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Bohumil Shimek Papers, 1878-1936

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu
Title:	Bohumil Shimek Papers
Date:	1878-1936
Identifier:	Record Unit 7082
Creator::	Shimek, Bohumil, 1861-1937
Extent:	8.51 cu. ft. (8 record storage boxes) (1 3x5 box) (1 5x8 box)
Language:	English

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 7082, Bohumil Shimek Papers

Historical Note

Bohumil Shimek (1861-1937) studied civil engineering at the State University of Iowa (SUI), where he received a C.E. degree in 1883 and an M.S. degree in 1902. He served as railroad and county surveyor for Johnson County, Iowa, 1883-1885, and taught sciences at Iowa City High School, 1885-1888. From 1888 until 1890, Shimek was an instructor in zoology at the University of Nebraska. From 1890 to 1932, he taught botany at SUI and served as the head of the Department of Botany, 1914-1919. In 1914, Shimek was an exchange professor at Charles University in Prague. Shimek was also Curator of the Herbarium, SUI, 1895-1937; President of the Iowa State Academy of Sciences, 1904-1905; a geologist for the Iowa State Geological Survey, 1908-1929; and Director of the Lakeside Laboratory, Lake Okoboji, Iowa. Shimek's interest in the natural sciences and geology covered many areas, but he was mostly known for his study of loess, loess fossils, and fossil malacology in Iowa and the prairie states. He was the author of the term, NEBRASKAN, which is used to describe the layer underneath the Aftonian interglacial deposits.

Descriptive Entry

These papers consist of correspondence with conchologists, naturalists, and shell collectors pertaining to shell collections and exchanges, and responses to Shimek's questionnaires on Pomatiopsis lapidarias and other shells; notebooks listing personal names of those to whom Shimek sent his publications on loess, geology, and botany; a notebook containing names of Czech-Americans; a notebook containing personal names listed under the counties of Iowa; field notes and diaries documenting Shimek's scientific field explorations throughout the Midwest, the Atlantic coastal states, the South, the Southwest, and Nicaragua; photographs showing mostly geological features and flora; a scrapbook on the geology of several counties of Iowa; a class book kept by Shimek while he was an instructor at the University of Nebraska; maps of different localities in Iowa and Nebraska; bibliographical cards on geological formations, shells, loess, and botany, arranged by subject and alphabetically thereunder; newspaper clippings, journal articles, and speeches, probably on soil erosion and prevention, and on foreign immigration.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Botanists
- Botany
- Geologists
- Geology
- Invertebrate zoology
- Paleontologists
- Paleontology
- Zoologists

Types of Materials:

- Black-and-white negatives
- Black-and-white photographs
- Books
- Clippings
- Diaries
- Field notes
- Manuscripts
- Maps
- Plates (illustrations)
- Scrapbooks

Names:

- Charles University in Prague
- Iowa State Academy of Sciences
- Iowa State Geological Survey
- Shimek, Bohumil, 1861-1937
- State University of Iowa
- University of Nebraska

Container Listing

Series 1: CORRESPONDENCE, 1878-1936.

Box 1

Box 1 of 9	A - C
Box 1 of 9	D - H
Box 1 of 9	J - L
Box 1 of 9	M
Box 1 of 9	N - Pre
Box 1 of 9	Prince, Henry, 1882-1891
Box 1 of 9	R
Box 1 of 9	S
Box 1 of 9	T - W and miscellaneous
Box 1 of 9	Synopsis of correspondence pertaining to questionnaires on Pomatiopsis lapidaria, and other shells, 1933

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Series 2: CLASSROOM MATERIAL.

Box 1

Box 1 of 9

Class Record, University of Nebraska, 1888-1889

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Series 3: NOTEBOOKS CONTAINING PERSONAL NAMES.

Box 1	
Box 1 of 9	Names of individuals arranged alphabetically by counties of Iowa, undated
Box 1 of 9	Names and addresses of Czech-Americans, circa 1914
Box 1 of 9	Names and addresses of individuals to who Shimek sent his publications on loess, geology, and botany, circa 1899 and circa 1915 (2 books)

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Series 4: FIELD NOTEBOOKS AND DIARIES, SPECIMEN LISTS AND CATALOGUE, AND OTHER NOTES, 1878-1936. ARRANGED CHRONOLOGICALLY.

Note: This series consists mostly of field notebooks and diaries and other notes taken by Shimek during his field trips and scientific investigations. Miscellaneous notes written at various times and not necessarily related to the subject content of the field notebooks were filed into the notebooks by Shimek. These materials have been removed from the notebooks for conservation purposes and are now filed in the same as the notebooks they resided in.

