



Smithsonian Institution Archives

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
Identifier:	Record Unit 7082
Date:	1878-1936
Extent:	8.51 cu. ft. (8 record storage boxes) (1 3x5 box) (1 5x8 box)
Creator::	Shimek, Bohumil, 1861-1937
Language:	Language of Materials: 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 <i>Pomatiopsis lapidaria</i> , 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.

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
[Digital Content: Field Notes and Diary, 1880 \[Field Book Registry Item 2826; SIA Item No. SIA_007082_B01_F16\]](#)
[Digital Content: Notes on Birds, 1880 \[Field Book Registry Item 2827; SIA Item No. SIA_007082_B01_F16_E01\]](#)
[Digital Content: Notes on Ovaa, 1880 \[Field Book Registry Item 2828; SIA Item No. SIA_007082_B01_F16_E02\]](#)
- 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 \[Field Book Registry Item 2829; SIA Item No. SIA_007082_B01_F19_E01\]](#)
- Box 1 of 9 Lists of fossils, mollusks and plants; surveying notes, 1886
[Digital Content: Notes on botany specimens, Nebraska, 1890 \[Field Book Registry Item 2834; SIA Item No. SIA_007082_B01_F20_E01\]](#)
- 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)
[Digital Content: Botanical notes, Nicaragua, 1892-1893 \(notebook 2 of 6\) \[Field Book Registry Item 2910; SIA Item No. SIA_007082_B01_F24_E02\]](#)
[Digital Content: Botanical notes, Nicaragua, 1892-1893 \(notebook 5 of 6\) \[Field Book Registry Item 2915; SIA Item No. SIA_007082_B01_F24_E05\]](#)
- 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
- 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
- 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 1906
- Box 2 of 9 Field notes and diary, South Dakota, August 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
- Box 2 of 9 Field notes, Harrison and Monona counties, Iowa, 1908 (A)
- Box 2 of 9 Field notes, Harrison and Monona counties, Iowa, 1908 (D)
[Digital Content: Field notes, Harrison and Monona counties, Iowa, 1908 \(D\) \[Field Book Registry Item 2946; SIA Item No. SIA_007082_B02_F19_E01\]](#)
[Digital Content: Field notes, Harrison and Monona counties, Iowa, 1908 \(E-1\) \[Field Book Registry Item 2947; SIA Item No. SIA_007082_B02_F19_E02\]](#)
- Box 2 of 9 Field notes, Harrison and Monona counties, Iowa, 1908 (E-2)
[Digital Content: Field notes, Iowa, 1909 \(F\) \[Field Book Registry Item 2949; SIA Item No. SIA_007082_B02_F20_E02\]](#)
- Box 2 of 9 Field notes, Iowa, Nebraska, 1909 (G)
- 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)
[Digital Content: Field notes, Iowa, South Dakota, 1910 \(#1\) \[Field Book Registry Item 2954; SIA Item No. SIA_007082_B02_F23_E01\]](#)
[Digital Content: Field notes, Iowa, South Dakota, Nebraska, Missouri, 1910 \(#2\) \[Field Book Registry Item 2955; SIA Item No. SIA_007082_B02_F23_E02\]](#)
- Box 2 of 9 Botany and geology, Iowa, 1910, 1911
- Box 2 of 9 Field notes and diary, Iowa, Nebraska, Missouri, 1912, 1913, 1920
[Digital Content: Field notes and diary, Iowa, South Dakota, 1912, 1913 \[Field Book Registry Item 2959; SIA Item No. SIA_007082_B02_F25\]](#)
[Digital Content: Field notes and diary, Iowa, Nebraska, Missouri, 1912, 1913, 1920 \[Field Book Registry Item 2960; SIA Item No. SIA_007082_B02_F25_E02\]](#)
- 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)
[Digital Content: Diary, European trip, 1914 \(1 of 2\) \[Field Book Registry Item 2968; SIA Item No. SIA_007082_B03_F04_E01\]](#)
[Digital Content: Diary, European trip, 1914 \(2 of 2\) \[Field Book Registry Item 2970; SIA Item No. SIA_007082_B03_F04_E02\]](#)
- 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
- Box 3 of 9 Diary, May 9, 1916
- 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
- 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
- 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)
- 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)
- [Digital Content: \[38\] 3. Quercus macrocarpa var. depressa near Granite, Iowa \(folder 3\) \[Image No. SIA2012-3227\]](#)
- [Digital Content: \[48b\] 3. -Q macrocarpa var. depressa. Prairie border. S.W. corner of Lyon county, Iowa \(folder 3\) \[Image No. SIA2012-3228\]](#)
- [Digital Content: \[59\] Wind gauge and unidentified field equipment on hillside, undated \(folder 1\) \[Image No. SIA2012-3232\]](#)
- [Digital Content: \[II\] 1. Sand-puszta, Island of Csepel. Stipa Graeffiana, Linum pannonicum, etc., 1914 \(folder 1\) \[Image No. SIA2012-3230\]](#)
- [Digital Content: \[II\] 7. Near view of native vegetation on sand-steppe near Heidesheim, Germany, 1914 \(folder 1\) \[Image No. SIA2012-3229\]](#)
- [Digital Content: \[III\] 3. Looking west in Radotin valley, south of Prague, Bohemia. Slopes facing south are steppe, 1914 \(folder 1\) \[Image No. SIA2012-3231\]](#)

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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