

Edward Drinker Cope papers

Coll.328

Last updated on December 18, 2012.

Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia

2011.01.11

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Summary Information

Repository	Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia
Creator	Cope, E. D., (Edward Drinker), 1840-1897
Title	Edward Drinker Cope papers
Call number	Coll.328
Date [inclusive]	1859-1907
Extent	15 linear inches
Language	English
Abstract	Edward Drinker Cope (1840-1897) was one of the most distinguished American scientists of the 19th century. The bulk of his work was in the fields of paleontology, zoology, geology and anatomy. During his lifetime, he discovered and described over 600 new species and contributed over 1300 papers to scientific literature. The collection contains certificates and honors, medals, manuscripts of scientific papers, drawings, scientific photographs, biographical material, news clippings, account books, and miscellaneous notes.

Cite as:

[Description and date of item], [Box/folder number], Coll.328, Edward Drinker Cope papers, 1859-1907, Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia.

Biography/History

Edward Drinker Cope was born on July 28, 1840 to Alfred and Hannah Edge Cope, who were wealthy Philadelphia Quakers. His father hoped Edward would become a farmer and much of his education was obtained by private tutors. He also attended Westtown School and in 1860, he attended Dr. Joseph Leidy's class on comparative anatomy at the University of Pennsylvania. Cope's interest in the natural sciences began at an early age and in 1858, he began volunteering at the Academy of Natural Sciences, where he catalogued the reptilian collection. He also studied in Washington, D.C. with Professor Spencer F. Baird, concentrating his attentions on the herpetological collections at the Smithsonian Institute. By the time that he entered the University of Pennsylvania at the age of 20, he had already been published thirty times. In 1863, his father sent him to Europe in order that he be spared participating in the Civil War and his interest in the natural sciences increased as he visited natural history museums in Berlin, Leyden, Munich, Vienna, Paris and London.

In 1864, Cope returned to Philadelphia and was hired to teach comparative zoology and botany at Haverford College. He remained a professor there until 1867 when he resigned in order to pursue scientific exploration and writing. In 1884, he served as curator of the National Museum in Washington, D.C. and in 1891, he was professor of geology at the University of Pennsylvania. He also served as the president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 1896. During his career, Cope led and/or participated in geological surveys, both state and federal (the United States Geological Survey), of the western states of the United States. Through his exploration and work with surveys, Cope made known "more than 600 species and many genera of extinct vertebrates new to sciences, many of which he had personally discovered in the Cretaceous strata of Kansas or the Tertiary of Wyoming and Colorado," (Osborn, page 129).

At the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, Cope served as curator from 1865 to 1873, as corresponding secretary from 1863 to 1876, and as a member of the Council in 1879. He resigned from the Academy, after a conflict regarding the fundamental organization of the organization, in 1883.

Cope was a "founder of the Neo-Lamarckian school of evolutionary thought, [which] believed that changes in developmental (embryonic) timing, not natural selection, was the driving force of evolution," (UCMP). At the time of his death on April 12, 1897, Cope had discovered and described over 600 new species and contributed over 1300 papers to scientific literature.

Bibliography:

Haverford College Quaker and Special Collections. Edward Drinker Cope papers, 1848-1940 (bulk 1855-1896), Ms. Coll. 956.

Osborn, Henry Fairfield. "Biographical Memoir of Edward Drinker Cope, 1840-1897," *National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America Biographical Memoirs*, Volume III, 1929.

University of California Museum of Paleontology. "Edward Drinker Cope (1840-1897)," <http://www.ucmp.berkeley.edu/history/cope.html> (accessed November 29, 2011).

Scope and Contents

This collection contains certificates and honors, medals, manuscripts of scientific papers, drawings, scientific photographs, biographical material, news clippings, account books, and miscellaneous notes.

Administrative Information

Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia

2011.01.11

Sponsor

The creation of the electronic guide for this collection was made possible through generous funding from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, administered through the Council on Library and Information Resources' "Cataloging Hidden Special Collections and Archives" Project. Finding aid entered into the Archivists' Toolkit by Garrett Boos.

Access Restrictions

This collection is open for research use.

Use Restrictions

Copyright restrictions may apply. Please contact the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia with requests for copying and for authorization to publish, quote or reproduce the material.

Custodial History note

Gift of Haverford College Library, April 21, 1960 or archived from Academy's files.

Processing Information note

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Related Materials

Related Archival Materials note

American Museum of Natural History: Edward Drinker Cope papers.

Haverford College: Edward Drinker Cope papers, 1848-1940 (bulk 1855-1896).

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.