Box 1

Box 1 of 9	Level Book, 1878
Box 1 of 9	Notes on birds, Johnson County, Iowa, 1879 Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Field notes and diary, 1880• Notes on birds, 1880• Notes on Ova, 1880
Box 1 of 9	Level Book, 1882
Box 1 of 9	Notes on plants; notes in Czech, speech on foreign immigration, 1883
Box 1 of 9	Level Book, 1885 Digital Content: Field notes and diary, Atlantic Coastal states; notes on plants, 1885 [Field Book Registry Item 2829; SIA Item No. SIA_007082_B01_F19_E01] Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Field notes and diary, Atlantic Coastal states; notes on plants, 1885• Notes, Atlantic Coastal states, 1885
Box 1 of 9	Lists of fossils, mollusks and plants; surveying notes, 1886 Digital Content: Notes on botany specimens, Nebraska, 1890 [Field Book Registry Item 2834; SIA Item No. SIA_007082_B01_F20_E01] Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Boring tests at the University of Nebraska Agricultural Experiment Station, 1889• Expenditures, 1889• Notes on botany specimens, Nebraska, 1890
Box 1 of 9	Extracts on geology; Survey of cemetery plots in Monona County, Iowa, 1891
Box 1 of 9	Shells, Alabama and Tennessee; notes on trees, 1891 Digital Content: Shells, Alabama and Tennessee, notes on trees, 1891 [Field Book Registry Item 2875; SIA Item No. SIA_007082_B01_F22]
Box 1 of 9	Field notes and diaries, Nicaragua, 1892-1893 (I-III)
Box 1 of 9	Botanical notes, Nicaragua, 1892-1893 (notebooks I-VI)

Box 1 of 9	Plant records, 1895
Box 1 of 9	Diary, and miscellaneous notes, 1896
Box 1 of 9	Notes on plants, 1896
Box 1 of 9	Surveying data, Monona County, Iowa, 1897
Box 1 of 9	Field notes and diary, Natchez, Mississippi, 1898
Box 1 of 9	Field notes, Osceola and Lyon counties, Iowa, 1899
Box 1 of 9	Field notes, Iowa, 1899

Box 2

Box 2 of 9	Field notes, Osceola and Dickenson counties, Iowa; and other notes, 1900 Digital Content: Field notes, Osceola and Dickenson counties, Iowa; and other notes, 1900 [Field Book Registry Item 2921; SIA Item No. SIA_007082_B02_F01]
Box 2 of 9	Field notes and diary, Granite, Iowa; and Kewaunee, Wisconsin, 1901
Box 2 of 9	Lists of specimens, Lake Okoboji, Iowa, 1901
Box 2 of 9	Miscellaneous, 1901
Box 2 of 9	List of botanical specimens, 1902 Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">List of botanical specimens, Iowa, 1903
Box 2 of 9	Field notes and diary, Kansas, Missouri, New Mexico, Texas, 1903
Box 2 of 9	Field notes and diary, Iowa, New Mexico, September 1904 Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Field notes and diary, Iowa, October 1904Field notes and diary, Indiana, November 1904
Box 2 of 9	Field notes, Iowa, April-May 1905
Box 2 of 9	Field notes and diary, New Mexico, Arizona, California, August-September 1905
Box 2 of 9	Field notes, Iowa, June-July 1905; and August 1906
Box 2 of 9	Field notes and diary, Bayfield, Wisconsin, March 1906
Box 2 of 9	Field notes and diary, Indiana, Illinois, April 1906; and Iowa, Nebraska, August-September 1926

