



MG 180: H. M. Austenson fonds

Accession: 997-032

Extent: 1.57 m of textual records, 171 photographs & negatives, 1 videotape.

Dates: 1922-1995 (inclusive).

Biography: Herman Milton Austenson was born and raised on a farm in Viscount, Saskatchewan. He attended both the University of Saskatchewan (earning a BSA in 1946 and his MSc in 1948) and Washington State University (where he earned a PhD in 1951). After 14 years on the faculties of Cornell University and Washington State University, he returned to the University of Saskatchewan in 1966. From 1975 to 1983 he served as head of the department of Crop Science and Director of the Crop Development Centre. During this time the plant breeding work at the University of Saskatchewan made considerable progress and its variety testing work was extended throughout the province. Dr. Austenson's own research activities included the areas of pasture management, seed quality and cereal agronomy. He died in Saskatoon on 29 March 1997.

Scope and Content: This fonds contains correspondence, reports, publications and memoranda relating to the research activities of Herman Austenson, as well as some administrative records relating to the department of Crop Science and Plant Ecology, and the research activities of the Crop Development Centre. Some of the materials were created by JB Harrington; these files have been identified whenever possible.

Arrangement: The fonds has been organized into the following series:

- I. Canadian Society of Agronomy
- II College of Agriculture
- II Correspondence
- IV Department of Crop Science and Plant Ecology
- V. Photographs
- VI Research and Publications

Restrictions: Some documents containing personal information have been separated in compliance with the *Local Authorities Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

Related Collections: See also MG 46: JB Harrington fonds; MG 181 G. Simpson fonds; RG 2123 Department of Crop Science Records.

Guide prepared by Cheryl Avery, 1999.

Series I: CANADIAN SOCIETY OF AGRONOMY. - 20 cm. of textual records.

Pioneer workers with field crops and soils in the prairie provinces organized the Western Canadian Society of Agronomy at a two day meeting held in Saskatoon, 29-30 December 1919. John Bracken was elected first president; the objective of the Society was 'to encourage investigational work in crops and soils and to disseminate the results obtained.' Although academic qualifications were not a requirement of membership, several University of Saskatchewan professors were active members, including JB Harrington and LE Kirk. The depression of the 1930s and WWII adversely affected the Society, which disbanded in 1947. In 1953, a nationwide society was formed: the Canadian Society of Agronomy (CSA).

1. **Executive.** - 1969, 1984-1990.
This material reflects only those years when Herman Austenson was active on the CSA executive.
2. **History.** - 1975-1986.
Correspondence and photocopies of the WCSA and CSA history, from 1919 onward.
3. **Newsletter.** - 1969-1995. - 4 folders.
Incomplete set.
4. **Proceedings.** - 1922, 1956-1964. - 3 folders.

Series II: COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE. - 6 cm. of textual records.

Material in this series relate primarily to anniversaries, alumni and reunions, and fundraising for the new agriculture building.

1. **Diamond Jubilee Committee.** - 1984-1986.
Minutes and memoranda.
2. **Diamond Jubilee Committee - Nominations.** - [1980]-1986.
A list of distinguished graduates, 1911-1986; the *Historical Review and Register of Graduates* (1930-1980) prepared by SAGA; suggestions.
3. **1946 Reunion.** - 1984-1985.
Correspondence and biographical information.
4. **Sodbusters.** - 1984-1990.
The "Sodbusters' Club," over 100 members each able to contribute \$1,000, was created

to help fund site evaluations, architect's fees, etc. in preparation for the construction of a new College of Agriculture building. Creation of the club was announced on 13 January 1983 at Farm and Home Week

Series III: CORRESPONDENCE. - 37 cm. of textual records.

The correspondence files were arranged by Austenson in alphabetical order only; each file contains a mixture of requests for advice and assistance, letters of reference, as well as correspondence with colleagues on a variety of subjects. Both incoming and outgoing correspondence is included.

