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Charles Valentine Riley Papers, 1866-1895 and undated, with information to 1915

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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Historical Note.....	1
Descriptive Entry.....	1
Names and Subjects	2
Container Listing	3
Series 1: SCRAPBOOKS, 1872-1895.....	3
Series 2: MEMORANDUM ENTOMOLOGICUM, 1866-1879 (4 volumes).....	30
Series 3: OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE, 1886-1895 (4 volumes).....	31
Series 4: INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO SILK CULTURE, 1882-1883.....	32
Series 5: NOTES, DRAWINGS, AND PAPERS.....	33
Series 6: ADD ACQUISITION, ACCESSION 89-014.....	34
Series 7: ADD ACQUISITION, ACCESSION T89064.....	35

Collection Overview

Repository:	Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu
Title:	Charles Valentine Riley Papers
Date:	1866-1895 and undated, with information to 1915
Identifier:	Record Unit 7076
Creator::	Riley, Charles V. (Charles Valentine), 1843-1895
Extent:	16.25 cu. ft. (16 record storage boxes) (1 half document box)
Language:	English

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 7076, Charles Valentine Riley Papers

Historical Note

Charles Valentine Riley (1843-1895) was one of two or three key figures in the development of economic entomology in the United States. An Englishman by birth with little formal scientific training, he was a protege of Benjamin Dann Walsh and the first entomologist of the state of Missouri. Between 1868 and 1871 Riley established his reputation in Missouri, and then he became the second entomologist of the United States in 1878. He also secured establishment of the United States Entomological Commission in 1877. In 1882 Riley was named honorary curator of insects in the United States National Museum, and from his own collections and those of the Department of Agriculture grew the national collection of insects. Riley also published two journals, in cooperation with others: the *American Entomologist* (1868, 1880) and *Insect Life* (1889-1894).

Descriptive Entry

These papers concern entomology, mostly economic, including scrapbooks compiled by Riley and occasionally by others, 1872-1894, tracing the history of entomology in clippings from a wide variety of sources arranged topically and especially useful for tracing Riley's work as state Entomologist of Missouri; *Memorandum Entomologicum*, 1866-1879, consisting of descriptions, drawings, observations and some rearing data on a wide variety of injurious insects; outgoing correspondence, 1866-1895, including letters from Riley to other entomologists; incoming correspondence, 1882-1883, relating to silk culture; notes and papers, mostly on psyllidae; and notes and correspondence concerning Phengodes and Zarhipis. See Record Units 138 and 139 for records of the Division of Insects of the National Museum. Correspondents include: Cleveland Abbe, William Harris Ashmeade, George Francis Atkinson, Lawrence Bruner, Daniel William Coquillett, Ezra Townsend Cresson, Charles Henry Fernald, Stephen Alfred Forbes, Hermann August Hagen, Leland Ossian Howard, George Duryea Hulst, Karl Lindeman, Franz Low, Eleanor Anne Ormerod, Charles Robert Osten-Sacken, Alpheus Spring Packard, William Hampton Patton, Charles Valentine Riley, Eugene Amandus Schwarz, Samuel H. Scudder, John Bernhard Smith, Philip Reese Uhler, John Obadiah Westwood.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Entomologists
- Entomology
- Jumping plant-lice
- Sericulture
- Zarhipis

Types of Materials:

- Manuscripts
- Scientific illustrations

Names:

- Riley, Charles V. (Charles Valentine), 1843-1895
- United States Entomological Commission
- United States National Museum
- United States. Department of Agriculture
- Walsh, Benjamin Dann, 1808-1869

Places:

- Missouri

Container Listing

Series 1: SCRAPBOOKS, 1872-1895.

Note: Scrapbooks, mostly prepared by Riley, providing an historical overview of the development of entomology, 1872-1895; contain mostly newsclippings from a considerable number of publications, and some correspondence; organized in rough chronological sequence, with many irregularities, and topically from volume to volume, although some volumes are not labeled by topic. Articles by Charles V. Riley and texts or reports of his speeches may be found in volumes 10, 14 (1873-1878), 15 (in his *Reports* as entomologist of Missouri), 19 (1873-1878), 23, 61 (1883-1889), 71 (1888-1891), 91 (1892-1895). Some of the volumes apparently were compiled by the USDA and given to Riley, or the Bureau of Entomology. A few others may have been compiled by others. Most volumes have notations that they were cataloged but by whom is not known. There are gaps in the volume numbers.

