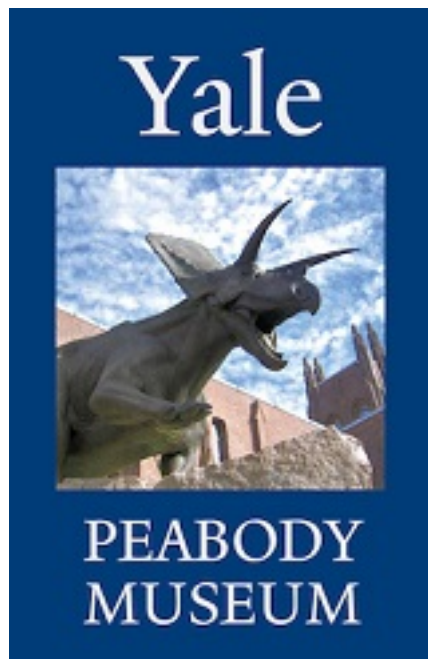


Division of Vertebrate Paleontology Archives

VPAR.000239



Annette Van Aken

2015

170 Whitney Avenue
New Haven, CT 06511
(203) 432-3746
(203) 432-9816
peabody.permissions@yale.edu
<http://peabody.yale.edu/>

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History
170 Whitney Avenue
New Haven, CT 06511
(203) 432-3746
(203) 432-9816
peabody.permissions@yale.edu
<http://peabody.yale.edu/>

CALL NUMBER: VPAR.000239

CREATOR: Division of Vertebrate Paleontology, Yale Peabody Museum

TITLE: Division of Vertebrate Paleontology Archives

DATES: 1866-2014

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 100 linear feet

LANGUAGE: In English.

SUMMARY: These are the miscellaneous archives associated with the Division of Vertebrate Paleontology.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/ymp.vpar.000239>

Administrative Information

Cite As

Division of Vertebrate Paleontology Archives, Vertebrate Paleontology, Yale Peabody Museum

Biographical Sketch

In 1866, Othniel Charles Marsh was appointed Professor of Paleontology at Yale, the first such position in North America. In 1867, he became curator of the Geological Cabinet at the new Peabody Museum, which was endowed by his uncle, the philanthropist George Peabody. Marsh brought with him 2.5 tons of books and specimens, the bulk of which were accumulated as a Yale College undergraduate and during a lengthy stay in Europe. This collection was the foundation of the vertebrate paleontology collection.

During a lifetime at Yale, Marsh amassed an impressive collection of vertebrate fossils. Although he and the Peabody Museum would ultimately become famous for their collection of dinosaurs from the American West which included type specimens of many of the best known dinosaurs - Marsh's earliest collections were from the Cretaceous of New Jersey. Under his leadership, the Yale College Scientific Expeditions of 1870-1873 obtained historically and scientifically important collections of fossil mammals, including some of the largest collections of uinatheres, titanotheres, fossil horses, and early primates in the United States. The expeditions also made important contributions to our knowledge of marine life from the Cretaceous, including mosasaurs, pterosaurs (most notably Pteranodon), and the toothed birds Ichthyornis and Hesperornis. In addition, they assembled a sizable collection of fossil fishes from Eocene lake deposits in Wyoming.

After 1874, Marsh relied almost exclusively on professional collectors, which included both local residents and collectors sent to the American West by Marsh. Marsh's associates form a 'Who's Who' of the history of vertebrate paleontology and geology: Erwin H. Barbour, David Baldwin, George Baur, Charles Emerson Beecher, Hugh Gibb, George Bird Grinnell, Oscar Harger, John Bell Hatcher, Arthur Lakes, Otto Meyer, Benjamin Mudge, O.A. Peterson, William Reed, George R. Wieland, and Samuel Wendell Williston.

According to his biographers, Schuchert and LeVene (1940), Marsh named 344 new species and 161 new genera of fossil vertebrates. His genera include Brontosaurus, Apatosaurus, Stegosaurus, Triceratops and Eohippus. His work and collections were praised by Charles Darwin and Thomas Huxley as some of the most crucial evidence supporting the theory of evolution.

Richard Swann Lull succeeded Marsh in one curatorial capacity or another from 1906 until his death in 1957, also serving as director of the Peabody Museum from 1922 to 1936. It was under his tenure that the Museum moved to its present building; the Great Hall was constructed; and the Marsh Collection was made available to academic researchers. Lull and his students, including M.R. Thorpe, E.L. Troxell and G.G. Simpson, inherited the task of identifying and publishing many of the previously neglected specimens collected by Marsh and his colleagues. Troxell is best remembered for his work on the fossil mammalian fauna of Rock Creek, Texas, whereas Thorpe became a leading expert on oreodonts and served as the Division's senior curator from 1927 to 1938. Both added to the collections and continued Lull's work of describing material already in the Marsh Collection.

