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[Margarita Silva-Hutner Collection](#)

SILVA-HUTNER, MARGARITA, 1915-2002.

Margarita Silva-Hutner Medical Mycology Laboratory Collection, 1929-1996 (bulk 1948-1988)

7.25 cubic feet (23 document boxes, 1 flat box)

#M-0168

SUMMARY: Records of the Medical Mycology Laboratory, Department of Dermatology, Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center, and personal papers of Margarita Silva-Hutner, who was Director of the Laboratory, 1956-1981. Included are correspondence, annual reports, lectures, manuscripts of articles, and biographical materials

DEPARTMENTAL HISTORY: The Mycology Laboratory of the Department of Dermatology was established in 1926 by J. Gardner Hopkins, Chairman of the department at Presbyterian Hospital and Professor at the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. It was the first laboratory in the world exclusively devoted to the study of fungi pathogenic to animals and humans.

In 1929, a \$50,000 grant from the Rockefeller Foundation enabled the lab to establish a training fellowship in medical mycology. Early recipients included such future leaders in the field as Arturo L. Carrión, Chester Emmons, Elizabeth L. Hazen, and Mary Ellen Hopper. The Laboratory established the first courses in medical mycology taught in the U.S. and throughout the lab's history, teaching has been a major component of its mission.

The Mycology Laboratory helped develop effective medications to treat fungal infections in American soldiers serving in the South Pacific during World War II. Elizabeth L. Hazen, while working in the Lab in the 1950s, discovered (with Rachel Brown) Nystatin, the first antibiotic to effectively treat fungal diseases.

In 1927, Hopkins hired Columbia botany graduate student, Rhoda Williams Benham (1894-1957), to be the Lab's first full-time mycologist. Benham eventually served as Laboratory Director before retiring in 1956. Margarita Silva-Hutner succeeded her and remained Director until 1981.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE: Margarita Silva-Hutner was born Nov. 28, 1915, in Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico. After receiving her B.A. from the University of Puerto Rico in 1936, she worked for several years with Arturo L. Carrión at the Columbia University School of Tropical Medicine in San Juan. In the late 1940s she entered Harvard, doing graduate work in botany under William H. Weston. She received her doctorate in 1952.

Silva began working at the Mycology Laboratory as a Research Associate in 1950, becoming Director of the Laboratory and Assistant Professor of Dermatology in the College of Physicians & Surgeons in 1956. She was promoted to Associate Professor in 1963. Though Silva-Hutner retired in 1981, she remained on the faculty of P&S as a Special Lecturer into the late 1980s. In 1956 she married Seymour H. Hutner. She died in New York City, February 6, 2002.

ORGANIZATION: Organized in 9 series: I. Historical/Biographical; II. General Correspondence; III. Subject Files; IV. Research Grants; V. Training Grants; VI. Teaching & Lectures; VII. Manuscripts; VIII. Professional Organizations; IX. Accession 2003.07.10.

SCOPE AND CONTENT: The collection includes both the official records of the Mycology Laboratory of the Department of Dermatology at Columbia-Presbyterian and also personal papers of Silva-Hutner. They document both the Laboratory in particular and the field of medical mycology in general during the latter half of the 20th century.

Silva-Hutner's papers are not separate from the Lab records, but rather intermixed with them. They pertain entirely to her professional life. Researchers should be aware that Series IX, received after Silva-Hutner's death, covers many topics found in earlier series.

SERIES I. HISTORICAL/BIOGRAPHICAL: Included are histories of the Mycology Laboratory and figures associated with it, including Rhoda Williams Benham, Elizabeth L. Hazen, J. Gardner Hopkins, and others. Minutes of meetings (1982-83) of an unidentified group devoted to the history of medical mycology can be found in Box 1:1. There is also extensive material on Arturo L. Carrión, Silva-Hutner's early mentor, who taught at the Columbia University School of Tropical Medicine in Puerto Rico. Included is correspondence, 1948-1981, between Carrión and Silva-Hutner; reprints of Carrión's scientific publications, 1929-1969; and lecture notes.

