



Smithsonian Institution Archives

Ray S. Bassler Papers, 1875-1961 and undated

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu
Title:	Ray S. Bassler Papers
Identifier:	Record Unit 7234
Date:	1875-1961 and undated
Extent:	5.22 cu. ft. (9 document boxes) (2 5x8 boxes)
Creator::	Bassler, Ray S. (Ray Smith), 1878-
Language:	Language of Materials: English

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 7234, Ray S. Bassler Papers

Historical Note

Ray S. Bassler (1878-1961) was born in Philadelphia. Bassler spent his childhood in Cincinnati where he came into personal contact with some noted geologists, including Charles Schuchert, Carl Ludwig Rominger, and Edward Oscar Ulrich. While in high school, Bassler sold fossils for Ulrich.

In 1902, Bassler received a B.A. degree from the University of Cincinnati and received his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in 1903 and 1905, respectively, from George Washington University. From 1904 to 1948 he was an Assistant Professor of Geology there.

Bassler joined the United States National Museum staff as Assistant Curator in the Department of Geology's Division of Stratigraphic Paleontology in 1904. Three years later he was promoted to Curator in the Department's Division of Invertebrate Paleontology. From 1910 to 1922 he was Curator of the Division of Paleontology, and from 1923 to 1928, Curator of the Division of Stratigraphic Paleontology. In 1929 he was appointed Head Curator of the Department of Geology, a position which he held until his retirement in 1948 when he was appointed Associate in Paleontology.

Bassler's main interest was with the Tertiary Polyzoa of the Atlantic and Gulf coasts. In this study, he collaborated with Ferdinand Canu of France from 1905 to 1931.

Introduction

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

Descriptive Entry

These papers consist of Bassler's incoming and outgoing correspondence and a manuscript on Australian Tertiary Bryozoa with plates created during his tenure at the United States National Museum; and photographs, primarily of his family. Correspondence documents the identification and exchange of specimens; publications of scientific articles; the administration of the Department of Geology; and the effects of World War II on European scientific research, libraries, and museum geological collections. For the earlier years, there are no copies of Bassler's outgoing correspondence. Also included is correspondence addressed to Edward Oscar Ulrich and Charles D. Walcott. The Tertiary Bryozoa manuscript with annotations and plates was written by Bassler and Ferdinand Canu of France.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Geology
Paleontology

Types of Materials:

Photographs

Names:

Bassler, Ray S. (Ray Smith), 1878-
Canu, Ferdinand, 1863-1932
George Washington University
National Museum of Natural History (U.S.). Department of Geology
Rominger, Carl Ludwig, 1820-1907
Schuchert, Charles, 1858-1942
Ulrich, E. O. (Edward Oscar), 1857-1944
United States National Museum. Division of Invertebrate Paleontology
United States National Museum. Division of Paleontology
United States National Museum. Division of Stratigraphic Paleontology
University of Cincinnati
Walcott, Charles D. (Charles Doolittle), 1850-1927

Container Listing

Series 1: GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1875-1961 AND UNDATED. ARRANGED ALPHABETICALLY.

Box 1

- Box 1 of 11 Folder 1 A, 1901-1956
- Box 1 of 11 Folder 2 Aldrich, Henry Ray, 1940-1959
- Box 1 of 11 Folder 3 Ba-Bo, 1903-1954
- Box 1 of 11 Folder 4 Br-Bu, 1900-1960
- Box 1 of 11 Folder 5 Bassler, R.S., biographical data, undated
- Box 1 of 11 Folder 6 Bather, F.A., 1906, 1916
- Box 1 of 11 Folder 7 Ca-Ch, 1904-1960
- Box 1 of 11 Folder 8 Ci-Co, 1905-1959
- Box 1 of 11 Folder 9 Cr-Cu, 1902-1960

Box 2

- Box 2 of 11 Folder 1 Bassler, Ray S., letters to Canu, Ferdinand, 1911-1932, 1940
- Box 2 of 11 Folder 2 Canu, Ferdinand, letters to Bassler, Ray S., 1905-1932, 1940
- Box 2 of 11 Folder 3 Carmichael, Leonard, 1959
- Box 2 of 11 Folder 4 Cloud, Preston E., 1934-1951
- Box 2 of 11 Folder 5 D, 1905-1961
- Box 2 of 11 Folder 6 Deiss, Charles F., 1932-1946
- Box 2 of 11 Folder 7 E, 1903-1956
- Box 2 of 11 Folder 8 Elias, Maxim Kondradovich, 1940-1956
- Box 2 of 11 Folder 9 F, 1904-1960

