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Collection Overview

Repository: Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu
Title: Edgar Alexander Mearns Papers
Identifier: Record Unit 7083
Date: circa 1871-1916, 1934 and undated
Extent: 3.5 cu. ft. (7 document boxes)
Creator:: Mearns, Edgar Alexander, 1856-1916
Language: English

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation
Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 7083, Edgar Alexander Mearns Papers

Historical Note

Edgar Alexander Mearns (1856-1916) was an army surgeon and field naturalist. He developed an early interest in natural history, studying the flora and fauna around his home in Highland Falls, New York. Mearns was educated at Donald Highland Institute, Highland Falls, and in 1881 graduated from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of New York. In 1883, he was commissioned assistant surgeon in the Medical Corps of the Army and assigned to duty at Fort Verde, Arizona. He was transferred to Fort Snelling, Minnesota, in 1888. In 1891, Mearns was assigned to serve as medical officer with the United States-Mexican International Boundary Survey. From 1892 to 1894, Mearns explored the boundary line from El Paso, Texas, to San Clemente Island and collected 30,000 specimens of flora and fauna which were deposited in the United States National Museum (USNM). From 1894 to 1903, Mearns continued his natural history investigations while stationed at Fort Myer, Virginia; Fort Clark, Texas; Fort Adams, Rhode Island; and Fort Yellowstone. He also conducted field research in the Catskill Mountains and Florida during this period. Between 1903 and 1907, Mearns served two separate tours of duty in the Philippine Islands. While in the Philippines he made natural history collections and participated in expeditions to the three highest mountains in the islands, Mount Apo, Grand Malindang, and Mount Halcon. After returning to the United States, Mearns served at Fort Totten, New York, until his retirement from the Army on January 1, 1909. Later in that year, he was invited by Theodore Roosevelt to accompany the Smithsonian-Roosevelt African Expedition as naturalist. From 1909 to 1910, Mearns explored parts of British East Africa from Mount Kenia to the White Nile. Mearns’ last expedition was in 1911, when he served as a naturalist with the Childs Frick Expedition to Africa.

Mearns' primary biological interests were ornithology and mammalogy. He was a founding member of the American Ornithologists Union and in 1909 was appointed honorary associate in zoology of the USNM.
Descriptive Entry

This collection documents Mearns' career as a field naturalist and expedition member and consists of correspondence, 1898-1909, including photocopies of letters written by Mearns while he served on the Smithsonian-Roosevelt African Expedition of 1909; biographical material on Mearns and his family; field notes, research notes, specimen lists, photographs, and related materials concerning Mearns' field work, 1871-1911; and correspondence, photographs, drawings, and research data regarding Mearns' work on the United States-Mexican International Boundary Survey, circa 1891-1907. This finding aid also describes Mearns' papers housed in the Division of Birds, National Museum of Natural History (see series 6, boxes 8-27).

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:
- Mammalogists
- Mammalogy
- Natural history
- Ornithologists
- Ornithology

Types of Materials:
- Black-and-white photographs
- Drawings
- Field notes
- Manuscripts
- Scientific illustrations

Names:
- American Ornithologists' Union
- Childs Frick Expedition to Ethiopia and Kenya Colony (1911-1912)
- College of Physicians and Surgeons in the City of New York
- Mearns, Edgar Alexander, 1856-1916
- Smithsonian African Expedition (1909-1910)
- United States National Museum
- United States. Army. Medical Corps
## Container Listing

**Series 1: General Correspondence, 1886-1909, and undated.**

This series consists mostly of incoming correspondence received by Edgar Alexander Mearns regarding his study of Rhode Island mammals, 1899-1901. Correspondents include J. Henry Blake, William H. Dall, Edward D. Keith, Wirt Robinson, James Mortimer Southwick, and Charles Torrey Simpson. Also included are photocopies of correspondence written by Mearns to family members while he served on the Smithsonian-Roosevelt African Expedition of 1909. The letters document the progress of the expedition and include references to John Alden Loring, Edmund Heller, and Theodore and Kermit Roosevelt.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1</th>
<th>Folders 1-3</th>
<th>Incoming correspondence, 1898-1909, and undated. Arranged alphabetically.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 1 of 27</td>
<td>Folder 4</td>
<td>Photocopies of correspondence from Mearns to his family while he served on the Smithsonian-Roosevelt African Expedition, 1909. Arranged chronologically.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1 of 27</td>
<td>Folder 5</td>
<td>Correspondence with Frank X. Holzner, taxidermist, 1891-1901.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Return to Table of Contents*
Series 2: Biographical Material, 1879, 1885-1900, 1934.

This series consists of a biographical sketch of Edgar Alexander Mearns written by his daughter Lillian Mearns in 1934; copies of newspaper articles and newspaper clippings concerning Mearns, 1885-1900; and an autobiographical sketch of Mearns' grandfather, Alexander Mearns, 1879.

Box 1

Folder 6 Biographical sketch of Edgar Alexander Mearns written by his daughter, Lillian Mearns, 1934. Also includes correspondence between Lillian Mearns and Alexander Wetmore regarding the sketch.

Folder 7 Copies of newspaper articles concerning Mearns, 1885-1899.

Folder 8 Newspaper clippings regarding Mearns, 1899-1900.

Folder 9 Autobiographical sketch of Alexander Mearns, 1879.

Return to Table of Contents
Series 3: Field Notes, Research Notes, Specimen Lists, Manuscripts, and Reprints, 1871-1911, and undated.

This series consists primarily of material documenting Edgar Alexander Mearns' research on mammals. Included are field notes kept by Mearns during investigations in Yellowstone National Park, 1889, 1902-1903; Rhode Island, 1899-1901; Florida, 1901; and Fort Snelling, Minnesota, 1889 and 1902. Also included are photographs of mammals taken in Arizona; research notes; specimen lists; manuscripts and reprints; and reports of the United States Army Medical Department stationed in the Philippine Islands, 1901-1902. The material is arranged chronologically.

