

Guide to the Elisha Bartlett Papers

MS 1279



compiled by Diane E. Kaplan and William E. Brown, Jr.

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 1279

CREATOR: Bartlett, Elisha, 1804-1855

TITLE: Elisha Bartlett papers

DATES: 1821-1936

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 1 linear foot (2 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The papers consist of correspondence, writing, and notes of Elisha Bartlett, documenting his medical education, travels in Europe, and study and teaching of medicine. Also included are letters to Harvey Cushing concerning the Bartlett Papers.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1279>

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.1279>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to 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

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Transferred from the Yale University Medical Historical Library, 1980.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Preferred Citation

Elisha Bartlett Papers. Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

Elisha Bartlett was a physician, professor of medicine, and author. He lectured at various medical schools including Transylvania University and the University of Louisville. Bartlett was a leading authority on typhoid fever. He was also the first mayor of Lowell, Massachusetts.

Scope and Contents

The Elisha Bartlett Papers consist of the correspondence, writings, and notes documenting Bartlett's medical education, his travels in Europe, and the study and teaching of medicine during the first half of the 19th century. Also included are letters to Harvey Cushing concerning the Bartlett papers.

The correspondence (folders 1 – 14), which is arranged chronologically, begins in 1826 as Bartlett prepares to depart for Europe in order to attend medical lectures in Paris. Bartlett wrote long, detailed letters to his family (folders 1 – 2) describing his impressions of Paris, his domestic arrangements, and his visits to museums, churches, and celebrations. He gives fewer details of his medical studies, teachers, and visits to state-supported medical institutions. He also sent his father a lengthy description of the production of sugar from beets. While not attending lectures Bartlett visited Italy and London, and the letters also contain details of these excursions. In folders 9 and 10 there are additional travel letters, addressed "to my friends at home" giving very detailed descriptions of another visit to England and the continent, 1845-46.

The rest of the correspondence is composed of letters received by Bartlett from friends and colleagues. Some of these items relate to appointments and affairs at Transylvania University and the University of Louisville. Several letters written in 1842 congratulate Bartlett on the publication of *Fevers in the United States*. Succeeding letters often contain requests for information on the diagnosis and treatment of various diseases, including black tongue, typhoid, and ship fever. A few letters in 1848 concern the safety of drinking water conducted through lead pipes, and folder 13 contains a discussion of color blindness.

Folders 15 – 17 contain Bartlett's notes on medical lectures he attended in the United States and in France. Included are bound volumes of notes of James Jackson's lectures on the theory and practice of physick and Jacob Bigelow's lectures on materia medica. Bartlett's writings in folders 18 – 19 include poems, essays, drafts for unidentified medical works, and a printed copy of Bartlett's defense of the employment of women in Lowell's textile mills.

Folder 21 contains letters to Harvey Cushing, who collected the Bartlett papers and donated them to the Yale University Historical Medical Library. The papers were transferred to Manuscripts and Archives in 1980.

Collection Contents

b. 1, f. 1 - 14	Correspondence	1826-1854, undated
	Lectures	
b. 2, f. 15	Medical and literary notes—general	1826-1828
b. 2, f. 16	"James Jackson's Lectures" English	1824-1825
b. 2, f. 17	"Jacob Bigelow Lectures on Materia Medica" English	1825
	Writings	
b. 2, f. 18	Manuscripts	1821-1850s
b. 2, f. 19	A Vindication of the Character and Condition of the Females Employed in the Lowell Mills	1841
b. 2, f. 20	Clippings, photograph	1851-1865, undated
b. 2, f. 21	Harvery Cushing correspondence concerning Elisha Bartlett's papers See also: Inventory Folder 16 ref14	1927-1936

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

Materia medica
Medical colleges -- Kentucky
Medical education
Medicine
Physicians
Typhoid fever
Voyages and travels

Geographic Names

Europe -- Description and travel
France -- Description and travel
Italy -- Description and travel
Lowell (Mass.)

Names

Bartlett, Elisha, 1804-1855
Bigelow, Jacob, 1786-1879
Cushing, Harvey, 1869-1939
Jackson, James, 1777-1867

Corporate Body

University of Louisville

Contributors

Bartlett, Elisha, 1804-1855
Transylvania University