Edward James Nolan documents and correspondence on the History of the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia

Coll.464

Last updated on December 18, 2012.

Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia

2011.11.28
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Summary Information

Repository
Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia

Creator
Nolan, Edward J.

Title
Edward James Nolan documents and correspondence on the History of the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia

Call number
Coll.464

Date [inclusive]
1846-1915

Extent
234 items

Language
English

Abstract
Edward James Nolan (1846-1921) served as the librarian at the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia from 1869 until his death. During his tenure as librarian, he performed research on and wrote the history of the Academy which was completed in 1909. This collection contains material collected by Nolan for his history, including transcriptions of early minutes, deeds, biographies, news clippings, letters and reminiscences of colleagues.

Cite as:
[Description and date of item], [Box/folder number], Collection 464, Edward James Nolan documents and correspondence on the History of the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, 1846-1915, Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia.
Biography/History

Edward James Nolan (1846-1921) served as the librarian at the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia from 1869 until his death. During his tenure as librarian, he performed research on and wrote the history of the Academy which was published in 1909.

Edward James Nolan was born in 1846. He was first connected to the Academy in 1862, when he served as an assistant to the library. He then left to study medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, where he studied with the celebrated anatomist, Joseph Leidy. In 1867, he returned to the Academy as a member, but soon became a permanent part of the staff. In 1869, he was elected librarian and later, he was also elected recording secretary and Editor of Publications. Nolan served as librarian until his death in 1921.

In 1906, the President, Samuel G. Dixon wrote Nolan to start preparation on a history of the Academy, “that we may have it complete on 100th anniversary,” the Academy's Centenary Celebration. Thus, Nolan researched and wrote *Short History of the Academy of Natural Sciences* which was published in 1909. In 1918, Nolan had attached a memorandum to the bottom of the above letter stating that no money was authorized when the history was complete so that it was never published in full. The work consists of some 700 numbered pages and many sections which are unnumbered. The original is housed at the Academy of Natural Sciences, Collection 463.

Nolan died on January 7, 1921.

Scope and Contents

This collection contains material collected by Nolan for his history, including transcriptions of early minutes, deeds, biographies, news clippings, letters and reminiscences of colleagues. The collection is arranged alphabetically.


While this collection is useful to researchers, it tells only a small part of the history of the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia. Indeed, in his introduction, Nolan states, "the sketch may be regarded
merely as preliminary to a detailed history of the Academy,” (Nolan, p. 2). Nolan's published volume is not included in this collection, but it is available online.

**Bibliography:**


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**Administrative Information**

Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia

2011.11.28

**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 of Philadelphia with requests for copying and for authorization to publish, quote or reproduce the material.

**Processing Information note**

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Finding aid entered into the Archivists' Toolkit by Garrett Boos.
Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

• Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.

Form/Genre(s)

• Biographies
• Correspondence
• Manuscripts
• Research notes

Geographic Name(s)

• Philadelphia (Pa.)

Subject(s)

• Natural history museums
## Collection Inventory

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