Guide to the William Beebe Papers

MS 907

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Collection Overview

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CALL NUMBER:	MS 907
CREATOR:	Beebe, William, 1851-1917
TITLE:	William Beebe papers
DATES:	1901-1917
PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:	0.25 linear feet
LANGUAGE:	English
SUMMARY:	The papers of William Beebe consist of three manuscripts: "Celestial Mechanics" (1901-1902), and two lectures given by Beebe in 1917. One is on John Milton and the other on the organization of Yale University
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b.   box
f.   folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gifts of Yale Mathematics Department, 1955 and Mrs. Jasper Y. Brinton.

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Preferred Citation

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Biographical / Historical

William Beebe, B.A. 1873

Born September 4, 1851, in Litchfield, Conn.

Died March 11, 1917, in New Haven, Conn.

William Beebe was born September 4, 1851, in Litchfield, Conn., the son of Philip Schuyler and Lucy Beebe (Robbins) Beebe. His father, whose parents were William and Clarissa (Sanford) Beebe, was descended from John Beebe, who came to this country from England in May, 1650, and settled in Hadley, Mass. His great-grandfather, Bezaliel Beebe, a colonel in the Revolution, also fought in the French and Indian Wars. His mother, likewise a descendant of John Beebe, was the daughter of Samuel and Luce (Beebe) Robbins.

He was fitted for Yale at the Litchfield Select Academy. He was awarded first and second prizes in English composition in Sophomore year, a second prize at Junior Exhibition, and a Townsend premium and a first prize in English composition Senior year. His appointments were Philosophical Orations, and he ranked third in the Class at graduation. He was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, and served on the editorial board of the *Yale Literary Magazine* in 1872-73.

He taught for three months in the autumn of 1873 in the Hartford (Conn.) Public High School, but was then compelled by an attack of inflammatory rheumatism to give up his position. In 1874 he began work in mathematics and astronomy in the Yale Graduate School, continuing his studies in that department until 1879. He had been a member of the Yale Faculty since 1876, when he received an appointment as a tutor. Six years later he was promoted to be assistant professor of mathematics, and in 1898 was raised to a full professorship. He had also served as instructor and professor of astronomy. Since the fall of 1915 he had been a member of the University Council. Professor Beebe had written a number of articles on cometary orbits for German periodicals. In 1882, in conjunction with the late Professor Andrew Wheeler Phillips (Ph.B. 1873, Honorary M.A. Trinity 1875, Ph.D. Yale 1877), he published "Graphic Algebra," and a few years ago completed a work on analytical geometry. He belonged to the American Mathematical Society. Yale conferred the honorary degree of Master of Arts upon him in 1899.

Professor Beebe had for some years been actively interested as a trustee in the George Junior Republic at Litchfield, and of late he had given generously of his time and energy to the work of the American Red Cross and had served on the Serbian Relief Committee. He was a benefactor of the Gaylord Farm Sanatorium in Wallingford, Conn., of which he was a director and, for some years, financial agent. A few years ago he and Mrs. Beebe gave to this institution an open air pavilion in memory of their son. Professor

Beebe was a member of the Protestant Episcopal Church, being a vestryman of Trinity Church, New Haven. He had taken a number of trips abroad.

He died March 11, 1917, at his home in New Haven, after a brief illness from double pneumonia. His body was taken to Litchfield for burial in the West Cemetery.

He was married June 22, 1880, in Wilmington, Del., to Elizabeth, daughter of Col. George Lea Febiger, U. S. A., and Caroline (Smith) Febiger. They had one son, Philip Schuyler, 2d, a non-graduate member of the Sheffield Class of 1905, who died May 20, 1908. Professor Beebe, who was the last of his name and family, was survived by his wife.

(Taken from *Yale Obituary Record*, 1915-20, pp. 341-342).

Scope and Contents

Three writings by the mathematician and astronomer William Beebe make up this collection. The first is a manuscript volume entitled "Celestial Mechanics," written in 1901-02, and dealing with the effects of gravitation on the motion of planets and other bodies. The volume was given to Manuscripts and Archives by the Yale Mathematics Department in 1955.

The other two items are lectures given by Beebe before the Colby Club at Yale University in 1917, the first on John Milton and the other on the organization of Yale University. These two items were donated to Yale by Mrs. Jasper Y. Brinton.

Papers concerning a memorial to William Beebe may be found in the Yale University Archives, YRG 6-Q.

Collection Contents

b. 1, f. 1	"Celestial Mechanics" English	1901-1902
b. 1, f. 2	"An Astronomical Poet" English	1917
b. 1, f. 3	Address on the organization of Yale University	[ca. 1917]

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

Astronomers
Educators
Science

Occupations

Mathematicians

Names

Beebe, William, 1851-1917

Corporate Bodies

Yale University. Dept. of Mathematics
Yale University -- Administration
Yale University -- Faculty