Form/Genre(s)

- Articles
- Awards
- Correspondence
- Manuscripts

Geographic Name(s)

- Estate records

Personal Name(s)

- Cope, E. D., (Edward Drinker), 1840-1897

Subject(s)

- Anatomy
- Geology
- Paleontology
- Zoology

A. Certificates and honors

Collection Inventory

A. Certificates and honors. Oversized material in flat files, Coll. 328.

	Oversize	Item
Academia Literarum et Scientiarum regia Boica, 1886.	2	1
Academie royale des Sciences, des Lettres et des Beaux-Arts de Belgique, 1896.	2	2
Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia (member), 1861.	2	3
Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, Conchological Section (member), 1867.	2	4
Article regarding the Cope-Marsh conflict in the <i>New York Herald</i> , pages 10-11, 1890 January 12.	1	28
Biological Society of Washington (correspondent), 1882.	2	5
K. Bohmische Gesellschaft der Wissenschaften, 1888.	2	5a
Boston Society of Natural History (correspondent), 1862.	2	6
Davenport Academy of Natural Sciences (correspondent), 1877.	2	7
Entomological Society of Philadelphia (resident member), 1865.	2	8
Entomological Society of Philadelphia (contributing member), 1866.	2	8a
Geological Society of London (foreign correspondent), 1881.	2	9
Haverford College, 1864.	2	10

A. Certificates and honors

Haverford College, Societas Everettica (member), 1865.	3	11
Heidelberg, Universitat (correspondent), 1886.	3	12
Historical Society of Pennsylvania, certificate and letter (member), 1875.	3	13
International Congress of Zoology, Paris (of the Exposition Universelle), 1889.	3	14
National Academy of the Sciences of the United States of America (member), 1872.	3	15
New York Academy of Sciences (correspondent), 1876.	3	16
Paris, Exposition Universelle, gold medal, 1889.	3	17
Philadelphia Bi-centennial Association of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, 1882.	3	18
Philadelphia Zoological Society (life member), 1886.	3	19
Senckenbergische Naturforschende Gesellschaft zu Frankfurt am Main (correspondent), 1893.	3	20
Sociedade da Geographia de Lisboa, certificate and letter (correspondent), 1893.	4	21
Societas Caesarea nat. cur. Mosquensis (correspondent), 1886.	4	22
Societas regia Scientiarum Hauniensis, 1889.	4	23
Société Belge de Geologie, de Paleontologie at d'Hydrologie (founding member), 1887.	4	24

B. Manuscript for "Vertebrate Remains from the Port Kennedy Bone Deposit -...

Société Geologique de France (member), 1878.	4	25
University Association, University of Pennsylvania (member), 1891.	4	26
Zoological Society of London (correspondent), 1863.	4	27

B. Manuscript for "Vertebrate Remains from the Port Kennedy Bone Deposit -- Reptilia," *Journal of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia*, Volume 11, 1897.

	Box	Folder
Pages 1-49.	1	1
Pages 50-99.	1	2
Pages 100-149.	1	3
Pages 150-170.	1	4

C. Cetacean types in the Museum of the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia - prepared and presented by United States National Museum (includes photographs), 1907. 20 Photographs.

Box
3

D. Loose articles.

	Box	Folder
Manuscript for "The Theory of Evolution," pages 1-46 (end of document), undated.	1	5
Manuscript for a companion of the Brehn across taxa, 1862 November.	1	6

E. Honorary Medals

Illustrations, letter and notes on fishes, organs and farm (7 items), undated.	1	7
Manuscript of "...characters of the divisions of the vertebrata above families...", pages 1-39, 1897.	1	8
Manuscript of "...characters of the divisions of the vertebrata above families...", pages 40-84 (end of document), 1897.	1	9

E. Honorary Medals.

	Box	Folder
1. Paris Exposition Universelle, 1889.	1	10
2. ANSP Haydeu Medal, 1891.	1	10
3. Geological Society of London, 1879.	1	10
4. [Arabic script on coin with pin back], undated.	1	10

F. Bequest to Academy, 1897-1898.

	Box	Folder
Correspondence, circa 1890-1900.	1	11
Correspondence and estate information, 1897-1953.	1	12
Academy Cope collection data, circa 1929.	2	1

G. Biographical Materials

G. Biographical Materials.

	Box	Folder
Correspondence and documents, undated.	2	3
Book reviews and newspaper clippings, undated.	2	2
<i>American Naturalist</i> , (1897) and <i>American Geologist</i> , (1900), 1897 May, 1900 August.	2	4
Quaker tracts, memorials and other documents, undated.	2	5
"Ledger", 1876-1886.	2	6
"Pearls from the Poets" (handwritten book of collected poetry), 1859.	2	7

H. Correspondence.

	Box	Folder
T.H. Turner and Daniel Turner, circa 1870.	2	8
Letters found in Paleontology Department (1987), 1878, 1883.	2	9
Gift of T. Morris Evans, undated.	2	10