

**Finding Aid for the Eugene A. Smith and Herbert H. Smith
Collection, 1892-1943**

Collection Summary

Collection Number: XA992.3

Country: US

Repository Code: AU

Repository Location: Alabama Museum of Natural History
The University of Alabama
Box 870340
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0340
(205) 348-7550

Title: Eugene A. Smith and Herbert H. Smith collection

Previous Title: H. H. Smith (et al) Correspondence

Dates of Existence: approximately 1892-1943, predominant 1915-1919

Extent: 0.5 Linear feet (1 box)

Creator: Alabama Museum of Natural History

Language of Materials: English

Historical Notes

Eugene Allen Smith (1841-1927) was a professor, naturalist, and geologist. In 1862 he received a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Alabama, enlisted in the Confederate States Army, and later accepted a position teaching military tactics at his alma mater. After the war, he studied at Heidelberg University where he received a Ph.D. in 1868. In 1871 he returned to the University of Alabama as a professor of agricultural chemistry and mineralogy. He married Jane Meredith Garland in 1872; together they had five children.

Resurrecting a position which had been vacant since 1858, the Alabama legislature appointed Smith state geologist in charge of the Alabama Geological Survey in 1873. Smith's other interests included athletics and botany. He often travelled to collect plant, animal, and mineral specimens as well as Native American artifacts with the goal of establishing a natural history museum which was eventually constructed on the University of Alabama campus in 1910. Smith also served as president of the Geological Society of Alabama in 1912.

Herbert Huntington Smith (1851-1919) was a naturalist and amateur conchologist largely interested in the flora and fauna of South America and Alabama. Smith married Amelia “Daisy” Woolworth, a taxidermist and specimen preparator, in 1880. Together, they had a son. The couple’s travels and specimen collecting resulted in the discovery of various new species of insects and fresh-water shells. Smith also served as curator of the Carnegie Museum and collected for the American Museum of Natural History. In 1910, he was appointed curator of the Alabama Museum of Natural History by Eugene A. Smith and held that position until his death.

Scope and Content

Largely contains materials created by Eugene A. Smith and Herbert H. Smith while part of the University of Alabama staff. The bulk of the collection is comprised of specimen and book exchange lists, specimen labels, and correspondence belonging to Eugene A. Smith and Herbert H. Smith. The letters predominantly contain information about exchanges of materials (mostly fossils) made between the professors, university, and outside sources. Of note is a letter from William R. Maxon, Associate Curator of the Smithsonian Institution regarding a purchase of plant specimens in 1915. Other materials include catalog cards, certificates of exchange, and correspondence addressed to T. H. Aldrich who donated several collections to the museum.

Some of the materials, such as specimen labels and advertisement for “Oil Reports,” are dated after both Smiths’ deaths. It is unknown who these materials belonged to or why they were added to this collection.

System of Arrangement

Materials were initially found in disarray within the box. As original order could not be discerned, items have since been loosely arranged physically by size and theme. 4 major thematic series and 3 subseries have been determined and are as follows:

Series 1, Specimen Labels, 1904-1993, bulk 1915-1918

Series 2, Exchange Lists, ca. 1892-1919

Series 3, Correspondence,

 Subseries 1, Eugene A. Smith letters, 1896-1919

 Subseries 2, Herbert H. Smith letters, 1915-1918

 Subseries 3, Truman H. Aldrich papers, 1892

Series 4, Miscellanea, approximately 1917-1941

Conditions Governing Access

Restrictions: None. Collection open.

Preferred Citation: Eugene A. Smith and Herbert H. Smith Collection, Alabama Museum of Natural History, University of Alabama

Collection Inventory

SERIES 1: Specimen Labels, 1904-1933, bulk 1915-1918

Series Description: Contains handwritten and a few printed specimen labels. Most of the handwritten labels dated 1919 and prior were possibly done in Herbert H. Smith's hand.

Folder Title	Folder #
Specimen labels, 1915 January-June	XA992.3.001
Specimen labels, 1915 January-May	XA992.3.002
Specimen labels, 1915 June-October	XA992.3.003
Specimen labels, 1915-1916	XA992.3.004
Specimen labels, 1916 March-May	XA992.3.005
Specimen labels, 1916-1918	XA992.3.006
Specimen labels, 1914 February-December, undated	XA992.3.007
Specimen labels, undated	XA992.3.008
Specimen labels, undated	XA992.3.009
Specimen labels, undated	XA992.3.010
Specimen labels, 1916-1917, undated	XA992.3.011
Specimen labels, 1904, 1933, undated	XA992.3.013
Specimen labels, 1916, undated	XA992.3.016
Printed specimen labels, undated	XA9932.3.043

SERIES 2: Exchange Lists, ca. 1892- 1919

Series Description: Contains mostly handwritten exchange lists for outgoing specimens from the Alabama Museum of Natural History to various sources. Others are prospective lists of specimens or books from outside sources. A few lists were originally printed and some are typed copies of original handwritten lists transcribed at a later date.

