

Chicago Academy of Sciences / Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum
ARCHIVES – FINDING AID

Collection Title: Dr. Harry D. Sicher Papers

Creator: Sicher, Harry D. (1889-1974)

Dates: 1948-1967, undated, 1950-1967 (bulk)

Language: English

Extent: 1 Linear Foot (1 manuscript box, 1 flat storage box, 1 brown non-archival box)

Level of Description: Folder Level

Repository: Museum Collections and Archives, Chicago Academy of Sciences /Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, Chicago, Illinois.

Access Conditions: Open for research.

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Citation: Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [item], [folder], [box], Dr. Harry D. Sicher Papers, Chicago Academy of Sciences / Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum.

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Biographical Sketch: Dr. Harry D. Sicher was born on September 11, 1889 in Vienna, Austria. He graduated from the Vienna University Medical School with his medical degree in 1913, after which he decided to specialize in dentistry. He had studied under Professor Julius Tandler in the Department of Applied Anatomy while in medical school, so utilized this cross training in his study of dentistry. He had a clinical practice and taught in the Dental Department of the Vienna University Medical School from 1914-1920. He also served in the medical corps of the Austrian Army during World War I for three years. In 1920, Sicher was promoted to Assistant Professor and continued to teach until 1938 when he

was dismissed from the university due to his Jewish faith and Hitler’s annexation of Austria. He first tried to immigrate to Great Britain, but at the time Austrian dentists were not allowed to practice in the country. As a result, in 1939 he immigrated to the United States instead, specifically to Chicago, Illinois, where he was employed as an Associate Professor of Neuroanatomy at the Chicago Medical School. In 1942, he took the post of Professor and Head of the Department at the Loyola School of Dentistry. He stayed at Loyola until he retired in 1960. Between 1911 and 1970, Dr. Sicher published about 145 scientific articles and six textbooks, most focused on the field of oral anatomy.

In addition to his medical pursuits, Dr. Sicher was also an avid entomologist, specifically dealing with the order Lepidoptera, with a focus on moths and butterflies. With his second wife, Elsey Sicher, he collected thousands of specimens from all over the world, always taking their collecting gear with them when traveling, even when the travel was for a medical lecture or conference. In a newspaper article published during a 1964 visit to Australia, she is quoted as saying, “Our collection is displayed in glass – topped boxes that are stored in cabinets. We take up half the bedroom with cabinets!” A large part of the collection, including specimens intended for exchange, was donated to the Chicago Academy of Sciences in 1971.

Scope and Content: The focus of the materials is on photographic elements. The majority of the materials are related to Sicher’s travels and collections trips that extended all around the world.

Series Description:

Series 1: Personal (1964, undated)

This small series includes materials related to his travel and hobbies, specifically his interest in Lepidoptera. The small cards in sub-series 2, Hobbies, may match the butterfly images found in the butterfly images in the 35mm slides.

Series 2: Photography (1948-1967, undated)

This is largest series in the collection. It is divided into seven sub-series, Photographic Prints, Transparencies, View-Master Sleeves, Photograph Albums, Lantern Slides, Stereoscope Transparencies, and 35mm slides. The images found in these forms are focused on people and specimens. The people found within the images are focused on Harry Sicher and his award or collection trips. Included is also a purchased a set of ‘View-Master’ cards of the Butterflies of North America.

Container List:

Box 1			
Series 1: Personal (1964, undated)			
<i>Sub-series 1: Travel</i>			
	1	Certificates for Crossing Equator in B.O.A.C. airplane – Harry Sicher and Elsey Sicher	August 22, 1964
	2	Newspaper Clippings – Archival Copy	1964, undated
<i>Sub-series 2: Hobbies</i>			
	3	Entomology – Cards (Possibly correlate to Butterfly slides,	undated

