

# Charles Emerson Beecher Archives

IZAR.001571



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2014

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History  
170 Whitney Avenue  
New Haven, CT 06511  
(203) 432-3746  
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**CALL NUMBER:** IZAR.001571

**CREATOR:** Beecher, Charles Emerson, 1856-1904

**TITLE:** Charles Emerson Beecher Archives

**DATES:** 1888-1904

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 10 linear feet

**LANGUAGE:** In English.

**SUMMARY:** The archives of Charles Emerson Beecher, particularly those dealing with his work on freshwater mollusca.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/ymp.izar.001571>

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## Administrative Information

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### Cite As

Charles Emerson Beecher Archives, Invertebrate Zoology, Yale Peabody Museum

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## Biographical Sketch

Charles Emerson Beecher (b. 1858, d. 1904), son of Moses and Emily (Emerson) Beecher, was born in Dunkirk, New York, on October 9, 1856. When he was a youth, his family moved to northwestern Pennsylvania and Beecher began collecting fossils from the local sandstones and shales. By the time he arrived at the University of Michigan (B.S. 1878), he had amassed a very respectable collection of fossil phyllocarids and freshwater unionids. Following his graduation from the University of Michigan, Beecher became a personal assistant to James Hall in Albany for 10 years, and then at the request of Yale's Othniel C. Marsh, he moved to New Haven to oversee the Peabody Museum's growing collection of invertebrate fossils. In 1891, Beecher was awarded his doctorate for his study on Brachiospongidae, an enigmatic group of Silurian sponges.

Although Beecher is best known for his work on trilobites, he really didn't specialize on any particular group of organisms. Instead, he was interested in biological systems, evolution, and the relationship between ontogeny and phylogeny. Beecher's promotion was rapid. He ascended to Professor of Historical Geology in 1897 and, on the death of Marsh in 1899, Beecher succeeded him as Curator of the Geological Collections, the informal Director of the Peabody Museum of Natural History.

## **Description of the Material**

These papers include correspondence and manuscript related material.

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Correspondence, 1888-1904

Correspondence to C.E. Beecher.

George Washington Tryon Jr. Correspondence. Correspondence from G.W. Tryon to C.E. Beecher. 001591	1887
George Washington Tryon Jr. Correspondence. A letter from G.W. Tryon to W.B. Marshall, apparently forwarded to C.E. Beecher. 001592	05 Dec 1877
Henry Augustus Pilsbry Correspondence. Correspondence from H.A. Pilsbry to C.E. Beecher. 001574	1890-1892
Henry Augustus Pilsbry Correspondence. A letter from H.A. Pilsbry to C.E. Beecher informing Beecher he has received the collection of Amnicolidae and discussing other species. 001576	14 Feb 1892
Henry Augustus Pilsbry Correspondence. A letter from H.A. Pilsbry to William B. Marshall, apparently forwarded to C.E. Beecher informing Marshall he is returning his Amnicolidae named. 001577	18 Mar 1890
Henry Augustus Pilsbry Correspondence. A letter from H.A. Pilsbry to C.E. Beecher discussing fresh-water mollusca taxonomy and systematics. 001575	1890-1892
R. Ellsworth Call Correspondence. Correspondence from R.E. Call to C.E. Beecher. 001586	1886-1889
R. Ellsworth Call Correspondence. A letter from R.E. Call to C.E. Beecher informing him he is sending another group of shells. He encloses a list of said specimens. Beecher has made notes on the list. 001589	04 Mar 1888
R. Ellsworth Call Correspondence. A letter from R.E. Call to C.E. Beecher informing him he is sending specimens (Amnicola, etc.) requested by Beecher. 001587	05 Aug 1886
R. Ellsworth Call Correspondence. A letter from R.E. Call to C.E. Beecher informing him he will send the requested shells and he will draw the operculas of all the forms. 001590	14 Nov 1889
R. Ellsworth Call Correspondence. A letter from R.E. Call to C.E. Beecher discussing a drawing by Beecher and informing him he is sending more requested specimens. 001588	28 Aug 1886
William Healey Dall Correspondence. Correspondence from W.H. Dall to C.E. Beecher. 001578	1887-1891

## 001578 William Healey Dall Correspondence. Correspondence from W [...] (continued)

William Healey Dall Correspondence. A letter from W.H. Dall to C.E. Beecher discussing Rissoidae taxonomy. 001580	04 Nov 1887
William Healey Dall Correspondence. A letter from W.H. Dall to C.E. Beecher asking Beecher if he ready to receive specimens of Tryonia clathrata to study. 001585	06 Jul 1891
William Healey Dall Correspondence. A letter from W.H. Dall to C.E. Beecher informing him he is sending specimens of Hydrobiinae. 001579	10 Jan 1887
William Healey Dall Correspondence. A letter from W.H. Dall to C.E. Beecher informing him he is sending some specimens of Amnicola and other species. 001581	10 Nov 1887
William Healey Dall Correspondence. A letter from W.H. Dall to C.E. Beecher informing him he is sending some specimens of Amnicola and other species, and have found all on his list but three of the requested species. 001582	15 Nov 1887
William Healey Dall Correspondence. A letter from W.H. Dall to C.E. Beecher discussing Beecher's results in his investigation in regards to V. papoidea. He praises the value of Beecher's work and makes some technical suggestions. 001583	20 Nov 1887
William Healey Dall Correspondence. A letter from W.H. Dall to C.E. Beecher discussing morphology nomenclature of the teeth of the radula. 001584	29 Nov 1887

**Series II: Manuscript/Research Materials, 1888-1904**

C.E. Beecher manuscript material related to freshwater mollusca.

Freshwater Gastropoda. Archival material related to Beecher's work on freshwater mollusca. 001599	1888-1904
Freshwater Gastropoda. 12 cards. Each of a species of Amnicola, Bythinella etc. The cards contain radual formula for each species. 001600	1888-1904
Freshwater Gastropoda. Handwritten description with radula formula for Amnicola dalli. 001601	1888-1904
Freshwater Gastropoda. Numerous cards with radual formula, drawings etc. of various species of Amnicola, Bythinella, etc. Also there is a handwritten paper titled by Beecher as "Lingual Dentitions of American Fresh-Water Rissoidae." 001602	1888-1904
Freshwater Gastropoda. Handwritten description of Hydrobia n.sp. Includes radula formula. 001605	1888-1904
Freshwater Gastropoda. Handwritten paper titled "A new Species of Planorbis" by Beecher. Plamorbis costatus. 001606	1888-1904
Freshwater Gastropoda. 5 slips of tracing paper with figures of radula. 001610	1888-1904
Freshwater Gastropoda. Numerous radula figures of Bythinella, Amnicola, etc. 001618	1888-1904

## Series III: Slide Labels, 1888-1904

C.E. Beecher slide labels.

Slide Labels. C.E. Beecher slide labels.  
001608

1888-1904

Slide Labels. 35 slide box labels? They contain species names (bythinella, Amnicola, etc.), localities, some citations and radula formulas.  
001609

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## **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.

### **Geographic Names**

Connecticut  
New York  
Pennsylvania  
USA

### **Genres / Formats**

Correspondence  
Manuscript materials

### **Corporate Bodies**

Yale Peabody Museum  
Yale University