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# Guide to the S. J. Sedgwick Collection

WA MSS S-2360



Sarah Lerner

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P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** WA MSS S-2360

**CREATOR:** Sedgwick, S. J. (Stephen James) , author

**TITLE:** S. J. Sedgwick collection

**DATES:** 1868-1895

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 2.13 linear feet (3 boxes + 2 broadside + 1 portfolio)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The S. J. Sedgwick Collection consists of manuscript notes and drafts for several of S. J. Sedgwick's slide lectures on the West ("Big Trees and Yosemite Valley," "Central Pacific Railroad," "Indians," and "Monterey, California") and one on geology; the manuscript draft and later proofs of the 4th edition of "Announcement of Professor S. J. Sedgwick's Illustrated Course of Lectures and Catalogue of Stereoscopic Views of Scenery of ... the Rocky and Sierra Mountains...", produced by the Union Pacific Railroad Company; and a scrapbook documenting his work for George A. Crofutt, publisher of a series of western travel guides. There are also printed bills and advertisements for Sedgwick's lectures. Both woodcuts and printed maps are included in the collection.

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

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.sjsedgwick>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to [beinecke.images@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

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

Materials acquired by gift and purchase from various sources as indicated on individual folders. Source information is recorded in the finding aid or on the folders. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

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### Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research

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### Conditions Governing Use

The S. J. Sedgwick Collection is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

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### Preferred Citation

S. J. Sedgwick Collection. Yale Collection of Western Americana, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

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### Processing Information

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

These materials have been arranged and described according to national and local standards. For more information, please refer to the Beinecke Manuscript Unit Processing Manual.

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## S. J. Sedgwick

S. J. Sedgwick was born near Geneva, New York, circa 1820. He became a principal in the Buffalo public school system at age 22, and went on to establish his own school, the Metropolitan Academy and Gymnasium, in New York City in 1852. He also edited the "Gymnast," a paper dedicated to physical education. In 1857, he received a Master's Degree from Union College, and taught in New York City public schools from 1858 until the Civil War. Following the war, he joined the photographic corps of the Union Pacific Railroad Company. When he returned to New York, he developed a popular series of lantern slide lectures called "Across the Continent," showing the West from Omaha to the Pacific. In 1873, Sedgwick worked as an agent for "Croft's Trans-Continental Tourists' Guide," travelling again throughout the West. Sedgwick also lectured on world religions, geology, astronomy, and art history.

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## Scope and Contents

The S. J. Sedgwick Collection contains manuscript notes and texts for 4 of S. J. Sedgwick's slide lectures on the West ("Big Trees and Yosemite Valley," "Central Pacific Railroad," "Indians," and "Monterey, California") and one on geology, as well as the manuscript draft and later proofs of the 4th edition of "Announcement

of Professor S. J. Sedgwick's Illustrated Course of Lectures and Catalogue of Stereoscopic Views of Scenery of ... the Rocky and Sierra Mountains...", produced by the Union Pacific Railroad Company. There are also 2 photographs of the State of Washington ferry; a scrapbook documenting Sedgwick's work for George A. Crofutt, and a scrapbook documenting his work for George A. Crofutt, publisher of a series of western travel guides, which includes his contract, diary entries, correspondence with Crofutt, clippings, and 2 printed maps; other business correspondence; printed bills and advertisements for the "Across the Continent" series and other lectures, many with woodcut illustrations after photographs; photographers' lists of lantern slides available for sale; and other papers.

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## Arrangement

Organized into six series: I. Correspondence, 1871-1895. II. Scrapbook, 1869-1886. III. Lectures, 1870-1890, undated. IV. Advertisements, 1868-1882, undated. V. Lantern Slide Catalogs, 1876, undated. VI. Other Papers, undated.

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Correspondence, 1871-1895

English

Series I contains business correspondence pertaining to S. J. Sedgwick's "Across the Continent" lecture series.

Series I is arranged chronologically.

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b. 1, f. 1	Business correspondence, on pages once part of a scrapbook, arranged chronologically English	1871-1895
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**Series II: Scrapbook, 1869-1886**

English

Series II consists of scrapbooks belonging to S. J. Sedgwick. Included are Sedgwick's contract, diary entries, correspondence with George A. Crofutt, and loose clippings.

Series II is arranged alphabetically.

b. 1, f. 2	"Crofutt's Trans-Continental Tourists' Guide," scrapbook documenting work as a Crofutt agent English	1873
b. 1, f. 3	Loose clippings received from between pages 35-36 of scrapbook (preservation copies) English	1869-1886
b. 4 (Portfolio), f. 28	Loose clippings received from between pages 35-36 of scrapbook (originals) English	1869-1886

**Series III: Lectures, 1870-1890, undated**

Series III consists of manuscript notes and texts for 4 of S. J. Sedgwick's slide lectures. Included is a manuscript draft--accompanied by later proofs--of the 4th edition of "Announcement of Professor S. J. Sedgwick's Illustrated Course of Lectures and Catalogue of Stereoscopic Views of Scenery of ... the Rocky and Sierra Mountains...".

