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Paul S. Conger Papers, 1913-1979

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu
Title:	Paul S. Conger Papers
Date:	1913-1979
Identifier:	Record Unit 7292
Creator::	Conger, Paul S. (Paul Sydney), 1897-1979
Extent:	5.5 cu. ft. (5 record storage boxes) (1 document box)
Language:	English

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 7292, Paul S. Conger Papers

Historical Note

Paul S. Conger (1897-1979) was a botanist who specialized in the study of diatoms, microscopic components of plankton. He was the protege of Albert Mann (1853-1935), diatomist of the Carnegie Institution of Washington (CIW). Mann was employed by the CIW but maintained his office and laboratory at the United States National Museum (USNM) where he also held the title of honorary custodian of diatoms, 1913-1935. In 1922 Conger joined the staff of the Carnegie Institution and worked as Mann's assistant in the lab at the USNM. After Mann's death, Conger retained his affiliation with the CIW, serving as research associate, 1935-1943. Concurrently he was named honorary custodian of diatoms at the USNM, 1935-1943; then associate curator, 1944-1966; and botanist emeritus of cryptogams, 1967-1979.

Introduction

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

Descriptive Entry

These records consist of the correspondence of both Conger and Mann with botanists, diatomists, and other colleagues. The files were apparently begun by Mann, and then used and retained by Conger, who continued many of the same associations. Correspondence concerns specimens, identifications, laboratory administration, equipment, publications, research projects and summer work at Woods Hole; Dry Tortugas, Florida; Trout Lake, Wisconsin; and Solomons Island, Maryland. Also included are notes, annual and other reports, articles and papers, and the notes and manuscript of Conger's "Thomas Christian and the Diatomists of Richmond."

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Biography
- Botanists
- Botany

Types of Materials:

- Manuscripts

Names:

- Carnegie Institution of Washington
- Christian, Thomas, d. 1914
- Conger, Paul S. (Paul Sydney), 1897-1979
- Mann, Albert, 1853-1935
- United States National Museum. Division of Cryptogams
- Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

Places:

- Dry Tortugas (Fla.)
- Solomons Island (Md.)
- Trout Lake (Vilas County, Wis.)

Container Listing

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Note: This series consists of the notes and unpublished manuscript of "Thomas Christian and the Diatomists of Richmond" written by Conger in 1950. The manuscript concerns the members of the Richmond Microscopical Society and their study of Richmond diatoms in the 1880s and 1890s. See also series 1 for Conger's correspondence with Kate James Christian Taylor, Henry C. Froehling, Oliver Francis Blankingship, Florence Peple, Louise J. Catterall, Vida A. Latham, Charles W. MacFarlane, Ruth Patrick, J. Haden Hankins, and Charles Lewis Peticolas.

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