

Morse Peckham manuscript for variorum text of The Origin of Species by Charles Darwin

Ms. Coll. 1077

Finding aid prepared by Molly B. Hutt.

Last updated on July 29, 2015.

University of Pennsylvania, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts

2015 May 26

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Summary Information

Repository	University of Pennsylvania: Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts
Creator	Peckham, Morse
Title	Morse Peckham manuscript for variorum text of <i>The Origin of Species</i> by Charles Darwin
Call number	Ms. Coll. 1077
Date	circa 1959
Extent	1.6 linear feet (8 boxes)
Language	English
Abstract	Charles Darwin's (1809-1882) <i>The Origin of Species</i> was published in six extensively edited editions. Over the course of this process, approximately 75% was rewritten between one and five times, and over 1,500 sentences were added, with the result that the sixth edition is nearly one third longer than the first. This collection contains a manuscript for the first variorum text of <i>The Origin of Species</i> , which was edited by Morse Peckham and published in 1959.

Cite as:

Morse Peckham manuscript for variorum text of *The Origin of Species* by Charles Darwin, 1959, Ms. Coll. 1077, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts, University of Pennsylvania

Biography/History

Charles Darwin (1809-1882), a British naturalist, is credited with first formulating the theories of natural selection and evolution.

Morse Peckham was Director of the University of Pennsylvania Press from 1953 to 1955 and a prolific author. According to his introduction to this text, Peckham's purpose in producing this variorum text was to make it possible for historians and scientists to know what Darwin said in *The Origin of Species* at any given time; he cites the particular importance of Darwin's excision of theological language between the first edition and later editions, which may explain some if not all of the theological opposition to Darwin's theories. Peckham also emphasizes that this is a variorum *text* as opposed to a variorum *edition*, since the sources of Darwin's information were neither tracked down nor verified.

Scope and Contents

Charles Darwin's (1809-1882) *The Origin of Species* was published in six extensively edited editions. Over the course of this process, approximately 75% was rewritten between one and five times, and over 1,500 sentences were added, with the result that the sixth edition is nearly one third longer than the first. This collection contains a manuscript for the first variorum text of *The Origin of Species*, referred to by its editor as a "paste-script" due to the nature of its construction, which is the result of a collation process involving cutting and pasting sentences from six editions of Darwin's text.

Administrative Information

University of Pennsylvania, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts

2015 May 26

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Related Materials

Related Archival Materials note

Controlled Access Headings

FORM/GENRE(S)

- Manuscripts (document genre)

PERSONAL NAME(S)

- Darwin, Charles, 1809-1882

SUBJECT(S)

- Biology
- Evolution
- Manuscripts--Pennsylvania--Philadelphia--20th century
- Naturalists
- Science

Collection Inventory

	Box	Folder
Front Matter, pages 1-52 and "Notes" 1-9, circa 1959.	1	1-4
Chapter I, pages 47-128, circa 1959.	1	5-6
Chapter II, pages 129-175, circa 1959.	1	7
Chapter III, pages 176-211, circa 1959.	2	1
Chapter IV, pages 212-400, circa 1959.	3 2	1 2-5
Chapter V, pages 401-490, circa 1959.	3	2-4

Chapter VI, pages 491-600, circa 1959.	4	1-3
	3	5

Chapter VII, pages 601-685, circa 1959.	4	4-6
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Chapter VIII, pages 686-780, circa 1959.	5	1-3
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Chapter IX, pages 781-867, circa 1959.	5	4-10
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Chapter X, pages 868-947, circa 1959.	6	1-2
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Chapter XI, pages 948-1040, circa 1959.	6	3-5
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Chapter XII, pages 1041-1110, circa 1959.	7	1
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Chapter XIII, pages 1111-1254, circa 1959.	7	2-3
	8	1

Chapter XIV, pages 1255-1338, circa 1959.	8	2-3
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Appendices I and II, circa 1959.	8	4
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Alphabetical list of chapter subtitles, index, circa 1959.	8	5
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