Box 2 of 9	Field notes and diary, South Dakota, August 1906 Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Field notes and diary, Iowa, August-September 1906• Field notes and diary, Iowa, Illinois, October-November 1906
Box 2 of 9	Field notes and diary, Iowa, Nebraska, Illinois, Wisconsin, November-December 1906
Box 2 of 9	Field notes and diary, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, December 1906
Box 2 of 9	Field notes and diary, Mississippi, Arkansas, December 1906-January 1907
Box 2 of 9	Field notes, Nebraska, March 1907 Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Field notes and diary, Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota, July-August 1907• Field notes and diary, New Mexico, August 1907
Box 2 of 9	Field notes, Harrison and Monona counties, Iowa, 1908 (A) Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Field notes, Harrison County, Iowa, 1908 (B)
Box 2 of 9	Field notes, Harrison and Monona counties, Iowa, 1908 (D) Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Field notes, Harrison and Monona counties, Iowa, 1908 (E-1)
Box 2 of 9	Field notes, Harrison and Monona counties, Iowa, 1908 (E-2) Digital Content: Field notes, Iowa, 1909 (F) [Field Book Registry Item 2949; SIA Item No. SIA_007082_B02_F20_E02] Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Field notes, Iowa, 1909 (F)
Box 2 of 9	Field notes, Iowa, Nebraska, 1909 (G) Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Field notes, Iowa, 1909 (H)
Box 2 of 9	Field notes, Iowa, Nebraska, 1909 (I) Digital Content: Field notes, Iowa, Nebraska, 1909 (I) [Field Book Registry Item 2953; SIA Item No. SIA_007082_B02_F22]
Box 2 of 9	Field notes, Iowa, South Dakota, 1910 (#1) Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Field notes, Iowa, South Dakota, Nebraska, Missouri, 1910 (#2)
Box 2 of 9	Botany and geology, Iowa, 1910, 1911 Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Field notes and diary, Iowa, South Dakota, 1911• Field notes and diary, Lake Okoboji, Iowa, 1912
Box 2 of 9	Field notes and diary, Iowa, Nebraska, Missouri, 1912, 1913, 1920 Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Field notes and diary, Iowa, South Dakota, 1912, 1913
Box 2 of 9	Field notes and diary, Audubon and Shelby counties, Iowa, 1912, 1913

[Digital Content: Field notes and diary, Audubon and Shelby counties, Iowa, 1912, 1913 \[Field Book Registry Item 2963; SIA Item No. SIA_007082_B02_F26\]](#)

Box 2 of 9	Iowa Avenue Street Plan, Fairfield, Iowa soldiers' records, 1913
Box 3	
Box 3 of 9	Field notes and diary, Iowa, 1913, 1914, 1915
Box 3 of 9	Field notes and diary, Iowa, Wisconsin, Ontario, New York, Washington, D.C., 1913, 1915
Box 3 of 9	Field notes and diary, Iowa, 1913, 1915, 1920, 1922
Box 3 of 9	Diary, European trip, 1914 (2 books)
Box 3 of 9	Diary, voyage from Austria-Hungary to the United States, written mostly in Czech
Box 3 of 9	Notes written mostly in Czech, 1914 Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Notes on studies of willows, University of Prague, 1914
Box 3 of 9	Diary, May 9, 1916 Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Field notes and diary, Iowa, 1916, 1917
Box 3 of 9	Building inspection trip, Iowa; field notes, Illinois, Indiana, 1916, 1917, 1920, 1921
Box 3 of 9	Field notes and diary, Iowa, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Ohio, Kansas, 1916, 1918
Box 3 of 9	Field notes, Iowa, 1917, 1919
Box 3 of 9	Field notes and diary, Iowa, Nebraska, Tennessee, Missouri, 1917, 1919, 1920
Box 3 of 9	Field notes and diary, Iowa, Nebraska, 1918
Box 3 of 9	Field notes and diary, Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, Ohio, Wisconsin, 1918, 1919
Box 3 of 9	Field notes and diary, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, New York, 1919
Box 3 of 9	Field notes and diary, Iowa, April-June, 1920 Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Field notes and diary, Iowa, May-June, 1920• Field notes and diary, Iowa, Missouri, 1920, 1921

Box 3 of 9	Field notes and diary, Iowa; quotations on geology from various sources, January-February 1921
Box 3 of 9	Field notes and diary, Iowa, August-September 1921 Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Field notes and diary, Iowa, September-November 1921
Box 3 of 9	Field notes and diary, Iowa, October-December 1921; March-May 1922
Box 3 of 9	Field notes and diary, Iowa, March-July 1923
Box 3 of 9	Field notes and diary, Iowa, August-November 1923
Box 3 of 9	Field notes and diary, Iowa, 1923, 1930, 1933
Box 3 of 9	Field notes and diary, 1924
Box 3 of 9	Lists of plants, 1925
Box 3 of 9	Field notes and diary, 1931, 1932
Box 3 of 9	Field notes and diary, 1932, 1933
Box 4	
Box 4 of 9	Field notes and diary, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Missouri, Arkansas, Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, Florida, Tennessee, Kentucky, 1933
Box 4 of 9	Field notes and diary, Iowa, 1934 (I-II)
Box 4 of 9	Diary, Iowa, Illinois, 1934, 1935
Box 4 of 9	Field notes and diary, Iowa, Nebraska, Colorado, North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Wyoming, 1935 (I) Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Field notes and diary, Illinois, 1935 (II)
Box 4 of 9	Field notes and diary, Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, Nebraska, Iowa, 1935
Box 4 of 9	Field notes and diary, Iowa, Louisiana, Texas, Tennessee, Missouri, Mississippi, February-April 1936
Box 4 of 9	Field notes and diary, Iowa, Nebraska, October 1936
Box 4 of 9	Catalogue of Fossils
Box 4 of 9	Descriptions of Lakeside Laboratory at Lake Okoboji, Iowa; and list of Unionidae
Box 4 of 9	Distribution list