Box 1

	Volume 5 Summary:	Volume 5
Box 1 of 17	1872	
Box 1 of 17	Miscellaneous	
Box 1 of 17	Purely Entomological	
Box 1 of 17	Items suggesting or needing criticism	
Box 1 of 17	Poetry	
Box 1 of 17	Personal	
Box 1 of 17	Educational	
	Volume 6 Summary:	Volume 6
Box 1 of 17	1872	
Box 1 of 17	Miscellaneous	
Box 1 of 17	Literary, poetry	
Box 1 of 17	Purely Entomological	
Box 1 of 17	Items suggesting or needing criticism	
Box 1 of 17	Personal	

Box 1 of 17	Botanical
Box 1 of 17	Agricultural
Box 1 of 17	Educational
	Volume 7 Summary: Volume 7
Box 1 of 17	Birds vs. Insects
Box 1 of 17	LeBaron
Box 1 of 17	Animal Creation
Box 1 of 17	Walsh's death
Box 1 of 17	Conotrachelus nenuphar
Box 1 of 17	Carpocapsa pomonella
Box 1 of 17	Walsh-Klipp controversy
Box 1 of 17	Army worm - locusts
Box 1 of 17	Walsh's political writings
Box 1 of 17	Miscellaneous
	Digital Content: Charles V. Riley's Scrapbook - Volume 8 [Images no. SIA2016-013431 to SIA2016-013677] Volume 8 Summary: Volume 8
Box 1 of 17	Entomological
Box 1 of 17	Educational
	Volume 9 Summary: Volume 9
Box 1 of 17	1873-1874
Box 1 of 17	Abolition of Missouri State Entomologist
Box 1 of 17	Personal
	Volume 10 Summary: Volume 10

Box 1 of 17	Articles by C. V. Riley, Works Read 1876
	Volume 11 Summary: Volume 11
Box 1 of 17	1876
Box 1 of 17	Agricultural Excursion 1873
Box 1 of 17	American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)
Box 1 of 17	Grape Culture
	Box 2
	Volume 12 Summary: Volume 12
Box 2 of 17	1876
Box 2 of 17	Botanical
Box 2 of 17	Miscellaneous
Box 2 of 17	Poetry
Box 2 of 17	Agricultural
Box 2 of 17	Arboriculture and Meteorology
Box 2 of 17	Humorous
Box 2 of 17	Evolution, Darwinism
Box 2 of 17	Grape Culture
	Volume 13 Summary: Volume 13
Box 2 of 17	Philosophical
Box 2 of 17	Theological
Box 2 of 17	Ornithology
Box 2 of 17	Entomological
Box 2 of 17	General remedies for insects

Box 2 of 17	Codling moth scraps
Box 2 of 17	Botanical
	Volume 14 Summary: Volume 14
Box 2 of 17	C. V. Riley Articles and news clippings
Box 2 of 17	1873-1878
	Volume 15 Summary: Volume 15
Box 2 of 17	Potato pests
Box 2 of 17	Missouri State Entomologists Reports 6-9
Box 2 of 17	Cabbage worms
Box 2 of 17	Personal
Box 2 of 17	Doryphora 1878
	Volume 16 Summary: Volume 16
Box 2 of 17	Saperda livittata
Box 2 of 17	Blight
	Volume 17 Summary: Volume 17
Box 2 of 17	Arboriculture and meteorology
	Volume 18 Summary: Volume 18
Box 2 of 17	General remedies and experiments to be made
Box 2 of 17	Mycology
Box 2 of 17	Botanical
Box 2 of 17	Wheat-chess letters
Box 2 of 17	Miscellaneous

