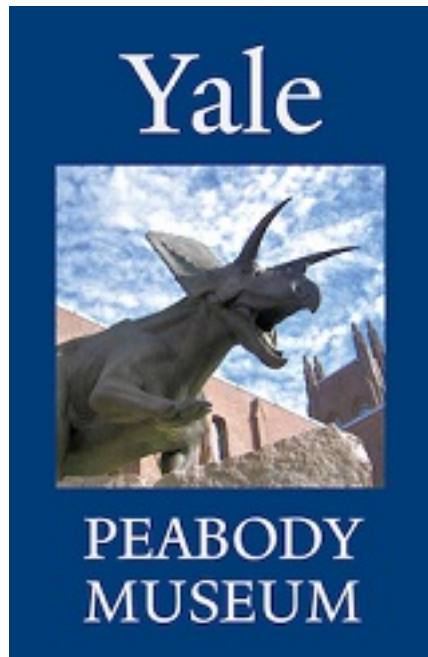


John H. Ostrom Archives

VPAR.000294



Daniel Jonathan Drew

2015

170 Whitney Avenue
New Haven, CT 06511
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
peabody.permissions@yale.edu
<http://peabody.yale.edu/>

CALL NUMBER: VPAR.000294

CREATOR: Ostrom, John H., 18/02/1929-15/07/2005

TITLE: John H. Ostrom Archives

DATES: 1951-2005

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 188 linear feet

LANGUAGE: In English.

SUMMARY: The archives of John Ostrom, accumulated during his career.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/ypm.vpar.000294>

Administrative Information

Cite As

John H. Ostrom Archives, Vertebrate Paleontology, Yale Peabody Museum

Biographical Sketch

John Harold Ostrom (b. February 18, 1928, d. July 16, 2005) was born in New York, NY. He received his bachelor of science degree in geology and biology from Union College in Schenectady, NY, in 1951, when he was invited to Columbia University by George Gaylord Simpson and spent that summer as Simpson's field assistant in the San Juan Basin of New Mexico. In 1960 he earned his doctorate in geology (vertebrate paleontology) from Columbia. Influenced by Edwin H. Colbert at the American Museum of Natural History, where he was a research assistant from 1951 through 1956, Ostrom's dissertation (published as a Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History in 1961) was a comparative functional morphological study of the cranial anatomy of hadrosaurs (duck-billed dinosaurs). Ostrom taught at Brooklyn College in New York City (1955-1956) and served as staff geologist with the New York State Geological Survey and the American Museum of Natural History before joining the faculty at Beloit College in Wisconsin (1956-1961).

In 1961 Ostrom came to Yale University as assistant professor in its Department of Geology and Geophysics, and assistant curator of vertebrate paleontology at Yale's Peabody Museum of Natural History, becoming a full professor and curator in 1971. At the Peabody Ostrom's curatorship included the extraordinary collection of horned dinosaurs that are the legacy of O.C. Marsh, Richard Swann Lull and John Bell Hatcher, and he published several important papers on this group. Functional morphology and dinosaurs were central to Ostrom's research throughout his career, and his publications have been influential in redefining the paleobiology and paleoecology of several groups.

Ostrom's field projects in the 1960s produced research that would change long-held concepts in paleontology. From 1962 to 1967 Ostrom's expeditions to the Bighorn Basin of Wyoming and Montana resulted in the discovery and description of a new dinosaur fauna from a poorly represented geologic period, including his now well-known description of *Deinonychus antirrhopus* (Postilla 128, Bulletin 30, 35). This work, along with the work of Ostrom's former student Robert Bakker, redefined commonly held ideas about dinosaur evolution – both in the academic community and in the public mind – from that of plodding, cold-blooded reptiles to the intelligent, agile and gregarious ancestors of modern birds. Ostrom's critique of dinosaurs as indicators of paleoclimate (presented at the first North American Paleontological Convention in Chicago in 1969) and his 1970 reidentification of the Haarlem specimen of *Archaeopteryx*, in which he recognized osteological similarities to *Deinonychus* and other small theropods, led to a renaissance in the study of dinosaurs and the evolution of flight.

Ostrom served as acting director of the Yale Peabody Museum from 1975 to 1976, as president of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology from 1969 to 1970, and as editor of the Society's bulletin from 1963 to 1973. He was also editor of the *American Journal of Science* and the Yale Peabody Museum's *Postilla* and *Bulletin* series. His many awards and honors included a John Simon Guggenheim fellowship (1966-1967), the Alexander von Humboldt Stiftung in Germany (1976-1977 and 1985), the prestigious Hayden Memorial Geological Award (1986) of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia for outstanding contributions in research and education in paleontology, and the Yale Peabody Museum's Addison Emery Verrill Medal (1999).