SERIES II. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE: Incoming correspondence from colleagues in academia and in the pharmaceutical industry; professional organizations; and government agencies. Silva-Hutner's outgoing responses are usually included. While there is correspondence with Columbia-Presbyterian figures, the bulk is from outside the Medical Center. Correspondence is organized alphabetically by correspondent's surname.

SERIES III. SUBJECT FILES: Files relating to the daily administration of the Mycology Laboratory. Of particular interest are the Lab's annual reports for 1955-1981. They document each year's research work, publications, and personnel changes. Other topics include consultations the Laboratory did for hospitals, industry, and government; requests for cultures; and information on laboratory techniques.

SERIES IV. RESEARCH GRANTS: Usually includes proposals, budgets, resumes of the investigators, progress reports, and correspondence with the granting agency. Much of the

correspondence is with the Brown-Hazen Fund, which had been created to distribute the royalties from nystatin to support research and training in microbiology and biochemistry.

SERIES V. TRAINING GRANTS: Largely biographical material on and correspondence with the graduate level trainees who worked in the Medical Mycology Laboratory, 1950s-1970s. The correspondence often continues well after the trainees had finished their internship at the Lab.

SERIES VI. TEACHING & LECTURES: The bulk of the series is made up of 22 lectures on medical mycology given, often multiple times, by Silva-Hutner from the 1950s into the 1980s. The lecture files sometimes contain the transcript of the lecture, but often include only rough notes, photocopies of relevant scientific literature, and photographs.

SERIES VII. MANUSCRIPTS: Included are Silva-Hutner's comments on scientific articles as part of the peer-review process; her reviews of grant applications; and manuscripts of her own articles, talks, and book chapters. The files may often include correspondence with editors and collaborators.

SERIES VIII. PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS: Correspondence, minutes, and publications of several professional organizations in which Silva-Hutner was active. Perhaps the most significant material relates to the founding of the Medical Mycological Society of the Americas (1966) in which Silva-Hutner played an active role. Other organizations for which records are present are the American Society for Microbiology (both the national organization and the New York City branch), and the Medical Mycology Society of New York.

SERIES IX. ACCESSION 2003.07.10: Papers received after Silva-Hutner's death. Unlike the earlier accession, this addition largely documents Silva-Hutner's career. The papers include biographical materials; professional correspondence; educational materials, especially student notebooks from her doctoral studies at Radcliffe/Harvard; laboratory manuals; a diary; her reprints and other publications; photographs; and diplomas and certificates.

There is substantial correspondence with her two academic mentors, Arturo L. Carrión and William H. Weston, and additional biographical materials relating to Rhoda Williams Benham.

LANGUAGE: English and Spanish.

PROVENANCE: Upon her retirement, Silva-Hutner took the records of her tenure as Laboratory Director to her home with the permission of the dermatology department. She continued to add to the collection, largely biographical and historical material relating to the Laboratory, and publications of professional organizations before donating it to Columbia

in 1995 (acc.#1995.12.01). Series IX was donated by her son, Reed Hutner (acc.#2003.07.10).

SUBJECTS

Benham, Rhoda Williams, 1894-
Carrión, Arturo L., 1893-
Silva-Hutner, Margarita, 1915-2002.
Weston, William H., 1890-
American Society for Microbiology.
Columbia University. College of Physicians and Surgeons. Dept. of Dermatology.
Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center.
Medical Mycological Society of the Americas.
Medical Mycology Society of New York.
Medical mycology – United States – History.
Mycologists.
Puerto Ricans – New York (State) – New York.
Women – Puerto Rico.
Diaries.
Laboratory notebooks.
Notebooks.
Photographs.
Reprints.