Box 4 of 9	Field notes, lists of trees in Iowa
Box 4 of 9	Field notes, and lists of specimens
Box 4 of 9	Lists of botanical specimens
Box 4 of 9	Lists of mollusks
Box 4 of 9	Lists of specimens sent to various persons, 1931-1936
Box 4 of 9	Loess notes (mostly blank pages)
Box 4 of 9	Notes from various sources

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Series 5: JOURNAL ARTICLES, NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS, SCRAPBOOK, AND SPEECH.

Box 4	
Box 4 of 9	Journal articles, 1923-1929
Box 4 of 9	Newspaper clippings, 1921-1930
Box 4 of 9	Scrapbook - Davis County, Van Buren County, Wapello County and Jefferson County, Iowa
Box 4 of 9	Speech (probably on soil erosion and prevention, with pages missing). See also notes of Shimek's speech on foreign immigration in Box 1.

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Series 6: PHOTOGRAPHS AND COPY NEGATIVES; MAPS; AND BIBLIOGRAPHY CARDS, ARRANGED BY SUBJECT.

Box 4	
Box 4 of 9	Photographs - Scenes of various places in Iowa and Louisiana
Box 4 of 9	Photographs - Southern trip, 1936 (13 envelopes)
Box 4 of 9	Map - Graphs of townships, Lyon County, Iowa
Box 4 of 9	Map - Blueprint map of Clear Lake, Cerro Gordo County, Iowa (Iowa State Highway Commission, 1916) (rolled)
Box 4 of 9	Map - Blueprint map of Dan Green Slough, Clay County, Iowa (Iowa State Highway Commission, 1916) (rolled)
Box 4 of 9	Map - Butler County, Nebraska (rolled)
Box 5	
Box 5 of 9	Photographs - Geological features - Mounted on cardboard, numbered (approximately 300 3" x 4" photographs)
Box 6	
Box 6 of 9	Bibliography cards - Arranged by subject (3 card boxes)
Box 7	
Box 7 of 9	Index of plates for publication
Box 7 of 9	Plate illustrations and captions - Contains photographs and typewritten captions in envelopes with notations (4 folders)
Box 7 of 9	My illustrations
Box 7 of 9	Photographs - very rough prairie
Box 7 of 9	Photographs - Bohumil Nemec; Karel Domin
Box 7 of 9	Photographs - Some with notations, in various formats - Typically of geological formation, trees, botanical specimens; with additional images of groups, buildings, railways, and scenes throughout Iowa (Folders 1-9 of 14)
Box 8	

Box 8 of 9	Photographs - Some with notations, in various formats - Typically of geological formation, trees, botanical specimens; with additional images of groups, buildings, railways, and scenes throughout Iowa (Folders 10-14 of 14)
Box 8 of 9	Photographs - Cerro Gordo County
Box 8 of 9	Photographs - Cultivated trees, Lyon County
Box 8 of 9	Photograph - B. Shimek
Box 8 of 9	Geological photographs - Shelby and Council Bluff, Iowa
Box 8 of 9	Geological photographs - Lansing, Kansas
Box 8 of 9	Geological photographs - New Harmony, Indiana
Box 8 of 9	Geological photographs - Iowa Counties (Allamakee, Winneshiek, Red Oak, Balfour, Iowa)
Box 8 of 9	Geological photographs - Jackson County, Dubuque County; Helena, Arkansas; Bridgefort, Wisconsin; Galena, Illinois; Hamburg, Iowa; Scott County; Muscatine County, Louisa County; Bruno; Abie; West Pennsylvania; and Seward, Nebraska
Box 8 of 9	Geological photographs - St. Joseph, Missouri; Council Bluff, near Turin, Iowa Digital Content: Concannon house looking Southeast, November 28, 1903 [Image No. SIA2014-07066]
Box 8 of 9	Geological photographs - Loveland; Florence, Nebraska; Brenner County, Butler County; Shelby, Harlan, Walnut; Harrison County
Box 8 of 9	Geological photographs - Ft. Adams, Mississippi; Missouri Valley; Crawford County; Johnson County
Box 8 of 9	Geological photographs - Omaha and South Omaha; Carroll County, Iowa
Box 8 of 9	Postcards - Frankfort/Berlin; Heidelberg, c. 1914-1915
Box 9	
Box 9 of 9	Copy negatives of photographs

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