

# Guide to the Malcolm Rutherford Thorpe Papers

MS 491



compiled by William E. Brown, Jr.

June 1985

Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
(203) 432-1735  
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<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 491

**CREATOR:** Thorpe, Malcolm Rutherford, 1891-1957

**TITLE:** Malcolm Rutherford Thorpe papers

**DATES:** 1913-1952

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 5.5 linear feet (9 boxes, 1 folio)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Correspondence, reports, manuscripts and research material relating to Thorpe's geological surveys in Utah, to his work on vertebrate paleontology, to his directorship of the Peabody Museum of Natural History at Yale University, and to his work for the H. Emerson Tuttle Memorial Fund.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0491>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0491>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to [http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr\\_copy\\_order.html](http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html). The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.      box  
f.      folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Portion of papers gift of Malcolm Thrope in 1943.

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## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

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## Preferred Citation

Malcolm Rutherford Thorpe Papers (MS 491). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

MALCOLM RUTHERFORD THORPE (1891-1957)

Thorpe received his BA from Yale in 1913 and then took a Ph.D. in geology at Yale in 1916 and held a Yale College Fellowship during 1914-1915. In 1917 he surveyed positions for gun emplacements along the New England coast, under the U.S. Geologic Survey and the National Council of Defense, and the following year taught military geology to S.A.T.C. and R.O.T.C. students at Yale and military camps. He was a member of the University staff from 1919 until 1938, serving in the following capacities: preparator in vertebrate paleontology, 1919; assistant, 1919-1922; assistant curator, 1922-1927 (also fellow, 1922-1923); research associate, 1923-1938; curator 1927-1938; also curator of osteology, 1923-1938 (and taught osteological morphology, 1929-1938); acting director, Peabody Museum, 1927.

He served as a Commencement marshal from 1923 to 1928 and as chief Commencement marshal for the next ten years, was chief marshal for President Seymour's inauguration in 1937. He was chairman of the Emerson Tuttle Portrait Committee in 1945 and later (1946-1948) of the Emerson Tuttle Memorial Committee. He was an associate fellow of Davenport College from 1933 onwards.

Thorpe carried out geological field work in various places, including South Dakota, Nebraska, Wyoming, Utah, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, eastern and western Canada, and in England, Scotland, and France. He edited *Organic Adaptation to Environment*, published by the Yale University Press in 1924, and is the author of "The Osteology of *Eporcodon Socialis* Marsh" and "The Marycoidodontidae, An Extinct Group of Ruminant Mammals," both of which appeared in publications of Peabody Museum. He also contributed the sections on the Abajo Mountains to *The San Juan Country*, by Herbert E. Gregory. The U.S. Department of the Interior published a paper of his in 1939, and he has had some fifty other scientific articles published, as well as many reviews of scientific publications.

He belonged to the Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Academy of National Sciences (Philadelphia), the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology, the Society of Mammalogists, the Geologic Society of America, the American Geographic Society, the Geochemical Society, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science, as well as to Phi Beta Kappa and Sigma Xi. He also belonged to the Graduates Club in New Haven.

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## Scope and Contents

The Malcolm R. Thorpe Papers consist of correspondence, manuscripts, notes, photographs, and miscellanea of Malcolm Rutherford Thorpe, a paleontologist and member of the Yale University staff from 1919-1938. The Thorpe Papers were a gift of Malcolm R. Thorpe in 1943, with subsequent additions. The papers are arranged in two series:

I. Correspondence, 1913-1952 II. Topical Files, 1923-1945

SERIES I, CORRESPONDENCE, 1913-1952, includes personal and professional correspondence with such correspondents as the U.S. Department of the Interior, Edmund Hovey Otis, and Ernest Howe.

SERIES II, TOPICAL FILES, 1923-1945, contains such material as a catalogue of Thorpe's personal library, descriptions of many specimens, his Ph.D. dissertation, and several manuscripts on topics of professional interest. Other materials include notes arranged under the topic "Memoirs of the Peabody Museum," chapters from *Organic Adaption to Environment* (1924), papers relating to the Emerson Tuttle Memorial Committee, and files for Yale University matters.

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## Arrangement

Arranged in two series: I. Correspondence. II. Topical Files.