Box 1

Box 1 of 27
Folder 10 Miscellaneous specimen lists, 1871, 1878, 1882, 1898-1902, and undated.  
Digital Content: Miscellaneous specimen lists, 1871, 1878, 1882, 1898-1902, and undated.

Box 2

Box 2 of 27
Folder 1 List of shells collected by Edgar Alexander Mearns, 1876-1896.  
Digital Content: List of shells collected by Edgar Alexander Mearns, 1876-1896.

Box 2 of 27
Folder 2 Lists and notes of reptiles and batrachians, 1876-1906.

Box 2 of 27
Folders 3-4 Photographs of mammals taken while Mearns served at Fort Verde, Arizona, 1886-1887.

Box 2 of 27
Folder 5 Bibliography of Edgar Alexander Mearns, 1886-1898.

Box 2 of 27
Folder 6 Mammals observed on a trip from Fort Snelling, Minnesota, to the Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming, July 21-August 1889.

Box 2 of 27
Folder 7 Reprints of Edgar Alexander Mearns, 1890, 1900, 1914.

Box 2 of 27
Folder 8 Field notes, 1897-1901. Consists mostly of notes kept during field work in Rhode Island, 1899-1901. Also includes notes on the flora of Arkansas and Texas.

Box 2 of 27
Folders 9-10 Manuscript, reprint, and research material on Rhode Island mammals, 1899-1901, and undated.

Box 3

Box 3 of 27
Folder 1 "Notes on a Collecting Expedition to Chepachet Post Office, Glocester Township, Providence County, Rhode Island, made by Dr. Edgar A. Mearns and his son, Louis di Zerega Mearns, September 1-8, 1900."

Box 3 of 27
Folder 2 Field notes, 1901-1902. Consists mostly of notes kept during field work in Florida, 1901. Also includes notes kept by Mearns on a train trip to Fort Yellowstone, 1902.
Box 3 of 27  
Folders 3-4 Reports of the United States Medical Department in the Philippine Islands, 1901-1902. Includes photographs.

Box 3 of 27  
Folder 5 Mammals observed on a trip from Fort Yellowstone, Wyoming to Fort Snelling, Minnesota, December 16-19, 1902.

Box 3 of 27  
Folder 6 Notes on the mammals of Yellowstone National Park, 1903.

Box 3 of 27  

Box 3 of 27  
Folder 8 Notes on Florida mammals, undated.

Box 3 of 27  
Folder 9 Notes on Philippine mammals, undated.

Box 3 of 27  
Folder 10 Miscellaneous notes on mammals.

Oversize  
Folder 1 Measurements of mammals, Arizona, 1884-1887.

From 1892 to 1894, Edgar Alexander Mearns served as medical officer with the United States-Mexican Boundary Survey. He was also authorized to establish a biological section of the survey and collect natural history specimens. Along with his assistant, Frank X. Holzner, Mearns collected about 30,000 specimens which were deposited in the United States National Museum (USNM). Mearns’ study of the mammals collected on the survey resulted in the publication of “Mammals of the Mexican Boundary of the United States,” *USNM Bulletin #56*, 1907.

This series documents Mearns’ role in the natural history work of the survey and includes correspondence with Holzner and others concerning collections made and the publication of reports on the survey, 1891-1898; photographs taken on the survey, 1892-1894; and drawings of and research data on mammals collected, circa 1892-1907. Much of the research data was prepared by Mearns for publication in *USNM Bulletin #56*. For other material regarding Mearns’ role in the United States-Mexican Boundary Survey, see series 5.

**Box 4**

- **Box 4 of 27** Folder 1 Correspondence, 1891-1898. Arranged chronologically.
- **Box 4 of 27** Folders 2-5 Photographs, 1892-1894. Consists mostly of landscapes and photographs of boundary sites.
  - Digital Content: Edgar A. Mearns with woman and child, standing on United States-Mexico Boundary, 1892 (Image no. SIA2012-7705)
  - Digital Content: Man on United States-Mexico Boundary, 1892 (Image no. 97-8727)

**Box 5**

- **Box 5 of 27** Folders 1-3 Drawings of mammals, circa 1892-1907. Includes drawings by John L. Ridgway.
- **Box 5 of 27** Folders 4-16 Research data on mammals, circa 1892-1907.

**Box 6**

- **Box 6 of 27** Folders 1-10 Research data on mammals, circa 1892-1907.
Series 5: Correspondence, Notebooks, Newspaper Clippings, and Research Materials Concerning the Mammals of Rhode Island, circa 1899-1902.

While stationed at Fort Adams, Rhode Island, during 1899-1901, Edgar Alexander Mearns conducted a survey of mammals of the state. This series consists of correspondence, notebooks, newspaper clippings, notes, lists, maps, and publications documenting his work. See also series 1 and 2.

Box 7

Box 7 of 27 Folder 1 Correspondence, A-H. Correspondents include Glover M. Allen, 1901; Outram Bangs, 1900; Reginald Herber Howe, Jr., 1899-1902.

Box 7 of 27 Folder 2 Correspondence, J-S. Correspondents include Gerrit S. Miller, Jr., 1900; Wirt Robinson, 1900; James H. Southwick, 1899-1902; Witmer Stone, 1900.

Box 7 of 27 Folder 3 Correspondence, T-W. Correspondents include A. O’D. Taylor, 1899-1902; Frederick William True, 1900.

Box 7 of 27 Folder 4 Notebooks, circa 1899-1900.

Box 7 of 27 Folder 5 Notes, lists, maps, and publications, circa 1899-1901.

Box 7 of 27 Folder 6 Newspaper clippings, circa 1899-1901.
Series 6: Field Notes, circa 1872-1916. Located in Division of Birds.

