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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: 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: http://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

Localities. Photographs and drawings of localities.
Call Number: 001038

| Photographs. Photograph of Ordovician Beecher Trilobite Bed locality, Cleveland Glen, Rome New York | 1882 |
| Call Number: 000815 | |

Specimens. Photographs, Drawings and illustrations of multiple specimens.
Call Number: 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 | 1882 |
| Call Number: 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. | 1893 |
| Call Number: 000755 | |

| Call Number: 000267 | |

| Drawing. Original drawings of trilobite ontogeny (including Triarthrus) and trilobite cephala. | 2002 |
| Call Number: 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 | 1889 |
| Call Number: 000554 | |

| photographs. Drawings, illustrations & photographs of Brachiospongia: Kentucky, Tennessee. | 1889 |
| Call Number: 000276 | |
**Series II. Miscellaneous**

Correspondence. Correspondence to and from Charles E. Beecher.
Call Number: 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
  Call Number: 000952

Locality Information. Locality information including notes and maps.
Call Number: 001039

  Call Number: 000265

Call Number: 000499  1892

Call Number: 000656  1892

Call Number: 000349  1901

Miscellaneous. Miscellaneous Archives including divisional notes.
Call Number: 001042

  Call Number: 000227

Specimen Lists. Catalogs of specimen identifications.
Call Number: 001041

- Catalog of identifications. Catalog of Waverly Group fossil plants, Pennsylvania; and mostly living and a few fossil invertebrates.
  Call Number: 000216

  Call Number: 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
Locality information
Maps

Corporate Bodies
Yale Peabody Museum
Yale University