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Guide to the Stephen Henry Bronson Papers

MS 1282

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

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 1282

CREATOR: Bronson, Stephen Henry, 1844-1880

TITLE: Stephen Henry Bronson papers

DATES: 1827-1881

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.75 linear feet (2 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The papers consist of the diaries and letters of Stephen Henry Bronson (with typescripts) and a diary of his father Henry Bronson (with typescript). The material documents the younger Bronson's three years of scientific and medical study in Paris, in addition to his European travels, 1867-1871. Henry Bronson's diary details his European voyage, 1839-1840.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1282

Requesting Instructions

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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; gift of the Eli Whitney Museum, 1988.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Preferred Citation

Stephen Henry Bronson Papers (MS 1282). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

Stephen Henry Bronson was a graduate of the medical class of Yale College in 1866. He was a physician, founder of the New Haven Dispensary, and Yale College lecturer.

Scope and Contents

The papers contain Stephen Henry Bronson's diaries (originals and typescripts) and letters (typescripts) to his parents, which date from 1867-1871 while Bronson was studying and traveling in Europe and Great Britain. Two diary volumes cover the entire period of Bronson's studies, 1867-1870, as well as an 1871 trip abroad, while the typescripts of letters cover the period from October 1867 - March 1869. The bi-weekly letters contain fuller descriptions of matters outlined in the daily diary entries.

Bronson travelled to Paris in order to pursue his scientific education, and the papers contain numerous references to his laboratory work in comparative anatomy at the Jardin des Plantes and with Milne Edwards. The papers also document the growth of Bronson's friendship with George Pouchet, his interests in paleontology, zoology, and other biological sciences, and his attendance at lectures in the medical sciences and natural history. The diaries record Bronson's attempts to learn French, and from the end of June, 1868 through February, 1870 all diary entries are in French. The diaries and letters also contain Bronson's observations on the national character, politics, scenery, museums, theatre, churches, and cultural events of France and Germany, and the cities of Prague, and Vienna. Diary entries for an 1871 trip note Bronson's travels in Great Britain.

In addition, the papers include a biographical sketch of Bronson, attributed to his father Henry Bronson, and a diary (original and typescript) kept by the elder Bronson on a trip to Europe in 1839-1840. This diary describes in great detail a long and arduous sea voyage from New York to Genoa and travels in Italy, France, Great Britain, and Ireland, including visits to Rome, the Vatican, Naples, and Pompeii.

Collection Contents
Inventory, 1839-1871

	Bronson, Stephen Henry	
b. 1, f. 1	Biographical sketch	
	Diaries	
b. 1, f. 2-3	Originals	1867-1871
b. 1, f. 4-8	Typescripts	1867-1871
b. 1, f. 9-11	Letters: typescripts	1868-1869
	Bronson, Henry	
	Diary	
b. 1, f. 12	Original	1839-1840
b. 1, f. 13	Typescript	1839-1840

Accession 1988-M-089: Additional Material, 1827-1881, undated

0.25 linear feet (1 box)

b. 1, f. 1	Letters written by Stephen Henry Bronson	1853-1876
b. 1, f. 2	Letters to Sarah Lathrop Bronson (mother of Stephen Henry Bronson)	1827-1880, undated
b. 1, f. 3	Letters to and other papers of Henry Bronson	1832-1881, undated
b. 1, f. 4	Letters to and checks of Nathan S. Bronson	1852-1874, undated
b. 1, f. 5	Letters of others; other papers	1827-1865

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

Anatomy, Comparative
Medical education
Medicine
Physicians
Science
Voyages and travels

Geographic Names

Europe -- Description and travel
France -- Description and travel
Great Britain -- Description and travel
Italy -- Description and travel
Paris (France) -- Description and travel

Genres / Formats

Diaries

Names

Bronson, Henry, 1804-1893
Bronson, Stephen Henry, 1844-1880
Edwards, Milne, 1800-1885
Pouchet, G. (Georges), 1833-1894