This series consists of field notes, specimen lists, catalogues, itineraries, manuscripts, drawings, plates, and related materials of Edgar Alexander Mearns, circa 1872-1916, housed in the Division of Birds, National Museum of Natural History. The material thoroughly documents Mearns' career as a field naturalist and includes notes from his early investigations in New York; his field work while serving as a surgeon in the United States Army, particularly investigations in the Philippine Islands, 1902-1907; and his collecting activities as a member of the United States-Mexican International Boundary Survey, 1892-1894, the Smithsonian-Roosevelt African Expedition, 1909, and the Childs Frick African Expedition, 1911-1912. Also included are papers of Mearns' son, Louis di Zerega Mearns (1886-1912), mostly concerning his field work in Rhode Island. The material is arranged chronologically.

Box 8

New York, circa 1872-1884.

1. Miscellaneous specimen lists and notes, mostly unidentified, circa 1872-1877.

2. Birds and eggs sent to R. P. Nicholls, circa 1872-1878.

3. Catalogue of birds sent to Alfred Benzon, Copenhagen, Denmark, circa 1872-1879.


5. Labels of skins sent to C. H. Nicholls, circa 1874-1875.

6. *An Ornithological Journal and Register*, Edgar A. Mearns, begun October 6, 1874. Includes material on mammals of the Hudson Highlands and an index to all of the notes on birds; a list of specimens by label number and a chronological list of birds seen each day, 1874-1886.

7. *Collecting List of Edgar A. Mearns*. This "is a complete catalogue of all the Birds collected by me up to date, excepting only my original collection of mounted specimens, and unlabelled skins collected for exchange with the dealers," Edgar A. Mearns, March 14, 1874. Catalogue goes up to about 1880, then begins daily field journal, 1880-1884. Includes an index. Starting in 1883 the notes reflect his work at the American Museum of Natural History. Entries beginning March 11, 1884, document his trip west to Arizona, and many of the remaining entries document the first few days of his stay in Arizona (March 28, 1884).

Box 9


3. "Notes on Some of the Birds of Fort Klamath, Oregon, Collected by Lieutenant Willis Wittich, 21st Infantry, U.S.A., With Annotations and Additions by 'The Collector'." This manuscript was compiled from notes and collections given to Mearns by Wittich while he was stationed at Fort Klamath, circa 1875.

4. "On This Spring's Migration (1878) in the Hudson Highlands." This manuscript pertains to the migration of birds to the Hudson Highlands and some of the rarer birds that were seen in the Highlands in 1878. Incomplete.

5. List of specimens captured in Highland Falls, New York, 1878.


7. Miscellaneous lists of birds as follows: Specimens to be entered in my catalogue (mainly specimens received from other collections), circa 1880; Benzon's last collection; Nicholls' collection not recorded; Birds received from A. P. Goodwin, July 1, 1881; Benzon's last lab; Birds in my collection not European or North American.

8. Reading notes on birds taken, circa 1879.

9. Unidentified notebook, circa 1870s.

Box 10

1. Notebook: Measurements of birds of West Point, 1873-1874; Catalogue of Osteological Preparations, 1875-1877.

2. Field Notebook and Specimen List. Includes: measurements of birds taken from February 26, 1874-May 10, 1875; arrival of the birds in 1874; list of birds seen each day from March 5, 1874-July 4, 1874; notes on roosting of Chaetura pelagica in a chimney at Fishkill.

3. List of birds seen each day, July 4, 1874-March 17, 1875.

4. Notebook. Includes: arrival of birds in the spring of 1871-1873; time of breeding of birds, 1872-1873; resident birds throughout the winter of 1874; measurements of birds shot, January 28, 1873-November 5, 1874.

5. Miscellaneous lists and notes.

6. "Birds of the Hudson Highlands," circa 1877-1878. Large handwritten manuscript, bound, 86 pages, with 300 pages torn out of the back. It is unknown whether these pages were originally part of the manuscript or whether they were just blank pages which were removed. Oversize.

7. Correspondence, 1878. Three letters.

8. Unpublished manuscript: "Birds of New York State." (16 folders)
Box 11

Box 11 of 27
1. Catalogue of birds in the Mearns Collection, to about 1891, incomplete, loose. (13 folders)

Box 11 of 27

Box 11 of 27
3. Catalogue of the birds of the Hudson River Valley in the collection of Edgar A. Mearns as of April 15, 1883; "Birds in my collection which I collected myself, but not in the Hudson Valley," by Mearns, circa 1880s; "Birds collected by me at Circleville, Ohio, and now in my collection," by Mearns; "Birds collected at Fort Klamath, Oregon, by Lieutenant Willis Wittich, and now in my collection," by Mearns; "Birds in my collection from various parts of North America from various ornithologists," by Mearns.

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Box 12

Fort Verde, Arizona, 1884-1888.

Box 12 of 27
1. "Notes on the Natural History of the Expedition conducted by Brig. General George A. Crook, U.S.A., commanding the Department of Arizona from Whipple Barracks, Prescott, A[rrizona] T[erritory], to San Carlos Indian Agency, via Forrest Dale and Fort Apache, and thence back to Whipple Barracks via Globe City, Fossil Creek, etc., between the dates of October 1st and October 27th, inclusive, 1884." Part of this journal is missing. This covers only the period up to October 11; also included in this bound volume is "A Catalogue of Medicinal Plants Growing Wild in the Hudson Highlands, New York," December 10, 1884; "Memorandum of Society Memberships, 1878-1889."

Box 12 of 27
2. Journal of the Natural History of the Expedition conducted by Brig. General George A. Crook, Whipple Barracks, Prescott, to San Carlos Indian Agency, October 1-October 27, 1884.

Box 12 of 27
3. Field notes on a trip from Fort Verde, Arizona, to the Havasupai Indian Village on Catarach Creek, Arizona, and thence skirting the bluffs of the Colorado River to Peach Springs, thence to Fort Verde by way of Big Chino and Williamson Valleys to Whipple Barracks, and thence to Fort Verde, November 4-November 26, 1884.

Box 12 of 27
4. Notes and journal taken on trip from Fort Verde, Arizona, to the Havasupai Indian village, to Peach Springs, and return to Fort Verde, November 4-November 26, 1884.