Box 2 of 17	Silk culture
Box 2 of 17	Potato insects
Box 2 of 17	AAAS
Box 3	
	Volume 19 Summary: Volume 19
Box 3 of 17	Articles by C. V. Riley, 1873-1878
	Volume 20 Summary: Volume 20
Box 3 of 17	Apple tree borers
Box 3 of 17	Cicada
Box 3 of 17	Bag worm
Box 3 of 17	Cutworms
Box 3 of 17	Phylloxera
Box 3 of 17	Tobacco moth
Box 3 of 17	White grub
Box 3 of 17	Potato pests
Box 3 of 17	Coloptenus spretus, 1874
Box 3 of 17	Items used in making up the 7th Report (Mo. Ent.)
	Volume 21 Summary: Volume 21
Box 3 of 17	1878
Box 3 of 17	Agriculture
Box 3 of 17	Apiculture
Box 3 of 17	Arboriculture and meteorology
Box 3 of 17	Evolution

Box 3 of 17	Floriculture
Box 3 of 17	General remedies
Box 3 of 17	General entomology
Box 3 of 17	Galls
Box 3 of 17	Grape culture
Box 3 of 17	Horticulture
Box 3 of 17	Literary
Box 3 of 17	Mycology
Box 3 of 17	Miscellaneous
	Volume 22 Summary: Volume 22
Box 3 of 17	1880-1881
Box 3 of 17	Ornithology
Box 3 of 17	Biology
Box 3 of 17	Educational
Box 3 of 17	Embryology
Box 3 of 17	Cabbage worm
Box 3 of 17	Hessian fly
Box 3 of 17	General entomology
Box 3 of 17	Economic entomology
Box 3 of 17	Cotton worm
Box 3 of 17	Hymenoptera (Economic)
Box 3 of 17	Neuroptera (Economic)
Box 3 of 17	Orthoptera (Economic)

	Volume 23 Summary: Volume 23
Box 3 of 17	C. V. Riley articles and news clippings
	Volume 24 Summary: Volume 24
Box 3 of 17	Philosophical, ca. 1881
Box 3 of 17	Cotton worms
Box 3 of 17	AAAS, 1882
	Volume 25 Summary: Volume 25
Box 3 of 17	AAAS, 1882
Box 3 of 17	Agricultural Congress, 1882
Box 3 of 17	AAAS, 1881
	Box 4
	Volume 26 Summary: Volume 26
Box 4 of 17	Phylloxera, 1879
Box 4 of 17	Lepidoptera (Economic)
Box 4 of 17	Hemiptera (Economic)
	Volume 27 Summary: Volume 27
Box 4 of 17	General entomology, ca. 1881
Box 4 of 17	Meetings and officers
Box 4 of 17	General zoology
Box 4 of 17	Miscellaneous
	Volume 28 Summary: Volume 28
Box 4 of 17	Mycology, ca. 1880

Box 4 of 17	Botany
Box 4 of 17	Horticulture
Box 4 of 17	Grape culture
Box 4 of 17	Arboriculture and meteorology
	Volume 29 Summary: Volume 29
Box 4 of 17	General zoology
Box 4 of 17	Agriculture
Box 4 of 17	AAAS, 1879
Box 4 of 17	AAAS, 1880
	Volume 30 Summary: Volume 30
Box 4 of 17	U. S. Entomological Commission, 1880, 1881
Box 4 of 17	Mycology
Box 4 of 17	AAAS, 1880
Box 4 of 17	Department of Agriculture
	Volume 31 Summary: Volume 31
Box 4 of 17	ca. 1881
Box 4 of 17	Galls
Box 4 of 17	Forestry
Box 4 of 17	American Entomologist
Box 4 of 17	Spretics, 1881
Box 4 of 17	Agriculture
Box 4 of 17	Department of Agriculture
Box 4 of 17	Crustacea

Box 4 of 17	Annelids, Arachnids
Box 4 of 17	Ornithology
Box 4 of 17	Instinct and Reason
Box 4 of 17	Evolution
Box 4 of 17	Anthropology
	Volume 32 Summary: Volume 32
Box 4 of 17	ca. 1880
Box 4 of 17	Aphididae
Box 4 of 17	Agriculture
Box 4 of 17	Bees vs. fruit
Box 4 of 17	Cabbage worms
Box 4 of 17	Cicada
Box 4 of 17	Coccidae
Box 4 of 17	Codling moth
Box 4 of 17	Doryphora, 1879
	Box 5
	Volume 33 Summary: Volume 33
Box 5 of 17	ca. 1882
Box 5 of 17	AAAS, 1881
Box 5 of 17	Forestry Congress
Box 5 of 17	Silk
	Volume 34 Summary: Volume 34
Box 5 of 17	Dr. Loring