1. **Correspondence - A.** - 1967-1987. - 1 folder.
2. **Correspondence - B.** - 1968-1988. - 3 folders.
3. **Correspondence - C.** - 1966-1988. - 2 folders.
4. **Correspondence - D.** - 1966-1989. - 1 folder.
5. **Correspondence - E.** - 1967-1986. - 1 folder.
6. **Correspondence - F.** - 1968-1982. - 1 folder.
7. **Correspondence - G.** - 1972-1990. - 1 folder.
8. **Correspondence - H.** - 1973-1990. - 2 folders.
9. **Correspondence - I.** - 1968-1990. - 1 folder.
10. **Correspondence - J.** - 1967-1991. - 2 folders.
11. **Correspondence - K.** - 1967-1989. - 2 folders.
12. **Correspondence - L.** - 1966-1989. - 3 folders.
13. **Correspondence - M.** - 1966-1992. - 4 folders.
14. **Correspondence - N.** - 1970-1985. - 1 folder.
15. **Correspondence - O.** - 1976-1981. - 1 folder.
16. **Correspondence - P.** - 1971-1990. - 1 folder.

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17. **Correspondence - R.** - 1968-1989. - 1 folder.
18. **Correspondence - S.** - 1968-1990. - 2 folders.
19. **Correspondence - T.** - 1966-1984.

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20. **Correspondence - U.** - 1975-1982. - 1 folder.
21. **Correspondence - V.** - 1966-1986. - 1 folder.
22. **Correspondence - W, X, Y, Z.** - 1966-1990. - 2 folders.

Series IV: DEPARTMENT OF CROP SCIENCE AND PLANT ECOLOGY / CROP DEVELOPMENT CENTRE. - 17 cm. of textual records, 21 photographs, 20 negatives.

This series includes administrative records of the department, some materials relating to research done at the Crop Development Centre, as well as handouts and some lecture notes for classes. With the exception of material for Austenson, documents relating to faculty and staff of the department is limited primarily to awards or research.

1. **American Society of Agronomy - Nomination of Fellows - Confidential.** - 1968-1969.
2. **Autsenson - Personal.** - 1944, 1965-1992.
3. **Crop Science and Plant Ecology - History.** - 1988, 1991.
4. **Departmental Reports.** - 1956-1981.
Annual reports, plus a summary of research from 1978-1981.
5. **Departmental Reports - Budget.**
6. **Departmental Reports - Nicholson.**
Memorandum from RC Nicholson 'role of college committee,' notes, and reports on staff requirements by 1975 for crop science, and a proposal for a crop science institute.
7. **Departmental Reports - Review of Research - Crop Development Centre.** - nd, 1980-1982.
8. **Environmental Management in Agricultural Saskatchewan.** - 1974
Proposal for an inter-disciplinary research project.
9. **JB Harrington - Correspondence.** - 1925-1948.

10. **Handouts.** - nd, 1967.
Informational sheets on crop rotation and tillage & seedbed preparation, together with "What Happened Here?," a review of the 1967 growing season in Saskatchewan, including comparisons between the 1930-37 and 1960-67 periods.
11. **Kernan Farm - Injunction and Other Documents.** - 1974-1978. - [textual records, photographs].
This file includes 21 images (20 negatives) of Adolph Sterner's farm equipment at Kernan farm, spring 1977, various legal documents, and memorandum. (Related materials can be found below, in Photographs - Kernan Family / Farm).
12. **Kernan Foundation.** - 1976-1984.
Includes copies of the agreements entered into between FW Kernan and the University; and minutes of the Kernan Foundation Trustees Committee meetings. This file also includes a copy of the 1978 blueprint for the proposed development of Kernan Farm drawn by Ian Innes.
13. **Laboratory Guide - Field Crop Production.** - [ca. 1920s].
14. **Lecture Notes - JB Harrington.** - [ca. 1922]
Typed notes for Field Husbandry 22.
15. **Miscellaneous - JB Harrington / H. Gerrie.** - 1937-1957.
Memos, reports, addresses, notes. Includes memo on a visit from Fred Kernan, 1948.
16. **Miscellaneous Memoranda and Reports.** - nd, 1974-1991.
17. **Order of Canada / Saskatchewan Order of Merit.** - 1991-1992.
Letters of recommendation.
18. **Plant Breeders.** - 1974-1979.
19. **Principles of Agronomy.** - 1972, 1977. - 2 folders.
Manuscript for introductory class in agronomy; 2 editions.
20. **Report on Visit to the USSR.** - 1963.
Prepared by J.L. Bolton.

