical List of Salons Where Exhibited	undated
<b>Slide Box 1-4 (Housed separately, RVWD.305.Slide Cabinet)</b>		
<b>Series 2: 35mm Slides (1953-1967, undated)</b>		
	Photographs, largely of botanic subjects	1958-1967, undated