Thorpe's successor G.E. Lewis (1939-1945) was responsible for a renewed emphasis on field collecting. As a member of the Yale North India Expeditions, Lewis added a significant collection of fossil primates from the Siwaliks of India and Pakistan to the Peabody's holdings. He also secured an excellent collection of casts of some of the most important Old World primate specimens. J.T. Gregory (1946-1960) succeeded Lewis as curator. While much of his tenure was spent heading up renovations to the exhibits and buildings, he also led several expeditions, making substantial collections from New Mexico, Oklahoma and Wyoming.

Description of the Material

The archives of the Division of Vertebrate Paleontology notably include those of the Princeton University collections acquired in 1985.

Collection Contents

Series I: Photographs

Photographs of divisional staff, affiliates, places, etc.

Photographs. Photographs of people, localities, exhibits, etc.
002651

Photographs. Photographs of people, localities, exhibits, etc.
002652

Photographs.
002746

Photograph. Photograph of William Harlow Reed 1879
002790

1879

Series II: Specimen Photographs/Figures

Specimen photographs, figures, etc.

Specimen Photographs/Figures.
002747

Specimen Photographs/Figures. Photograph of Archelon ischyros. Mounted skeleton, ventral view. w/Wieland.
002776

Series III: Curators, Staff, Affiliates, etc.

Archives of various people, not containing enough material for individual fonds.

Adolf Seilacher.
000329

Biographies. Curators, affiliates, etc.
002636

Charles E. Beecher.
000326

Charles Schuchert.
000328

Craig B. Wood.
000332

Dale A. Russell.
000327

Edward D. Cope.
000346

Fred W. Darby.
000320

Grant E. Meyer.
000322

Karl M. Waage.
000330

Marshal P. Felch.
000321

Mary Ann Turner. Mary Ann Turner Archives.
002626

Paul E. Olsen.
000323

Robert G. Chaffee.
000319

Sam Smith.
000325

Samuel W. Williston.
000331

William H. Reed.
000324

Series IV: Como, Wyoming

Archives relating to collections from Como, WY, not attributed to other fonds..

Locality Information.
000337

Specimen Lists.
000336

Series V: Cloverly Formation

Archives relating to collections from the Cloverly Formation, not attributed to other fonds..

Aerial Photographs. Aerial Photographs of the Cloverly area.
002533

Cloverly Formation. Photographs, maps, stratigraphic maps, figures, newspaper articles, etc. all dealing with the Cloverly Formation.
002483

Cloverly Formation. Photograph, maps, 1 figure (by R. Bakker). all dealing with the Cloverly Formation.
002484

Field Notes.
000338

Series VI: Princeton University

Archives relating to collections from Princeton University, not attributed to other fonds.

Expedition Related Materials.
000339

Maps. Miscellaneous maps. Some annotated.
002521

Maps. Miscellaneous maps. Some annotated.
002522

Miscellaneous.
000340

Series VII: Field Notes & Locality Information

Archives relating to field collections, not attributed to other fonds.

Field Notes.
000342

Locality Information.
000343

Locality Information. Specimen information arranged by state.
002633

Series VIII: Ledgers & Catalogs

Ledgers & Catalogs.
002765

Series IX: Miscellaneous

Miscellaneous archives not attributed to other fonds at this time. Should be reassessed by someone familiar with the Vertebrate Paleontology Archives.

Inventory. Inventory of specimens, including types (fish, reptile, birds, etc).
002605

Miscellaneous. Specimen Information, labels, miscellaneous, etc.
002607

Miscellaneous. Specimen Information, labels, miscellaneous, etc.
002608

Miscellaneous. Mammal hall, departmental history, museum history, exhibit proposal,
etc.
002609

Miscellaneous. Specimen labels, notes on catalog data, etc.
002610

Miscellaneous. Journal of Yale North India Expedition, Lull obit, Lull fund, G. STorrs
Correspondence, P. Robinson Correspondence, etc.
002611

Miscellaneous. Departmental Correspondence, Operations, Regulations, Financial
Statements, Robberies, etc.
002612