Series III is arranged chronologically.

b. 1, f. 4	"Central Pacific Rail Road," manuscript text for slide lecture, Newtown [New York] English	1870 February
b. 1, f. 5	"Indians," manuscript text for slide lecture, Newtown English	1871 January
b. 1, f. 6	Announcement of Prof. S. J. Sedgwick's Illustrated Course of Lectures and Catalogue of Stereoscopic Views of Scenery in all Parts of the Rocky Mountains, between Omaha and Sacramento English	1874
b. 1, f. 7	Announcement of Prof. S. J. Sedgwick's illustrated course of lectures and catalogue of stereoscopic views of scenery in all parts of the Rocky and Sierra Nevada Mountains, between Omaha and San Francisco English	1876
b. 1, f. 8	Announcement of Professor S. J. Sedgwick's Illustrated Course of Lectures and Catalogue of Stereoscopic Views of Scenery in all Parts of the Rocky and Sierra Nevada Mountains between Omaha and San Francisco English	[1879]
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 21	Photographs of the State of Washington ferry showing the ferry going up and downstream for Announcement of Professor S. J. Sedgwick's Illustrated Course of Lectures and Catalogue of Stereoscopic Views of Scenery in all Parts of the Rocky and Sierra Nevada Mountains between Omaha and San Francisco English	circa 1879
b. 2, f. 12	Announcement of Prof. S. J. Sedgwick's Illustrated Course of Lectures and Catalogue of Stereoscopic Views of Scenery in all Parts of Rocky and Sierra Nevada Mountains between Omaha and San Francisco English	1879-1880
b. 2, f. 13	Announcement of Prof. S. J. Sedgwick's Illustrated Course of Lectures and Catalogue of Stereoscopic Views of Scenery in all Parts of the Rocky and Sierra Nevada Mountains between Omaha and San Francisco English	1879-1880
b. 1, f. 9	"No. II. Big Trees & Yosemite Valley," manuscript notes and text for slide lecture, Newtown English	1890 March
b. 1, f. 10	"Monterey, California," manuscript text for slide lecture, corrected English	undated
b. 1, f. 11	"II. Lecture," manuscript text for geology lecture about the formation of the Earth and Silurian life forms English	undated



**Series IV: Advertisements, 1868-1882, undated**

English

Series IV consists of printed bills and advertisements for S. J. Sedgwick's "Across the Continent" series and other lectures.

Series IV is arranged chronologically.

b. 2, f. 14	Printed advertisements for S. J. Sedgwick's "Across the Continent," religion, and art history lecture series English	1868-1882
b. 2, f. 15	"Prof. S. J. Sedgwick, A.M., Respectfully announces [...]," flyer for "Across the Continent," Astoria English	1874 January
b. 2, f. 16	"Third Grand Dime Entertainment [...]," flyer for S. J. Sedgwick's lecture series at the Cooper Institute, 2 copies English	1877 October 18
b. Broadside, folder 26	Poster for "Across the Continent" series English	1878 March
b. 2, f. 17	Manuscript text advertising S. J. Sedgwick's "Across the Continent" lecture series, Brooklyn English	undated
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 22	Printed advertisements or window cards for "Across the Continent," with woodcut illustrations English	undated
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 23	Posters for "Across the Continent" series English	undated
b. Broadside, folder 27	Poster for "Across the Continent," printed in red and blue, with manuscript corrections English	undated
b. 2, f. 18	Printed advertisements for slide lectures by Charles Harvey and E. O. Beaman (annotated) English	undated

**Series V: Lantern Slide Catalogs, 1876, undated**

English

Series V consists of lantern slide catalogs of William I. Marshall and Wm. Notman &amp; Son.

Series V is arranged chronologically.

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b. 2, f. 19	William I. Marshall, "Photographs of Wonderland, or Views in the Yellowstone National Park," list English	1876
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 24	Wm. Notman & Son, Montreal, list of slides of Manitoba, North West and Pacific, annotated English	undated

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**Series VI: Other Papers, undated**

English

Series VI consists of S. J. Sedgwick's manuscript notes and woodcut illustrations made by J. D. Woodward.

Series VI arranged alphabetically.

b. 2, f. 20	Manuscript notes and lists of people English	undated
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 25	Woodcut illustrations of scenes in Virginia by J. D. Woodward English	undated

## **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**

Central Pacific Railroad Company  
Geology, Stratigraphic -- Silurian  
Indians of North America  
Lecturers  
Posters  
Stereoscopic views -- Catalogs  
Union Pacific Railroad Company

### **Genres / Formats**

Advertisements  
Maps (documents)  
Trade catalogs  
Woodcuts (prints)

### **Geographic Names**

Monterey (Calif.) -- Description and travel  
West (U.S.) -- Pictorial works  
Yosemite Valley (Calif.) -- Description and travel

### **Occupations**

Naturalists

### **Contributors**

Sedgwick, S. J. (Stephen James) , author  
Crofutt, George A. , other