Box 12 of 27
5. Field notes and Journal, March 25-April 5, 1885. Includes notes from Camp Hualapai, July 22-August 1, 1881.

Box 12 of 27
6. "A Journal of a Journey from Fort Verde, Arizona, to Deming, New Mexico," March 25, 1885-May 20, 1885. Mearns was the medical officer in charge of the third and tenth regiments of the U.S. Calvary exchanging
stations between the Departments of Arizona and Texas. Mearns submitted a report on the zoology of this region to the surgeon general. Includes letters to Mearns from Benjamin F. Pope (7/16/1885) and John S. Billings, curator of the Army Medical Museum (7/17/1885); also included are "Notes on a Trip from Fort Verde, Arizona, to Flagstaff, Arizona, and back," June 18–June 22, 1886.

Box 12 of 27
7. Field notes and specimen lists, April 7–May 19, 1885. Includes measurements of birds and an itinerary.

Box 12 of 27
8. Journal, June 1884–September 1885, mostly pertaining to specimens secured or sighted. Includes: "Notes on a hunting trip from Fort Verde to Indian Garden on Oak Creek, Arizona Territory, between January 14th and 18th, inclusive, 1885."

Box 13 of 27
1. Field notes and specimen lists, September 1, 1885–June 5, 1886. Includes correspondence, itineraries, description of birds, a "List of Mammals wanted by Professor J. A. Allen for the Exhibition Collection of the American Museum of Natural History," and an index.

Box 13 of 27
2. Field notes and specimen lists, June 10, 1885–January 20, 1888. Includes itineraries, sketches of birds, notes made by colleagues, mammals shipped to American Museum of Natural History, tables of measurements of birds and mammals, and an index.

Box 13 of 27
3. Field notes, Mehren's Ranch and Baker's Butte, June, August, October 1887.

Box 13 of 27
4. Field notes and journal, Fort Verde to Baker's Butte, July 7–August 5, 1887. Includes notes on a trip to the Mazatzal Mountains, Arizona, August 4–August 11, 1887.

Box 13 of 27
5. Field notes, Summer Camp at Baker's Butte, Arizona, and the Natural Bridge, August 4–August 11, 1887.

Box 13 of 27
6. Catalogue of Specimen of Birds Collected in Arizona, March 16, 1884–May 28, 1888. A description of the birds collected between September 1, 1885 and January 20, 1888 can be found in the field notes and specimen lists for that period.

Box 13 of 27
7. Specimen catalogue, Arizona, 1884-1888.

Box 13 of 27
8. Index to Specimens of Birds to March 1884. Includes notes on the food of Birds of Prey, circa 1870s-1880s.

Box 13 of 27
9. "List of Birds seen in Arizona between March 10, 1884 and April 16, 1884," by Edgar A. Mearns. Includes notes on these birds.

Box 13 of 27
10. Indexes and lists of specimens, Arizona, 1884-1887. Includes notes regarding mammals in the vicinity of Flagstaff (June 3, 1887); notes on mammals and birds seen on San Francisco Mountain, June 3–June 7, 1887.
### Box 14

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 14 of 27</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Lists of birds collected at Fort Verde, Arizona, with notes, 1884-1887, incomplete.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Lists of bird specimens with measurements and location of collection, Fort Verde, Arizona, 1884-1888.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Lists of Birds seen between El Paso and Fort Davis, Texas, May 27, 1885 and August 9, 1885.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Migration Reports received up to March 31, 1886. Includes: lists of observers and their stations, correspondence regarding their observations; and 1885 American Ornithologists' Union Committee on Migration.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. American Ornithologists' Union Committee on Migration, Fort Lyon, Colorado, by Platt M. Thorne, 1886. Includes a list of birds observed by Thorne with comments.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. &quot;Description of a New Species of Vireo From Arizona,&quot; by Edgar A. Mearns, named in honor of Louis A. Zerega, an accomplished ornithologist of New York City, July 5, 1886.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. &quot;List of Birds seen on the trip to San Francisco Mountain, Arizona, from Fort Verde, between the dates of May 20th and June 20th, 1887,&quot; by Edgar A. Mearns.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Miscellaneous volume. Includes: unidentified index; some journal entries; table of measurements of Mammals collected on a trip to Flagstaff and the Natural Bridge, Arizona, n.d.; rough draft of fragments of a manuscript regarding Arizona mammals; table of measurements of two species of hares from Arizona and New Mexico; copy of an agreement between Mearns and Dr. Merriam, stating that Mearns would send specimens of mammals to Merriam (February 8, 1886).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Lists of birds, location and dates observed in the Arizona Territory and New Mexico, March 25-May 20, [?], incomplete. Fort Snelling, Minnesota, 1888-1891, 1903.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Box 14 of 27

13. Field notebook, Minnesota, 1891; miscellaneous data on Arizona and New Mexico birds, including list of birds of Chochise County, Arizona, in the collection of Col. R. F. Hafford.

14. Field notes, Fort Snelling, Minnesota, November 5-November 13, 1891. Includes a letter from E. Hillenbrand to Mearns (January 11, 1892), notes and measurements of the moose.

15. Carded notes on the birds observed in the Yellowstone National Park and vicinity, July 26-July 31, 1889 and April 19-December 16, 1902.

16. Catalogue of birds collected in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Includes: list of Wisconsin mammals; cold-blooded vertebrates of Wisconsin; shells sent to William H. Dall, 1891; plants from Fort Clarke, Texas, 1892; ethnological notes.


Box 15 of 27

1. Catalogue of birds seen and collected at Fort Snelling, Minnesota, May-June 1903. Includes: bird egg collection; notes from Hope, Idaho, and Forest Grove, Oregon; nomenclature for names; birds of Mindanao, Philippine Island, with Maro names.

2. Records of species and date and location of observation, Minnesota and Wisconsin, July 8-July 24, [?].

3. An annotated list of the birds of the vicinity of Fort Snelling, Minnesota, compiled between June 10 and July 26, 1886, by Julius R. Wakefield.