Box 5 of 17	Ornithology
Box 5 of 17	Chinch Bug
Box 5 of 17	Remedies
Box 5 of 17	Orthoptera
	Volume 35 Summary: Volume 35
Box 5 of 17	1882
Box 5 of 17	Silk
Box 5 of 17	General entomology
Box 5 of 17	Forestry
Box 5 of 17	AAAS
	Volume 36 Summary: Volume 36
Box 5 of 17	1882
Box 5 of 17	Diptera
Box 5 of 17	Coleoptera
Box 5 of 17	General zoology
Box 5 of 17	Phylloxera
Box 5 of 17	Hymenoptera
Box 5 of 17	Botanical
	Volume 37 Summary: Volume 37
Box 5 of 17	1882
Box 5 of 17	Biographical
Box 5 of 17	Grape culture
Box 5 of 17	Miscellaneous

Box 5 of 17	Lepidoptera
Box 5 of 17	Leucania
	Volume 38 Summary: Volume 38
Box 5 of 17	1882
Box 5 of 17	Cotton
Box 5 of 17	Agriculture
Box 5 of 17	Hemiptera (Economic entomology)
Box 5 of 17	Horticulture
Box 5 of 17	Literary
Box 5 of 17	Silk
Box 5 of 17	Forestry
	Volume 39 Summary: Volume 39
Box 5 of 17	1882
Box 5 of 17	National Academy
Box 5 of 17	Cicada septendecum
Box 5 of 17	Coccidae
Box 5 of 17	Bees vs. fruit
Box 5 of 17	Comstock, J. H.
Box 5 of 17	Aphididae
Box 5 of 17	LeDuc, W. G.
Box 5 of 17	Darwiniana
Box 5 of 17	Earth worms
Box 5 of 17	Dodge, C. R.

Box 5 of 17	Riley, C. V., Personal
	Volume 40 Summary: Volume 40
Box 5 of 17	Thomas, Cyrus
Box 5 of 17	Poetry by C. V. Riley to others
Box 5 of 17	Miscellaneous
	Volume 41 Summary: Volume 41
Box 5 of 17	1882-1883
Box 5 of 17	Loring
Box 5 of 17	Department of Agriculture
Box 5 of 17	Sorghum
Box 5 of 17	Dr. Collier
	Box 6
	Volume 42 Summary: Volume 42
Box 6 of 17	1880-1883
Box 6 of 17	Economic entomology
Box 6 of 17	Remedies
Box 6 of 17	Canker worms
Box 6 of 17	Cabbage insects
Box 6 of 17	Pyrethrum
Box 6 of 17	Insects and plants
Box 6 of 17	Birds vs. Insects
Box 6 of 17	Silk
Box 6 of 17	Botany

Box 6 of 17	Department of Agriculture
Box 6 of 17	Miscellaneous
Box 6 of 17	Personal
	Volume 44 Summary: Volume 44
Box 6 of 17	1879-1881
Box 6 of 17	Insects vs. flowers
Box 6 of 17	General entomology
Box 6 of 17	General remedies
Box 6 of 17	Silk culture
	Volume 45 Summary: Volume 45
Box 6 of 17	1879-1881
Box 6 of 17	Economic Entomology
Box 6 of 17	Coleoptera
Box 6 of 17	Diptera
Box 6 of 17	Hemiptera
	Volume 46 Summary: Volume 46
Box 6 of 17	1882-1883
Box 6 of 17	Silk
Box 6 of 17	Irrigation
Box 6 of 17	Agricultural legislation
Box 6 of 17	General entomology
Box 6 of 17	Agriculture
Box 6 of 17	Acaridae