Box 3

- Box 3 of 11 Folder 1 G, 1894-1958

Box 3 of 11 Folder 2 Goldring, Winifred, 1924-1949
Box 3 of 11 Folder 3 Ha, 1902-1958
Box 3 of 11 Folder 4 He-Hy, 1906-1959
Box 3 of 11 Folder 5 Hibbard, Raymond R., 1917-1955
Box 3 of 11 Folder 6 Howell, Benjamin, F., 1925-1954
Box 3 of 11 Folder 7 I, 1908-1957
Box 3 of 11 Folder 8 J, 1906-1957
Box 3 of 11 Folder 9 Ka-Ki, 1905-1958
Box 3 of 11 Folder 10 KI-Ku, 1905-1956

Box 4

Box 4 of 11 Folder 1 La, 1906-1956
Box 4 of 11 Folder 2 Le-Ly, 1902-1959
Box 4 of 11 Folder 3 Loeblich, Alfred R., Jr., 1938-1946
Box 4 of 11 Folder 4 Ma, 1903-1957
Box 4 of 11 Folder 5 Mc, 1906-1953
Box 4 of 11 Folder 6 Me-Mu, 1902-1958
Box 4 of 11 Folder 7 Miller, miscellaneous, 1875-1942
Box 4 of 11 Folder 8 Moore, Raymond C., 1926-1961

Box 5

Box 5 of 11 Folder 1 Na-Ne, 1907-1960
Box 5 of 11 Folder 2 Ni-Ny, 1910-1956
Box 5 of 11 Folder 3 O, 1909-1960
Box 5 of 11 Folder 4 Osborn, Raymond C., 1906-1955
Box 5 of 11 Folder 5 Pa-Pl, 1904-1958
Box 5 of 11 Folder 6 Po-Pu, 1905-1954
Box 5 of 11 Folder 7 Q, 1934-1939

Box 6

Box 6 of 11	Folder 1 Ra-Ri, 1905-1954
Box 6 of 11	Folder 2 Rob-Rod, 1914-1960
Box 6 of 11	Folder 3 Rog-Rom, 1904-1959
Box 6 of 11	Folder 4 Rot-Roy, 1904-1942
Box 6 of 11	Folder 5 Ru, 1905-1947
Box 6 of 11	Folder 6 Recommendation, Letters of, 1934-1952
Box 6 of 11	Folder 7 Reimann, Irving G., 1931-1950
Box 6 of 11	Folder 8 Resser, Charles Elmer, 1923-1931
Box 6 of 11	Folder 9 Richter, Rudolf, 1926-1957
Box 6 of 11	Folder 10 Sa, 1906-1958
Box 6 of 11	Folder 11 Sc, 1901-1959
Box 6 of 11	Folder 12 Se, 1931-1951
Box 6 of 11	Folder 13 Sha, 1905-1951
Box 6 of 11	Folder 14 Si, 1899-1956
Box 6 of 11	Folder 15 Sl, 1905-1951

Box 7

Box 7 of 11	Folder 1 Sm, 1920-1959
Box 7 of 11	Folder 1A Smithsonian Centennial, 1939-1946
Box 7 of 11	Folder 2 Sn-So, 1931-1958
Box 7 of 11	Folder 3 Sp, 1929-1954
Box 7 of 11	Folder 4 Sta, 1934-1949
Box 7 of 11	Folder 5 Ste-Sti, 1920-1945
Box 7 of 11	Folder 6 Sto, 1914-1950
Box 7 of 11	Folder 7 Stu, 1940-1958
Box 7 of 11	Folder 8 Su, 1926-1940

Box 7 of 11 Folder 9 Sw, 1916-1957

Box 7 of 11 Folder 10 Sardeson, Frederick W., 1904-1959

Box 7 of 11 Folder 11 Smith, Stanley, 1925-1950

Box 7 of 11 Folder 12 Springer, Edward T., 1936-1956

Box 7 of 11 Folder 13 Springer, Eva and Ada, 1943-1960

Box 7 of 11 Folder 14 Springer, Frank, 1903-1927

Box 7 of 11 Folder 15 Stach, Leo, 1933-1939

Box 7 of 11 Folder 16 Strange Letters received by Merrill, George P., and Bassler, Ray S., 1901-1955