4. Index to sparrows collected at Fort Snelling, Minnesota, June 1, 1888-January 24, 1891.

5. List of the Birds of April, Fort Snelling, Minnesota, 1889-1891.

6. Lists of specimens collected and seen on a trip from Fort Snelling to Camp Douglas, Wisconsin, July 1890; Notes on the summer birds of Southeastern Minnesota.

7. Correspondence, 1891. Two letters.


Box 15 of 27

Box 15 of 27
11. Catalogue of specimens by Edgar A. Mearns collected on the Mexican-United States International Boundary Commission, February 1, 1892-March 19, 1894. Includes data on locality and measurements. Most of the entries were written by Louis di Zerega Mearns.

Box 15 of 27
12. List of birds and data from the Mexican-United States International Boundary Commission from El Paso, Texas, to Los Angeles, California, 1892.

Box 15 of 27
13. List of Birds collected on San Clemente Island, Southern California, August 23-August 28, 1894.

Box 16
1. Miscellaneous bird notes. Includes Attwater's List of Birds of San Antonio, Auk IX, 384; record of specimens.

Box 16 of 27
2. Manuscript notes of a projected study of birds of the Mexican boundary.

Box 16 of 27
3. Copy of "The Natural History of the Mexican Boundary Line," by Edgar A. Mearns, to be presented to the president and members of the Newport Natural History Society, n.d.

Box 16 of 27

Fort Myer, Virginia, 1894-1897.

Box 16 of 27
5. Mearns' notes on birds observed from Frederick, Maryland, to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, 1895.

Box 16 of 27

Box 16 of 27
7. Correspondence, 1895. Two letters.

Fort Clark, Texas, 1897-1898.

Box 16 of 27
8. List of birds and locality, late 1897-1898, Fort Clark, Texas. Includes some notes written by Louis di Zerega Mearns and an unidentified list of birds.

Box 16 of 27
9. Correspondence, 1897-1898. Four letters.

Fort Adams, Newport, Rhode Island, 1899-1900.
Box 16 of 27

10. Field notes on mammals, birds, reptiles, fish, etc., observed at Fort Clark, Texas, June 14, 1898, to Fort Snelling, Minnesota, April 4, 1903. A large portion of these notes are devoted to Mearns' observations in Rhode Island.

11. Carded notes on the birds of Rhode Island, 1899-1900.


Box 17

1. Notes on the birds of Chepachet, Rhode Island during a collecting trip to Chepachet from August 31-September 8, 1900, by Edgar A. Mearns.

2. "A list of the birds observed on Conanicut Island, Rhode Island," by Edgar A. Mearns, Fort Adams, Rhode Island. Incorporated into these notes are observations made by Dr. Joel Asaph Allen.

3. Correspondence, 1900. One letter.


5. Address book of Mearns, Fort Adams, Newport, Rhode Island, 1900.

Fort Yellowstone, 1902.

6. Field notes and journal, 1902, incomplete.

7. Notes on birds, Fort Yellowstone, 1902, incomplete.

Philippine Islands, 1902-1907.

8. Notes from western United States and the Philippine Islands, December 7, 1902-November 3, 1903. These notes contain observation data by Mearns as he headed to the west coast before leaving for the Philippines.

9. Fragmented notes from the Philippines with no chronological order, 1902-1903.


12. Notes from Cottabato, Barak, Serenaya, and Zamboanga, March 4-March 15, 1904. Includes itinerary and birds of Cottabato.

14. Notes from Manila, Nagasaki, and major seaports on the return trip to the United States as well as several locations in the continental United States, September 21-October 1904, November 19-December 5, 1904.

15. Notes from Plattsburgh, New York, midwestern and western United States, islands of the Pacific Ocean, and Manila, June 9-August 4, 1905. These notes contain data collected by Mearns as he prepared for his second expedition to the Philippines.


17. Field notes, January 3-January 11, 1906. Includes itineraries, lists of birds collected and notes.

18. Field notes, itineraries, bird specimens, and mammals collected from the southern Philippine islands, Palmas Island, Celebes and Basilan Expeditions; and Zamboanga, January 3-February 11, 1906.


22. Field notes and lists of birds, mammals, and reptiles from the Mt. Malindang Expedition. Includes: personnel of the Mt. Malindang Expedition; notes from July and August 1906; and special itinerary notes for June 11-June 13, 1906 written by Mearns. The notes cover trips to Mt. Bliss, Mt. Malindang, Catazan, Mt. Williams, and Zamboanga, Mindanao, May 10-June 9, 1906.

1907, and notes from later trips to Baguio; Volume 4, January 12-March 15, 1907, Trip to Currimao de Solomque, and notes from Nagportian, Laoag, and Currimao; Volume 5, March 24-March 31, 1907, Naujan Trip, May 19-June 7, 1907, Batanes and Mt. Mayon Trips; Volume 6, July 19-August 4, 1907, Trip to Haight's Place, Benquet, and mammals.

**Box 18 of 27**
2. Catalogue of Birds collected in the Philippine Islands. Volume 1, numbers 12855-13833, June 27, 1903-December 14, 1905; Volume 2, numbers 13834-15107, January 4, 1906-April 19, 1907, catalogue of birds seen on the Mt. Malindang Expedition and Luzon Island; Volume 3, numbers 15108-15489, April 20-August 4, 1907, mostly birds seen on Luzon Island.

**Box 18 of 27**
3. Specimen list of birds, from the Philippines, n.d.

**Box 18 of 27**
4. Notes of birds collected on trips with General Leonard Wood between September 27 and December 14, 1903.

**Box 18 of 27**
5. Dispatch Book, March 31-April 12, 1904. Includes: notes on birds, carbon copies of dispatches, and itineraries.

**Box 18 of 27**
6. Dispatch Book Number 1, Second Taraca Expedition, March 30-April 12, 1904. Includes dispatches, itineraries, lists of birds, and field notes.