In 1999 Yale University presented an international symposium in Ostrom's honor on the origin and early evolution of birds attended by over 400 paleontologists and others from around the world. The conference was held in conjunction with the special exhibition *China's Feathered Dinosaurs* at the Yale Peabody Museum, which brought to the northeastern United States the first viewing of the spectacular 120-million-year-old fossils of feathered theropods discovered in the Yixian Formation of Liaoning Province. These finds constitute, according to Ostrom, "the biggest event in evolutionary science since Darwin put forth his theory," and provide compelling evidence that birds evolved from dinosaurs, an idea that Ostrom reintroduced 40 years earlier.

Dr. John Ostrom was married to Nancy Hartman and had 2 children. Dr. Ostrom passed away in Litchfield, Connecticut, on July 16, 2005.

Description of the Material

The archives of John Ostrom notably include materials on his research of *Deinonychus* and *Archaeopteryx* as well as numerous correspondence, maps, and teaching materials.

Collection Contents

Series I: Manuscript Materials

Manuscript Materials.
002764

Manuscripts. Rough drafts, notes, etc. To be sorted.
002691

Manuscripts.
002713

Series II: Research Materials

Accession Related.
002724

Archaeopteryx.
002708

Field Notes. 1962 - 1967
000297

Field Work notebooks, grants, etc.
002722

Grants. Grant proposals, reports, etc.
002693

Locality Information. 1964 - 1965
000298

Miscellaneous Research Materials.
002723

Photographs, negatives, slides, etc.
002721

Research Material.
002707

Series III: Miscellaneous

Eichstatt Meetings. Audiotapes.
002725

Home Office. Miscellaneous paperwork, articles, periodicals, etc.
002716

Home Office. Slides, photos, negatives, etc.
002717

Miscellaneous.
002685

Miscellaneous. Reviews, miscellaneous, etc.
002688

Miscellaneous. Reviews, miscellaneous, etc.
002692

Miscellaneous. Archaeopteryx Confernce, "Beginnings of Birids", Howe Quarry.
002694

Miscellaneous.
002711

Miscellaneous. Miscellaneous paperwork, articles, periodicals, etc.
002714

Miscellaneous. Miscellaneous paperwork, articles, periodicals, etc.
002719

Miscellaneous. Miscellaneous paperwork, articles, periodicals, etc.
002720

Miscellaneous.
002767

Newspaper Articles.
002729

Princeton Related.
002728

Reviews. Paper reviews.
002710

Series III: Maps

New York. Maps of New York.
002490

Series IV: Deinonychus

Deinonychus.
002709

Sketches, Drawings, Figure, etc. Sketches, Drawings, Figures, photographs of Deinonychus.
002530

Series V: Robert Bakker

Sketches, Drawings, Figures. Sketches, Drawings, Figures. Done by R. Bakker.
002529

Series VI: Correspondence

A.
002577

B.
002578

C.
002579

D.
002580

E.
002581

F.
002582

G.
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H.
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I.
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J.
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K.
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L.
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M.
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N.
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O.
002591

P.
002592

Q.
002593

R.
002594

S.
002595

T.
002596

U.
002597

Unsorted Correspondence.
002601

Unsorted Correspondence.
002602

Unsorted Correspondence. Unsorted.
002687

Unsorted Correspondence. Unsorted.
002718

V.
002598

W.
002599

X-Z.
002600

Series VII: Teaching Materials

G&G 120.
002700

G&G 125.
002702

G&G 125. Lecture slides.
002726

G&G 311.
002689

G&G 350.
002705

Science II.
002696

Student Information. Student Information.
002695

Student Information. Student Information.
002712

Student Papers.
002690

Students. Students papers, proposals, etc.
002727

Teaching Material. G&G 700, 125, 630, 214, BIO 225.
002697

Teaching Material. G&G 355, 648, etc.
002698

Teaching Material. G&G 630, 700, 120.
002699

Teaching Material. G&G 203, 15, 150, etc.
002701

Teaching Material. G&G 103, 630, 167, 350.
002703

Teaching Material. G&G 103, 33, 104, 350, 630, BIO 443.
002704

Teaching Material. G&G 104, 106, Science II, etc.
002706

Teaching Material. G&G 350, 120, 700, 15, 630, 11, Science II, 214, 125, 630.
002715

Series VIII: Biographical Materials

Biographical Material. Curriculum vitae, bibliography, etc.
002684

Biographical Material. Curriculum vitae, bibliography, etc.
002686

Memorabilia. FRamed Awards.
002534

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.

Corporate Bodies

Yale Peabody Museum
Yale University