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Records, 1852-1861 and undated

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu
Title:	Records
Identifier:	Record Unit 7253
Date:	1852-1861 and undated
Extent:	1.25 cu. ft. (2 document boxes) (1 half document box)
Creator::	United States North Pacific Exploring Expedition (1853-1856)
Language:	English

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.

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
Museums -- Acquisitions
Natural history

Types of Materials:

Manuscripts
Scientific illustrations

Names:

Ames, Alfred H.
Ringgold, Cadwalader, 1802-1867
Rogers, John
Stimpson, William, 1832-1872
United States North Pacific Exploring Expedition (1853-1856)
United States. Navy
Wright, Charles

Container Listing

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

- Box 1 of 3 Folder 1 Ames, Alfred H., 1853 and undated
[Digital Content: Specimen list and report written by naturalist, Alfred H. Ames for the United States North Pacific Exploring Expedition \(1853-1856\) for Limons Bay, October 1853. \[Image nos. SIA2018-038495 to SIA2018-038503\]](#)
- Box 1 of 3 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.
- Box 1 of 3 Folder 3 Gray, Asa, 1858-1861
- Box 1 of 3 Folder 4 Henry, Joseph, 1860
- Box 1 of 3 Folder 5 Rodgers, Lt. John (Accession 06-220)
- Box 1 of 3 Folder 6 Royal Gardens, Kew, England, 1860
- Box 1 of 3 Folder 7 Stevens, H. R., 1853
[Digital Content: Marked "memo of collection," the list of specimens was created by Lieutenant H. R. Stevens for the United States North Pacific Exploring Expedition \(1853-1856\), August 11-September 13, 1853. \[Image nos. SIA2018-038424 to SIA2018-038427\]](#)
- Box 1 of 3 Folders 8-17 Stimpson, William, 1852-1860 and undated
[Digital Content: Reports and specimen lists by William Stimpson detail specimens requested and collected for the National Museum of Natural History during the United States North Pacific Exploring Expedition \(1853-1856\), during 1853. \[Folder 9, Image nos. SIA2018-038504 to SIA2018-038527\]](#)
[Digital Content: Reports and specimen lists by William Stimpson detail specimens requested and collected for the National Museum of Natural History during the United States North Pacific Exploring Expedition \(1853-1856\), during 1854 while aboard the Vincennes. \[Folder 10, Image nos. SIA2018-038528 to SIA2018-038549\]](#)

[Digital Content: Letters, reports, and specimen lists by William Stimpson and L.M. Squire detail specimens requested and collected for the National Museum of Natural History during the United States North Pacific Exploring Expedition \(1853-1856\), in 1855. \[Folder 11, Image nos. SIA2018-038550 to SIA2018-038569\]](#)

- Box 1 of 3 Folder 18 United States Navy Department, 1857
- Box 1 of 3 Folder 19 United States Patent Office, 1855-1856
- Box 1 of 3 Folder 20 Van Wyck, William, 1853
- Box 1 of 3 Folders 21-27 Wright, Charles, 1853-1858 and undated
- Box 1 of 3 Folder 28 Unidentified correspondence, 1857, 1860 and undated
- Box 1 of 3 Folder 29 Specimen lists
[Digital Content: specimen lists and notes in English and French for collections from United States North Pacific Exploring Expedition \(1853-1856\). Primarily describe botanical specimens, trees of Tahiti, 1853-1856. \[Image nos. SIA2018-038570 to SIA2018-038599\]](#)

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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

- Box 1 of 3 Folders 30-31 Notes of William Stimpson on crustacea collections made on the North Pacific Exploring Expedition
- Box 1 of 3 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
[Digital Content: 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 \[Image nos. SIA2018-048937 to SIA2018-049146\]](#)
- Box 1 of 3 Folder 33 Ledger book of specimen lists, equipment, and expenditures

Box 2

- Box 2 of 3 Folders 1-4 Manuscript. "Report on the Crustacea (Brachyura and Anomura) collected by the North Pacific Exploring Expedition, 1853-1856." *Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections*, Vol. XLIX, 1907.
- Box 2 of 3 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 2 of 3 Folders 6-7 Manuscript. "Report on Anomura collected by the North Pacific Exploring Expedition," undated.

Box 3

- Box 3 of 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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