**Box 18 of 27**
7. Dispatch Book Number 2, April 18-May 19, 1904. Includes: dispatches, itineraries, lists of birds and field notes.

**Box 18 of 27**
8. Dispatch Book Number 3, June 9-July 13, 1904, Davao and Mt. Apo Trip. Includes notes on birds, itineraries, wild pagan tribes about Mt. Apo, and personnel.

**Box 18 of 27**

**Box 18 of 27**
10. List of bird species from the Philippines, perhaps unaccounted for at the end of 1903.

**Box 18 of 27**
11. Manuscript notes on birds data, 1903-1904, incomplete.

**Box 19**
1. Data on birds' nests and eggs collected on Mt. Apo, June-July 1904.

**Box 19 of 27**
2. Birds of Apo Expedition. Includes Mt. Apo Birds, Bird Specimens from Mt. Apo, Mt. Apo Birds Collected, June 17-July 18, 1904. Also includes Birds of Mt. Apo Region, Gulf of Davao, Mindanao, Philippine Islands, and a "List of Birds observed above 2000 feet altitude on Mount Apo, Mindanao, with Bagabo names."

**Box 19 of 27**
3. Lists of birds from the Philippines, circa 1905-1907.

**Box 19 of 27**
Box 19 of 27 5. Data relating to bird specimens from Mindoro (Mt. Halcon) and birds collected in Mindoro, late 1906.

Box 19 of 27 6. List of Alcoholic Birds from Dr. Mearns, 1906-1907. Perhaps this is a list of birds preserved in alcohol and given to the USNM.

Box 19 of 27 7. List of the birds in the collection of Major E. A. Mearns, Baguio, Benquet Province, Luzon, April 1907.

Box 19 of 27 8. Notes from a trip to the Haight-in-the-Pines, Benquet, July 1907; Data from a trip to the Haight-in-the-Oaks, July 20-August 4, 1907.

Box 19 of 27 9. List of birds observed in the Philippine Islands by Mearns; data on location and species of birds.

Box 19 of 27 10. Data on location and species of birds; measurements of Pycnonotus goiavier and Pycnonotus goiavier goiavier; data on the species Collocalia bartschi.

Box 19 of 27 11. Bird data for Dr. Charles Wallace Richmond regarding bird skins that were left at the Philippine Bureau of Science for further study, n.d.

Box 19 of 27 12. Miscellaneous notes. Includes: Worcester's list of Sibutu birds; list of the birds of the Philippine Islands observed by Mearns, incomplete; descriptions of a new genus and seven new species of Philippine birds by Mearns, incomplete; measurements of Sulu piscotor in the California Academy of Sciences with notes attached; fragmented data on birds, some with entry dates.

Box 19 of 27 13. Manuscript notes on birds, incomplete. Includes: list of unidentified birds; alphabetical list of birds. The numbers following the bird entry are page numbers on which a description of that bird can be found in the manuscript.

Box 19 of 27 14. Manuscript on Philippine Birds by Edgar A. Mearns. This manuscript is a description of the birds listed in Mearns’ “Catalogue of Birds Collected in the Philippine Islands,” volumes 1-3, June 27, 1903-August 4, 1907. Includes: further additions to the list with descriptions of species new to science and to females (previously unknown) of Cyrtostomus jugularis dinagatensis and Anthereptes cagaganensis as well as mammals, fish, and unidentified birds of the Philippines. The numbering system indicates that the manuscript may be incomplete. There are approximately 100 pages without page numbers at the end of the manuscript. (9 folders) Box 12 contains folders 1 and 2.

Box 20

Box 20 of 27 Manuscript on Philippine Birds of Edgar A. Mearns, continued from Box 12, folders 3-9.

Box 21

Box 21 of 27 1. Correspondence, 1903-June 1907. Most of this correspondence is from colleagues regarding their activities on the expeditions or from men
associated with the United States Government in the Philippines. Included are special orders issued by United States or Philippine governmental departments regarding the status of Mearns or his men. Also included are telegrams, approximately ten letters in Spanish, and approximately fifteen undated letters. Included are letters from Mearns to his daughter Lillian (July 23-24, 1904), Lillian to her father (May 10, 1906), and Charles Wallace Richmond to Mearns (March 7, 1906), informing Mearns of the death of Samuel P. Langley, secretary, Smithsonian Institution. (10 folders)

Box 21 of 27  2. Journeys performed by Mearns, Zamboanga to Davao and return to Zamboanga, June 17-July 9, 1902.

Box 21 of 27  3. Fragments of data for itinerary, June 11, 1903-October 17, 1904. Includes data from the Buldung-Butig Expedition, September 27-October 6, 1903.

Box 21 of 27  4. Itinerary, began with departure from Fort Snelling, Minnesota, to the Philippines, June 11, 1903-April 23, 1904, incomplete.

Box 21 of 27  5. Brief Itinerary, July 1, 1903-May 31, 1904. Begins with Mearns' departure from San Francisco for Manila. Includes brief descriptions of his travels in the Philippine Islands to his final destination, Zamboanga.

Box 21 of 27  6. Itinerary for Parang-Buldung-Lake Butig Expedition, September 30-October 6, 1903.

Box 21 of 27  7. Itinerary of the trip on the Bornea, from Zamboanga to Glans, and return to Zamboanga, October 16-October 27, 1903.

Box 21 of 27  8. Report to the Chief of Staff for September-December, 1903. This report is a general account of Mearns' activities.

Box 21 of 27  9. Itinerary for the Seranaya Expedition ("Supplemental to data contained in old itinerary"), March 9-March 15, 1904. Includes an account of the attack on the Maro natives.

Box 21 of 27  10. "Additional Data on the Second Taraca Expedition, Island of Mindanao, March 30-April 12, 1904." Includes the personnel of the medical organization and a memorandum.

Box 21 of 27  11. "Additional notes on the Aguson Expedition," (Notes of an expedition from Zamboanga to Boganga), April 22-May 14, 1904. Includes a list of cargadores (from Boganga to Compostela) and notes on the wildlife.