	Volume 47 Summary:	Volume 47
Box 6 of 17	1881-1883	
Box 6 of 17	Mycology	
Box 6 of 17	Myriopoda	
Box 6 of 17	Physical	
Box 6 of 17	Flowers and insects	
Box 6 of 17	Phylloxera	
Box 6 of 17	Personal	
Box 6 of 17	Bees vs. fruit	
Box 6 of 17	Crandell	
Box 6 of 17	Literary	
Box 6 of 17	Coccidae	
Box 6 of 17	Codling moth	
Box 6 of 17	General zoology	
Box 6 of 17	Ornithology	
Box 6 of 17	Leucania	
Box 6 of 17	Entomological commission	
Box 6 of 17	Spretus	
Box 6 of 17	Neuroptera	
Box 6 of 17	Aphididae	
Box 6 of 17	Embryology	
Box 6 of 17	Evolution	
	Volume 48 Summary:	Volume 48
Box 6 of 17	Mulberry	

Box 6 of 17	Russian mulberry
Box 6 of 17	Multicaulis and Morus Alba
Box 6 of 17	Electricity
Box 6 of 17	Silkworm CVR
Box 6 of 17	Yammamai and Tusser moth of the Deccan
Box 6 of 17	Guide to silk culture
	Volume 49 Summary: Volume 49
Box 6 of 17	1882-1883
Box 6 of 17	Scientists at Minneapolis
Box 6 of 17	Crustacea, entozoa, etc.
Box 6 of 17	Orthoptera
Box 6 of 17	Diptera
Box 6 of 17	Educational
Box 6 of 17	Philosophical
Box 6 of 17	Hymenoptera
Box 6 of 17	Biographical
Box 6 of 17	Hemiptera
Box 7	
	Volume 50 Summary: Volume 50
Box 7 of 17	AAAS, 1883
	Volume 51 Summary: Volume 51
Box 7 of 17	1883
Box 7 of 17	Fungi and disease

Box 7 of 17	Agriculture
Box 7 of 17	Bees and flowers
Box 7 of 17	Birds and insects
Box 7 of 17	Coccidae
Box 7 of 17	English sparrow
Box 7 of 17	Fertilization
Box 7 of 17	Flowers and insects
Box 7 of 17	Loring
Box 7 of 17	Natural history
Box 7 of 17	Obituary
Box 7 of 17	Parasites on livestock
Box 7 of 17	Phylloxera
Box 7 of 17	Remedies
	Volume 52 Summary: Volume 52
Box 7 of 17	1882-1883
Box 7 of 17	Miscellaneous
Box 7 of 17	Agriculture
Box 7 of 17	Arboriculture and meteorology
Box 7 of 17	Botanical
Box 7 of 17	Coleoptera (Economic)
Box 7 of 17	Diptera (Economic)
Box 7 of 17	Lepidoptera (Economic)
	Volume 53 Summary: Volume 53

Box 7 of 17	1882
Box 7 of 17	Lepidoptera
Box 7 of 17	Hemiptera
Box 7 of 17	Hymenoptera
Box 7 of 17	Neuroptera
Box 7 of 17	Floriculture
Box 7 of 17	Forestry
Box 7 of 17	Horticulture
	Volume 54 Summary: Volume 54
Box 7 of 17	1883
Box 7 of 17	Horticulture
Box 7 of 17	Lepidoptera
Box 7 of 17	Parasites on livestock
Box 7 of 17	Remedies
Box 7 of 17	Diptera
Box 7 of 17	Epizootics
Box 7 of 17	Floriculture
Box 7 of 17	Forestry
Box 7 of 17	Hemiptera
Box 7 of 17	Horticulture
Box 7 of 17	Hymenoptera
Box 7 of 17	Lepidoptera
Box 7 of 17	Mammalia

Volume 55
Summary: Volume 55

Box 7 of 17	1883-1884
Box 7 of 17	Arachnida
Box 7 of 17	Apiculture
Box 7 of 17	Arboriculture and meteorology
Box 7 of 17	Botanical
Box 7 of 17	Coleoptera
Box 7 of 17	Mollusca
Box 7 of 17	Neuroptera
Box 7 of 17	Orthoptera
Box 7 of 17	Parasites on livestock
Box 7 of 17	Pomological