		302.PhotoCart. Sicher Box)	
Series 2: Photography			
Sub-series 1: Photographic Prints			
	1	People – Identified - Family (1 black and white print) (mostly unidentified, couple in center of photo are Elsey and Harry Sicher)	undated
	2	People – Identified – Harry Sicher (4 black and white prints), two headshots, one image of Sicher seated stirring a spoon in a cup, and one of Sicher standing in tuxedo, “New York, Feb. 67” [back of print]	1967, undated
	3	<p>People – Identified – Trips (3 black and white prints)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - From Rendevouz Portraits folder: (1 black and white print) (L to R: Luz Macapanpan, Victorino G. Villa, Felisa Turla, Harry Sicher, Elsey Sicher, Virginia Malabanan, Dean Jose D. Rodriguez, Romalo Malabanan) - From “Sulo” folder: (1 black and white print) (L to R: Dean Jose Rodriguez – U. of Phil., Harry Sicher, Dr. Agaton A. Ursua – President Phil. Dental Assn., Col. Vivencio Santos – Chief Dental Science AFP, Dr. Faustini Turla – Former Camieder, Quezon City, Col. Agustin Zarate – Retired) - From “Sulo” folder: (1 black and white print) (L to R: Dr. V.G. Villa, Dr. G.B. Felizando, Dr. Felisa Sta Ana Turla, Mrs. H. Sicher, Dean J.D. Rodriquez, Dr. H. Sicher) 	September 27, 1964, undated
	4	Specimens - Entomology (3 color prints) (unidentified)	undated
	5	Specimens – Mammalogy - Gorilla (2 black and white prints) “Bushman, Lincoln Pk Zoo” (handwritten, black ink, back of both prints)	undated
Sub-series 2: Transparencies			
	6	People – Identified – Harry Sicher (5 color acetate transparencies)	undated
	7	People – Unidentified – 2 color acetate transparencies of unidentified woman sitting on couch leaning over pinned specimens, “3230002 KODAK SAFETY FILM” [edges of transparencies]	undated
	8	Specimens – Entomology – 1 color acetate transparency of box of pinned butterfly specimens on couch with loose specimen in front, “KODAK SAFETY FILM 3230002” [edges of transparency], 4 color acetate transparencies of close-up of pinned butterfly, “85 EKTACHROME SAFETY” [edges of transparencies]	undated
Sub-series 3: View-Master Sleeves			
	9	Butterflies of North America – envelope, instructions, 3 wheels: 890-A-C	1955
Box 2			
Series 2: Photography (1948-1967, undated)			
Sub-series 4: Photograph Albums			

1	Orange photograph album "Butterflies & trips for butterflies"	
	Inside front cover: 1 black and white print, Harry Sicher seated holding magnifying glass over pinned entomological specimens	undated
	Page 2: top to bottom, left to right: 1 black and white print: Harry Sicher standing in open area of grass with trees behind; 1 color print: Unidentified woman leaning over with butterfly specimens behind; 1 color print: Harry Sicher sitting cross-legged holding open book of butterflies with mounted butterfly specimens behind; 2 black and white prints: Harry and Mrs. Sicher seated in car of "Manitou Incline Railway" on June 18, 1950 (second print under first)	1950, undated
	Page 3: top to bottom, left to right: 1 color print, duplicate of one on page 2: Harry Sicher sitting cross-legged holding open book of butterflies with mount specimens behind; 1 black and white print: Harry Sicher standing, profile, in front of cabin, "New Salem, Ill" [back of print]; 1 color kodachrome print: Lydia Sicher (?) wearing colored bandana on head outdoors "THIS IS A, KODACHROME PRINT, MADE BY, EASTMAN KODAK COMPANY, T.M. REGIS. U.S. PAT. OFF., WEEK of May 5, 1952 2" [back of print]; 1 black and white print: Harry Sicher standing next to wood fence with cabin behind, "New Salem, Ill." [back of print]; 1 color kodachrome print: Harry Sicher standing in front of stream holding butterfly net, "THIS IS A, KODACHROME PRINT, MADE BY, EASTMAN KODAK COMPANY, T.M. REGIS. U.S. PAT. OFF., Week of Nov. 12, 1951" [back of photograph]; 1 black and white print: Sicher standing in thicket area placing specimen in glassine envelope; 1 black and white print: 1 black and white print: Harry Sicher standing in overgrown field with young trees behind holding butterfly net	ca. 1951-1952, undated
	Page 4: top to bottom, left to right: 1 black and white print: Profile head shot of Harry Sicher, "F.W., 1954" [front of print, LRC]; 1 black and white print: head shot of Lydia Sicher (?) sitting in backseat of automobile; 1 black and white print: Harry Sicher standing in front of large fireplace holding long metal pole wearing apron; 1 color kodachrome print: three people, 2 women and Harry Sicher standing in ocean, "THIS IS A, KODACHROME PRINT, MADE BY, EASTMAN KODAK COMPANY, T.M. REGIS. U.S. PAT. OFF., Week of May 5, 1952 2" [back of photograph]; 1 color kodachrome print: Harry Sicher standing in front railroad station, "THIS IS A, KODACHROME PRINT, MADE BY, EASTMAN KODAK COMPANY, T.M. REGIS. U.S. PAT. OFF., Week of May 5, 1952"	ca. 1952, undated