Box 1

SERIES I: HISTORICAL/BIOGRAPHICAL

- 1 Mycology laboratory history, 1929-1983
- 2 Dedication "Hopkins-Benham Laboratory for Medical Mycology,
May 8, 1967
- Rhoda Williams Benham.
- 3 Biographical file.
- 4 "Dedication" 1967 and "Medallion" 1969
- 5 "Laboratory procedures in diagnostic medical mycology"
May 1945
- 6 Correspondence regarding laboratory methods and result, 1944
- 7 Correspondence and notes for lectures, 1944
- 8 Lectures and notebooks (n.d.)
- 9 Syllabus "Course in medical mycology" Benham, DeLameter,
Hopper (n.d.)
- 10 Correspondence regarding Silva's employment, 1938-1955
- Arturo L. Carrión
- 11 Biographical file
- 12 Curriculum vitae and photographs
- 13 Lecture notes "Chromoblastomycosis" (n.d.)
- 14 Correspondence regarding *Cephalosporium falciforme*, 1955
- 15 Manuscript "The Mycology of Chromoblastomycosis" (n.d.)
- 16-18 Correspondence regarding "Black yeast," 1949-1959
- 19 Correspondence regarding *Phialophora jeanselmei*, 1956

Box 2

- Arturo L. Carrión
- 1 Requests for the reprint "Sporotrichosis" by Carrión and Silva,
1955
- 2 Correspondence with Silva, 1948-1981
- 3-4 Reprints by Carrión, 1929-1969
- 5 Biographical file - Bernard Ogilvie Dodge
- 6 Biographical file - Elizabeth L. Hazen
- 7 Biographical file - Joseph Gardner Hopkins

Silva-Hutner, Margarita
Medical Mycology Laboratory Collection, 1929-1994

Box 3

SERIES II: GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| 1 | Correspondence 'A', 1952-1986 |
| 2 | Correspondence 'B', 1951-1981 |
| 3 | Correspondence 'C', 1952-1979 |
| 4 | Correspondence 'D', 1955-1986 |
| 5 | Correspondence 'E', 1958-1980 |
| 6 | Correspondence 'F', 1957-1981 |
| 7 | Correspondence 'G', 1951-1981 |
| 8 | Correspondence 'H', 1950-1981 |

Box 4

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|----|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | Correspondence 'I', 1956-1960 |
| 2 | Correspondence 'J', 1958-1969 |
| 3 | Correspondence 'K', 1959-1987 |
| 4 | Correspondence 'L', 1956-1984 |
| 5 | Correspondence 'M', 1959-1981 |
| 6 | Correspondence 'N-O', 1951-1987 |
| 7 | Correspondence 'P-Q', 1955-1982 |
| 8 | Correspondence 'R', 1955-1983 |
| 9 | Correspondence 'S', 1956-1983 |
| 10 | Correspondence 'T-U-V', 1956-1982 |

Box 5

- | | |
|-----|---|
| 1 | Correspondence 'W-X-Y', 1952-1988 |
| 2-3 | Correspondence, 1973-1988 |
| 4 | Correspondence with Donald W. MacKenzie, 1964-1974 |
| 5 | Correspondence with Z.T. Mankowski, 1952-1971 |
| 6 | Correspondence with J. Dennis Pollack, 1959-1970 |
| 7 | Correspondence with Frederick Reiss, 1966-1968 |
| 8 | Correspondence with Samuel B. Salvin, 1958-1960 |
| 9 | Correspondence with E.R. Squibb & Sons, 1952-1956 |
| 10 | Letters of recommendation, 1957-1988 |
| 11 | Correspondence with former employees 'I-Z', 1957-1980 |

SERIES III: SUBJECT FILES

- | | |
|-------|------------------------------|
| 12-27 | Annual Reports, 1955/56-1971 |
|-------|------------------------------|

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Medical Mycology Laboratory Collection, 1929-1994

Box 6

- 1-10 Annual Reports, 1972-1981
- 11 Consultations, 1953-1981
- 12-13 Consultations (outside), 1961-1969; 1985
- 14 Consultations for Center for Disease Control, 1952-1954; 1973
- 15 Consultations for Indonesia, 1966
- 16 Consultations for The Squibb Institute, 1957-1958
- 17 Consultation reports pending and cultures referred, 1962-1983
- 18 Consultation lectures, 1977-1978
- 19 Cryptococcosis diagnosed at CPMC, 1945-1970
- 20 Cultures distributed to other labs, 1958-1981
- 18 Culture requests, 1950-1958, 1980
- 19 Culture requests, 1956-1960