Volume 56
Summary: Volume 56

Box 7 of 17	Remedies
Box 7 of 17	Sorghum
Box 7 of 17	Tea culture
Box 7 of 17	Trichina
Box 7 of 17	Vermes
Box 7 of 17	English sparrow
Box 7 of 17	Cabbage worms
Box 7 of 17	Birds and insects
Box 7 of 17	Canker worms
Box 7 of 17	Chinch bugs
Box 7 of 17	Coleoptera

Box 7 of 17	Colorado potato beetle
Box 7 of 17	Congressional
Box 7 of 17	Cotton worms
Box 8	
	Volume 57 Summary: Volume 57
Box 8 of 17	1884
	Volume 58 Summary: Volume 58
Box 8 of 17	Forestry
Box 8 of 17	Fungi and disease
Box 8 of 17	Heteroptera
Box 8 of 17	Homoptera
Box 8 of 17	Horticulture
Box 8 of 17	Hymenoptera
Box 8 of 17	Lepidoptera
	Volume 59 Summary: Volume 59
Box 8 of 17	1884
Box 8 of 17	Myriopoda
Box 8 of 17	Neuroptera
Box 8 of 17	Orthoptera
Box 8 of 17	Parasites on livestock
Box 8 of 17	Sorghum
Box 8 of 17	Vermes
Box 8 of 17	Worms

Box 8 of 17	Acarinae
Box 8 of 17	Agriculture
Box 8 of 17	Arboriculture and meteorology
Box 8 of 17	Bees and flowers
Box 8 of 17	Birds and insects
Box 8 of 17	Birds and fruit
Box 8 of 17	Coccidae
Box 8 of 17	Coleoptera
	Volume 60 Summary: Volume 60
Box 8 of 17	1884-1885
	Volume 61 Summary: Volume 61
Box 8 of 17	Articles by C. V. Riley, 1883-1889
	Volume 62 Summary: Volume 62
Box 8 of 17	Loring
Box 8 of 17	Crustacea
Box 8 of 17	Diptera
Box 8 of 17	English sparrow
Box 8 of 17	Epizootics
Box 8 of 17	Fertilization
Box 8 of 17	Flowers and Insects
Box 8 of 17	Forestry
Box 8 of 17	Fungi and disease
Box 8 of 17	Hemiptera

Box 8 of 17	Horticulture
Box 8 of 17	Hymenoptera
Box 8 of 17	Lepidoptera
Box 8 of 17	Neuroptera
Box 8 of 17	Orthoptera
Box 8 of 17	Parasites on livestock
Box 8 of 17	Pomological
	Volume 63 Summary: Volume 63
Box 8 of 17	Missing - misnumbered 61 (?) 1884
Box 8 of 17	Remedies
Box 8 of 17	Sericulture
Box 8 of 17	Sorghum
Box 8 of 17	Vermes
Box 8 of 17	Worms
	Volume 64 Summary: Volume 64
Box 8 of 17	1882-1885
Box 8 of 17	Loring
Box 8 of 17	Agriculture Department
Box 8 of 17	Colinau
	Box 9
	Volume 65 Summary: Volume 65
Box 9 of 17	Cicada, ca. 1885

	Volume 66 Summary:	Volume 66
Box 9 of 17	1884-1887	
	Volume 67 Summary:	Volume 67
Box 9 of 17	1885	
Box 9 of 17	Miscellaneous, not entomology	
Box 9 of 17	Miscellaneous entomology	
Box 9 of 17	Mollusca	
Box 9 of 17	Neuroptera	
Box 9 of 17	Obituary	
Box 9 of 17	Ornithology	
Box 9 of 17	Orthoptera	
Box 9 of 17	Parasites	
Box 9 of 17	Phylloxera	
Box 9 of 17	Pyrethrum	
Box 9 of 17	Remedies	
	Volume 68 Summary:	Volume 68
Box 9 of 17	1885	
Box 9 of 17	Acarinae	
Box 9 of 17	Arachnida	
Box 9 of 17	Meteor	
Box 9 of 17	Bees and flowers	
Box 9 of 17	Birds and insects	
Box 9 of 17	Coccidae	