		[back of photograph]	
		Page 5: top to bottom, left to right: 1 black and white print: Unidentified woman standing holding snake in arms, "...December, The gray rat snake. On of the most persistent rodent destroyers known. One in captivity for 12 years in my own personal collection consumed 3,120 mice in 12 years" [back of photograph]; 1 black and white print: Unidentified woman (possibly Lydia Sicher) standing on dirt road, barefoot, holding shoes and bag, "Southland how I loves ya – The love of warm earth beneath barefeet" [back of photograph]; 1 black and white print: Unidentified woman standing next to sign holding snake "Beimler Institute, Scientific Exhibition, Living Biological Wonders, Snakes", "To the Institute we awe the wonderful privilege of having met Dr. and Mrs. Harry Sicher" [back of photograph]; 1 black and white print: house surrounded by banana trees, palms, and pampas grass; 1 black and white print: palm tree forest with coconut on ground in foreground; 1 black and white print: Gabrielle leaning over outdoors, "For gosh sakes!! Look at the beautiful lizard. Gabrielle has just uncovered a lizard in this shot" [back of print]	undated
		Page 6: top to bottom, left to right: 2 black and white prints, the second under the first: Harry Sicher sitting in "Manitou Incline Railway" car "June 19, 1954"; 1 color photograph: Four adults and one boy standing outside, the adults holding butterfly nets, Unidentified woman with boy, Lydia Sicher (?) and Harry Sicher, "Puerto Rico" [back of photograph]; 1 color print: Two adults and one boy standing outside, unidentified man with boy with Harry Sicher, "Puerto Rico" [back of print]	1954, undated
		Page 8: top to bottom, left to right: 1 black and white print: Mrs. Sicher sitting next to Harry Sicher on wooden raft on river; 1 black and white print: 1 black and white print: Mrs. and Harry Sicher sitting on wooden raft on river with guide with pole; 1 black and white print: Mrs. and Harry Sicher sitting on wooden raft on river with guide with pole; 1 color print: Mr. Sicher sitting on picnic blanket with Mrs Elsey (?) Sicher, "Mts. Outside of Denver, Col., 1963";	
		Page 9: Mrs. Elsey Sicher sitting next to Harry Sicher in between two Asian men at a Japanese restaurant	
Brown Box (302.Photo Cart.Sicher Box, found housing)			
Series 2: Photography			
<i>Sub-series 5: Lantern Slides (302.Photo Cart.Sicher Box, need to be inventoried/ rehoused)</i>			
		5 color glass transparencies in Kodak box (need to be processed)	undated

<i>Sub-series 6: Stereoscope Transparencies (302.Photo Cart.Sicher Box, need to be inventoried/ rehoused)</i>		
	10 color stereopticon transparencies mounted in paper – Elsey Sicher, Harry Sicher, Specimens – in Kodaslide box	1948-1950, undated
<i>Sub-series 7: 35mm Slides (302.Photo Cart.Sicher Box, need to be inventoried/ rehoused)</i>		
	44 color 35mm slides of butterflies in box “Butterflies, Best”	undated
	28 color 35mm slides in “Color Transparencies” box with no outer box	1964
	6 color 35mm slides in “Dr. Sicher” box	undated
	20 color 35mm slides in “Mounted Color Transparencies” box	undated
	13 color 35 mm slides – Elsey Sicher – in “Sicher” box	undated
	7 color 35mm slides – Elsey Sicher, Specimens, in “Sicher” box	undated
	9 color 35mm slides – Butterfly collecting in Japan – in white envelope	October 2, 1964