



# Smithsonian

*Institution Archives*

## William Stimpson Papers, 1852-1861

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## Collection Overview

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| <b>Repository:</b> | Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., <a href="mailto:osiaref@si.edu">osiaref@si.edu</a> |
| <b>Title:</b>      | William Stimpson Papers  |
| <b>Date:</b>       | 1852-1861  |
| <b>Identifier:</b> | Record Unit 7093   |
| <b>Creator::</b>   | Stimpson, William, 1832-1872   |
| <b>Extent:</b>     | 1 cu. ft. (2 document boxes)   |
| <b>Language:</b>   | English  |

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## Administrative Information

### Preferred Citation

Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 7093, William Stimpson Papers

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## Historical Note

Naturalist and zoologist, William Stimpson (1832-1872) spent four years as a naturalist with the North Pacific Exploring Expedition, 1852-1856. For nine years after the completion of the expedition, Stimpson utilized the facilities of the Smithsonian Institution while preparing a report based on the collections gathered during the expedition. While at the Smithsonian, he also helped classify and name specimens which the Smithsonian had been collecting. In 1865, Stimpson was called to Chicago by his friend Robert Kennicott in order to take over the directorship of the Chicago Academy of Sciences. At the Academy, Stimpson assembled probably the largest collection of specimens ever gathered up to that time, in preparation for a major work on invertebrates. It contained the Smithsonian specimens of American invertebrates and Stimpson's private collection, as well as loans from a number of other collections. This great collection, including all the manuscripts being prepared by Stimpson, was destroyed in the Chicago fire of 1871, an event from which Stimpson never fully recovered.

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## Descriptive Entry

This collection consists of manuscripts; a catalog; a financial notebook, 1852-1857; and general correspondence and receipts regarding publications based on the North Pacific Exploring Expedition and Stimpson's manuscripts, 1858-1861.

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## Names and Subject Terms

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

### Subjects:

Invertebrate zoology

Natural history  
Naturalists  
Zoologists  
Zoology

Types of Materials:

Account books  
Manuscripts

Names:

Chicago Academy of Sciences  
Kennicott, Robert, 1835-1866  
Stimpson, William, 1832-1872  
United States North Pacific Exploring Expedition (1853-1856)

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## Container Listing

### Box 1

Box 1 of 2 Paleocypods, Brachiapods (4 folders)

Box 1 of 2 Gastropods (2 folders)

### Box 2

Box 2 of 2 Gastropods (3 folders)

Box 2 of 2 Report on Marine Invertebrates

Box 2 of 2 Miscellaneous - Correspondence and Receipts for Manuscript on Crustacea's and North Pacific Exploring Expedition

Box 2 of 2 Catalogue of Fishes