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George Herbert Girty Papers,
1896-1948 and undated

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu
Title:	George Herbert Girty Papers
Identifier:	Record Unit 7329
Date:	1896-1948 and undated
Extent:	2.5 cu. ft. (5 document boxes)
Creator::	Girty, George Herbert, 1869-1939
Language:	Language of Materials: English

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 7329, George Herbert Girty Papers

Historical Note

George Herbert Girty (1869-1939) was an invertebrate paleontologist specializing in the study of Carboniferous formations and fauna. He was educated at Yale University, receiving the A.B. in 1892 and the Ph.D. in 1894. After a post-graduate year at Stanford University, Girty was appointed Paleontologist with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) on April 9, 1895. He remained with the USGS for the remainder of his career -- an association that lasted over 44 years. While best known for his research on Permian faunas, Girty was also an expert on Mississippian and Pennsylvanian invertebrates of the western United States. He studied most of the important Permian formations in the United States and Alaska and spent several seasons with USGS field parties in the mid-western and western United States.

For additional biographical information on Girty see "Memorial to George Herbert Girty," by James Steele Williams, *Proceedings of the Geological Society of America for 1939*, pp. 195-205, June 1940.

Introduction

The 1879 act establishing the United States Geological Survey (USGS) declares, "And all collections of rocks, minerals, soils, and fossils, and objects of natural history, archaeology, and ethnology, made by the Coast and Interior Survey, the Geological Survey, or by any other parties for the Government of the United States, when no longer needed for investigations in progress, shall be deposited in the National Museum." Many of the paleontologists affiliated with the USGS Paleontology and Stratigraphy Branch have been stationed at the National Museum of Natural History (NMNH) to study and care for the national collections. This close working relationship between the USGS and the NMNH has resulted in the Smithsonian Archives acquiring records and special collections documenting paleontological work of the Survey and its scientists.

Descriptive Entry

The papers of George Herbert Girty primarily consist of correspondence documenting his paleontological research and his official work for the USGS. A large file of general correspondence contains letters exchanged between Girty and many of the prominent geologists and paleontologists of his era. The letters concern his research on Carboniferous invertebrates; his USGS work, especially reports on specimens sent in for identification; field work of USGS geologists and paleontologists; and the preparation, publication, and review of scientific manuscripts. The collection also includes a partial file of Girty's outgoing correspondence, 1897-1915. These letters document his field work, 1898-1915, as well as his research and USGS affairs. A small amount of biographical and autobiographical information on Girty is also found in the collection.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Paleontologists
Paleontology

Types of Materials:

Manuscripts

Names:

Geological Survey (U.S.)
Girty, George Herbert, 1869-1939
Stanford University
Yale University

Container Listing

Series 1: GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1896-1939, AND UNDATED, WITH RELATED MATERIALS TO 1948.

Records post-dating Girty's death consist of correspondence between James Steele Williams and Mrs. I. Alan Keyte.

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| Box 1 of 5 | Folder 2 Adams, George I., 1899-1902. Concerns Adams' field work in the American west. |
| Box 1 of 5 | Folder 3 Allen, R. C., 1912-1915 |
| Box 1 of 5 | Folder 4 B, general |
| Box 1 of 5 | Folder 5 Barbour, Erwin Hinckley, 1911-1913, 1931, 1937 |
| Box 1 of 5 | Folder 6 Bather, Francis Arthur, 1910, 1913, 1917-1918, 1923 |
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| Box 1 of 5 | Folder 11 Case, Ermine Cowles, 1907-1916, 1929 |
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| Box 1 of 5 | Folder 13 Condra, George Evert, 1927-1931 |
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| Box 1 of 5 | Folder 16 D, general |
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- Box 1 of 5 Folder 25 Greger, Darling K., 1903-1904, 1915, 1917, 1920
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- Box 2 of 5 Folder 2 Hayasaka, Ichiro, 1923, 1926-1927, 1930, 1932, 1935-1937
- Box 2 of 5 Folder 3 Hayes, Charles Willard, 1903-1909
- Box 2 of 5 Folder 4 Henbest, Lloyd George, 1931, 1934, 1936, 1938
- Box 2 of 5 Folder 5 Hovey, Edmund Otis, 1910-1915
- Box 2 of 5 Folder 6 Hyde, Jessie E., 1907-1908, 1917
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- Box 2 of 5 Folder 8 Imlay, Ralph W., 1938-1939
- Box 2 of 5 Folder 9 J, general
- Box 2 of 5 Folder 10 Johnson, Jesse Harlan, 1930-1932, 1938
- Box 2 of 5 Folder 11 K, general
- Box 2 of 5 Folder 12 Keith, Arthur, 1910-1911
- Box 2 of 5 Folder 13 Keyte, I. Alan, 1923-1931, with related materials to 1948. Includes copies of Keyte's field notes and correspondence between James Steele Williams and Mrs. I. Alan Keyte.
- Box 2 of 5 Folder 14 Kindle, Edward M., 1904, 1911-1917, 1920, 1924-1925, 1930-1931, 1936, and undated. Includes correspondence of Reginald Aldsworth Daly.
- Box 2 of 5 Folder 15 King, Philip B., 1933-1939
- Box 2 of 5 Folder 16 Knight, J. Brookes, 1930-1938