Folder Title	Folder #
Land shells for E. P. Chace, 1915	XA992.3.012
Exchange from A. A. Hinkley, 1915	XA992.3.014
Unionoida collected from the gravel dredged at..., undated	XA992.3.015
Goniobasco went to Mr. Goodrich, 1918	XA992.3.017
Marine Univalves for Mr. Herbert N. Lowe, undated	XA992.3.018
Tertiary invertebrate fossils from the collection of the Alabama Museum of Natural History, sent to the Carnegie Museum, 1917	XA992.3.022
Land shells for Mr. H. N. Lowe	XA992.3.023
Alabama Naiades for Dr. Thomas M. Owen, ca. 1917	XA992.3.025
Sent to Rev. Gwatkin May 1915, ca. 1915	XA992.3.027
Shells sent to Wm. G. Mazyck, Charleston, S. Carolina, Exchange July 22, 1912, ca. 1912	XA992.3.028
Shells for [illegible], 1915	XA992.3.029
Printed exchange lists of Dr. J. W. Horter, L. W. Stilwell, and Wards Natural Science Establishment, undated	XA992.3.030
Shells sent to Mr. James Zetok[?] Anem, Panama Canal Zone, 1919	XA992.3.032
Lamsilis contraria Conrad., 1917 XA992.3.033	
Exchange lists—Typed and Manuscript, ca. 1900-1919	XA992.3.034
Exchange list of Homer Squyer – printed, ca. 1892	XA992.3.038

SERIES 3: Correspondence, 1892-1919

Series Description: Contains letters and other forms of correspondence written to Eugene A. Smith and Herbert H. Smith while they were part of the university and museum staff. Also includes a typed copy of a portion of an original letter sent from Herbert to a Mr. Wheeler, as well as a letter and attached exchange list sent to T.H. Aldrich from Homer Squyer.

SUBSERIES 3.1: Eugene A. Smith letters, 1896-1919

Folder Title	Folder #
Letter from Handel T. Martin to E. A. Smith, 1900 January 29	XA992.3.020
Letter from C. N. Gould to E. A. Smith, 1897 March 1	XA992.3.021
Correspondence—Incoming to E. A. Smith, 1896-1919	XA992.3.035
Correspondence—Incoming to E. A. Smith with exchange list, 1898 ? 23	XA992.3.042

SUBSERIES 3.2: Herbert H. Smith letters, 1915-1918

Folder Title	Folder #
Letter from Herbert H. Smith to J. P. Smith, Stanford University, 1918 April 3	XA992.3.026
Letter from G. Whitfield Smith to Herbert H. Smith, 1918 August 4	XA992.3.031
Correspondence—Incoming to H. H. Smith, 1915-1918	XA992.3.036
Correspondence—Outgoing from H. H. Smith, 1918, December 3	XA992.3.039

SUBSERIES 3.3: T. H. Aldrich papers, 1892

Folder Title	Folder #
Correspondence & exchange list to T. H. Aldrich, 1892	XA992.3.037

SERIES 4: Miscellanea, approximately 1917-1943

Series Description: Contains miscellaneous items.

Folder Title	Folder #
Aldrich Collection specimen catalog cards, undated	XA992.3.019
“Oil Reports” publication advertisement and newspaper clipping, ca. 1924, 1943	XA992.3.040

Notes

Processed by: Angelica Yost, September 2016

Custodial History: Many of the materials in this collection were originally created or kept by E. A. Smith and H. H. Smith while they were part of the Alabama Museum of Natural History staff. However, some of the materials were created after both Smiths' were deceased. The ultimate compiler of the materials in the box is unknown, though the collection has remained in custody of the University of Alabama.

Steps for processing the materials possibly began in 1992.

Processing Information: Materials were initially discovered to be in general disarray in the box which caused major concerns about damage. Materials were rehoused in folders by the project archivists and other basic preservation practices such as the removal of pins and staples were conducted. Since no original order could be discerned, items were rearranged loosely by size and theme for purposes of preservation and access. Some of the items were scanned for archival use, though no decisions have been made regarding digitization for an online database.

Collection processing was conducted in 2016 through a grant from the Alabama State Historical Records Advisory Board.

Controlled Access Terms

- Aldrich, T. H. (Truman Heminway), 1848-1932
- Smith, Eugene Allen, 1841-1927
- Smith, Herbert H. (Herbert Huntington), 1851-1919
- Geological Survey of Alabama
- Alabama Museum of Natural History