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Series V: PHOTOGRAPHS. - 13 cm: 116 photographs, 2 glass slides, 3 slides, 9 negatives.

1. **Agricultural Machinery / Operations.** - 1925- [ca. 1970s]. - [36 black & white

photographs, 7 negatives].

Folder includes the following images:

- Silo filled with sweet clover, 4 Sep 1953. - 1 b&w photograph and negative.
- Vogel rod row thresher. - 1 b&w photograph. Taken by or belonging to JB Harrington.
- Antelope rye being swathed on U of S seed farm, 25 Jul 1953. - 1 b&w print and negative. Taken by or originally belonging to JB Harrington.
- Threshing cereal rod rows, Sep 1929. - 1 b&w print and negative. [Taken by or originally belonging to JB Harrington].
- Kirkham boys harvesting feed barley test as Saltcoats, Aug 1940. - 1 b&w print and negative. [Taken by or originally belonging to JB Harrington].
- Kirkham boys harvesting the hooded feed barley test at their farm, Saltcoats, Aug. 1940. - 1 b&w print. [Taken by or originally belonging to JB Harrington].
- [Men planting test field by hand?]. - 1 negative. [Taken by or originally belonging to JB Harrington].
- Bill Zamolski threshing single-plant selections of barley. - [ca. 1970s]. - 1 b&w print.
- Rick Boyer weighing and recording yield of barley-breeding material. [ca. 1970s]. - 1 b&w print.
- Harvesting [fairway] crested wheat grass, Parker Bros. Farm, Big Forks, Montana, Aug 1936. - 1 b&w print.
- Harvesting [fairway], Parker Bros. Farm, Big Forks, Montana, Aug 1936. - 1 b&w print.
- Kerschner's seeder-plow. - [ca. 1920s?]. - 1 b&w print.
- Sweet clover seed harvester. - 11 August 1925. - 1 b&w print. Image taken at N.J. Jansen farm, Dell Rapids, South Dakota.
- Experimental Station at Minot, North Dakota - House and office of superintendent. - 15 August 1946. - 1 b&w print.
- Seeding Operation, U of S seed farm. - 8 May 1970. - 2 b&w prints, 2 negatives.
- Machinery demonstration, AIC convention. - 1969. - 11 b&w prints. Machines are not identified; many appear to be of Japanese manufacture.
- Unidentified Machinery. - [ca. 1970s?]. - 6 b&w prints.
- [Unidentified Machinery]. - [ca. 1920s]. - 4 b&w prints.

2. **Chinese Government Agricultural Delegation.** - 1986-1987. - [textual records, 4 colour photographs].

Itinerary and list of Chinese delegates for visit to Saskatchewan by He Kang, Minister of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fishery, People's Republic of China, 8-9 August 1986.

3. **Christmas Card.** - [1979]. - [2 colour photographs, 2 negatives].
Image of wheat field, taken by Austenson and used for his 1979 Christmas card. Also includes a copy of the card, as well as the negative; a second negative, showing a CN train, is attached.

4. **Crop Science and Plant Ecology.** - 7 b&w prints.
[Faculty and research scientists, Crop Development Centre?]. Individuals identified.
 - Crop Science graduating class, 1970. Individuals identified.
 - Crop Science graduating class, 1972. Individuals identified.