Box 21 of 27  12. Itinerary from Zamboanga to Rio Grande vicinity, May 14-May 16, 1904, incomplete. This expedition was known as the Second Rio Grande Expedition against hostile Moros under the leadership of Datu Ali, in the vicinity of Lake Bulvan and Simpitan, Mindanao.

Box 21 of 27  13. Itinerary of the Simpitan Expedition, May 17-May 29, 1904. This expedition was part of the Second Rio Grande Expedition against the Moro people.
14. "Data for Itinerary and Narrative" (Mount Apo Expedition, June 9-July 24, 1904). Includes an itinerary of Captain C. C. Smith's Expedition (June 13-June 17, 1904) and a typescript account by Corporal Fletcher L. Keller, Davao, Mindanao.

15. Diary, August 8-August 12, 1904. This diary includes accounts of Mearns' trip to Manila via Jolo and Iloilo.


17. Data for Itinerary, (Gleaned from personal orders, reports, etc.) May 18, 1905-April 13, 1907, incomplete. An account of Mearns' trip from Washington, D.C., to Fort Sill, Oklahoma Territory, to San Francisco for Manila.

18. Data for Itinerary, (San Francisco to Manila, June 30-July 26, 1905). Includes notes on birds and mammals observed on the trip.

19. Data for Itinerary, May 1-May 18, 1905 (Camp John Hay), November 27-December 27, 1905 (San Isidro, Luzon, to Zamboanga). At Zamboanga, Mearns assumed the duties of Chief Surgeon, Department of Mindanao. Includes data from personal orders.

20. Schedule of Sabah trip to the Southern Islands (From Captain Crosby's log book), January 3-January 10, 1906. The Sabah trip started from Zamboanga, continued to the Southern Islands, and returned to Zamboanga. Includes a list of the named islands that were visited.


23. Data for Itinerary, Expedition from Zamboanga to Sulu and Basilan islands, February 28-March 16, 1906. Also includes data from April 1-April 2, 1906.


28. Itinerary, Geographical and Biological Expedition to Mt. Halcon, November 2-November 23, 1906, incomplete.


30. Itinerary, Mt. Halcon Expedition October 30-December 10, 1906; December 21, 1906-January 5, 1907; Expedition to Ilocos North, Luzon Province, January 12-March 15, 1907; Expedition to Lake Naujan, Mundoro, and to Mount Mayon, Albay Province, March 24-March 31, 1907; Expedition to the Batanes Island and Mt. Mayon, May 24-June 7, 1907.

Digital Content: Itinerary, Mt. Halcon Expedition October 30-December 10, 1906; December 21, 1906-January 5, 1907; Expedition to Ilocos North, Luzon Province, January 12-March 15, 1907; Expedition to Lake Naujan, Mundoro, and to Mount Mayon, Albay Province, March 24-March 31, 1907; Expedition to the Batanes Island and Mt. Mayon, May 24-June 7, 1907.

31. Undated and unidentified itinerary, incomplete.

1. Typescript copies of itineraries of Major Mearns in the Philippine Islands, June 17, 1902-March 30, 1907. These itineraries are typed copies of most of the above itineraries. There are some itineraries in this typescript which do not appear in the above copies.

Digital Content: Typescript copies of itineraries of Major Mearns in the Philippine Islands, June 17, 1902-March 30, 1907.

2. Manuscript copy of a report probably submitted to the War Department by Edgar A. Mearns regarding the geology and physiography, plant and animal life of the region from Parang, Mindanao, to Lake Butig, 1903. Mearns led an expedition to this region, September 30-October 6, 1903.

3. An account of the political conditions, people, animal life, character of the Philippine Islands and its possibilities, submitted by J. G. Harboard, assistant chief, Philippines Constabulary to the Adjutant General, Philippines Constabulary and to Mearns, June 3, 1904.


5. Report to the Adjutant General, Department of Mindanao, Zamboanga, Mindanao, July 15, 1904, regarding an expedition to Margos sa Tubig, Mindanao, June 12-June 17, 1904. Unidentified but probably written by Captain C. C. Smith.

6. Reports of duty and station for the month of September 1903 by Mearns to The Military Secretary, Washington, D.C., September 12, 1904.
Box 22 of 27 7. Report from Captain J. H. Ford, Army Surgeon, to The Chief Surgeon, Philippine Division, Manila, March 22, 1906, regarding the toxicity of cupric sulphate solutions and metallic copper upon mosquito larvae.

Box 22 of 27 8. Report from Mearns to The Military Secretary, Department of Mindanao, March 1906, regarding the operations of the Office of the Chief Surgeon, July 1, 1905-March 1906. Mearns was the chief surgeon.


Box 22 of 27 10. Report from Robert Schroder to The Military Secretary, Department of Mindanao, July 10, 1906, regarding his records and observations on the "Biological and Geographical Reconnaissance of the Malindang Mountain Group," May 9-June 11, 1906. Includes memorandums, telegrams, and letters concerning the expedition.


Box 22 of 27 12. Ethnographic and Political Map of the Philippine Archipelago to illustrate the "Inhabitants of the Philippines."

Box 22 of 27 13. Map of the Philippine Islands to illustrate "Contributions to Philippine Ornithology."

Box 22 of 27 14. Map of Tubay River from Tubay, Mindanao, to San Pablo, Lake Mairit, Mindanao.

Digital Content: Map of Tubay River from Tubay, Mindanao, to San Pablo, Lake Mairit, Mindanao.

Box 22 of 27 15. Map of Baganga, Mindanao, to Compostella, Mindanao.


Box 22 of 27 17. Map of Misamis to Dumanquilas Bay, Mindanao.

Digital Content: Map of Misamis to Dumanquilas Bay, Mindanao.

Box 22 of 27 18. Map of Baguio to Mount Data, Benquet Province.

Box 23 1. 18 photographs of Philippines scenes and natives.


4. Reprint of several articles on Philippine birds from Philippine Journal of Science, inscribed to Mearns by R. C. McGregor, October 1907.


