

**Finding aid to the
Theodore Payne collection,
1909-2003, undated**

**California Botanic Garden
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Descriptive Summary

Title: Theodore Payne collection

Dates: 1909-2003, undated

Collection Identifier: MS.7

Creator: Payne, Theodore, 1872-1963

Extent: 1.0 linear foot (1 box)

Abstract: The Theodore Payne collection contains Theodore Payne nursery catalogs; pricelists; plant and seed lists; articles and pamphlets authored by Payne for magazines and newsletters; and correspondence with Susanna Bixby Bryant and staff of California Botanic Garden.

Finding aid author: Irene Holiman

Languages: Collection material is in English.

Repository: California Botanic Garden, 1500 N. College Ave., Claremont, CA 91711; 909-625-8767; <https://www.calbg.org>.

Administrative Information

Access restrictions: The collection is open to research. Contact the repository for access.

Acquisition Information: The materials in the Theodore Payne collection were collected by the founder of California Botanic Garden (formerly Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden), Susanna Bixby Bryant, and former Executive Director, Dr. Philip A. Munz.

Preferred Citation: Theodore Payne collection, 1909-2003, MS.7, California Botanic Garden, Claremont, California, 91711.

Publication rights: The copyright interests in this collection remain with the creator. Consult the Librarian for details.

Processing Information: The collection was arranged and processed by Irene Holiman in 2015. The finding aid was revised in 2021 by Rachel Poutasse.

Indexing Terms

Contributors

Payne, Theodore, 1872-1963

Subjects - Topics

Horticulture--California

Native plant gardens--California

Nursery growers

Genres and Forms of Materials

Correspondence

Printed ephemera

Reprints

Sales catalogs

Biographical Note

Born in 1872 in England, Theodore Payne was trained in the nursery and seed business at J. Cheal & Sons Company and gained familiarity with California native plants at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. In 1893, Payne immigrated to the United States and became the head gardener at the ranch of Madame Helena Modjeska in Santiago Canyon, Orange County, California. In 1896, Payne left the ranch and was employed as flower seedsman for the Germain Fruit and Seed Company in Los Angeles. Payne was responsible for Germain's flower, tree, and palm seed department; his duties included preparing the annual catalog of seed offerings.

In 1903, Payne purchased property at 440 S. Broadway, Los Angeles, and started his own nursery business with a special focus on California native plants and wildflowers, where he produced numerous plant and seed catalogs. Payne became concerned with the loss of native habitat due to housing developments and began to campaign to preserve California native plants. He developed a five acre native plant garden in Los Angeles, assisted Susanna Bixby Bryant with the creation of Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden (now California Botanic Garden) in Orange County, and was involved in the development of a native plant section of Descanso Gardens in La Cañada Flintridge.

Payne died in Glendale, California in 1963.

Sources:

"Who Was Theodore Payne?" Theodore Payne Foundation. Accessed 18 January 2021.
<https://theodorepayne.org/about/theodore-payne/>.

Scope and Content of Collection

The collection contains the nursery and seed catalogs, articles, and correspondence of nurseryman Theodore Payne with Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden (California Botanic Garden) founder Susanna Bixby Bryant and Executive Director, Philip A. Munz. The materials cover his mid- to late career in California. Major topics include California botany, horticulture, seeds, native plant conservation, and wildflowers. The nursery catalogs in this collection span from 1909 to 1972. Also included are reprints of articles authored by Payne and published in *Golden Gardens* and other publications and assorted plant and price lists.

The collection is organized in three series. Series I. Nursery and seed catalogs contains Theodore Payne nursery catalogs, including order forms, price-lists and plant information. Catalogs are arranged chronologically by publication date. Series II. Correspondence contains letters between Payne and Susanna Bixby Bryant and Philip A. Munz, organized chronologically. Series III. Articles and plant lists contains reprints of articles written by Payne for magazines and journals, as well as plant lists for several gardens. The series is arranged chronologically.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in three series:

Series I. Nursery and seed catalogs, 1909-1972, undated

Series II. Correspondence, 1925-1948

Series III. Articles and plant lists, 1913-2003, undated

Container List

Series I. Nursery and seed catalogs, 1909-1972, undated

Arrangement: Organized chronologically by date of publication.

