



Smithsonian Institution Archives

Divisional Records, 1885-1917 and undated

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Washington, D.C.
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu
Title:	Divisional Records
Identifier:	Record Unit 203
Date:	1885-1917 and undated
Extent:	0.5 cu. ft. (1 document box)
Creator::	United States National Museum. Division of Comparative Anatomy
Language:	Language of Materials: English

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 203, United States National Museum. Division of Comparative Anatomy, Divisional Records

Historical Note

From 1885 until about 1904, a Department of Comparative Anatomy existed within the United States National Museum. This department (after 1897 a division in the Department of Biology) was responsible for the preparation and care of the osteological specimens of the museum. From the early days of the museum collections, separate bone catalogs were kept, distinct from the other specimen catalogs. In addition, a series of vertebrate skulls and skeletons were exhibited in the main hall of the Smithsonian building, and much additional material was in storage.

When the collections were moved from the Smithsonian building to the Museum in 1883, a proposal was made that a department of comparative anatomy should be set up. Although Frederick William True and Frederic Augustus Lucas were listed as curator and assistant in such a department as early as 1883, formal organization of the department first came in 1885.

Frederic A. Lucas joined the Smithsonian Institution in 1882 as an osteological preparator and became assistant curator to True in 1887. True was the first full curator and served from 1885 to 1890, when Frank Baker became honorary curator. In 1893, Lucas became curator and remained in that capacity until he left the Smithsonian in 1904. Following Lucas' departure, the division remained without a curator until it was gradually incorporated into the other zoological divisions.

Descriptive Entry

The records of the division include memoranda for the divisional reports, lists of specimens, records of divisional operations, material concerning the Ohio Valley and Central States Exhibition of 1888, and the daily calendar of Frederic A. Lucas for 1886-1895 and 1898-1899.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Anatomy, Comparative

Types of Materials:

Manuscripts

Names:

Baker, Frank, 1841-1918

Lucas, Frederic A. (Frederic Augustus), 1852-1929

Ohio Valley and Central States Exposition (1888 : Cincinnati)

Smithsonian Institution Building (Washington, D.C.)

True, Frederick William, 1858-1914

United States National Museum. Department of Biology

Container Listing

Series 1: MEMORANDA FOR DIVISIONAL REPORTS, 1887-1902.

Includes notes of osteological preparator and curator, Frederic Augustus Lucas.

Box 1

- | | |
|------------|---|
| Box 1 of 1 | Folder 1 Memoranda for divisional reports, 1887-1892. |
| Box 1 of 1 | Folder 2 Memoranda for divisional reports, 1892-1893. |
| Box 1 of 1 | Folder 3 Memoranda for divisional reports, 1893-1899. |
| Box 1 of 1 | Folder 4 Memoranda for divisional reports, 1899-1901. |
| Box 1 of 1 | Folder 5 Memoranda for divisional reports, 1901-1902. |

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Series 2: LISTS OF SPECIMENS AND RECORDS OF DIVISIONAL OPERATIONS, 1885-1917.

Box 1

- | | |
|------------|--|
| Box 1 of 1 | Folder 6 Check-list of specimens in East-South Range (Osteology), 1909; Exhibition series of Division of Comparative Anatomy, n.d. |
| Box 1 of 1 | Folder 7 List of mammal specimens in the Division of Comparative Anatomy, n.d. |
| Box 1 of 1 | Folder 8 Record of specimens mounted, macerated, and cleaned. Includes records of work of W. L. Richmond. 1885-1891, 1893-1894. |
| Box 1 of 1 | Folder 9 Correspondence - Comparative Anatomy, 1894-1917 |

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Series 3: MATERIAL CONCERNING OHIO VALLEY AND CENTRAL STATES EXHIBITION, 1888.

Box 1

Box 1 of 1

Folder 10 Correspondence of Frederic Augustus Lucas and William Harvey Brown concerning setting up of exhibit. Includes lists of skeletons to be sent to exhibition. 1888.

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Series 4: DAILY CALENDAR OF FREDERIC AUGUSTUS LUCAS, 1886-1895,
1898-1899.

Box 1

Box 1 of 1

Folder 11 Daily calendar of Frederic Augustus Lucas, 1886-1895, 1898-1899.

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