Box 7 of 11 Folder 17 Strimple, Harrell L., 1934-1954

Box 7 of 11 Folder 18 Swartz, Frank M., 1932-1950

Box 8

Box 8 of 11 Folder 1 Ta-Te, 1907-1958

Box 8 of 11 Folder 2 Th, 1920-1956

Box 8 of 11 Folder 3 Ti-To, 1920-1952

Box 8 of 11 Folder 4 Tr-Tw, 1905-1947

Box 8 of 11 Folder 5 Thomas, H. Dighton, 1932-1959

Box 8 of 11 Folder 6 Train, Agnes and Percy, 1921-1943

Box 8 of 11 Folder 7 Twenhofel, William Henry, 1911-1955

Box 8 of 11 Folder 8 U, 1901-1959

Box 8 of 11 Folder 9 Va, 1905-1959

Box 8 of 11 Folder 10 Ve-Vo, 1909-1952

Box 8 of 11 Folder 11 Voight, Ehrhard, 1922-1960

Box 9

Box 9 of 11 Folder 1 Wad-Wak, 1911-1947

Box 9 of 11 Folder 2 Wal-Wan, 1906-1954

Box 9 of 11 Folder 3 War-Wat, 1905-1950

Box 9 of 11	Folder 4 Web-Wel, 1904-1949
Box 9 of 11	Folder 5 Wen-Wes, 1926-1958
Box 9 of 11	Folder 6 Wh, 1881-1959
Box 9 of 11	Folder 7 Wib-Wie, 1913-1954
Box 9 of 11	Folder 8 Wil, 1912-1948
Box 9 of 11	Folder 9 Win-Wit, 1920-1938
Box 9 of 11	Folder 10 Wo-Wr, 1908-1951
Box 9 of 11	Folder 11 Ward, F.H. (Ward's Natural Science Establishment, Inc.), 1918-1947
Box 9 of 11	Folder 12 Wetmore, Alexander, 1926-1947
Box 9 of 11	Folder 13 W.P.A. (Assistants in Geology), 1936-1940
Box 9 of 11	Folder 14 Y, 1930, 1956
Box 9 of 11	Folder 15 Z, 1930-1946

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Series 2: MANUSCRIPT ON AUSTRALIAN TERTIARY BRYOZOA, CIRCA 1935.

Box 9

Box 9 of 11

Folders 16-18 "Observations on the Tertiary Bryozoa of Victoria, Australia,"
by Ferdinand Canu and Ray S. Bassler, circa 1935

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Series 3: PHOTOGRAPHS, 1890-1921 AND UNDATED.

Box 9

Box 9 of 11 Folder 19 Photographs (primarily of family), 1890-1921 and undated (prints)

Box 10

Glass Plates - Most Likely of the Bassler Family, circa 1895-1920

Box 10 of 11 Folder 1 The swimming place, Lebanon, Georgia

Box 10 of 11 Folder 2 Boy reading

Box 10 of 11 Folder 3 Small dog

Box 10 of 11 Folder 4 Woman, boy and dog on porch

Box 10 of 11 Folder 5 Man and woman holding newspaper with "Armistice Signed" headline

Box 10 of 11 Folder 6 Woman and dog on porch

Box 10 of 11 Folder 7 Dog "sits up and begs" for a treat

Box 10 of 11 Folder 8 Woman and dog on porch

Box 10 of 11 Folder 9 Woman and boy

Box 10 of 11 Folder 10 Group, Summer 1912, Long Beach, California

Box 10 of 11 Folders 11-14 Copy of studio portrait of little boy

Box 10 of 11 Folder 15 Mansion or hotel on cliff over looking beach

Box 10 of 11 Folder 16 Two boys - studying and with machinery

Box 10 of 11 Folder 17 Copy of same studio portraits as folders 11-14 sequence - different pose

Box 10 of 11 Folder 18 Woman and boy (same as in folder 9)

Box 10 of 11 Folder 19 Boy in laboratory or darkroom

Box 10 of 11 Folder 20 Harper's Ferry, West Virginia

Box 10 of 11 Folder 21 Specimen cabinets in laboratory

Box 10 of 11 Folder 22 Man examining photographs; microscope in background

Box 10 of 11 Folder 23 Mr. Harper, 1897

Box 10 of 11	Folder 24 Woman and boy on porch
Box 10 of 11	Folder 25 Woman and boy in office
Box 10 of 11	Folder 26 Interior - three women and boy
Box 10 of 11	Folder 27 Woman holding cat
Box 10 of 11	Folder 28 Interior - family group
Box 10 of 11	Folder 29 man at microscope
Box 10 of 11	Folder 30 Boy with dog
Box 10 of 11	Folder 31 Studio portrait of boy
Box 10 of 11	Folder 32 Woman with dog, on steps of house
Box 10 of 11	Folder 33 Two men on porch
Box 10 of 11	Folders 34-35 Man and boy in office
Box 10 of 11	Folder 36 Man, boy and woman in office
Box 10 of 11	Folder 37 Woman and boy in laboratory
Box 10 of 11	Folder 38 Two men collecting rock samples
Box 10 of 11	Folders 39-40 U.S. Capitol, seen through trees
	Box 11
Box 11 of 11	Copy Negatives

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