- Box 1, Folder 1: *Seeds, Plants, Trees*, 36-page catalog, 1909
Box 1, Folder 2: *California Native Trees and Shrubs, Price List No.1*, 1 page pricelist, 1910
November 15
Box 1, Folder 3: *California Wild Flowers*, 20-page catalog, 1910
Box 1, Folder 4: *Bulbs for Fall and Winter Flowering Seeds for Fall Sowing*, 18-page booklet,
Fall 1911
Box 1, Folder 5: *Eucalyptus Timber Culture*, 8-page foldout, 1912
Box 1, Folder 6: *Seeds, Plants, Trees*, 60-page catalog, 1912
Box 1, Folder 7: *Bulbs*, 16-page pricelist, Fall 1913
Box 1, Folder 8: *California Native Trees, Price List No.2*, 1-page pricelist, 1913 April 1
Box 1, Folder 9: *California Native Trees, Price List No.3*, 4-page pricelist, 1913 October 15
Box 1, Folder 10: *California Native Trees, Price List No.4*, 4-page pricelist, 1914 November
15
Box 1, Folder 11: *California Wild Flowers*, 24-page catalog, 1914
Box 1, Folder 13: *Seeds, Plants, Trees*, 60-page catalog, 1914
Box 1, Folder 14: *Bulbs and Flower Seeds*, 16-page catalog, Fall 1915
Box 1, Folder 16: *Bulbs and Flower Seeds for Fall Planting Season*, 16-page pricelist, 1916
Box 1, Folder 17: *California Wild Flowers*, 24-page pricelist, 1916
Box 1, Folder 18: *Seeds, Plants, Trees*, 64-page catalog, 1916
Box 1, Folder 19: *California Native Plants, Price List No. 5*, 4-page pricelist, 1917 February 1
Box 1, Folder 20: *Seeds, Plants, and Trees*, 64-page catalog, 1917
Box 1, Folder 21: *Payne's Garden Guide: Seeds, Plants, & Trees*, 64-page catalog, 1918
Box 1, Folder 22: *Bulbs: Flower Seeds for Fall Planting of 1919*, 8-page pricelist, 1919
Box 1, Folder 23: *Payne's Garden Guide: Seeds, Plants, & Trees*, 64-page catalog, 1919
Box 1, Folder 24: *Bulbs: Flower Seeds for Fall Planting of 1920*, 8-page pricelist, 1920
Box 1, Folder 25: *Payne's Garden Guide: Seeds, Plants, & Trees*, 64-page catalog, 1920
Box 1, Folder 26: *Bulbs: Flower Seeds for Fall Planting of 1921*, 12-page pricelist, 1921
Box 1, Folder 27: *Payne's Garden Guide: Seeds, Plants, & Trees*, 64-page catalog, 1921
Box 1, Folder 28: *Bulbs and Flower Seeds for Fall Planting of 1922*, 16-page pricelist, 1922
Box 1, Folder 29: *Payne's Garden Guide: Seeds, Plants, & Trees*, 64-page catalog, 1922
Box 1, Folder 30: *Bulbs and Flower Seeds for Fall Planting of 1923*, 16-page pricelist, 1923
Box 1, Folder 31: *Payne's Garden Guide: Seeds, Plants, & Trees*, 64-page catalog, 1923
Box 1, Folder 32: *Bulbs and Flower Seeds for Fall Planting of 1924*, 16-page pricelist, 1924
Box 1, Folder 33: *Payne's Garden Guide: Seeds, Plants, & Trees*, 64-page catalog, 1924
Box 1, Folder 34: *Bulbs and Flower Seeds for Fall Planting of 1925*, 16-page pricelist, 1925
Box 1, Folder 35: *Payne's Garden Guide: Seeds, Plants, & Trees*, 64-page catalog, 1925
Box 1, Folder 36: *Bulbs and Flower Seeds for Fall Planting*, 32-page pricelist, 1926-1927
Box 1, Folder 37: *Payne's Garden Guide: Seeds, Plants, & Trees*, 64-page catalog, 1926
Box 1, Folder 38: *Bulbs and Flower Seeds for Fall Planting*, 32-page pricelist, 1927-1928
Box 1, Folder 39: *Payne's Garden Guide: Seeds, Plants, & Trees*, 64-page catalog, 1927
Box 1, Folder 40: *Bulbs and Flower Seeds for Fall Planting*, 46-page pricelist, 1928-1929
Box 1, Folder 41: *Payne's Garden Guide: Seeds, Plants, & Trees*, 64-page catalog, 1928

