



Smithsonian

Institution Archives

Records, circa 1880-1972

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu
Title:	Records
Date:	circa 1880-1972
Identifier:	Record Unit 7185
Creator::	Biological Society of Washington
Extent:	7.5 cu. ft. (15 document boxes)
Language:	English

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 7185, Biological Society of Washington, Records

Historical Note

The Biological Society of Washington was founded on December 3, 1880. Its original purpose was the furtherance of biological scholarship by providing a forum for the presentation of scientific papers. Later modifications limited the purpose to the furtherance of taxonomic study and the diffusion of taxonomic knowledge, mainly through the publication of the *Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington*. It was also one of the eight founding organizations of the Washington Academy of Sciences.

The governing council of the Society includes the elected officers and selected local members. The first president was George Brown Goode and the first recording secretary was Richard Rathbun. A number of other Smithsonian Institution and United States National Museum staff have been active members of the Society, as have staff from other federal government scientific agencies, particularly the Departments of Agriculture and Interior.

Introduction

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

Descriptive Entry

The records of the Society include mailing and membership lists, officers' reports, financial material, minutes of meetings, and official correspondence. There is a sizeable amount of correspondence and related material concerning the publication of manuscripts in the *Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington*.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Biology -- Classification
- Professional associations
- Zoology

Types of Materials:

- Manuscripts

Names:

- Goode, G. Brown (George Brown), 1851-1896
- Rathbun, Richard, 1852-1918

Container Listing

Series 1: CONSTITUTIONS, REPORTS, AND GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, CIRCA 1880, 1884, 1892, 1895, 1904, 1907, 1909, 1940.

Box 1

Box 1 of 15	Folder 1 Original signed Constitution, 1880 (?)
Box 1 of 15	Folder 2 Mailing list, 1884
Box 1 of 15	Folder 3 Constitution and by-laws, 1892
Box 1 of 15	Folder 4 Invitation to reception, 1895
Box 1 of 15	Folder 5 Resolutions and amendments to Constitution, 1904 and undated
Box 1 of 15	Folder 6 Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington. Volume XIX, 1907, containing Constitution and by-laws; Volume XXI, 1909, containing list of members.
Box 1 of 15	Folder 7 Correspondence of President Theodore Sherman Palmer, concerning Society membership and building for Washington Academy of Sciences, 1909
Box 1 of 15	Folder 8 Constitution and by-laws, 1940

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Series 2: MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETINGS, 1894-1959.

Note: The minutes contain business brought up by Council, papers presented, and general business. Minutes for 1880-1894 are missing.

Box 2

Box 2 of 15

Folders 1-2 Meetings, 227-644, 1894-1922

Box 3

Box 3 of 15

Folders 1-4 Meetings 645-1027, 1923-1959

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Series 3: MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS, 1880-1959.

Note: Council meetings usually preceded regular meetings. The minutes contain nominations of new members, committee reports, and other business.

Box 4

Box 4 of 15

Folders 1-4 Meetings 1-583, 1880-1918

Box 5

Box 5 of 15

Folders 1-4 Meetings 584-1027, 1918-1959

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Series 4: RECORDS OF THE SECRETARY, CIRCA 1902-1909, 1924-1972.

Box 6

Box 6 of 15	Folder 1 Outgoing correspondence, 1902-1909
Box 6 of 15	Folder 2 Correspondence, 1924-1939
Box 6 of 15	Folder 3 Lists of members, Secretary's reports, 1929-1942
Box 6 of 15	Folder 4 Samples of form letters, 1932-1936
Box 6 of 15	Folder 5 Correspondence, some concerning Proceedings, 1933-1934
Box 6 of 15	Folder 6 Membership and depository lists, 1935
Box 6 of 15	Folder 7 Depository lists and correspondence concerning Proceedings subscriptions, 1936-1937
Box 6 of 15	Folder 8 Mailing lists; address given by outgoing President, 1938
Box 6 of 15	Folder 9 Survey and cover letter, correspondence, 1939-1940
Box 6 of 15	Folder 10 Notices of meetings, 1940-1942
Box 6 of 15	Folder 11 Correspondence, reports; material concerning Junior Biological Society, 1941-1947

