



MG 46 - J.B. Harrington fonds

Date: 1924, 23 Sep 1975.

Extent: 2 cm of textual and 1 audio reel.

Biography: James Bishop Harrington, born in Chicago in 1894, came to Canada in 1911 and settled on a homestead near Maple Creek. Four years later he started what was to become a distinguished academic career when he enrolled at the University of Saskatchewan. Although his studies were interrupted by war service, he received his BSc in Agriculture in 1920.

Harrington continued with graduate studies at the University of Minnesota. By 1924 he had a MSc, a PhD and had been appointed assistant professor in Field Husbandry at the University of Saskatchewan. From 1950 to 1956 he served as head of the department. During his years at the University of Saskatchewan, Harrington built an international reputation as a plant breeder; among the better known crop varieties he developed are Apex wheat, Fortune oats, Husky barley, Royal flax and Antelope rye. In 1949 Harrington's attention turned to the agricultural problems of the third world. In 1949-1950 he worked in Egypt as consultant to the Ministry of Agriculture, and in 1952 went to India to work on rice breeding for the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations. After resigning from the University of Saskatchewan in 1956, Harrington continued as a consultant with the FAO in the Middle East. Harrington was a founding member of the Saskatchewan Institute of Agrology and served as president of the Agriculture Institute of Canada. The Order of Canada, Fellow of the American Society of Agronomy and a LLD from the University of Saskatchewan are but a few of the many honours given to Harrington during his life. He died in Ontario at the age of 85.

Scope and content: This fonds contains an audiotape interview with Harrington from September 1975, covering his early life and career. James Bishop Harrington arrived at the University of Saskatchewan in 1915, and he discusses his early interest in plant pathology, genetics and plant breeding. In talking about his studies, research and work at the U of S, he also includes information on the Field Husbandry program at the U of S. His work outside Canada was in Pakistan, Egypt and China. He also mentions a number of associated faculty members. [Note: a second tape from this session is missing, although there is a brief summary of the topics covered]. Other items in the collection are a 1924 University of Minnesota Commencement Programme and Harrington's PhD degree.

For additional Harrington material, see fonds MG 180 (H.M. Austenson).

Restrictions: There are no restrictions.

Originally processed by Stan Hanson, 1987. Edited for formatting by Amy Putnam 2017.

File list:

1. Oral history interview. - 23 September 1975.

There are notes inside the file which relate to the audio reel. The interview notes indicate that the interview spanned two reels (only one reel is on file), and the one reel on file does not include all that is mentioned in the interview notes.

2. University of Minnesota. - 1924.

Commencement programme and Ph. D certificate.