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Charles H. Demetrio botanical notebooks

Title: Charles H. Demetrio botanical notebooks
Collection No: MSS.415
Extent: 0.25 cubic feet
Inclusive Dates: undated

Abstract: The collection consists of Rev. Charles H. Demetrio's botanical notebooks containing lists and descriptions of mosses, liverworts, and ferns.

Donor: Christopher E. Adams, Memphis, Tennessee, May 1991.
Processed by: James E. Montague, 2002; Gerald Chaudron, 2014.
Access: Open to all researchers.
Language: English
Preferred Citation: Charles H. Demetrio botanical notebooks, Special Collections Department, University Libraries, University of Memphis.

Publication date: July 2014

Biographical information

Carl “Charles” Hermann Demetrio was born on December 24, 1845, in Eisenberg, Saxony-Altenburg, the only child of Carl and Christina Demetrio. Carl, Jr., later claimed his grandfather was a Greek cavalry officer who served Napoleon. Educated in Germany where he received botanical training, he migrated to the United States and entered Concordia Seminary in St. Louis in 1867. In 1869 he became the pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Perryville, Missouri, and then served as pastor of Holy Cross Church in Emma, Missouri, from 1886 until his retirement in June 1927.

Demetrio married Emma Sophia Kruse (1851-1934) of Ste. Genevieve, Missouri, on October 25, 1872, and the couple had nine children. After retiring, Demetrio moved to Memphis, Tennessee, to live with his son Edwin. He died on July 6, 1936 and was buried in Emma.

Demetrio’s hobby was botany, through which he achieved international regard as an authority on lichens and mosses. Noted botanists from all over the world corresponded with him and he had several mosses named after him. He was a member of the Botanical Association of America, the Torrey Botanical Club, the American Moss Society, and the Bronx Botanical Club among other botanical organizations. He was offered professorships in three universities but chose to remain in the ministry.

Scope and contents

The collection consists of two of Charles H. Demetrio’s botanical notebooks which were found in a house in Memphis and are in fragile condition. The notebooks contain lists and descriptions of mosses, liverworts, and ferns.

Subject terms

Botany—Research—United States.
Demetrio, Charles H., 1845-1936.

Inventory

Notebooks (2): Botanical research of Charles H. Demetrio, undated.