Charles Emerson Beecher Archives

IZAR.001571

Daniel Jonathan Drew

2014

170 Whitney Avenue
New Haven, CT 06511
peabody.permissions@yale.edu
http://peabody.yale.edu/
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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: 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: http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/ypm.izar.001571

Administrative Information

Cite As
Charles Emerson Beecher Archives, Invertebrate Zoology, 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

These papers include correspondence and manuscript related material.
George Washington Tryon Jr. Correspondence. Correspondence from G.W. Tryon to C.E. Beecher. 1887
Call Number: 001591
George Washington Tryon Jr. Correspondence. A letter from G.W. Tryon to W.B. Marshall, apparently forwarded to C.E. Beecher. 05 Dec 1877
Call Number: 001592

Henry Augustus Pilsbry Correspondence. Correspondence from H.A. Pilsbry to C.E. Beecher. 1890–1892
Call Number: 001574
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. 14 Feb 1892
Call Number: 001576

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. 18 Mar 1890
Call Number: 001577
Henry Augustus Pilsbry Correspondence. A letter from H.A. Pilsbry to C.E. Beecher discussing fresh-water mollusca taxonomy and systematics. 1890–1892
Call Number: 001575

R. Ellsworth Call Correspondence. Correspondence from R.E. Call to C.E. Beecher. 1886–1889
Call Number: 001586
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. 04 Mar 1888
Call Number: 001589

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. 05 Aug 1886
Call Number: 001587

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. 14 Nov 1889
Call Number: 001590

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. 28 Aug 1886
Call Number: 001588

William Healey Dall Correspondence. Correspondence from W.H. Dall to C.E. Beecher. 1887–1891
Call Number: 001578
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Call Number</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>001580</td>
<td>04 Nov 1887</td>
<td>A letter from W.H. Dall to C.E. Beecher discussing Rissoidae taxonomy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>001585</td>
<td>06 Jul 1891</td>
<td>A letter from W.H. Dall to C.E. Beecher asking Beecher if he ready to receive specimens of Tryonia clathrata to study.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>001579</td>
<td>10 Jan 1887</td>
<td>A letter from W.H. Dall to C.E. Beecher informing him he is sending specimens of Hydrobiinae.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>001581</td>
<td>10 Nov 1887</td>
<td>A letter from W.H. Dall to C.E. Beecher informing him he is sending some specimens of Amnicola and other species.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>001582</td>
<td>15 Nov 1887</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>001583</td>
<td>20 Nov 1887</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>001584</td>
<td>29 Nov 1887</td>
<td>A letter from W.H. Dall to C.E. Beecher discussing morphology nomenclature of the teeth of the radula.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Series II. Manuscript/Research Materials**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Freshwater Gastropoda. Archival material related to Beecher’s work on freshwater mollusca.</td>
<td>1888–1904</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Call Number: 001599</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freshwater Gastropoda. 12 cards. Each of a species of Amnicola, Bythinella etc. The cards contain radula formula for each species.</td>
<td>1888–1904</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Call Number: 001600</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freshwater Gastropoda. Handwritten description with radula formula for Amnicola dalli.</td>
<td>1888–1904</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Call Number: 001601</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freshwater Gastropoda. Numerous cards with radula 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.”</td>
<td>1888–1904</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Call Number: 001602</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freshwater Gastropoda. Handwritten description of Hydrobia n.sp. Includes radula formula.</td>
<td>1888–1904</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Call Number: 001605</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Call Number: 001606</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freshwater Gastropoda. 5 slips of tracing paper with figures of radula.</td>
<td>1888–1904</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Call Number: 001610</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freshwater Gastropoda. Numerous radula figures of Bythinella, Amnicola, etc.</td>
<td>1888–1904</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Call Number: 001618</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Series III. Slide Labels
C.E. Beecher slide labels.

Slide Labels. C.E. Beecher slide labels.  
Call Number: 001608  
1888–1904

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