



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

Guide to the Edward Palmer papers, 1869-1920

NAA Staff

circa 1994, 2002

National Anthropological Archives
Museum Support Center
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	Edward Palmer papers
Date:	1869-1920
Identifier:	NAA.1981-55
Creator:	Palmer, Edward, 1829-1911 Safford, William Edwin, 1859-1926 Archer, William Andrew
Extent:	3.5 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The collection includes not only Palmer's own material but also that of William E. Safford, William Andrew Archer, Joseph Nelson Rose, William Ralph Maxon, and Frederick Vernon Coville that concern Palmer. The collection was in the custody of the Department of Botany of the National Museum of Natural History before it was transferred to the National Anthropological Archives. Other than the biographical material, the subject matter is largely botanical and concerns collecting activities in Mexico, Arizona, California, Utah, Texas, and Idaho.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The history of the collection is not completely clear, but it appears, at least in part, to have been brought together in the work of William E. Safford on a biography of Palmer and the work of William Andrew Archer in ethnobotany. The collection transferred from the Department of Botany, National Museum of Natural History, to the National Anthropological Archives in 1981. Added to the collection were materials sent by Robert Bye, of the University of Colorado, in 1981.

Processing Information

This digital finding aid was created from two previous NAA records: a MARC catalog record, from which the overview/administrative information was drawn, and an analog inventory of the collection contents, which has been inputted as the contents/container listing. Omissions and errors in the legacy inventory and catalog record have in most cases been fixed, but due to time constraints minor inconsistencies (such as the absence of dates from most items) have not been remedied.

Processed by NAA Staff. Catalog record created 1994. Inventory last updated by Ann R. Hunt in 2003.

Digital finding aid compiled and encoded by Katherine Madison, March 2017.

Preferred Citation

Edward Palmer papers, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

Restrictions

The Edward Palmer papers are open for research.

Access to the Edward Palmer papers requires an appointment.

Conditions Governing Use

Contact the repository for terms of use.

Biographical / Historical

Edward Palmer (1831-1911) was an English-born United States Army physician, naturalist, and collector for the Smithsonian and several other institutions. He specialized in botany and anthropology.

Scope and Contents

The Edward Palmer papers contains material largely of Palmer, including correspondence, 1870-1920; journal notes, 1869-1910; field notes, 1890-1907; numerical list of Palmer's specimens, some 1913. The collection also contains material of William Andrew Archer, including card index of plants and their uses; common plant name index; bibliography cards and records of works consulted; Spanish-English dictionary (cards); as well as material of William E. Safford, including manuscript of "Edward Palmer: Botanical Explorer"; miscellaneous material and drafts relating to the biography. Other material in the collection includes miscellaneous working material of Safford and Archer and photographs of botanical specimens from several collections "received from the Ball estate."

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- American Indian -- Ethnobotany
- American Indians -- Ethnobotany
- Ethnobotany
- Language and languages -- Documentation

Cultures:

- American Indian -- Ethnobotany
- American Indians -- Ethnobotany

Container Listing

Photographs from Ball Estate	
Box 1	Miscellaneous
Box 1	Salix adenophylla Hook 3 Items
Box 1	Salix adenophylla
Box 1	Salix ampliifolia Coville
Box 1	Salix amygdaloides
Box 1	Salix amygdaloides Andersson 2 Items
Box 1	Salix amygdaloides var. wrightii
Box 1	Salix barrattiana Hooker
Box 1	Salix bebbiana Sarg
Box 1	Salix brachycarpa var. mexiae Ball
Box 1	Salix caroliniana
Box 1	Salix caudate var. parvifolia Ball
Box 1	Salix delnortensis Schneid
Box 1	Salix desertorum
Box 1	Salix discolor
Box 1	Salix exigua Nuttall (co-type)
Box 1	Salix exigua Nuttall
Box 1	Salix farrae Ball
Box 1	Salix fluviatilis Nuttall
Box 1	Salix glauca var. alicae
Box 1	Salix glaucophylla Bebb

Box 1	Salix gooddingii Ball
Box 1	Salix gooddingii
Box 1	Salix gooddingii Ball 5 Items
Box 1	Salix hindsiana Benth.
Box 1	Salix hindsiana var. leucodendroides (Rowlee) Ball
Box 1	Salix hookeriana Barratt
Box 1	Salix jepsonii Schneider
Box 1	Salix laevigata Bebb
Box 1	Salix lasiandra Benth.
Box 1	Salix ligulifolia Ball
Box 1	Salix lutea Nuttall (co-type)
Box 1	Salix mackenziana (Hook.) Barratt
Box 1	Salix macrostachya
Box 1	Salix macrostachya Nuttall (co-type in herbarium)
Box 1	Salix malacophylla (type specimen)
Box 1	Salix malacophylla Nuttall
Box 1	Salix melanopsis Nuttall (co-type in herbarium)
Box 1	Salix melanopsis var. gracilipes Ball
Box 1	Salix monochroma Ball
Box 1	Salix myrtillifolia Andersson
Box 1	Salix niphoclada Rydberg
Box 1	Salix parksiana Ball
Box 1	Salix parksiana Ball (type)
Box 1	Salix parksiana Ball