5. **JB Harrington - Travels Abroad.** - 1949-1952. - [13 b&w photographs].
Note: see also "Some Aspects of Life in Egypt," by JB Harrington, *The Green & White*, June 1950, p. 5-7, 14.
 - [Professor and Mrs. Harrington], Egypt.
 - JB Harrington observing JJ Niles of Ceylon "emasculate rice."
 - Weekly tribal market, SW Orissa, India, Oct 1952.
 - [Duderma] River Dam, Western Orissa, India.
 - Harvesting rice hybrids, Oct 1952.
 - Using a single hole marker, 22 Nov 1949.
 - Mabrouk wheat at Minya, Apr 1950.
 - Preparing soil for seeding, 17 Nov 1949.
 - Egyptian plough and ploughman, Giza, 22 Nov 1949.
 - Egyptian government officials at Experimental Farm, Sep 1949.
 - Egyptian technicians, seed threshing and storage, Giza, Nov 1949.
 - Harrington with Egyptian colleagues in the sorghum breeding plots, experimental farm, Sep 1949.
 - Harrington with Egyptian government officials, Feb 1950.

6. **Kernan Family; Kernan Crop Research Farm.** - [textual records, 10 photographs, 3 negatives].
 - Includes a history of the Kernan family, who gave what is now known as the Kernan Crop Research Farm to the University of Saskatchewan; along with the eulogy and memorial service program for Fred Kernan. This file includes the following images:
 - Side view of red barn, with 'Fred W. Kernan' painted on the side. - 1978. - 1 b&w print, 1 negative.
 - Breaking alfalfa sod, Kernan Crop Research farm, 1978. - 1 b&w print, 1 negative.
 - Kernan prairie. - 1978. - 3 b&w prints.
 - Barley field, Kernan farm. - 1978. - 1 b&w print.
 - Ploughed field, Kernan farm. - 1978. - 1 b&w print.
 - Quackgrass in alfalfa sod, killed with Roundup; Kernan farm. - 1978. - 1 b&w print.

- Field at Kernan farm. - 1978. - 1 b&w print.
 - Governor-General Viscount Harold Alexander, Mrs. Alexander, and Fred Kernan, [in field at Kernan farm]. - 1949. - 1 b&w print, 1 negative.
7. **Lectures.** - [ca. 1925]. - [2 glass slides].
Glass slides, possibly used by JB Harrington during lectures; one show covered stooks, the other is a graph of 1925 marquis wheat yields.
8. **Photographic Guide of Ridge Roughness Equivalent K.** - 17 b&w photographs.
Compiled by A. Wenhardt, Experimental Farm, Swift Current.
9. **Reimche Farm.** - 1988-1989. - 9 b&w photos.
Photos taken during the visit by Shijing Wang and Austenson, July 1988. See also below, 'Research and Publications - "Fifty-two Years of Farming" by Sam Reimche.'
10. **Soil Erosion.** - nd, 1948-1985. - 6 b&w photographs, 3 colour slides.
 - Some of these images may have been used for teaching purposes in Austenson's agronomy classes. Images in this folder include:
 - 3 colour slides showing erosion near the Scott Experimental Farm, 1985.
 - Run-off and erosion, nd, location not identified. - 1 b&w photograph.
 - Sandy soil near ridge of trees, nd, location not identified. - 1 b&w photograph.
 - Group of men examining erosion resulting from run-off; [ca. 1950s]. Location not identified. - 1 b&w photograph.
 - Erosion resulting from run-off, nd, location not identified. - 1 b&w photograph.
 - Aerial view experimental farm near Cadillac, Sk. Farm and highway buried by sand. [ca. 1948]. - 1 b&w photograph.
 - Aerial view of a wind-blown swath. - Sep 1976. - 1 b&w photograph.
11. **Soil Erosion - 1930s.** - 1935-[1960]. - 20 b&w photographs. - 2 folders.
These images have all been mounted and were presumably part of a display.
 - Listing over a hummock with a crawler tractor, Mortlach, Sk., 3 Jul 1939.
 - Lister at work in sand, Cadillac, Sk., Apr 1937.
 - Re-listing where sand filled in the furrows of the first listing, Vanguard, Sk. 11 May 1939.
 - Accumulation of drift soil in fence line along a roadway, Tompkins, Sk., 1938.
 - LB Thomson, director of Swift Current Experimental Station, ca. 1938.
 - Grasshopper poison bait spreader at Swift Current Experimental Station, 1937.
 - Farm near Cadillac, Sk, 1935.

