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Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History  
Invertebrate Paleontology Division  
170 Whitney Avenue  /New Haven, CT 06520  
Email: peabody.collections@yale.edu  
Phone: 203-432-3752  
Fax: 203-432-9816

**CALL NUMBER:** IPAR.001239

**CREATOR:** Marsh, Othniel Charles, 29/10/1831-18/3/1899

**TITLE:** Othniel Charles Marsh Archives

**DATES:** 1831-1899

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 2 linear feet

**LANGUAGE(S):** In English.

**SUMMARY:** These are O.C. Marsh Archives associated with the Division of Invertebrate Paleontology. This is only a small sample of his archives associated with Yale University.

**FINDING AID LINK:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, use the following address:  
http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/ypm.ipar.001239.

Administrative Information

Cite As

Othniel Charles Marsh Archives, Invertebrate Paleontology, Yale Peabody Museum

Biographical Sketch

In 1866, Othniel Charles Marsh was appointed Professor of Paleontology at Yale, the first such position in North America. In 1867, he became curator of the Geological Cabinet at the new Peabody Museum, which was endowed by his uncle, the philanthropist George Peabody. Marsh brought with him 2.5 tons of books and specimens, the bulk of which were accumulated as a Yale College undergraduate and during a lengthy stay in Europe. This collection was the foundation of the vertebrate paleontology collection.

During a lifetime at Yale, Marsh amassed an impressive collection of vertebrate fossils. Although he and the Peabody Museum would ultimately become famous for their collection of dinosaurs from the American West - which included type specimens of many of the best known dinosaurs - Marsh's earliest collections were from the Cretaceous of New Jersey. Under his leadership, the Yale College Scientific Expeditions of 1870-1873 obtained historically and scientifically important collections of fossil mammals, including some of the largest collections of uintatheres, titanotheres, fossil horses, and early primates in the United States. The expeditions also made important contributions to our knowledge of marine life from the Cretaceous, including mosasours, pterosaurs (most notably Pteranodon), and the toothed birds Ichthyornis and Hesperornis. In addition, they assembled a sizable collection of fossil fishes from Eocene lake deposits in Wyoming.

According to his biographers, Schuchert and LeVene (1940), Marsh named 344 new species and 161 new genera of fossil vertebrates. His genera include Brontosaurus, Apatosaurus, Stegosaurus, Triceratops and Eohippus. His work and collections were praised by Charles Darwin and Thomas Huxley as some of the most crucial evidence supporting the theory of evolution.

Biographical/Historical note

Description of the Material

Includes drawings and lithographs of Solnhofen annelids, specimen lists for Keokuk Limestone slabs from Crawfordsville, IN, locality information about the Turners Falls area, a list of correspondence held at the Sterling Library at Yale, and locality information for a Placenticeras specimen sent to Marsh by General John Gibbon.

Arrangement

(see Physical Description)
Collection Contents

Series I. Specimen Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Series I. Specimen Information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>001242</td>
<td>Illustrations. Drawings and Lithographs of specimens.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>001243</td>
<td>Specimen Lists.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Series II. Miscellaneous

**Box** | **Description**
---|---
001245 | Correspondence.
001244 | Locality Information.

Miscellaneous Archives from O C. Marsh in the collections of Invertebrate Paleontology including locality information and correspondence.
## Series III. Locality Information

<table>
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<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>002430</td>
<td>Locality information.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Locality information for specimens collected or received by O. C. Marsh.
Access Terms

Yale Peabody Museum
Yale University
Connecticut
USA
Correspondence
Maps
Photographs