Box 9 of 17	Coleoptera
Box 9 of 17	Loring
Box 9 of 17	Diptera
Box 9 of 17	English sparrow
Box 9 of 17	Fertilization
Box 9 of 17	Flowers and insects
Box 9 of 17	Forestry
Box 9 of 17	Fungi and Disease
Box 9 of 17	German clippings
Box 9 of 17	Hemiptera
Box 9 of 17	Hymenoptera
Box 9 of 17	Lepidoptera
	Volume 69 Summary: Volume 69
Box 9 of 17	1884-1886
	Volume 70 Summary: Volume 70
Box 9 of 17	1887
	Volume 71 Summary: Volume 71
Box 9 of 17	Articles copied from C. V. Riley
Box 9 of 17	1888-1891
Box 10	
	Volume 72 Summary: Volume 72
Box 10 of 17	1887-1888

	Volume 73 Summary:	Volume 73
Box 10 of 17	1887-1889	
	Volume 74 Summary:	Volume 74
Box 10 of 17	Paris Exposition, 1889	
	Volume 75 Summary:	Volume 75
Box 10 of 17	Special, 1889	
	Volume 76 Summary:	Volume 76
Box 10 of 17	Insect Life, 1888-1890	
	Volume 78 Summary:	Volume 78
Box 10 of 17	1889-1892	
Box 11		
	Volume 79 Summary:	Volume 79
Box 11 of 17	1885-1890	
	Volume 80 Summary:	Volume 80
Box 11 of 17	1890	
	Volume 81 Summary:	Volume 81
Box 11 of 17	1890	
	Volume 82 Summary:	Volume 82
Box 11 of 17	Department of Agriculture, 1890-1891	
	Volume 83 Summary:	Volume 83

Box 11 of 17	Special, 1890-1891
Box 11	
	Volume 84 Summary: Volume 84
Box 11 of 17	1890-1891
	Volume 85 Summary: Volume 85
Box 11 of 17	1891
Box 12	
	Volume 86 Summary: Volume 86
Box 12 of 17	1891-1892
	Volume 87 Summary: Volume 87
Box 12 of 17	1890-1892
	Volume 88 Summary: Volume 88
Box 12 of 17	"Science" 1883-1893
	Volume a Summary: Volume a
Box 12 of 17	Apiculture, 1891-1893
	Volume 89 Summary: Volume 89
Box 12 of 17	Special, 1888-1892
	Volume 90 Summary: Volume 90
Box 12 of 17	1890-1893
Box 13	

	Volume 91 Summary:	Volume 91
Box 13 of 17	Articles by C. V. Riley, 1892-1895	
	Volume 92 Summary:	Volume 92
Box 13 of 17	"Science," 1893	
	Volume 94 Summary:	Volume 94
Box 13 of 17	1891-1895	
	Volume 95 Summary:	Volume 95
Box 13 of 17	1894-1895	
	Volume a Summary:	Volume a
Box 13 of 17	Evolution	
Box 13 of 17	Psychology	
Box 13 of 17	Aeronautics	
Box 13 of 17	Ethnology	
Box 13 of 17	1894-1895	
	Volume b Summary:	Volume b
Box 13 of 17	Paris Exposition from Galignani's Messenger	
	Volume c Summary:	Volume c
Box 13 of 17	Special, 1894	
Box 14		
	Volume d Summary:	Volume d
Box 14 of 17	United States, Department of Agriculture (USDA) # 1, Locusts, 1885	

Volume e
Summary: Volume e

Box 14 of 17 USDA # 2, 1885-1890

Volume f
Summary: Volume f

Box 14 of 17 USDA # 3, 1890

Volume g
Summary: Volume g

Box 14 of 17 USDA, Rusk, 1890-1892

Volume h
Summary: Volume h

Box 14 of 17 USDA, Morton, 1893-1894

Volume i
Summary: Volume i

Box 14 of 17 USDA, Insect life, 1890-1891

Volume j
Summary: Volume j

Box 14 of 17 1889-1891

Box 15

Volume 43
Summary: Volume 43

Box 15 of 17 1876-1878 Locust Injury Report

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 2: MEMORANDUM ENTOMOLOGICUM, 1866-1879 (4 volumes).

