

Charles Emerson Beecher Archives

IPAR.001034



Samantha Murphy

2014

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
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CALL NUMBER: IPAR.001034

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 including illustrations, catalogs, notes and locality information encompassing his career at Yale, and focusing on his work with fossil invertebrates.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/ypm.ipar.001034>

Administrative Information

Cite As

Charles Emerson Beecher Archives, Invertebrate Paleontology, Yale Peabody Museum

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

Includes drawings, illustrations and photographs of specimens and localities. Also, some correspondence.

Collection Contents

Series I: Drawings, Illustrations, Photographs, 1888-1904

Localities. Photographs and drawings of localities.
001038

Photographs. Photograph of Ordovician Beecher Trilobite Bed locality, Cleveland
Glen, Rome New York
000815

Specimens. Photographs, Drawingd and illustrations of multiple specimens.
001037

Drawing. Scrapbook of original drawings of fossil and Recent invertebrates by C.E. Beecher; donated by Nancy Herzig (relative of Beecher) in Sept. 2005
000814

Drawing. Original drawings, 1893, 1894, 1895, 1920: bl. & wh. photographs & glass negatives for papers on trilobite appendages; *Triarthrus becki*, *Cryptolithus* & *Acidaspis*; reprints of Pl. 8 of Beecher, 1896; list of people & institutions to whom *Triarthrus*-legged specimens were sent; total material rec'd. 20 boxes, 34 barrels, & 4 small lots.
000755

Drawing. Original illustrations for C.E. Beecher, 1902, Revision of the *Phyllocaridae* from the Chemung Formation (R.0119): Pennsylvania.
000267

Drawing. Original drawings of trilobite ontogeny (including *Triarthrus*) and trilobite cephal.
000756

Photographs. Two 4x5 black and white prints and one 4x5 glass negative of the actual specimen YPM 26319, *Prestwichia signata* Beecher. 4x5 black and white print & 4x5 negative
000554

photographs. Drawings, illustrations & photographs of *Brachiospongia*: Kentucky, Tennessee.
000276

Series II: Miscellaneous, 1888-1904

Correspondence. Correspondence to and from Charles E. Beecher.
001040

Papers, notes, correspondence. Letters to his wife from Charles Beecher and a letter from James Dana to Beecher; donated by Nancy Herzig (relative of Beecher) in Sept. 2005
000952

Locality Information. Locality information including notes and maps.
001039

Divisional notes. Locality information on "Beecher's Trilobite Bed": Ordovician, Utica Sh, New York. 2 different maps by Fred Collier of Smithsonian and by John S. Koziarz, 7922 Smith Rd., Rome, NY tel. (315)-865-4281 (current owner, 2003). Beecher's lease deed with G. Cleveland. Bio. info. on W.S. Valiant & F.L. Nason, and reprint by Valiant. 1989
000265

Locality information. locality information. 1892
000499

Locality information. Locality information, Maine. 1892
000656

Location map. Recent quadrangle xeroxes of Jerusalem Hill area: New York. 1901
000349

Miscellaneous. Miscellaneous Archives including divisional notes.
001042

Divisional notes. Note on disposition of Beecher's Trilobite Bed material: New York. 1988
000227

Specimen Lists. Catalogs of specimen identifications.
001041

Catalog of identifications. Catalog of Waverly Group fossil plants, Pennsylvania; and mostly living and a few fossil invertebrates. 1872
000216

Catalog of identifications. Catalog of invertebrate fossils: New York, Pennsylvania, & few Ohio, Missouri, Kansas, Michigan; red ink on light blue-gray paint. 1887
000217

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

Catalogs
Drawings (visual works)
Locality information
Maps

Corporate Bodies

Yale Peabody Museum
Yale University