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Collection Overview

Repository: Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu
Creator: United States North Pacific Exploring Expedition, (1853-1856)
Title: Records
Dates: 1852-1861 and undated
Quantity: 0.3 linear meter.

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation
Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 7253, United States North Pacific Exploring Expedition, (1853-1856), Records

Historical Note

The North Pacific Exploring Expedition, 1853-1856, was organized by the United States Navy Department to conduct a naval and commercial survey of those parts of Bering Straits, the North Pacific Ocean and the China Seas frequented by American whaling ships and by trading vessels in their routes between the United States and China. Captain Cadwalader Ringgold was placed in command of the expedition, which departed from Norfolk, Virginia, in June 1853. After Ringgold was recalled to the United States in 1854, Captain John Rogers assumed command for the remainder of the expedition. The expedition explored along the coasts of China and Japan, Madeira Island, the California coast, and Tahiti before returning via the Cape of Good Hope in 1856. Extensive natural history collections were made on the expedition, mostly by William Stimpson, Chief Zoologist. Other naturalists serving on the expedition included Alfred H. Ames, Assistant Naturalist, and Charles Wright, Botanist.

Introduction

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

Descriptive Entry

This collection documents the natural history work of the North Pacific Exploring Expedition and consists of correspondence and notes, manuscripts, and drawings by William Stimpson on the crustacea collections made on the expedition. Also included is Stimpson's journal of the expedition.
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

Types of Materials:
- Scientific illustrations

Names:
- Stimpson, William, 1832-1872
- United States North Pacific Exploring Expedition (1853-1856)
- United States North Pacific Exploring Expedition (1853-1856)
Series 1: Correspondence, 1852-1861 and undated.

This series consists of correspondence concerning the natural history collections made by the North Pacific Exploring Expedition. The correspondence is directed mostly to Lieutenant John Rodgers, with smaller amounts to Captain Cadwalader Ringgold. Correspondents include Joseph Henry, Spencer F. Baird, William Stimpson, Asa Gray, and Charles Wright. Also included are specimen lists. The correspondence is arranged alphabetically by correspondent.

Box 1

Folder 1 Ames, Alfred H., 1853 and undated

Folder 2 Baird, Spencer F., 1852, 1858. Included is a letter from Baird to Captain Cadwalader Ringgold (Nov. 12, 1852) concerning preparation for the expedition.

Folder 3 Gray, Asa, 1858-1861

Folder 4 Henry, Joseph, 1860

Folder 5 Rodgers, Lt. John (Accession 06-220)

Folder 6 Royal Gardens, Kew, England, 1860

Folder 7 Stevens, H.R., 1853

Folders 8-17 Stimpson, William, 1852-1860 and undated

Folder 18 United States Navy Department, 1857

Folder 19 United States Patent Office, 1855-1856

Folder 20 Van Wyck, William, 1853

Folders 21-27 Wright, Charles, 1853-1858 and undated

Folder 28 Unidentified correspondence, 1857, 1860 and undated

Folder 29 Specimen lists
Series 2: Notes, Manuscripts, and Drawings on Crustacea by William Stimpson.

This series consists of notes, manuscripts, and drawings by William Stimpson on crustacea collected on the North Pacific Exploring Expedition. The drawings are mostly original pencil sketches, with smaller amounts of color drawings included.

Box 1

Folders 30-31 Notes of William Stimpson on crustacea collections made on the North Pacific Exploring Expedition

Folder 32 Journal of a cruise in the U.S. ship, *Vincennes*, to the North Pacific Ocean, China Sea, Behring Strait, etc. by William Stimpson, 1853-1855

Folder 33 Ledger book of specimen lists, equipment, and expenditures

Box 2


Folder 5 Original pencil sketches and color drawings used in "Report on the Crustacea (Brachyura and Anomura) collected by the North Pacific Exploring Expedition, 1853-1856." *Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections*, Vol. XLIX, 1907.


Box 3

Typescript of "Journal of a Cruise in the U.S. ship *Vincennes* to the North Pacific Ocean, China Seas, Behring Strait, etc." by William Stimpson, 1853-1855

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