



**Finding aid to the  
Joseph Ewan files for a flora  
of the San Gabriel Mountains,  
1940-2016, undated**

**California Botanic Garden  
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<https://www.calbg.org>**

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## Descriptive Summary

**Title:** Joseph Ewan files for a flora of the San Gabriel Mountains

**Dates:** 1940-2016, undated (bulk 1940-1942)

**Collection Identifier:** MS.12

**Creator:** Ewan, Joseph, 1909-1999

**Extent:** 1.9 linear feet (3 boxes)

**Abstract:** The collection consists of a manuscript, notes, and transparencies and negatives compiled around 1942 by American botanist Joseph Ewan (1909-1999) for an unpublished flora of the San Gabriel Mountains in Southern California, and a small biographical file on Ewan.

**Finding aid author:** Rachel Poutasse

**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.

**Preferred Citation:** Joseph Ewan files for a flora of the San Gabriel Mountains, 1940-2016, MS.12, California Botanic Garden, Claremont, California, 91711.

**Publication rights:** Copyright of most materials in this collection is held by the creator. Consult the Librarian for details.

**Processing Information:** The collection was initially inventoried by Joe Pham in 2016. In 2021, the collection was processed by Rachel Poutasse. Elsie Voong rehoused transparencies and negatives. The finding aid was written in 2021 by Rachel Poutasse.

**Related Material:** A set of six topographic maps of the San Gabriel Mountains have been transferred to the California Botanic Garden map collection. One reprint by Ewan has been transferred to general collections.

## **Indexing Terms**

### **Contributors**

Ewan, Joseph, 1909-1999

### **Subjects - Topics**

Botany--San Gabriel Mountains (Calif.)

### **Genres and Forms of Materials**

Manuscripts (documents)

Black-and-white transparencies

## Biographical Note

Joseph Andorfer Ewan was born in Philadelphia in 1909. His family moved to the Los Angeles area in 1912. In 1928, he studied botany at the University of California Los Angeles and then transferred to Berkeley in 1933, where he received his Bachelor of Arts and worked as assistant to Willis Linn Jepson on *A Flora of California*. He married Ada Nesta Dunn in 1935. They left California in 1937 and moved to the University of Colorado Boulder, where Ewan worked as an instructor. During World War II, he served in the U.S. Foreign Economic Administration in South America, and worked briefly at the Smithsonian and U.S. Department of Agriculture. In 1947, Ewan was appointed Assistant Professor of Botany at Tulane University. He became Associate Professor in 1952, Professor in 1957, and Chair of Botany in 1972. He retired in 1977.

Over the course of his career, Ewan published over 400 works, with a special focus on the history of botany in the United States. His systematic research interests included *Delphinium*, *Gentianaceae*, *Macrocarpaea*, and *Vismia*. Along with his wife Nesta, Ewan also compiled a large library on natural history, which was purchased by Missouri Botanical Garden in 1986.

Ewan died in Mandeville, Louisiana in 1999.

Sources:

Crotz, Keith. *Ewaniana: The Writings of Joe and Nesta Ewan*. Chillicothe, Illinois: The American Botanist, Booksellers, 1989.

Dorr, Lawrence J. "Joseph Andorfer Ewan (1909-1999)." *Taxon* 49, no. 1 (2000): 107-112.

## Scope and Content of the Collection

The collection consists of an unpublished manuscript and notes by Joseph Ewan titled *Flora Gabrielensis*, written around 1942 while Ewan was teaching botany at the University of Colorado Boulder. The manuscript is based on a series of collecting trips by Ewan to the San Gabriel Mountains from 1926 to 1937. The manuscript is divided into eight sections and two appendices, following Ewan's original organization. Most sections contain a mixture of handwritten notes and typescripts. Also included are nearly sixty black-and-white transparencies, negatives, and photographs depicting plant specimens and magnifications of specimens by Ewan and others, and a small research file on Ewan and earlier collection inventories.

## **Arrangement**

The collection is arranged in one series.

Series I. Files for a flora of the San Gabriel Mountains, 1940-2016, undated

## Container List

### Series I. Files for a flora of the San Gabriel Mountains, 1940-2016, undated

- Box 1, Folder 1: **Flora Gabrielensis Part I: Introduction, circa 1942**
- Box 1, Folder 2: **Flora Gabrielensis Part II: History, circa 1942**
- Box 1, Folder 3: **Flora Gabrielensis Part III: Topography, circa 1942**
- Box 1, Folder 4: **Flora Gabrielensis Part IV: Geology, circa 1942**
- Box 1, Folder 5: **Flora Gabrielensis Part V: Floristics, circa 1942**
- Box 1, Folder 6: **Flora Gabrielensis Part VI: Ecology, circa 1942**
- Box 1, Folder 7: **Flora Gabrielensis Part VIIA: *Ophioglossaceae-Juncaceae*, circa 1942**
- Box 1, Folder 8-9: **Flora Gabrielensis Part VIIB: *Liliaceae-Nyctaginaceae*, circa 1942**
- Box 1, Folder 10-13: **Flora Gabrielensis Part VIIC: *Berberidaceae-Cornaceae*, circa 1942**
- Box 1, Folder 14-17: **Flora Gabrielensis Part VIID: *Ericaceae-Caprifoliaceae*, circa 1942**
- Box 1, Folder 18-21: **Flora Gabrielensis Part VIIE: *Compositae*, circa 1942**
- Box 1, Folder 22: **Flora Gabrielensis Part VIII: Appendix A, Roster of Collections, circa 1942**
- Box 1, Folder 23: **Flora Gabrielensis Part VIII: Appendix B, Gazetteer, circa 1942**
- Box 1, Folder 24: **Flora Gabrielensis Part VIII: Bibliography, circa 1942**
- Box 1, Folder 25: **Collection inventory and biographical documents on Ewan, 1999-2016**
- Box 2-3: **Black-and-white negatives, transparencies, and photographs of plant collections by Ewan and others, 1940-1941, undated**