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Box 3 of 5 Folder 17 Ransome, Frederick Leslie, 1902

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Box 3 of 5 Folder 19 Reger, David B., 1924-1925

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Box 3 of 5 Folder 21 Roundy, Paul V., 1911, 1914, 1918-1919, and undated

Box 3 of 5 Folder 22 Rowley, R. R., 1906-1907, and undated

Box 3 of 5 Folder 23 Rubey, William W., 1924-1925

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Box 3 of 5 Folder 25 Schuchert, Charles, 1897-1899, 1902-1906, 1909-1912,
1919-1920, 1924, 1938

Box 3 of 5 Folder 26 Smith, George Otis, 1913-1917

Box 3 of 5 Folder 27 Smith, James Perrin, 1899-1900, 1903-1904, 1912

Box 3 of 5 Folder 28 Smith, Richard A., 1911-1916

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Box 4

Box 4 of 5 Folder 1 Spencer, Arthur C., 1898-1899, 1910-1911

Box 4 of 5 Folder 2 Springer, Frank, 1906-1907, 1920-1921, 1927

Box 4 of 5 Folder 3 Stanton, Timothy William, 1902, 1906-1924, 1931, 1935

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Box 4 of 5 Folder 5 Stout, Wilber, 1896-1903

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Box 4 of 5 Folder 7 T, general

Box 4 of 5 Folder 8 Toff, Joseph A., 1899, 1902-1903

Box 4 of 5 Folder 9 U-V, general

Box 4 of 5 Folder 10 Udden, John August, 1903, 1906, 1915

- Box 4 of 5 Folder 11 Ulrich, Edward Oscar, 1897-1898, 1908, 1912, 1916-1917,
and undated. Includes a copy of Girty's review of Ulrich's *Revision of the
Paleozoic Systems*.
- Box 4 of 5 Folder 12 W, general
- Box 4 of 5 Folder 13 Walcott, Charles D., 1896-1908, 1916
- Box 4 of 5 Folder 14 Walter, O. T., 1922-1923
- Box 4 of 5 Folder 15 Weller, J. Marvin, 1928-1929, 1932, 1935, 1938
- Box 4 of 5 Folder 16 Weller, Stuart, 1899-1900, 1904, 1906, 1911-1924, 1927
- Box 4 of 5 Folder 17 White, David, 1899, 1904-1922, 1931, and undated
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- Box 5 of 5 Folder 1 Williams, Henry Shaler, 1899-1912
- Box 5 of 5 Folder 2 Woodring, Wendell P., 1914

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Series 2: OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE, 1897-1915.

This series consists of copies of outgoing letters written by George Herbert Girty. The letters are primarily maintained in letter books. Also included are several letters that were removed from the original letter books (see Box 5, folder 3). Apparently, Girty (or someone else) felt that these letters were particularly important and should be grouped together. A handwritten index is included with the letters. Of special interest is correspondence documenting Girty's field work in Ohio, 1898; New York, 1899; Pennsylvania, 1899; Indian Territory (now Oklahoma), 1900; Colorado, 1900; Utah, 1900; Montana, 1913; Idaho, 1913-1914; and Kentucky, 1915.

Box 5

- Box 5 of 5 Folder 3 Outgoing correspondence, 1897-1906. Outgoing letters removed from original letter books and grouped together.
- Box 5 of 5 Folder 4 Outgoing correspondence, July 21, 1898 - October 7, 1900. Letters written during Girty's field work in Ohio, 1898; New York and Pennsylvania, 1899; Indian Territory (now Oklahoma), Colorado, and Utah, 1900.
- Box 5 of 5 Folder 5 Outgoing correspondence, November 22, 1907 - November 2, 1908. General correspondence concerning his research and USGS activities.
- Box 5 of 5 Folder 6 Outgoing correspondence, November 9, 1908 - May 24, 1911. General correspondence concerning his research and USGS activities.
- Box 5 of 5 Folder 7 Outgoing correspondence, August 1 - September 20, 1913. Letters written during Girty's field work in Montana and Idaho.
- Box 5 of 5 Folder 8 Outgoing correspondence, September 4 - November 6, 1914; June 21 - August 26, 1915. Letter written during Girty's field work in Idaho, 1914, and Kentucky, 1915.

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Series 3: BIOGRAPHICAL AND AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ON GEORGE HERBERT GIRTY, 1923, 1939-1940, AND UNDATED.

This series includes a brief autobiographical sketch written by Girty; a Cosmos Club resolution approved and read after Girty's death; and correspondence between James Steele Williams and the Geological Society of America concerning his "Memorial to George Herbert Girty."

Box 5

Box 5 of 5

Folder 9 Biographical and autobiographical information on George Herbert Girty, 1923, 1939-1940, and undated.

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