Note: Notebooks used by Riley, mostly during his tenure as state entomologist of Missouri, to accumulate information about injurious insects; include notes from literature, brief descriptions, drawings, clippings, notes on observations, and rearing data in many cases. The insect under study was given a number and a few pages in the notebook (numbers 42-414 are included here), and then data were added by Riley as he made observations. The notebooks were indexed individually, and a catalog, which is not included here, was made for all volumes.

Box 15

Box 15 of 17	Volume 1 Missing
Box 15 of 17	Volume 2 Numbers 42-135 with index and glossary of terms. Includes many drawings, notes, clippings.
Box 15 of 17	Volume 3 Numbers 136-229. Index, drawings, notes, clippings.
Box 15 of 17	Volume 4 Numbers 230-326. Index, a few drawings, notes, clippings.
Box 15 of 17	Volume 5 Numbers 327-414. Index, a few drawings, notes, occasional correspondence.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 3: OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE, 1886-1895 (4 volumes).

Box 15

Box 15 of 17 Outgoing Correspondence, 1886-1895. Partially personal and partially official Department of Agriculture correspondence. Addressees include: Cleveland Abbe, William Harris Ashmeade, Lawrence Bruner, Daniel William Coquillett, Ezra Townsend Cresson, Charles Henry Fernald, Stephen Alfred Forbes, Hermann August Hagen, Karl Lindeman, Franz Low, Eleanor Anne Ormerod, Charles Robert Osten-Sacken, Alpheus Spring Packard, William Hampton Patton, Samuel H. Scudder, John Bernhard Smith, Philip Reese Uhler, John Obadiah Westwood.

Box 15 of 17 Outgoing Correspondence, 1887. Written by Riley in summer of 1887 while vacationing in Massachusetts and journeying to the convention of the American Association for the Advancement of Science; mostly relating to departmental business, but also to professional concerns. Addressees include: George Francis Atkinson, Daniel William Coquillett, Leland Ossian Howard, George Duryea Hulst, Eugene Amandus Schwarz, and John Bernhard Smith. Notable topics include politics of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and extensive correspondence about Hulst's opinions on Yucca moth fertilization.

Box 16

Box 16 of 17 Outgoing Correspondence, 1889 (2 volumes), by Riley and occasionally by others, from Paris during his work with the French Exposition. Riley was acting for the secretary of Agriculture as assistant commissioner of the United States at the exposition, and most of the correspondence pertains to details of this work; includes detailed information on the United States exhibit at Paris. Volume two contains mostly letters from Riley or his assistant in Paris to Howard regarding Bureau of Entomology business; letters to the secretary of Agriculture describe Riley's problems at the exposition.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 4: INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO SILK CULTURE, 1882-1883.

Box 16

Box 16 of 17

Incoming Correspondence of the Department of Agriculture

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 5: NOTES, DRAWINGS, AND PAPERS.

Box 16

Box 16 of 17	Miscellaneous Papers on Psyllidae
Box 16 of 17	Notes on Psyllidae
Box 16 of 17	Notes and Correspondence on Psyllidae
Box 16 of 17	"Descriptions of North American Psyllidae in Collections of the United States National Museum"
Box 16 of 17	The Psyllidae of the United States
Box 16 of 17	Drawings of Pysillidae, authorship in question
Box 16 of 17	Plates. Riley and/or Schwarz (2 folders)
Box 16 of 17	Notes on Pachypsella and Blastophysa
Box 16 of 17	The Psyllidae in Fitch's Collection
Box 16 of 17	Drawings: Psyllidae
Box 16 of 17	Drawings
Box 16 of 17	List of Psyllidae

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 6: ADD ACQUISITION, ACCESSION 89-014.

Box 16

Box 16 of 17	Miscellaneous sketches, drawings, and photographs, 1915 and undated (2 folders)
Box 16 of 17	Miscellaneous notes and correspondence on Phengodes and Zarhipis, 1875, 1887, and undated

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 7: ADD ACQUISITION, ACCESSION T89064.

Box 17

Box 17 of 17

Folders 1-2 Miscellaneous memoranda and correspondence, 1876, 1881-1895, and undated

[Return to Table of Contents](#)