



Smithsonian

Institution Archives

Henry Helm Clayton Papers, 1877-1949 and undated

Finding aid prepared by Smithsonian Institution Archives

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu
Title:	Henry Helm Clayton Papers
Date:	1877-1949 and undated
Identifier:	Record Unit 7153
Creator::	Clayton, Henry Helm, 1861-1946
Extent:	6 cu. ft. (12 document boxes)
Language:	English

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 7153, Henry Helm Clayton Papers

Historical Note

Henry Helm Clayton (1861-1946) was a meteorologist and weather forecaster. He began his career in 1884 as an assistant at the University of Michigan's Astronomical Observatory. In 1885, he was appointed assistant at Harvard University's Astronomical Observatory, and from 1886 to 1891 served as an observer at Harvard's Blue Hill Meteorological Observatory. From 1891 to 1893, he worked as a local forecast official with the United States Weather Bureau. In 1894, Clayton returned to the Blue Hill Meteorological Observatory, where he served as a meteorologist until 1909. Clayton became chief of the forecast division of the Argentine Weather Service in 1913. While in Argentina, Clayton pursued research on a system of weather forecasting based on solar heat changes and began corresponding with Charles G. Abbot of the Smithsonian Institution, who was also conducting research on solar variation. From 1923 to 1926 he conducted research, in cooperation with the Smithsonian, on the effect of solar variation on world weather patterns. Clayton directed a private weather forecasting service and served as a consulting meteorologist for business organizations from 1926 until his death.

Introduction

This finding aid was digitized with funds generously provided by the Smithsonian Institution Women's Committee.

Descriptive Entry

The papers of Henry Helm Clayton document his career as a meteorologist and weather forecaster, and his research on solar variation. They consist of professional and personal correspondence, including a large amount with Charles G. Abbot concerning solar research. Also included are weather forecasts, meteorological data, photographs, newspaper clippings, manuscripts and related materials on meteorology.

The small amount of correspondence and meteorological data that post-dates Clayton's death in 1946 was compiled by his daughter, Frances Lindley Clayton.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Meteorology

Types of Materials:

Photographs

Names:

Abbot, C. G. (Charles Greeley), 1872-1973
Blue Hill Meteorological Observatory
Clayton, Frances Lindley, d. 1958
Clayton, Henry Helm, 1861-1946
Harvard College Observatory
University of Michigan

Container Listing

Series 1: GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1886-1949, AND UNDATED. ARRANGED ALPHABETICALLY.

Note: This series consists of incoming and outgoing correspondence of Henry Helm Clayton. The correspondence is both professional and personal in nature and concerns meteorological research, Clayton's private weather forecasting service, professional organizations and societies, the publication of monographs and papers, family matters, and personal affairs. Correspondents include meteorologists and astronomers, officials and staff of the United States Weather Bureau and Smithsonian Institution, business associates, family members, and friends. Of special interest is correspondence with Charles G. Abbot concerning research on solar variation and a letter from Orville Wright (March 2, 1928) concerning a controversy between Wright and the Smithsonian Institution.

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Series 2: WEATHER FORECASTS, METEOROLOGICAL DATA, PHOTOGRAPHS, NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS, MANUSCRIPTS, AND RELATED MATERIAL ON METEOROLOGY, 1877-1949, AND UNDATED.

Note: This series consists of weather forecasts made by Henry Helm Clayton for the Smithsonian Institution using solar radiation data, 1923-1925; meteorological data prepared and collected by Clayton; photographs of Clayton and meteorological phenomena; newspaper clippings regarding Clayton, meteorology, and weather forecasting; manuscripts and papers of Clayton; and a copy of Clayton's bibliography. Also included are oversize meteorological charts.

Box 9

Box 9 of 12 Folders 1-4 Weather forecasts for New York City, October 1923-November 1925. These forecasts were made by Clayton for the Smithsonian Institution, based on solar radiation data gathered at Montezuma, Chile and Mount Harqua Hala, Arizona.

Box 10

Box 10 of 12 Folders 1-4 Ocean and land pressure data, 1933, 1937-1939.

Box 10 of 12 Folder 5 Sunspot data issued by the United States Naval Observatory, 1946-1947.

Box 11

Box 11 of 12 Folder 1 Sunspot data issued by the United States Naval Observatory, 1948-1949.

Box 11 of 12 Folders 2-8 Miscellaneous meteorological data.

Box 12

Box 12 of 12 Folder 1 Photographs. Includes photographs of sunspots, cloud formations, and Clayton making sunspot observations.

Box 12 of 12 Folders 2-3 Newspaper clippings. Clippings concern Clayton's research, meteorology, and weather forecasting.

Box 12 of 12 Folders 4-5 Manuscripts and papers, 1877-1943, and undated.

Box 12 of 12 Folder 6 Bibliography of Henry Helm Clayton.
[Digital Content: Chart from an unpublished manuscript by Henry Helm Clayton entitled "Rainfall and the Price of Stocks." \[Image no. SIA2016-012207\]](#)

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