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Henry Crecy Yarrow (1840-1929) served as the first Curator of Herpetology at the United States National Museum from 1878 to 1889. He had accompanied the United States Geographical and Geological Explorations and Surveys West of the 100th Meridian (the Wheeler Surveys) as a naturalist. An army surgeon, he was on duty at the Army Medical Library when Spencer Baird convinced him to take on the position of Honorary Curator on a part-time basis. He continued in this post until 1889 when he resigned.

Prior to his coming to the Museum, Yarrow wrote two herpetological reports concerning the Wheeler expeditions. While Curator, he prepared a "Check list of North American Reptilia and Batrachia, with Catalogs of Specimens in the U.S. National Museum," 1883.

The papers of Henry Crecy Yarrow include material collected by Yarrow relating to the history of the Department of Reptiles and a manuscript on Florida reptiles, prepared by G. Brown Goode.
Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:
- Herpetologists
- Herpetology
- Naturalists
- Surgeons

Types of Materials:
- Manuscripts

Names:
- Army Medical Library (U.S.)
- Baird, Spencer Fullerton, 1823-1887
- Geographical Surveys West of the 100th Meridian (U.S.)
- Geological and Geographical Survey of the Territories (U.S.)
- United States National Museum. Department of Reptiles
- Wheeler, George M. (George Montague), 1842-1905
- Yarrow, H. C. (Henry Crecy), 1840-1929
Series 1: Material Related to the History of the Department of Reptiles, circa 1887.

Box 1

Folder 1 Material concerning the history of the Department of Reptiles including notes on history, specimens and collectors and a manuscript copy of "History of the Department of Reptiles" by H. C. Yarrow, circa 1887

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Series 2: Manuscripts of Henry Crecy Yarrow Concerning Reptiles, circa 1880-1890.

Box 1

Box 1 of 1  

Box 1 of 1  
Folder 4 Manuscript, probably by Yarrow, concerning descriptions of genera and species of snakes and lizards with emphasis on those inhabiting arid regions, particularly the southwestern United States, circa 1880-1890

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