7. List of Islands visited. Includes a list of persons referred to.

8. List of Bagobo Native words unless otherwise stated.


10. List of Fish in the Celebes Sea off southern Mindanao.


12. Terrain sketches; heights of summits in Malindang Group.
Box 23 of 27

13. Native names of birds.

14. Receipts for supplies and shipment of specimens.

15. Miscellaneous.

**Digital Content: Miscellaneous natural history and military notes and papers, 1904-1907**

Fort Totten, New York, 1907-1908.


17. Correspondence, July 1907-1908. Included in this correspondence are letters from curators at the United States National Museum pertaining to the bird collection sent to the museum by Mearns. Also included are several letters from a publisher asking Mearns to assist him in publishing a map of Mindanao. Several miscellaneous letters are also included.


Box 24

1. Volume 2, September 8, 1909-December 14, 1909; additional field notes by Mearns. Includes a list of skins not found.


3. Field notes, Tsmailiya, Egypt, April 10, 1909. Includes a list of species seen but not collected. Also includes an itinerary.

4. Field notes, Rome, April 4-April 6, 1910; Naples, April 7, 1910. Includes an itinerary.

5. Unidentified field notes (2 pieces).


7. Correspondence, 1910. One letter.


| Box 24 of 27 | 11. Photographs of Edgar A. Mearns and Balaeniceps (13). |
| Box 24 of 27 | Miscellaneous Field Notes and Catalogues. |
| Box 24 of 27 | 12. Field notes and lists of specimens collected in the Highland Falls, New York, vicinity, July-August 1910. |

| Box 25 | Childs Frick Expedition, 1911-1912. |
| Box 25 of 27 | 1. Field notes, November 1-November 27, 1911. Includes: a list of collected birds; itinerary, October 28-November 25, 1911 (Washington, D.C., to Dire Daoua); notes on eggs and nests. |
| Box 25 of 27 | 2. Field notes, December 29, 1911-February 13, 1912. Includes a list of the birds of Adis Ababa, Birds seen on the Hawash River (January 26-February 13, 1912). |
| Box 25 of 27 | 3. Field notes, January 12-27, 1912. Includes notes on birds seen at camp near Adis Ababa. Also includes notes from Atti River, August 31, 1912 and an itinerary, October 13-October 21, 1912, Gibraltar to New York. |
| Box 25 of 27 | 4. Field notes, February-March 1912. Includes notes from Gidabo River, Ballal River, and birds seen at Escarpment, altitude 7390 feet, Uganda River. |
| Box 25 of 27 | 5. Notes on birds seen from Aletta to Escarpment, March 7-September 4, 1912. Includes notes on nests and eggs. |
| Box 25 of 27 | 6. Field notes, Dakato Village to Escarpment. Includes an itinerary and a list of places visited. |
| Box 25 of 27 | 7. Field notes from Mombasa to Port Suez, n.d. |
| Box 25 of 27 | 8. "Birds Collected by the Childs Frick Expedition to Africa," volume I, November 22, 1911- June 3, 1912, Djibouti, French Somaliland to Sagon River, Abyssinia. |

11. Correspondence, 1911-1913. Included in this correspondence (4 folders, 29 pieces) are letters from curators at the United States National Museum regarding specimens sent to the museum by Mearns. Also included is correspondence from Childs Frick, letters from the American Legation in Adis Ababa, and correspondence introducing Mearns, e.g., to the diplomatic and consular officers of the United States. The correspondence is arranged chronologically. There is a folder for undated correspondence.

12. Passport for John Charles Blick, November 8, 1911, signed by J. Whitelaw Reid; Passport for Childs Frick, November 8, 1911, signed by J. Whitelaw Reid; Passport for Donald G. Rafferty, November 7, 1911, signed by J. Whitelaw Reid; Duplicate Special Passport for Edgar A. Mearns, October 27, 1911, signed by Philander C. Knox, Secretary of State; Notice of receipt of payment to Mearns and Childs Frick from W. E. Scollick.
Box 26 of 27
10. Proofs of birds, perhaps included in Mearns’ publications. Includes many duplicates.

Box 26 of 27
11. Drawings of feathers in pen.

Box 26 of 27
12. Specimens of feathers and bird feet.

Box 26 of 27
13. Plate proofs, perhaps for Mearns’ publications.

Box 26 of 27
14. Drawings of bird faces and bills in watercolor, perhaps drawn by Mearns.

Box 26 of 27
15. Proofs of birds’ feet, wings, feathers, bills, perhaps for Mearns’ publications.

Box 27

Box 27 of 27
1. Mounted proofs of birds, perhaps for Mearns’ publications.

Box 27 of 27

Louis di Zerega Mearns Collection, 1891-1903.

Box 27 of 27

Box 27 of 27
4. Lists of birds observed by Louis Mearns, Fort Adams, Newport, Rhode Island, February 20, 1899-February 20, 1900.

Box 27 of 27
5. Lists of birds observed by Louis Mearns, Fort Adams, Newport, Rhode Island, February 20-June 1, 1900.

Box 27 of 27
6. Lists of species by Louis Mearns, Fort Adams, Newport and Chepachet, Providence County, Rhode Island, February 20-September 24, 1900. (2 folders)

Box 27 of 27

Box 27 of 27
8. Birds observed at Chepachet, Rhode Island, by Louis Mearns, August 31-September 8, 1900.

Box 27 of 27

Box 27 of 27
10. Compilation of plants, reptiles, mollusks, birds, and mammals named after Edgar Mearns. Includes periodicals in which they were probably first described. Compiled by Louis Mearns, September 20, 1901.

Box 27 of 27
11. Notes from Newport, Rhode Island. These notes were originally written by Louis Mearns. This copy was written by Reginald Heber Howe, Jr., editor, Notes on Rhode Island Ornithology, and submitted to Louis Mearns for final corrections. Includes postcards from Howe to Louis Mearns, September 28, 1900, and September 18, 1902.