- Drifting soil near Vanguard, Sk., 29, May 1939.
- Listing and seeding spring rye, Cadillac, Sk., May 1938.
- Accumulation of drift soil in fence line along a roadway, Tompkins, Sk., 1938.
- Footmarks on drifted land, Tompkins, Sk., 12 May 1938.
- Spring rye seeded in drift sand, Cadillac, Sk., 1938.
- Rough land, previous to listing, Mortlach, Sk., Jul 1939.
- Badly blown field; weathered furrows, Hazlet, Sk., 1939.
- Soil removed from under sills of a barn, Vanguard, Sk., 3 Jun 1939.
- Furrows listed in sand dune around machinery, Cadillac, Sk., Apr 1937.
- Badly eroded listing operation, Vanguard, Sk., Apr 1939.
- Cadillac reclamation area prior to work being started, 1935.
- Badly drifted area north of Meyronne reclamation area, May 1938.
- Dust storm in middle of seeded field, Swift Current, Sk., [May 1960].

12. **USSR Ambassador to Canada - Visit.** - 1979. - [2 black & white photographs].
Photographs taken during Dr. Alexander Yakovlev's visit to the Crop Science department and the Crop Development Centre in June 1979. Identification provided with photos.

Series VI: RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS. - 64 cm of textual records, photographs.

This series includes research and publications by Austenson as well as other faculty from Crop Science; however, most offprints, other than Austenson's have been transferred to the Faculty Publications Collection.

1. **Allelopathy Study - SRC - Coxworth.**
2. **Barley Cultural & Fertilizer Report - [JB Harrington].** - 1955.
3. **Climate.** - 1941-1987.
Brief notes, including population and agricultural statistics, with 10-year average (1976-1986); rainfall (1930-1970); precipitation at Saskatoon (1906-1968). Also includes agriculture extension bulletins, "Rainfall Records for Saskatchewan" (revised edition, 1950) and "The Effects of Hail Injury on Wheat and Other Grain Crops" (1941).
4. **Crop Circles.** - 1990-1992. - [textual records, photographs, videotape].
Correspondence, newspaper clippings, 5 colour photographs.
5. **Crop Rotations.** - [ca. 1945-1970].
Includes "Crop Rotation Experiments" and "A Quarter Century of Crop Rotation Experiments" (both by Manley Champlin); as well as an article by Austenson, "Crop Rotations."

6. **Crop Rotations - JB Harrington.** - 1952-1960. - 2

7. **Durum.**
Grant application only.

8. **“The Effect of Maturity at Swathing....”**
Articles on wheat and oats.

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9. **FarmLab - Planting Plans.**

10. **FarmLab - Winter Wheat.**

11. **FarmLab - Winter Wheat and Fall Rye - Field Plans.** - 1983-1984.

12. **Field Pea Project.** - 1971-1974.

13. **“Fifty-two Years of Farming” by Sam Reimche.** - 1993.
Information on field patterns, crop yields, wheat prices, expenses etc. related to farming land in southwestern Saskatchewan, 1940-1992.

14. **Halford Project.** - nd, 1987-1992. - 2 folders.

15. **Land Development Projects - Beauval Farm.** - 1970-1971.

16. **Land Development Projects - DNS Report.** - 1974.