- Box 1, Folder 42: *The Hybrid Watsonia*, 6-page pricelist, 1929
- Box 1, Folder 43: *Payne's Garden Guide: Seeds, Plants, & Trees*, 64-page catalog, 1929
- Box 1, Folder 44: *Bulbs and Flower Seeds for Fall Planting*, 30-page pricelist, 1929-1930
- Box 1, Folder 45: *Payne's Garden Guide: Seeds, Plants, & Trees*, 64-page catalog, 1930
- Box 1, Folder 47: *Bulbs: Flower Seeds for Fall Planting*, 31-page pricelist, 1930-1931
- Box 1, Folder 48: *Payne's Garden Guide: Seeds, Plants, & Trees*, 64-page catalog, 1931
- Box 1, Folder 49: *The Vacant Lot and How to Beautify It*, 4-page article and pricelist, 1931
- Box 1, Folder 50: *Bulbs: Flower Seeds for Fall Planting*, 31-page pricelist, 1931-1932
- Box 1, Folder 51: *Bulbs and Flower Seeds for Fall and Winter Planting*, 31-page pricelist, 1932-1933
- Box 1, Folder 52: *Payne's Garden Guide: Seeds, Plants, & Trees*, 64-page catalog, 1932
- Box 1, Folder 53: *California Wild Flower Seeds*, 18-page pricelist, 1932
- Box 1, Folder 54: *California Wild Flower Seeds*, 18-page pricelist, 1936
- Box 1, Folder 55: *California Wild Flower Seeds*, 18-page pricelist, 1937
- Box 1, Folder 56: *California Wild Flower Seeds*, 22-page pricelist, 1940
- Box 1, Folder 57: *California Native Plants: Trees, Shrubs, Perennials*, 40-page article and price-list, 1941
- Box 1, Folder 58: *California Wild Flower Seeds: California Native Plants*, 24-page pricelist, Fall 1945-Spring 1946
- Box 1, Folder 59: *California Wild Flower Seeds: California Native Plants*, 31-page price-list, 1947
- Scope and contents note: Two copies.
- Box 1, Folder 60: *California Wild Flower Seeds: California Native Plants*, Fall 1947-Spring 1948
- Scope and contents note: Two copies.
- Box 1, Folder 61: *California Wild Flower Seeds: California Native Plants, California Centennial 1850-1950*, 22-page catalog, Fall 1949-Spring 1950
- Scope and contents note: Two copies.
- Box 1, Folder 63: *California Wild Flower Seeds: California Native Plants, California Centennial 1850-1950*, 22-page catalog, 1950-52
- Box 1, Folder 64: *California Wild Flower Seeds: California Native Plants, 50th Anniversary*, 27-page catalog, 1953
- Scope and contents note: Two copies.
- Box 1, Folder 71: *Seed and Plant List*, 18-page pricelist, 1972 April
- Scope and contents note: Two copies.
- Box 1, Folder 72: *Bullard Hybrid Watsonias*, 1 page advertisement, undated
- Box 1, Folder 73: *Descriptive Catalogue of Roses, Carnations, Chrysanthemums, Dahlias, Bulbs and Climbing Plants, Citrus and Deciduous Fruit Trees, Grape Vines, Small Fruits*, 16-page pricelist, undated
- Box 1, Folder 74: *New Orchid Flowering Sweet Peas*, 1-page pricelist, undated
- Box 1, Folder 75: *Payne's Flower Planting Chart*, 1 page, undated
- Box 1, Folder 76: *Payne's Flower Seeds for Fall and Winter Planting*, 8-page pricelist, undated
- Box 1, Folder 78: *Trade Price List of Tree, Shrub, Palm and Flower Seeds for Nurserymen and Florists*, 8-page pricelist, undated
- Box 1, Folder 79: *Twenty Annual Wild Flowers of California of Easy Culture*, 1-page pricelist, undated
- Box 1, Folder 80: *Watsonias: Mrs. Bullard's New Hybrids*, 8-page pricelist, undated

Series II: Correspondence, 1925-1948

Arrangement: Organized chronologically.

