

# Guide to the Stephen Henry Bronson Collection

## Ms Coll 8



Finding aid by Todd A. Lane

2004

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New Haven, CT 06520-8014  
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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Medical Historical Library, Cushing/Whitney Medical Library  
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333 Cedar St.  
New Haven, CT 06520-8014  
203-737-1192  
203-785-5636  
historical.library@yale.edu  
<http://historical.medicine.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** Ms Coll 8

**CREATOR:** Bronson, Stephen Henry, 1844-1880

**TITLE:** Stephen Henry Bronson collection

**DATES:** 1867-1870

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 1 linear foot (2 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The Stephen Henry Bronson collection includes autograph correspondence of Dr. Stephen Henry Bronson, while studying abroad in Europe, to his parents, dating from October 1867 to May 1870. There are also typescripts of the correspondence prepared by or for Elizabeth H. Thomson, a member of the faculty of the Department of History of medicine at Yale. One finds in Bronson's letters observations about medicine - in particular anatomy, and academic, civic, cultural and political life in France. There are many references to medicine in Connecticut and in the city of New Haven. The collection also contains a typescript of an article on Bronson by Elizabeth Harriet Thomson, titled "An American Student in Paris," as well as Thomson's notes.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/med.ms.0008>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use on site, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/med.ms.0008>.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box  
f. folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Donated to the Historical Library by Stephen Henry Bronson's niece, Dr. Margaret Bronson Weir, 1973. Transcripts were left by Elizabeth Thomson.

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## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

The Stephen Henry Bronson Papers are the physical property of the Harvey Cushing / John Hay Whitney Medical Library, Yale University. Yale University does not hold copyright. For further information, consult staff.

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## Preferred Citation

Stephen Henry Bronson Collection. Cushing/Whitney Medical Library, Yale University.

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## Associated Materials

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

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## Biographical / Historical

Stephen Henry Bronson was born in Waterbury, Connecticut on February 18, 1844, the youngest son of Dr. Henry Bronson and Sarah M. (Lathrop) Bronson. In 1862 he entered the Medical Institution of Yale College from which he graduated in 1866. After graduation he continued his studies in anatomy in Cambridge, Massachusetts and New Haven, Connecticut before entering the Laboratory of Comparative Anatomy attached to the Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle in Paris in the fall of 1867. While in Paris he developed an intimate friendship with Georges Pouchet, and attended lectures in the medical sciences and natural history by Auguste Néalton, Charles Robin, Claude Bernard, J. F. Jarjavary, Armand de Quatrefages, and Henri Milne Edwards. Upon his return from Paris in 1870, Bronson settled in New Haven where he helped to establish the New Haven Dispensary, which opened to the public in 1871. He served as one of its physicians, its secretary, and chief officer. In 1874 he was appointed one of the physicians of New Haven Hospital. Bronson retained these posts until his early death in August, 1880.

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## Scope and Contents

The documents contained within this collection include original correspondence of Stephen Henry Bronson, while in Europe, to his parents, dating from March 1867 to May 1870, of which both original letters and 20th century typescripts are available. One finds in Bronson's letters observations about medicine - in particular anatomy, and academic, civic, cultural and political life in France. There are many references to medicine in Connecticut and in the city of New Haven. The collection also contains a typescript by Elizabeth Harriet Thomson of an article on Bronson "An American student in Paris," as well as her notes.

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## Arrangement

Organized in three series: I. Original letters. II Transcripts III Manuscripts on Bronson by Elizabeth H. Thomson.

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Letters of Stephen Henry Bronson to his parents, 1867-1870

b. 1, f. 1-3	Original letters	1867
b. 1, f. 4-15	Original letters	1868
b. 1, f. 16-27	Original letters	1869
b. 1, f. 28-31	Original letters	1870

## **Series II: Typescripts of letters of Stephen Henry Bronson to his parents, 1867-1870**

b. 1, f. 32-36      Transcripts, probably made by Elizabeth Thomson.

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b. 1, f. 37-40      Copies of Transcripts

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### **Series III: Manuscripts of articles on Bronson by Elizabeth H. Thomson, after 1973**

b. 2, f. 41	Elizabeth Thomson, typescript, "An American Student in Paris," 103 pages	after 1973
b. 2, f. 42	Draft of the above and research notes	after 1973
b. 2, f. 43	Miscellaneous typescripts	after 1973
b. 2, f. 44	Copies of obituaries of Bronson and his father. Includes a typescript of a manuscript obituary attributed to Henry Bronson.	

## 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 -- Connecticut  
Medicine -- France  
Science  
Voyages and travels

### Geographic Names

Europe -- Description and travel  
France -- Description and travel  
Great Britain -- Description and travel  
New Haven (Conn.) -- Description and travel  
Paris (France) -- Description and travel

### Names

Bernard, Claude, 1813-1878  
Bronson, Henry, 1804-1893  
Bronson, Stephen Henry, 1844-1880  
Jarjavay, J.-F. (Jean-François), -1868  
Milne-Edwards, H. (Henri), 1800-1885  
Néalton, Auguste, 1807-1873  
Pouchet, G. (Georges), 1833-1894  
Quatrefages, A. de (Armand de), 1810-1892  
Robin, Ch., 1821-1885

### Corporate Body

Muséum national d'histoire naturelle (France)

### Contributors

Bronson, Stephen Henry, 1844-1880  
Thomson, Elizabeth Harriet, 1907-