17. **Land Development Projects - Green Lake.** - 1969-1971.

18. **Land Development Projects - Ile-a-la-Crosse.** - 1969-1971.

19. **Land Development Projects - La Loche.** - 1969-1971.

20. **Land Development Projects - Silver Lake.** - 1970-1971.

21. **Land Development Projects - Soil Reports.** - 1968.

22. **Millstones.** - 1992-1995.

23. **Moisturizer.**

24. **Notes.**
Notes on various topics; overhead transparencies.

25. **Notes on Agronomy and Ecology.**
26. **“Plant Rapeseed in the Fall?”**
27. **Publications - HM Austenson.** - 1955-1992. - 2 folders.
28. **Publications - J. Stan Rowe.** - 1974-1990.
29. **Rates x Row Width.**
Data on seed rate and row spacing on yields and quality.
30. **Report of Weed Research.** - 1935.
JB Harrington, TK Pavlychenko, RO Bibbey.
31. **Rotations.** - 1970-1974.
Articles, together with correspondence with Otto Lang, then Minister without Portfolio, regarding his statements concerning summerfallowing and land management.
32. **Rotations - 1925-1932.**
Graphs and data; possibly compiled by JB Harrington.
33. **Rotations - Charts - 1925-1932.**
34. **Rotations - [General].** - 1974-1976.
35. **Rotations - ABC - 1969-1975.**
36. **Rotations - ABC - 1969-1979.**
37. **Rotations - ABC.** - 1971-1979. - 9 folders.
38. **Rotations - ABC - Field Plans.** - [ca. 1970-1971].
39. **Rotations - ABC - Master Plans.**
40. **Rotations - ABC - Soil Analysis.** - [1969-1975].
41. **Rotations - Pea Cereal - Rape, Pea, & Cereal.** - 1973-1976. - 4 folders.
42. **Rotations - Pea Cereal - Pea Mixtures.** - 1973.

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43. **Rotations - Pea Cereal - Pea-Cereal Rotation.** - 1977-1978. - 2 folders.
 44. **Rotations - Pea Rotations.**
 45. **Rotations - Species & Stubble.** - 1973-1976. - 4 folders.
 46. **Seager Wheeler.**
Brief biography and clippings.
 47. **Soil Erosion / Dust Storms.** - [ca. 1953-1989].
Includes "A History of Soil Erosion by Wind in the Palliser Triangle of Western Canada;" "When the Winds Came;" "Soil Drifting: Its Causes and Control;" "Study of Soil Erosion;" "Dust Storms in the Canadian Prairies" (by Wheaton and Chakravarti).
 48. **Swine Manure.** - 1980-1983. - [textual records, negatives]. - 2 folders.
 49. **Swine Manure - SARFB Project.**
 50. **Swine Manure - Speech Notes and Overhead.** - [textual records, photographs].
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51. **XII International Grassland Congress.** - 1974.
Publications; in Ukrainian and English.
 52. **Western Grains Research Foundation.** - 1991, 1995.
Patent Research Project progress report; grant approval for University of Alberta.
 52. **Western Grains Research Foundation - 3-501-095.** - 2 folders.
"Management Systems for High Yields in Cereals."
 53. **Wheat Protein Management Workshop.** - 1983.
Various conference presentations.
 54. **Winter Wheat.** - 1963-1989. - [textual records, photographs]. - 2 folders.
Includes Austenson's article "Winter Wheat Production in Western Canada" and "Some new potentials for fall-sown grain in central Saskatchewan," together with series 1-10 of Extension/Crop Development Centre's circulars on winter wheat (missing: nos. 4 and 8) and various reference articles; press releases, notes, etc.
 55. **Winter Wheat - ERDA Project.**
 56. **Winter Wheat - Nitrogen Fertilizer Trial.**

57. **Winter Wheat - Rates and Dates.**

58. **Winter Wheat - Rotations.**