Box 7

- 1-4 Culture requests, 1960-1973
- 5 Notes on therapeutic methods for dermatophytosis infections and lab growth culture conditions for dermatophytes, 1948-1955
- 6 Laboratory administration, 1975-1982
- 7 Laboratory techniques "useful" (n.d.)
- 8 Laboratory techniques "Fungal serology" 1971-1973
- 9 Laboratory techniques "Sporo" reprints, 1974
- 10 Laboratory techniques "sporo skin test" (n.d. - unpub)
- 11 Laboratory techniques "prep of antigen" (n.d. - unpub)
- 12 Laboratory techniques "yeast protoblasts" (n.d. - unpub)
- 13 NYC Department of Health: questionnaire re: departmental exams, 1968
- 14 Proficiency testing, 1978-1979

Box 8

SERIES IV: RESEARCH GRANTS

- 1 National Institutes of Health, 1962-1969
- 2 U.S. Government, "Mechanisms of pathogenicity of *Candida albicans*," 1957-1961
- 3 "Shell membrane project," 1950-1959
- 4 Progress reports: Studies on the nutritional requirements of pathogenic fungi, 1950-1956
- 5 Progress reports: Studies on *Dermatophytes*, 1950-1964
- 6 Brown-Hazen Fund correspondence with Gilbert Dalldorf, 1974-1977
- 7 Brown-Hazen Fund correspondence with Elizabeth Hazen, 1972-1973

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Box 8 (cont'd)

- 8 Brown-Hazen Fund correspondence, 1963-1973
- 9 Bourke Foundation progress report on *Candida*, 1975-1977
- 10 Research Corporation, Mycology status survey, 1970

SERIES V: TRAINING GRANTS

- 11 Correspondence regarding training mycologists, 1963-1967
- 12 Approval by NYC Dept. of Health, 1979
- 13 Visiting students, 1965-1972

Box 9

- 1 Visiting professionals, 1956-1976
- 2 Training applicants, 1967-1985; brochure *A career in mycology*
- 3 Trainees, 1956-1975
- 4 Trainee Rita Acharya, 1979-1981
- 5 Trainee Helen R. Buckley, 1961-1978
- 6 Trainee Claude de Bievre, 1971-1972
- 7 Trainee Asrat Deressa, 1967-1969
- 8 Trainee Henriette Haaland, 1956-1958
- 9 Trainee Prakash G. Kadkade, 1966-1974
- 10 Trainee William G. Merz, 1967-1973
- 11 Trainee Esther Meyer, 1975
- 12 Trainee Yutaka Nishioka, 1968-1974
- 13 Trainee Yoshinori Nozawa, 1968-1970
- 14 Trainee Edith Lea Schnall, 1974-1975
- 15 Trainee Luiz R. Travassos, 1970-1980

SERIES VI: TEACHING & LECTURES

Medical mycology courses, 1951-1982.

- 16 Class log, 1956-1968
- 17 Teaching plans, 1950-1981
- 18-22 Examinations and class notes, 1951-1955

Box 10

- 1-25 Examinations and class notes, 1956-1982
- 26-29 Lectures, #1-3, 1956-1971

Silva-Hutner, Margarita
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Box 11

1-14 Lectures, #4-22, 1950s-1980s

Box 12

Invitational lectures, 1940-1969.

- 1-2 "Fungus pathogens observed in Puerto Rico"
School of Tropical Medicine, San Juan, Puerto Rico, 1940
- 3 "Diagnosis and treatment of actinomycosis"
College of Physicians & Surgeons, 1955
- 4 "Biology and bacteriology as a career"
Goucher College, 1958
- 5 "Principles of mycotic infection"
Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, 1958
- 6 Summer Institute of Science and Biology,
Inter-American University of Puerto Rico, 1960
- 7 Sub-Department of Dermatology,
Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, 1968-1969
- 8 "Yeast identification"
American Society of Microbiology, New York City Branch, 1972
- 9 "Practical techniques in the identification of yeast-like fungi
encountered in clinical microbiology"
University of Miami School of Medicine, 1973
- 10 Mycology lectures
U.S. Public Health Service Hospital, Staten Island, 1962-1977
- 11 Mycology lectures
Pan American Health Organization, 1970, 1974-1975
- 12 "Allergy due to fungi"
(location?), 1974-1975
- 13 "Roteiro das aulas practica do curso de micologia medica"
University of Brazil, 1975
- 14 Mycology lecture
Corneal conference, Edward Harkness Eye Institute, 1975
- 15 Medical mycology
Brazil, 1956, 1975
- 16 "Clinical pathology"
(location?), 1962-1978
- 17 "Chromoblastomycosis"
Temple University, 1978

