

Wax Fruit and Vegetable Models

A Bibliography

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A Brief History of the Wax Fruit and Vegetable Collection at the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station (NYSAES), Geneva New York USA

The NYSAES Museum was located on the second floor of Jordan Hall. Included in the display were wax models of fruit and vegetable varieties, a series of mushrooms, and also some specimens showing disease and insect injuries to plants,. Two artists were involved in the making of the wax specimens: James S. Lawson (1890-1977) and Clara Barnes (nd.). James S. Lawson was appointed the Station's first Museum Preparator in 1920. Employed only in the summer, he resigned in 1935. In May 23, 1936, Miss Clara L. Barnes was appointed Museum Preparator. She served until 1942. The position was abandoned due to lack of funding. In the 1970's the collection was packed up, and put into storage. A project is now underway to inventory the collection, assess conservation needs, develop a secure storage strategy, photograph it, create a searchable database, and prepare for putting it up on the library's website. In addition, efforts are also being made to create a network of institutions with similar collections.

The Wax Fruit and Vegetable Collection at NYSAES

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