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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
Identifier:	Record Unit 7292
Date:	1913-1979
Extent:	5.5 cu. ft. (5 record storage boxes) (1 document box)
Creator::	Conger, Paul S. (Paul Sydney), 1897-1979
Language:	Language of Materials: 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

Geographic Names:

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

Container Listing

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- Box 1 of 6 Folder 2 Isabella Abbott, 1945, 1950, 1954.
- Box 1 of 6 Folders 3-4 Frederick Adams, 1925-1938, and undated.
- Box 1 of 6 Folder 5 Albatross II, 1950. Includes maps and log of stations and collecting locations.
- Box 1 of 6 Folder 6 E. T. Allen, 1928-1930, 1933.
- Box 1 of 6 Folder 7 W. E. Allen, 1920-1926, 1930, 1935, 1945. Includes copy of Allen's paper, "Ocean Pasturage."
- Box 1 of 6 Folder 8 American Diatomite Company, 1936-1940.
- Box 1 of 6 Folder 9 American Diatomes, Inc., 1962.
- Box 1 of 6 Folder 10 American Journal of Science, 1939.
- Box 1 of 6 Folder 11 American Microscopical Society, 1944, 1948-1950, 1962-1964, 1967.
- Box 1 of 6 Folder 12 Adeline Ames, 1921, 1923.
- Box 1 of 6 Folder 13 R. M. Anderson, 1926. See also Canadian Arctic Expedition.
- Box 1 of 6 Folder 14 Richard R. Armacost, 1951-1952, 1955-1957.
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- Box 1 of 6 Folder 16 A
- Box 1 of 6 Folder 17 John Wendall Bailey, 1938-1939, 1946.
- Box 1 of 6 Folder 18 Loring W. Bailey, 1916. Includes drawings of specimens.
- Box 1 of 6 Folder 19 Alexander D. Bajkov, 1945-1946, 1948, 1953, 1955. Includes photograph of Woods Hole, Massachusetts.
- Box 1 of 6 Folder 20 Herbert B. Baldwin, 1921-1922, 1927, 1933.
- Box 1 of 6 Folder 21 Stanley C. Ball, 1924-1925.

- Box 1 of 6 Folder 22 William Barnum, 1922-1924. Includes article by Dr. Mann.
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- Box 1 of 6 Folder 28 Jesse Benjamin, 1936-1937.
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- Box 1 of 6 Folder 30 Henry B. Bigelow, 1921-1922, 1924, 1928-1929.
- Box 1 of 6 Folder 31 Biological Abstracts, 1927-1932, 1937-1938. Includes abstracts written by Conger and Mann.
- Box 1 of 6 Folder 32 Biological Photographic Association, 1941.
- Box 1 of 6 Folder 33 Sarah E. Bissell, 1938.
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- Box 1 of 6 Folder 35 Albert F. Blakeslee, 1938.
- Box 1 of 6 Folder 36 Oliver Francis Blankingship, 1946-1953. Correspondence concerns Conger's research on the Richmond diatomists.
- Box 1 of 6 Folder 37 Brian P. Boden, 1946, 1949.
- Box 1 of 6 Folder 38 Harold C. Bold, 1935-1940, 1942, 1945-1948, 1953, 1957, 1966. Includes drawings of diatoms.
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- Box 1 of 6 Folder 40 Charles S. Boyer, 1918, 1920, 1922, 1925.
- Box 1 of 6 Folder 41 Charles M. Breder, 1930.
- Box 1 of 6 Folder 42 Max F. Britton, 1943, 1946-1948.
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- Box 1 of 6 Folder 59 *Carnegie*, seventh Cruise Program.
- Box 1 of 6 Folder 60 Nellie Carter, 1923.
- Box 1 of 6 Folder 61 Louise F. Catterall, 1947, 1949-1952. Correspondence concerns Richmond diatomists.
- Box 1 of 6 Folder 62 T. M. Caven, 1937.
- Box 1 of 6 Folder 63 Celite Products, 1920-1929. Correspondence is with A. B. Cummings and concerns identifications of the Lompoc diatoms.
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Correspondence is primarily directed to Dr. Mann and written during
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- Box 2 of 6 Folder 5 William Bridge Cooke, 1955, 1957.
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- Box 2 of 6 Folder 47 Harold C. Ernst, 1920.
- Box 2 of 6 Folder 48 Barton Warren Evermann, 1920-1921, 1925-1926, 1931. Correspondence concerns the Albatross collection and the California Academy of Sciences expedition to the Revillagigedo Islands, 1925.
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- Box 2 of 6 Folder 50 Maria A. Faust, 1977.
- Box 2 of 6 Folder 51 William A. Firth, 1922-1923.
- Box 2 of 6 Folder 52 Charles J. Fish, 1923-1924, 1929.
- Box 2 of 6 Folder 53 Walter K. Fisher, 1922-1923.
- Box 2 of 6 Folder 54 John A. Fleming, 1927-1931, 1934, 1937. Fleming was assistant director and general secretary of the Carnegie Institution. Correspondence also concerns the National Research Council.
- Box 2 of 6 Folder 55 Colonel William D. Fleming, 1940, 1943, 1945-1946, 1948, 1952, 1955, 1963, 1966, 1972-1973, 1978.
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- Box 2 of 6 Folder 61 Theodore C. Frye, 1916, 1921.
- Box 2 of 6 Folder 62 Greta A. Fryxell, 1970-1973. Correspondence includes check-list of diatoms from the Gulf of Mexico.
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- Box 2 of 6 Folder 65 Paul S. Galtsoff, 1922, 1926, 1933, 1936, 1943, 1950-1953.
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- Box 2 of 6 Folder 68 *General Electric Review*, 1927.
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- Box 5 of 6 Folder 11 Webster Prentiss True, 1940, 1944, 1949-1950.
- Box 5 of 6 Folders 12-13 R. V. Truitt, 1920, 1930-1979. Correspondence concerns summer work at Solomon's Island. Also includes 1947 correspondence with Mrs. Truitt.
- Box 5 of 6 Folder 14 W. H. Twenhofel, 1938-1942.
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Box 5 of 6 Folder 19 T. Wayland Vaughn, 1920-1930. Includes graphs showing subsurface distribution of diatoms in the La Jolla, California, area.

Box 5 of 6 Folder 20 E. A. Varela, 1920, 1923, 1931-1933, 1936, 1940.

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Series 2: "THOMAS CHRISTIAN AND THE DIATOMISTS OF RICHMOND."

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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- Box 5 of 6 Folder 59 "Ecological Significance of Form in the Diatoms," by Paul S. Conger, undated.
- Box 5 of 6 Folder 60 "Lesson of the Diatoms," by Paul S. Conger, 1957.
- Box 5 of 6 Folder 61 "A Decade of advance in our knowledge of diatoms, and the use of them in elementary biology courses," by Paul S. Conger, undated.
- Box 5 of 6 Folder 62 "Diatom Research," by Albert Mann, undated.
- Box 5 of 6 Folder 63 "Improved Method for Blocking out undesirable Backgrounds in Photographs," by Albert Mann, undated.
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Box 6

- Box 6 of 6 Folders 1-4 Annual reports, Section of Diatoms, USNM, 1946-1977. Incomplete.
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