Box 13

- 1 "Pathogenic fungi"
Mt. Sinai Hospital, 1979
- 2 Mycology courses
Massachusetts General Hospital, 1979
- 3 "La *Monilia psilosis* de Ashford y la *Candida albicans* de Hoy"
Bailey Ashford Memorial Lecture, Puerto Rico, 1979
- 4 "Dermatormycology"
The New York Botanical Garden, 1980
- 5 Mycology lectures
U.S. Public Health Service Hospital, Staten Island, 1970-1980
- 6 "Fungal diagnosis"
College of Physicians & Surgeons, 1981
- 7 Various lecture notes, 1958-1988
- 8 "Medical mycologists -- who needs them?"
American Society of Microbiology, NYC Branch, 1988

SERIES VII: MANUSCRIPTS

- 9-13 Manuscript reviews of scientific papers and grant applications, 1959-1987.

Box 14

- 1 For "Mycosis of the eye" (n.d.).
- 2 "*Malassezia furfur* as pathogen and in culture: a review" (n.d.).
- 3 Various (n.d.)
- 4 "Newer developments in dermatormycology" (n.d.).
- 5 "Comparative virulende of fluffy mutants and wild-type
isolates of both *A* and *a* mating types of *Arthroderma*
benhamiae (*Trichophyton mentagrophytes*)," with Weitzman
and Fishbein, 1970
- 6 for "Infectious Diseases" 1975
- 7 "Subcutaneous mycosis" 1977
- 8 "Disseminated *Cryptococcosis* in an asymptomatic alcoholic male"
with Pincus, Rebatta and Branwood, 1980
- 9 *Tinea versicolor* references, letters, photos, 1980
- 10 "Superficial dermatormycosis" with Weitzman and Rosenthal,
1981
- 11 "An unusual case of North American *Blastomycosis* in New
Jersey" 1982
- 12 "Chromoblastomycosis" 1980
- 13 "Yeasts of medical importance" with Cooper, 1984

Box 14 (cont'd)

SERIES VIII: PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- 14 American Type Culture Collection, 1963-1973
- 15 Asociacion Espanola de Especialistas en Micologia, 1968-1982
- 16 British Mycological Society, 1959-1965
- 17 Colegio Ibero-Latino American de Dermatologia, 1963-1973
- 18 International Association of Microbiological Societies, 1973-1981

Box 15

- 1 International Society for Human and Animal Mycology, 1957-1985
- 2 International Society for Tropical Dermatology, 1959-1965
- 3 Puerto Rico Society of Microbiologists, 1974-1994
- 4 World Health Organization (Fellow), 1969
- 5-6 American Academy of Microbiology, 1957-1983
- 7 American Society for Microbiology (ASM), 1965-1991
- 8 ASM, Mycology Section, 1961-1966
- 9 ASM, International Activities Committee, 1973-1976

Box 16

- 1 ASM, New York City Branch, Correspondence, 1959-1983
- 2 ASM, New York City Branch, Newsletters, 1975-1994
- 3 ASM, New York City Branch, Minutes, Programs, Directories, 1954-1985
- 4 Medical Mycological Society of the Americas (MMSA), Correspondence pertaining to establishment of MMSA, 1964-1968
- 5-7 MMSA, Correspondence and minutes, 1975-1990
- 8 MMSA, Annual meeting programs, 1974-1986
- 9 MMSA, Newsletters, 1969-1977 (incomplete)

Box 17

- 1-2 MMSA, Newsletters, 1978-1994
- 3-4 Medical Mycology Society of New York (MMSNY), Correspondence, 1960-1988
- 5-6 MMSNY, Newsletters, 1964-1994 (incomplete)