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Correspondence, 1913-1952

*0.5 linear feet (1 box)*

This series contains files arranged in alphabetical order by name of correspondent.

b. 1, f. 1	A-Br	
b. 1, f. 2	Br-Da	
b. 1, f. 3	Da-Em	
b. 1, f. 4	Department of the Interior	1914-1915
b. 1, f. 5	Department of the Interior	1916-1930
b. 1, f. 6	F-He	
b. 1, f. 7	He-L	
b. 1, f. 8	Hovey, Edmund Otis	
b. 1, f. 9	Howe, Ernest	
b. 1, f. 10	M-O	
b. 1, f. 11	P-R	
b. 1, f. 12	Sa-Sm	
b. 1, f. 13	Sm-We	
b. 1, f. 14	We-Wr	

**Series II: Topical files, 1923-1945**

This series contains files arranged in alphabetical order by topic.

b. 12, f. 51	Bristol Public School diploma	1909 June 25
b. 2, f. 15	Catalogue of Personal Library: Volume 1	
b. 3, f. 16	Catalogue of Personal Library; Volume 2	
b. 12, f. 51	Council of the American Geographical Society certificate of membership	1917 January 23
b. 4, f. 17	Davenport College Directory	1943-1944
	Descriptions of Specimens	
b. 4, f. 18	"Cyclopidius" English	Undated
b. 4, f. 19	"Desmatochoerus" English	Undated
b. 4, f. 20	"Geological Horizons" English	Undated
b. 4, f. 21	"Leptauchenia" English	Undated
b. 4, f. 22	"Merychys" English	Undated
b. 4, f. 23	"Merycochoerus" English	Undated
b. 4, f. 24	"Merycoides" English	Undated
b. 4, f. 25	"Metoreodon" English	Undated
b. 4, f. 26	"Oreodontoides" English	Undated
b. 4, f. 27	"Paroreodon" English	Undated
b. 4, f. 28	"Phenacocelus" English	Undated
b. 4, f. 29	"Poatrephes" English	Undated
b. 4, f. 30	"Promerycochoerus" English	Undated
b. 4, f. 31	"Pronomotherium" English	Undated

## Descriptions of Specimens (continued)

b. 4, f. 32	"Tichololeptus" English	Undated
b. 5, f. 33-38	Dissertation (Ph.D.)	
b. 6, f. 39-40	Lecture notes	
b. 6, f. 41	Lists	
	Manuscripts	
b. 7, f. 42	"Environment and Racial Character" by Huntington, E. English	1923
b. 7, f. 43	"North Branford Fossils" English	1929
b. 7, f. 44	"A Remarkable Woodchuck Skull" English	1929
b. 7, f. 45	"Story about <i>Portheus molossus</i> " English	1934
b. 7, f. 46	"Additional Notes on <i>Oreodontoides oregonensis</i> Thorpe" English	Undated
b. 7, f. 47	" <i>Araeocyon</i> , a Probable Old World Migrant" English	Undated
b. 7, f. 48	"The Generic Distinctions between <i>Merycochoerus</i> Leidy and <i>Promerycochoerus</i> Douglass" English	Undated
b. 7, f. 49	"How to Macerate Skeleton" English	Undated
b. 7, f. 50	"The Hyoid Apparatus of <i>Merycoidodon</i> " English	Undated
b. 7, f. 51	"John Day Eporeodons, with Descriptions..." English	Undated
b. 7, f. 52	" <i>Leptauchenia</i> Leidy and <i>Cyclopidius</i> ( <i>Pithecistestes</i> ) Cope..." English	Undated
b. 7, f. 53	"A New Genus of Oligocene <i>Hyaenodontidae</i> " English	Undated
b. 7, f. 54	"New Reconstructions at the Peabody Museum" English	Undated
b. 7, f. 55	"A New Species of Extinct Peccary from Oregon" English	Undated
b. 7, f. 56	"New Species of Uinta Carnivora" English	Undated
b. 7, f. 57	"Notes on the Bridger (Eocene) Carnivora" English	Undated



## Manuscripts (continued)

b. 7, f. 58	"On Measurements for the Oligocene Felidae" English	Undated
b. 7, f. 59	"Oregon Tertiary Canidae..." English	Undated
b. 7, f. 60	"The Osteology of <i>Eporeodon socialis</i> Marsh" English	Undated
b. 7, f. 61	"The Primitive, and Carnivorelike Characters of the Merycoidodontidae" English	Undated
b. 7, f. 62	"Restoration of <i>Eporeodon socialis</i> Marsh" English	Undated
b. 7, f. 63	"The Skeleton of <i>Brontosaurus excelsus</i> Marsh" English	Undated
b. 7, f. 64	"Some Tertiary Carnivora in the Marsh Collection" English	Undated
b. 7, f. 65	"Structural Features of the Abajo Mountains" English	Undated
b. 7, f. 66	"Two New Forms of <i>Agriochoerus</i> " English	Undated
b. 7, f. 67	"Two New Fossil Carnivora" English	Undated
b. 7, f. 68	"White River (Oligocene) <i>Eporeodon</i> " English	Undated
b. 7, f. 69	"Wyoming Eocene Fishes" English	Undated
b. 7, f. 70-71	Miscellanea	Undated
Memoirs of the Peabody Museum		
b. 8, f. 72	"Merycoidodontidae" English	1936
b. 8, f. 73	" <i>Bathygenys</i> " English	Undated
b. 8, f. 74	" <i>Chelonocephalus</i> " English	Undated
b. 8, f. 75	" <i>Cyclopidius</i> " English	Undated
b. 8, f. 76	" <i>Eporeodon</i> " English	Undated
b. 8, f. 77	" <i>Eucrotophus</i> " English	Undated

