

Edward Drinker Cope papers, 1859-1907

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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
Date [inclusive]	1859-1907
Extent	15.0 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.

Preferred Citation note

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

Biographical/Historical note

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 note

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

Publication Information

Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia 2011.01.11

Conditions Governing Access note

This collection is open for research use.

Conditions Governing Use note

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

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.

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.

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

Academia Literarum et Scientiarum regia Boica 1886

	Oversize	Item
Text	2	1

Academie royale des Sciences, des Lettres et des Beaux-Arts de Belgique 1896

	Oversize	Item
Text	2	2

Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia (member) 1861

	Oversize	Item
Text	2	3

Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, Conchological Section (member) 1867

	Oversize	Item

A. Certificates and honors

Text	2	4
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Article regarding the Cope-Marsh conflict in the *New York Herald*, pages 10-11 1890 January 12

	Oversize	Item
Text	1	28

Biological Society of Washington (correspondent) 1882

	Oversize	Item
Text	2	5

K. Bohmische Gesellschaft der Wissenschaften 1888

	Oversize	Item
Text	2	5a

Boston Society of Natural History (correspondent) 1862

	Oversize	Item
Text	2	6

Davenport Academy of Natural Sciences (correspondent) 1877

A. Certificates and honors

	Oversize	Item
Text	2	7

Entomological Society of Philadelphia (resident member) 1865

	Oversize	Item
Text	2	8

Entomological Society of Philadelphia (contributing member) 1866

	Oversize	Item
Text	2	8a

Geological Society of London (foreign correspondent) 1881

	Oversize	Item
Text	2	9

Haverford College 1864

	Oversize	Item
Text	2	10

A. Certificates and honors

Haverford College, Societas Everettica (member) 1865

	Oversize	Item
Text	3	11

Heidelberg, Universitat (correspondent) 1886

	Oversize	Item
Text	3	12

Historical Society of Pennsylvania, certificate and letter (member) 1875

	Oversize	Item
Text	3	13

International Congress of Zoology, Paris (of the Exposition Universelle) 1889

	Oversize	Item
Text	3	14

National Academy of the Sciences of the United States of America (member) 1872

A. Certificates and honors

	Oversize	Item
Text	3	15

New York Academy of Sciences (correspondent) 1876

	Oversize	Item
Text	3	16

Paris, Exposition Universelle, gold medal 1889

	Oversize	Item
Text	3	17

Philadelphia Bi-centennial Association of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania 1882

	Oversize	Item
Text	3	18

Philadelphia Zoological Society (life member) 1886

	Oversize	Item
Text	3	19

A. Certificates and honors

Senckenbergische Naturforschende Gesellschaft zu Frankfurt am Main (correspondent) 1893

	Oversize	Item
Text	3	20

Sociedade da Geographia de Lisboa, certificate and letter (correspondent) 1893

	Oversize	Item
Text	4	21

Societas Caesarea nat. cur. Mosquensis (correspondent) 1886

	Oversize	Item
Text	4	22

Societas regia Scientiarum Hauniensis 1889

	Oversize	Item
Text	4	23

Société Belge de Geologie, de Paleontologie at d'Hydrologie (founding member) 1887

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

	Oversize	Item
Text	4	24

Société Geologique de France (member) 1878

	Oversize	Item
Text	4	25

University Association, University of Pennsylvania (member) 1891

	Oversize	Item
Text	4	26

Zoological Society of London (correspondent) 1863

	Oversize	Item
Text	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

Pages 1-49

C. Cetacean types in the Museum of the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philad...

	Box	Folder
Text	1	1

Pages 50-99

	Box	Folder
Text	1	2

Pages 100-149

	Box	Folder
Text	1	3

Pages 150-170

	Box	Folder
Text	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 20.0 Photographs**

Box
3

D. Loose articles

Manuscript for "The Theory of Evolution," pages 1-46 (end of document) undated

D. Loose articles

	Box	Folder
Text	1	5

Manuscript for a companion of the Brehn across taxa 1862 November

	Box	Folder
Text	1	6

Illustrations, letter and notes on fishes, organs and farm (7 items) undated

	Box	Folder
Text	1	7

Manuscript of "...characters of the divisions of the vertebrata above families...", pages 1-39 1897

	Box	Folder
Text	1	8

Manuscript of "...characters of the divisions of the vertebrata above families...", pages 40-84 (end of document) 1897

	Box	Folder
Text	1	9

E. Honorary Medals

E. Honorary Medals

1. Paris Exposition Universelle 1889

	Box	Folder
Text	1	10

2. ANSP Haydeu Medal 1891

	Box	Folder
Text	1	10

3. Geological Society of London 1879

	Box	Folder
Text	1	10

4. [Arabic script on coin with pin back] undated

	Box	Folder
Text	1	10

F. Bequest to Academy**F. Bequest to Academy 1897-1898**

Correspondence circa 1890-1900

	Box	Folder
Text	1	11

Correspondence and estate information 1897-1953

	Box	Folder
Text	1	12

Academy Cope collection data circa 1929

	Box	Folder
Text	2	1

G. Biographical Materials

Correspondence and documents undated

	Box	Folder
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G. Biographical Materials

Text	2	3
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Book reviews and newspaper clippings undated

	Box	Folder
Text	2	2

American Naturalist, (1897) and *American Geologist*, (1900) 1897 May, 1900 August

	Box	Folder
Text	2	4

Quaker tracts, memorials and other documents undated

	Box	Folder
Text	2	5

"Ledger" 1876-1886

	Box	Folder
Text	2	6

"Pearls from the Poets" (handwritten book of collected poetry) 1859

H. Correspondence

	Box	Folder
Text	2	7

H. Correspondence

T.H. Turner and Daniel Turner circa 1870

	Box	Folder
Text	2	8

Letters found in Paleontology Department (1987) 1878, 1883

	Box	Folder
Text	2	9

Gift of T. Morris Evans undated

	Box	Folder
Text	2	10