Box 18

SERIES IX: ACCESSION 2003.07.10

Sub-series IX.i: Subjects & Correspondence

- 1 Biographical Data: CVs, newspaper clippings, etc.
- 2 American Board of Medical Microbiology, 1961, 1983
- 3 American Society for Microbiology, 1965, 1973-1996
- 4 *Annual Review of Microbiology*, 1972-1973
- 5 Asociacion de Graduados de U.H.S., Class of 1932: 50th reunion, 1982
- 6 Asociacion Española de Especialistas en Micologia, 1981-1982
- 7 Benham, Rhoda Williams: Obituary, letters of condolence, 1957-1958
- 8 Brasilia, Medical Mycology Course, 1975: Correspondence, course materials, expenses, etc., 1974-1975
- 9 Candida Endotoxin Project, 1956
- 10 Carrión, Arturo L.: Correspondence, biographical material, 1944-1995

Box 19

- Columbia University
- 1 Correspondence, general, 1951-1996
- 2 Appointment letters, 1939-1993
- 3 Medical mycology course, 1979-1982
- Columbia University School of Tropical Medicine
- 4 Appointment letters, 1937-1948
- 5 General correspondence & documents, 1932-1949
- 6 Correspondence re: dissolution of school, 1949
- 7 Correspondence, general, 1938-1996 & undated
- 8 Diary: Trip to Thailand & Japan, 1966
- 9 Espinel-Ingroff, Ana: Silva's correspondence with & notes for her PhD thesis on the history of medical mycology in the US, 1993
- 10 Frog fungi, 1970
- 11 Grant applications, 1959-1969
- 12 Medical Mycology Laboratory, Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center: Guest book, 1956-1983
- 13 Presbyterian Hospital: Appointment letters, 1975-1986

Box 20

- Radcliffe/Harvard
- 1 Correspondence, 1937-1952, 1993
- 2 Ephemera, financial records, grades, notes, c. 1940s-1950s
- 3 Research Corporation: "Report on B[rown]-H[azen] Supported Research, 1970-1976; prepared Jan. 1977 for Research Corporation"

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- 4 Retirements, 1982-1992
- 5 Syllabus for Laboratory Work in Medical Mycology, 1963, 1966 & 1976 editions
- 6 Weston, William H.: Correspondence & biographical materials, 1946-1979

Sub-series IX.ii: Notebooks and Laboratory Manuals

- 7 Notebook, Benham's medical mycology course, 1950
- 8 Laboratory manual, Benham's medical mycology course, 1952 (2 c.)
- 9 Brasilia Laboratory Notebook, 1963

Box 21

- 1 Laboratory manuals, Columbia-Presbyterian & others, c. 1940s-1984
- 2-4 Radcliffe/Harvard student notebooks, 1942-1948
- 5 Notes: unsorted & undated

Box 22

Sub-series IX.iii: Reprints & Other Publications

- 1 Rhoda Williams Benham reprints, 1929-1957 [incomplete]
Margarita Silva-Hutner
- 2-4 Reprints, 1944-1982 & undated
- 5 "Epidemiology of Three Systemic Mycoses..." manuscript for book chapter? 1989
- 6 OAS monograph: Notes, correspondence, 1972-1975

Box 23

- 1 Thesis: Notes & other materials for doctoral thesis, c. 1952

Sub-series IX.iv: Photographs

- 2 Asociacion de Graduados de U.H.S., Class of 1932: 50th reunion, 1982
- 3 Benham, Rhoda W.
- 4 Brasilia medical mycology course, 1975
- 5 Conant, Norman (autographed to Silva-Hutner)
- 6 Conferences, 1963, 1971 & undated
- 7 Groups, unidentified persons
- 8 Johnson, Balbina
- 9 Medical Mycology Class, Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center, 1949, 1970

Silva-Hutner, Margarita

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- 10 Medical Mycology Laboratory staff, Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center, c. 1965-1968
- 11 Silva-Hutner, Margarita: Portraits
- 12 Silva-Hutner with others
- 13 Werber, Erna Altire
- 14 Photo Album: largely snapshots of Medical Mycology Laboratory parties, 1960s-1970s

Sub-series IX.v: Oversize Materials

Flat Box 1: Diplomas, awards, and certificates; oversize photographs of Silva-Hutner, Arturo Carrión and Balbina Johnson