Guide to the Arthur Williams Wright Papers

MS 1860

compiled by Christopher Geissler and William Massa

August 2005

New Haven, Connecticut
# Table of Contents

- Paging Instructions 3
- Overview 3
- Administrative Information 3
  - Provenance 3
  - Information about Access 3
  - Ownership & Copyright 4
- Cite As 4
- Associated Materials 4
- Biographical History 4
- Description of the Collection 4
- Arrangement 4
- Collection Contents 5
  - Inventory, 1755-1876, no date 5
Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
Sterling Memorial Library
128 Wall Street
P.O. Box 208240
New Haven, CT 06520
Web: http://web.library.yale.edu/mssa
Email: mssa.assist@yale.edu
Phone: (203) 432-1735
Fax: (203) 432-7441

CALL NUMBER: MS 1860

CREATOR: Wright, Arthur Williams, 1836-1915

TITLE: Arthur Williams Wright papers

DATES: 1755-1876

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.75 linear foot

LANGUAGE(S): The materials are in English.

SUMMARY: The papers consist of materials written and/or collected by Arthur Williams Wright, primarily his writings and notes on scientific topics, such as meteorite analysis.

FINDING AID LINK: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, use the following address: http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1860.

Administrative Information

Provenance


Information about Access

Letterbook in box 2 is extremely fragile. Access is by appointment only. Contact the Head of Public Services or the Public Services Manager.
Arthur Williams Wright Papers (MS 1860). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Associated Materials

Natural Sciences Manuscript Collection (MS 583), Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical History

Arthur Williams Wright was born on September 8, 1836, in Lebanon, Connecticut. He received his Yale College B.A in 1859 and his Ph.D. in 1861, the year Yale became the first American university to award this degree. He served as a Yale College tutor in Latin from 1863 to 1866 and in natural philosophy from 1866 to 1868. Wright was an instructor in physics from 1867 to 1868. He furthered his studies with a year at Heidelberg and Berlin. In 1871, he was appointed professor of molecular physics and chemistry at Yale, and in 1878, professor of experimental physics, a position he held until his retirement in 1906. In addition to his academic appointments, Wright was a consultant to the U. S. Signal Service, 1881-1886; the Annual Assay Commission in 1887; and a member of the party sent out by the United States Naval Observatory in the summer of 1878 to observe the total eclipse of the sun. In 1876, he observed for the first time the occurrence of gases in stony meteorites, analyzed them as those of iron meteorites, and investigated their spectra and the relation of these to the spectra of comets. Following the discovery of X-rays in 1895, he was the first American to obtain results from using X-rays. Wright was married to Susan Forbes Silliman. He died in New Haven on December 19, 1915. The Arthur W. Wright Nuclear Structure Laboratory on the Yale campus is named for him.

Description of the Collection

The papers consist of materials written and/or collected by Arthur Williams Wright, primarily his writings and notes on scientific topics, such as meteorite analysis.

Arrangement

The papers are arranged by type of material.
Collection Contents

## Inventory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td><strong>Inventory</strong></td>
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<td>1823 May 20-Aug 7</td>
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<td>[unknown author], French and Indian War</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Memorabilia</strong></td>
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<td>Map of the Hudson River</td>
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<tr>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Miscellaneous loose pages</td>
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<td><strong>Writings</strong></td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>&quot;Benjamin Silliman, Professor of Chemistry, Pharmacy, Mineralogy, and Geology&quot; [notes and printed document]</td>
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<td>Geometric problems [journal and loose pages]</td>
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<td>[187?]</td>
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<td>&quot;The Laboratory&quot; [printed document]</td>
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<td>[1876?] Feb 29, no date</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>&quot;On the Polarization of the Zodiacal Light&quot;</td>
<td>1874 Apr 6</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>&quot;On the Spectrum of the Zodiacal Light&quot;</td>
<td>1874 Jun 5</td>
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<tr>
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<td>23</td>
<td>&quot;Solutions of Problems proposed July, 1857&quot;</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>Letterbook of G. &amp; D. Cook &amp; Co. [carriage company?]</td>
<td>1861-1862</td>
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