Box 7

Box 7 of 15	Folder 1 Mailing list, business correspondence, 1949-1950
Box 7 of 15	Folder 2 Correspondence concerning membership, 1950-1951
Box 7 of 15	Folder 3 Mailing list, correspondence, 1951-1952
Box 7 of 15	Folder 4 Correspondence concerning membership, 1952-1953
Box 7 of 15	Folder 5 Correspondence, some concerning Marcus Ward Lyon, Jr. Trust, 1953-1954
Box 7 of 15	Folder 6 Mailing lists, correspondence, 1955
Box 7 of 15	Folder 7 Correspondence, 1956
Box 7 of 15	Folder 8 Correspondence, some concerning Lyon Trust, 1957

Box 8

Box 8 of 15	Folder 1 Correspondence concerning membership, 1958
Box 8 of 15	Folder 2 Correspondence, some concerning Marcus Ward Lyon, Jr. Trust, 1959
Box 8 of 15	Folder 3 Membership lists, correspondence, 1960
Box 8 of 15	Folder 4 Correspondence, mailing lists, reports, 1960-1961
Box 8 of 15	Folder 5 Correspondence, mailing lists, 1961-1962
Box 9	
Box 9 of 15	Folder 1 Correspondence, mailing lists, 1961-1963
Box 9 of 15	Folder 2 Correspondence, reports, 1962-1963
Box 9 of 15	Folder 3 Correspondence, memoranda, 1964-1970
Box 9 of 15	Folders 4-5 Correspondence concerning membership, 1968-1972
Box 9 of 15	Folder 6 Mailing lists, 1969
Box 9 of 15	Folder 7 Membership lists, lists of out-of-print issues of Proceedings, 1970

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Series 5: RECORDS OF THE TREASURER, 1904-1905, 1917-1972.

Box 10	
Box 10 of 15	Folder 1 Reports, 1904-1905
Box 10 of 15	Folder 2 Reports, including auditors' reports, 1917-1965, 1970-1972
Box 10 of 15	Folder 3 Treasury reports and papers, 1920-1970
Box 10 of 15	Folder 4 Material concerning American Security and Trust Bank transactions, 1942-1971
Box 10 of 15	Folder 5 Material concerning application for tax-exempt status, 1965-1968
Box 11	
Box 11 of 15	Folder 1 Record book of Perpetual Building Association and Interstate Building Association accounts, 1957-1970
Box 11 of 15	Folder 2 Ledger, American Security and Trust Bank account, 1962-1970
Box 11 of 15	Folder 3 Petty cash journal containing revolving fund account, 1964-1972

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Series 6: CORRESPONDENCE AND RELATED MATERIAL CONCERNING PUBLICATION OF *PROCEEDINGS OF THE BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON*, CIRCA 1896-1918, 1924-1952, 1960, 1971.

Note: This series contains correspondence of Charles Wallace Richmond and Herbert Friedmann, editorial chairman, with contributors to *Proceedings*. Some correspondence concerns personal affairs.

Box 12

Box 12 of 15 Folder 1 Committee on Publication reports, 1902 and undated

Box 12 of 15 Folders 2-8 Correspondence, 1924-1934

Box 13

Box 13 of 15 Folders 1-6 Correspondence, 1935-1940

Box 14

Box 14 of 15 Folders 1-10 Correspondence, 1941-1950

Box 15

Box 15 of 15 Folders 1-2 Correspondence, 1950-1952

Box 15 of 15 Folder 3 Price lists for Proceedings, circa 1896-1918

Box 15 of 15 Folder 4 Suggestions to contributors and information concerning publication, circa 1902-1960

Box 15 of 15 Folder 5 Author index to Proceedings volumes 1-35, 1924

Box 15 of 15 Folder 6 List of herpetological papers printed in Proceedings, 1971

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