Box 1	Salix pennata Ball
Box 1	Salix petiolaris J.E. Smith
Box 1	Salix petrophila var. caespitosa (Ken.) Schn.
Box 2	Salix pseudocordata (Andersson) Rydt. 2 Items
Box 2	Salix richardsonii Hook.
Box 2	Salix sessilifolia Nuttall 2 Items
Box 2	Salix setchelliana Ball
Box 2	Salix tracyi Ball
Box 2	Salix walpolei Coville & Ball
Box 2	Salix wolfii Bebb
Box 2	Salix
Box 2	Salix (fossil)
Box 2	Salix fotor
Journal notes, 1869-1910	
Box 3	Notes, 1869-1870
Box 3	Notes, 1870-1879
Box 3	Notes, 1879
Box 3	Notes, 1880-1889
Box 3	Notes, 1889
Box 3	Notes, 1890
Box 3	Notes, 1890-1899 4 Folders
Box 3	Notes, 1893
Box 3	Notes, 1896

Box 3 Notes, 1898

Box 3 Notes, 1901-1902

Box 3 Notes, 1904-1909

Box 3 Notes, 1907

Box 3 Notes, 1910

Box 3 Notes, undated

Correspondence, 1870-1920

Box 4 Autran, Eugene

Box 4 Baird, Spencer Fullerton

Box 4 Binney, William G.

Box 4 Brandegee, Katharine

Box 4 Britton, Nathaniel Lord

Box 4 Bundy, C.S.
Notes: Regarding settlement of Palmer's will

Box 4 Cook, Orator Fuller

Box 4 Coville, Frederick V.

Box 4 Cunningham, R.B.

Box 4 Dewey, Lyster H.

Box 4 Eastwood, Alice

Box 4 Fairchild, David Grandison

Box 4 Fernald, Merritt Lyndon

Box 4 Field Museum

Box 4 Flint, James M.

Box 4 Greenman, J.M.

Box 4 Kew (Royal Botanic Garden)

Box 4	Maxon, William R.
Box 4	Painter, Joseph Hannum
Box 4	Parry, Charles Christopher
Box 4	Pilling, James Constantine
Box 4	Powell, John Wesley
Box 4	Rendle, A.B.
Box 4	Robinson, B.L.
Box 4	Rose, Joseph Nelson, 1889-1904
Box 4	Rose, Joseph Nelson, 1905-1910
Box 4	Sargent, C.S.
Box 4	Seaton, Henry E.
Box 4	Sturtevant, E. Lewis
Box 4	Thiselton-Dyer, William T.
Box 4	Trelease, William
Box 5	Vasey, George, 1873-1888
Box 5	Vasey, George, 1889-1892
Box 5	Watson, Sereno
Box 5	Williard, Alexander
Box 5	Unidentified
	William E. Safford manuscript
Box 6	Carbons of final draft (incomplete)
	Safford manuscript:
Box 6	Pages 1-114
Box 6	Pages 115-264

Box 6	Pages 265-400
Box 6	Pages 401-512
Box 6	Pages 513-610
Box 6	Pages 611-693
Box 7	Correspondence
Box 7	Clare W. Safford's appointment paper and pay vouchers
Box 7	Drafts of synopsis by Clare W. Safford
Box 7	Synopsis by Clare W. Safford
	Discarded pages:
Box 7	Chapter 2
Box 7	Chapter 4
Box 7	Chapter 5
Box 7	Chapter 6
Box 7	Chapter 8 2 Folders
Box 7	Chapter 9
Box 7	Chapter 11
Box 7	Chapter 12
Box 7	Chapter 14
Box 7	Chapter 16
Box 7	Chapter 17
Box 7	Chapter 18
Box 7	Chapter 21
Box 7	Chapter 22
Box 7	Chapter 23

First draft:

Box 7	Page numbers centered
Box 7	With corrections
Box 7	Pages 1-25
Box 7	Pages 25-211
Box 7	Pages 214-231
Box 7	Pages 216-278
Box 7	Pages 298-323
Box 7	Pages 324-340
Box 7	Pages 324-336
Box 7	Pages 342-348
Box 7	Pages 342-352 (mispagenated)

William E. Safford and William Andrew Archer's working material

Box 8	Ethnological notes
Box 8	Safford correspondence
Box 8	Field journals
Box 8	Safford manuscripts
Box 8	Photographs
Box 8	Archer's schema of Palmer's field data and numerical lists
Box 8	Archer's draft catalog of field notebooks
Box 8	Archer's inventory of Palmer-Safford papers
Box 8	Miscellany
Box 8	Printed material 2 Folders
Box 9	Checklist of Genera. Alphabetical A-K

Box 9 Checklist of Genera. Alphabetical L-Z

Numerical lists of specimens, 1886-1910

Box 10 List, 1886

Box 10 List, 1890-1892
2 Copies

Box 10 List, 1896

Box 10 List, 1897

Box 10 List, 1898

Box 10 List, 1910

Box 10 Catalog of specimens, 1891

Field notes, 1890-1907

Box 11 #1-161: La Paz, San Pedro Martin Island, Raza Island, 1890 January-February