## Memoirs of the Peabody Museum (continued)

b. 8, f. 78	"Geographical Distribution" English	Undated
b. 8, f. 79	"Hymeryx" English	Undated
b. 8, f. 80	"Leptauchenia" English	Undated
b. 8, f. 81	"Limnenetes" English	Undated
b. 8, f. 82	"Merychys" English	Undated
b. 8, f. 83	"Merycochoerus" English	Undated
b. 8, f. 84	"Merycoides" English	Undated
b. 8, f. 85-86	"Merycoidodon" English	Undated
b. 8, f. 87	"Mesoreodon" English	Undated
b. 9, f. 88	"Metoreodon" English	Undated
b. 9, f. 89	"Oreodontoides" English	Undated
b. 9, f. 90	"Oreonetes" English	Undated
b. 9, f. 91	"Paroreodon" English	Undated
b. 9, f. 92	"Phenacocoelus" English	Undated
b. 9, f. 93	"Plates" English	Undated
b. 9, f. 94	"Poatrephes" English	Undated
b. 9, f. 95-96	"Promerycochoerus" English	Undated
b. 9, f. 97	"Protoreodon" English	Undated
b. 9, f. 98	"Ticholeptus" English	Undated
b. 9, f. 99	Notes and Outline	Undated

	1924	1924
b. 10, f. 100	"Contents, Illustrations, Introduction" English	
b. 10, f. 101	"Chapter 1" English	
b. 10, f. 102	"Chapter 2" English	
b. 10, f. 103	"Chapter 3" English	
b. 10, f. 104	"Chapter 4" English	
b. 10, f. 105	"Chapter 5" English	
b. 10, f. 106	"Chapter 6" English	
b. 10, f. 107	"Chapter 7" English	
b. 10, f. 108	"Chapter 8" English	
b. 10, f. 109	Paleontological Charts	Undated
b. 10, f. 110	Personal and Financial Papers	Undated
b. 10, f. 111	Resumé	Undated
b. 10, f. 112	Sigma Xi Society	Undated
b. 12, f. 51	Oversize	1920 March 4
b. 10, f. 113	Society of Vertebrate Paleontology	Undated
b. 10, f. 114	Student Papers	Undated
b. 11, f. 115-116	H. Emerson Tuttle Papers	Undated
b. 11, f. 117	Yale University Commencement	1934-1936
b. 11, f. 118	Yale University Faculty List	1944-1945
b. 11, f. 119	Yale University Paleontological Club	Undated

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## Selected Search Terms

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

### Subjects

Geology -- Utah -- Surveys  
Paleontology  
Science  
Vertebrates, Fossil

### Geographic Names

Utah -- Description and travel

### Names

Bateman, Alan M. (Alan Mara), 1889-1971  
Bowman, Isaiah, 1878-1950  
Dana, Edward Salisbury, 1849-1935  
Day, George Parmly, 1876-1959  
Doneghy, Mary Craddock  
Eaton, George Francis, 1872-1949  
Fields, Curtis P.  
Gregory, Herbert E. (Herbert Ernest), 1869-1952  
Hovey, Edmund Otis, 1862-1924  
Howe, Ernest, 1875-1932  
Lohmann, Carl A. (Carl Albert), 1887-  
Merriman, John Campbell, 1869-1945  
Palmer, Harold S. (Harold Schjoth), 1890-  
Pierson, George Wilson, 1904-1993  
Pilgrim, Guy Ellcock, 1875-  
Schuchert, Charles, 1858-1942  
Scott, William Berryman, 1858-1947  
Stock, Chester, 1892-1950  
Thorpe, Malcolm Rutherford, 1891-1957  
Tittle, Walter, 1883-1966  
Tuttle, H. E. (Henry Emerson), 1890-1946  
Weber, Rudolph, d. 1933  
Wilder, Thornton, 1897-1975  
Woodward, Arthur Smith, 1864-1944

### Corporate Bodies

Peabody Museum of Natural History  
Yale University. H. Emerson Tuttle Memorial  
Fund  
Yale University -- Faculty