



Smithsonian Institution Archives

Robert Edwards Carter Stearns Papers, 1879-1909

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu
Title:	Robert Edwards Carter Stearns Papers
Identifier:	Record Unit 7077
Date:	1879-1909
Extent:	0.75 cu. ft. (1 document box) (1 half document box)
Creator::	Stearns, Robert E. C. (Robert Edwards Carter), 1827-1909
Language:	Language of Materials: English

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 7077, Robert Edwards Carter Stearns Papers

Historical Note

Robert Edwards Carter Stearns (1827-1909) was a public figure of some prominence whose careers included mining, publishing, and the natural sciences. A lover of nature since childhood, Stearns concentrated on conchology, mostly mollusks of the West Coast. Stearns was a researcher for the United States Commission of Fish and Fisheries, 1882-1884; an Assistant Curator, Department of Mollusks, United States National Museum (USNM); and a Paleontologist for the United States Geological Survey, 1884-1892.

Descriptive Entry

These papers consist chiefly of incoming correspondence from the USNM, the Smithsonian Institution, and shell collectors; correspondence between scientists other than Stearns concerning publications, publication revision, and shell collections; scrapbooks containing correspondence, memoranda, labels, and cards collected while Stearns was an Assistant Curator; specimen labels donated to the USNM; handwritten and printed drafts for articles, including a preliminary report on the fossils at San Diego, and the original drawings and draft for *Anodontas of the West Coast*; and autobiographical materials.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Invertebrates
Mining engineering
Mollusks
Paleontologists
Paleontology

Types of Materials:

Manuscripts
Scientific illustrations
Scrapbooks

Names:

Geological Survey (U.S.)
Stearns, Robert E. C. (Robert Edwards Carter), 1827-1909
United States Fish Commission
United States National Museum
United States National Museum. Division of Mollusks

Container Listing

Series 1: Correspondence, 1884-1909.

Box 1

Box 1 of 2	Folder 1 A - Be
Box 1 of 2	Folder 2 William Greene Binney, 1884-1886
Box 1 of 2	Folder 3 Br - E
Box 1 of 2	Folder 4 G
Box 1 of 2	Folder 5 H
Box 1 of 2	Folder 6 I - O
Box 1 of 2	Folder 7 P - R
Box 1 of 2	Folder 8 S - W

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Series 2: Scrapbooks, 1879-circa 1892.

Box 1

- | | |
|------------|--|
| Box 1 of 2 | Folder 9 Scrapbook, 1879-1884 |
| Box 1 of 2 | Folder 10 Scrapbook, 1884 |
| Box 1 of 2 | Folder 11 Scrapbook: Memos of specimens donated by R. E. C. Stearns to the U. S. National Museum |

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Series 3: Handwritten and Printed Drafts for Articles.

Box 1

- Box 1 of 2 Folder 12 *Preliminary Report on the San Diego, California Fossil Beds, etc. by R. E. C. Stearns with Appendix, diagrams, and map*
- Box 1 of 2 Folder 13 *Sad Fate of a Collector*, November 20, 1897
- Box 1 of 2 Folder 14 *Fort-hill School in days gone by Boston schoolmasters and school books, sixty-years ago*, October 29, 1898
- Box 1 of 2 Folder 15 *The Quakog (Venus mercenaria) as an implement of war*
- Box 1 of 2 Folder 16 *Before Ichabad*, September 19, 1908
- Box 1 of 2 Folder 17 *The Shells of Dreamlands*, June 10, 1901
- Box 1 of 2 Folder 18 *The Smithsonian Institution*
- Box 1 of 2 Folder 19 *The Mutations of Anodonta cygnea and their implication*, March 1, 1909

Box 2

- Box 2 of 2 Folder 1 *Part I, Anodontas of the West Coast*
- Box 2 of 2 Folder 2 *Part II, Anodontas of the West Coast*

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