Miscellaneous. Argus, Grants, etc.
002613

Miscellaneous. Mailing list, job descriptions, applications, etc.
002614

Miscellaneous. SPNHC, ASC, Publication list, plaster jacket, etc.
002615

Miscellaneous. Society of Vertebrat Paleontology information.
002616

Miscellaneous. Exhibits, meeting minutes, etc.
002617

Miscellaneous. Conservation, Archives workshop, filming permission, etc.
002618

Miscellaneous. Museum plans, membership directories, etc.
002619

Miscellaneous. Newspaper articles.
002620

Miscellaneous. Geology Department information, YPM publications (YEN, Explorer,
etc.), job descriptions, etc.
002621

Miscellaneous. Annual Reports, Boise Fund, Visitor list.
002622

Miscellaneous. YPM Auction, Specimen value, Type List, African Primates, etc.
002623

Miscellaneous. UCMP catalog, teaching collection, etc.
002624

Miscellaneous. Reorganization NSF proposal, Requests, Damaged fossils, Cast requests, etc.
002625

Miscellaneous. Photo forms, building information, Marsh exhibit, Collection guidelines, etc.
002627

Miscellaneous. IMLS, Annual Reports, Specimen value, etc.
002628

Miscellaneous. Annual Reports, Morphometrics lab, Exhibits, MUseum Curators Meetings, Bakker Clippings, Simpson Prize, etc.
002629

Miscellaneous. Annual Reports, Committee notes, Museum Policy, etc.
002630

Miscellaneous. Accession Procedures, Deinonychus display, Hall of Human Origins, etc.
002631

Miscellaneous. George Peabody, Specimen information, Fayum Talk, SVP, Memos, etc.
002632

Miscellaneous. Reprint requests.
002634

Miscellaneous. Reprint requests and catalogs of books and reprints.
002635

Miscellaneous. Equipment.
002637

Miscellaneous. Equipment.
002638

Miscellaneous. Equipment, policy, etc.
002639

Miscellaneous. Policy, space planning, floor plans, etc.
002640

Miscellaneous. Policy documents.
002641

Miscellaneous. Space planning documents.
002642

Miscellaneous. Space planning documents.
002643

Miscellaneous. Cast information.
002644

Miscellaneous. Reprint request, field equipment, Simpson Prize, etc.
002647

Miscellaneous. M. Schwartz Correspondence.
002648

Miscellaneous. Miscellaneous.
002649

Miscellaneous. Miscellaneous.
002650

Miscellaneous. Visitor Log.
002653

Miscellaneous. Miscellaneous.
002654

Miscellaneous. Miscellaneous.
002655

Miscellaneous.
002766

The Origin of Birds. The Origin of Birds by Gerhard Heilmann. London, H. F. & G. Witherby, 1926. 1926
002772

Packing material. Packing material from Kansas from collector Dr. Watson in 1873 . 1873
Opened in 2009-2010 during the IMLS Fish Conservation Grant.
002787

Specimen Information. Specimen Information.... Stegosaurus, T. rex, mammals, etc.
002606

Series X: Maps

Africa. Maps of Africa.
002426

Alaska. Maps of Alaska.
002487

Arizona. Maps of Arizona.
002423

Colorado. Maps of Colorado.
002444

Connecticut. Maps of Connecticut.
002459

Ecuador. Maps of Ecuador.
000354

India. Maps of India.
000355

Indiana. Maps of Indiana.
002440

Italy. Maps of Italy.
002460

Japan. Maps of Japan.
002452

Kansas. Maps of Kansas.
000348

Maps. Various maps...WY, NE, OK, TX, SC, NV, CA, FL, ID, IN.
002645

Maps. Various maps...NM, WY, FL, TX, NV, NE, MT, OR, SD, CO, ND, NC, India.
002646

Maryland. Maps of Maryland.
002447

Massachusetts. Maps of Massachusetts.
002516

Miscellaneous. Miscellaneous maps. Some may be previously cataloged.
002603

Miscellaneous. Miscellaneous maps, historical.
002604

Montana. Maps of Montana.
002463

Nebraska. Maps of Nebraska.
000349

Nebraska. Maps of Nebraska.
002455

New Mexico. Maps of New Mexico.
002418

North America. Maps of North America.
002436

North Dakota. Maps of North Dakota.
000350

Oregon. Maps of Oregon.
002442

Pennsylvania. Maps of Pennsylvania.
002485

Russia. Maps of Russia.
002454

South America. Maps of South America.
002451

South Carolina. Maps of South Carolina.
002438

South Dakota. Maps of South Dakota.
000351

United Kingdom. Maps and vertical sections of the United Kingdom.
002458

Utah. Maps of Utah.
002453

Western Mountain States. Maps that overlap Western Mountain State's borders.
000352

World. World maps.
002461

Wyoming. Maps of Wyoming.
000353

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Genres / Formats

Correspondence
Labels
Maps
Photographs

Corporate Body

Yale University