- Box 1, Folder 81: **Theodore Payne to Susanna Bixby Bryant, 1925 October 12**
Scope and contents note: Photocopy.
- Box 1, Folder 82: **Theodore Payne to Susanna Bixby Bryant, 1926 January 8**
- Box 1, Folder 83: **Susanna Bixby Bryant to Theodore Payne, 1926 February 17**
- Box 1, Folder 84: **Theodore Payne to Susanna Bixby Bryant, 1927 January 18**
- Box 1, Folder 85: **Susanna Bixby Bryant to Theodore Payne, 1928 October 23**
Scope and contents note: Includes plant order form.
- Box 1, Folder 86: **Theodore Payne to Susanna Bixby Bryant, 1928, December 12**
Scope and contents note: Includes invoice.
- Box 1, Folder 87: **Theodore Payne to Susanna Bixby Bryant, 1929 January 22**
- Box 1, Folder 88: **Susanna Bixby Bryant to Theodore Payne, 1930 October 6**
- Box 1, Folder 89: **Susanna Bixby Bryant to Theodore Payne, 1930 October 10**
- Box 1, Folder 90: **Theodore Payne to Susanna Bixby Bryant, 1930 October 18**
- Box 1, Folder 91: **Susanna Bixby Bryant to Theodore Payne, 1932 April 14**
- Box 1, Folder 92: **Theodore Payne to Susanna Bixby Bryant, 1932 April 20**
- Box 1, Folder 93: **Theodore Payne to Susanna Bixby Bryant, 1933 July 21**
Scope and contents note: Also includes copy of letter from C.K. Steele, Assistant Director in Charge of Bureau of Assessments.
- Box 1, Folder 94: **Susanna Bixby Bryant to Theodore Payne, 1933 July 25**
- Box 1, Folder 95: **Theodore Payne to Susanna Bixby Bryant, 1933 September 25**
- Box 1, Folder 96: **Secretary to Susanna Bixby Bryant to Theodore Payne, 1934 April 13**
- Box 1, Folder 99: **Theodore Payne to Philip A. Munz, 1948 April 20**
Scope and contents note: Photocopy. Includes undated *California Native Flower Seeds* catalog.

Series III: Articles and plant lists, 1913-2003, undated

Arrangement: Organized chronologically.

- Box 1, Folder 100: **"Extracts from address of Theodore Payne which helped to start the movement to beautify the state for 1915," 4-page booklet, 1913**
- Box 1, Folder 12: **"How to Beautify Your Town and County for 1915," 12-page article, 1914**
Scope and contents note: Two copies.
- Box 1, Folder 15: **"California Wild Flowers at Exposition Park" announcement, 1915**
- Box 1, Folder 46: **"A Record of the Activities of Theodore Payne, Selected for Representation in the Business World of California," 5-page booklet, 1930**
- Box 1, Folder 101: **Price lists, 1933-1941**
- Box 1, Folder 97: **"California Institute of Technology: List of Plants in Native Garden," 1939 June**
- Box 1, Folder 98: **"Mr. Payne's List of Plants for Herb Gardens," 7-page typed list with annotations, 1939 October**
- Box 1, Folder 62: **"History of the Introductions of Three California Natives," *Aliso* 2(2), 6-**

page reprint, 1950 March 15

Box 1, Folder 65: *Bring Back the Wild Flowers*, 4-page pamphlet, 1955

Box 1, Folder 66: "California Wild Flowers for California Gardens," *Golden Gardens*, 2-page reprint, 1955 October

Box 1, Folder 67: "Azalea Flowered Nectarine 'Alma Stultz'," *Golden Gardens*, 3-page reprint, 1956 August

Box 1, Folder 68: "Rare Trees in Elysian Park," *LASCA Leaves* 6(4), 3-page reprint, 1956

Box 1, Folder 69: "Eucalyptus in California," *Golden Gardens*, 3-page reprint, 1957 January

Box 1, Folder 70: "The Urgent Need of California Wild Flower Preserves," *Golden Gardens*, 3-page reprint, 1957 September

Scope and contents note: Two copies.

Box 1, Folder 102: **Centennial Celebration program booklet, 2003**

Scope and contents note: Two copies.

Box 1, Folder 77: "Plant Native Shrubs to Prevent Soil Erosion," *Golden Gardens*, 2-page reprint, undated