Box 11 #145-147; 162-176; 273: Guaymas, Sonora, Mexico, 1890 February 11

Box 11 #177-210; 265-272: Santa Rosalia, 1890 February 24-March 3

Box 11 #222-264: Santa Agueda, Baja California, Mexico, 1890 March 4-6

Box 11 #276-415: Alamos and Guaymas, Sonora, Mexico, 1890

Box 11 #416-478: Ft. Hauchuca, Arizona, 1890 April 26-May 21

Box 11 #479-626: Willow Springs, Arizona, 1890

Box 11 #575-613: Fort Apache, Arizona, 1890 June 21-30

Box 11 #627-751: Alamos, Sonora, Mexico, 1890 September 16-30

Box 11 #816-885: Carmen Island, Baja California, Mexico, 1890 November 1-7

Box 11 #752-815; 886-1401; 1406-1410: Agiakampo, Sonora, Manzanillo, Colima, Armeria, Colima, Mexico, 1890 October-1891 March

Box 11 #1413-1475: Imala, Sinoloa, Mexico, 1891 August 16-25

Box 11 #1476-1539: Culiacan, Sinoloa, Mexico, 1891 August 27-September 15

Box 11	#1560-1667: Ranel hodiego, Sinoloa, Mexico, 1891 October 9-15
Box 11	#1668-1806: Imala, Culiacan, Sinoloa, 1891 September 25-October 8, October 25-November 18
Box 11	#2770-2780: Culiacan, Sinoloa, Mexico, 1891 Summer
Box 12	#1813-2039: Tepic, Nayavit, Mexico, 1892 January 5-February 6
Box 12	#2031-2099; 2300-2769: California, 1892
Box 12	#1-634: Acapulco, Guerrero, Manzanillo, Colima, Mexico, 1894-1895
Box 12	#1-30: Durango, Durango, Mexico, 1896 April 1-8
Box 12	#31-53: Santiago Papasquiario, Durango, Mexico, 1896 April 12-15
Box 12	#36-950 (misc. unordered numbers): Durango, 1896 November
Box 12	#54-89: Mina Tres Reyes, Durango, 1896 April 16-19
Box 12	#91-124: Nombre de Dios, Durango, 1896 April 27-30
Box 12	#125-300: Durango, 1896 June 1-24
Box 12	#301-391: Durango, 1896 July 1-25
Box 12	#392-472: Santiago Papasquiario, 1896 August 1-11
Box 12	#473-556: Durango, 1896 August 14-31
Box 12	#771-834; 951-956; 961-962: Dos Cajetes, 1896 November 3-5
Box 12	#835-873; 880: Durango, 1896 November 8-10
Box 12	#883-950; 957-960; 963-974: Durango, 1896
Box 12	#951-956; 961-962: Dos Cajetes, 1896
Box 12	#967-973: Santiago Papasquiario, Durango, Mexico, 1896
Box 13	#1-174; 273: Colima, 1897 July-August
Box 13	#177-269: Topolokampo, Sinalra, Mexico, 1897 September 15-25
Box 13	#261-266; 272: San Jose de Guaymas, Sonora, Mexico, 1897 October 1-6

Box 13	#9-20: Saltillo, Coahuila, Mexico, 1898 April 15-30
Box 13	#202-375: Saltillo, Coahuila, Mexico, 1898 June-September
Box 13	#377-422: Saltillo, Coahuila, Mexico, 1898 September
Box 13	#423-454: Parras, Coahuila, Mexico, 1898 October 6-11
Box 13	#455-502; 516; 786-788: Torreon, Coahuila, Mexico, 1898 October 13-20
Box 13	#516/2-552; 555-556; 586-587: Mapini, Durango, Mexico, 1898 September
Box 13	#557-585: Saltillo, Coahuila, Mexico, 1898 November 2-5
Box 13	#704: San Luis Potosi, 1898
Box 13	#790-813: Saltillo, Coahuila, Mexico, 1898 September
Box 13	#1-44: San Luis Potosi, 1902 August 18-23
Box 13	#45-86: Alvarez, 1902 September 5-10
Box 13	#87-100; 453-454: San Luis Potosi, 1902 September 12-16
Box 13	#101-213: Alvarez, 1902 September 5-10, September 28-October 3
Box 13	#214-277: Las Canoas, 1902 October 15-21
Box 13	#278-370: Saltillo, 1902 November 10-20
Box 13	#442-452: Alvarez, 1902 September 28-October 3
Box 13	#453-454: San Luis Potosi, 1903
Box 13	#399-584 (with misc. numbers and notes): Victoria, Mexico, 1907 May 1-June 13
Box 13	Duplicates (typescripts), undated
Box 14	Old folders for Palmer's field notes
William Andrew Archer material	
Card index of plants and their uses:	
Box 1	A-C

Box 2	D-O
Box 3	P-Z
Box 4	Common name index A-P
Box 5	Common name index Q-Z
Box 5	Bibliography
Box 5	Record of works consulted
Box 6	Spanish-English dictionary