

T. S. Palmer Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2012

Contact information: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm78035428>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms012157>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2012
Revised 2023 January

Collection Summary

Title: T. S. Palmer Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1877-1954

ID No.: MSS35428

Creator: Palmer, T. S. (Theodore Sherman), 1868-1955

Extent: 20,100 items

Extent: 69 containers

Extent: 28.6 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm78035428>

Summary: Naturalist, author and ornithologist. Correspondence, diaries, drafts of speeches, articles, printed matter, scrapbooks, memorandum books, and photographs. Much of the correspondence relates to the American Ornithologists' Union, of which Palmer was secretary, 1917-1937.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Palmer, T. S. (Theodore Sherman), 1868-1955.

Organizations

American Ornithologists' Union.

Subjects

Conservation of natural resources.

Ornithology--Societies, etc.

Ornithology.

Titles

Theodore Sherman Palmer papers

Occupations

Authors.

Naturalists.

Ornithologists.

Acquisition Information

The papers of T. S. Palmer, naturalist, author, and ornithologist, were given to the Library of Congress by his wife, Mrs. Theodore Palmer, in 1957.

Processing History

The papers of T. S. Palmer were arranged and described by Grover C. Batts in 1957. The finding aid was revised in 2012.

Transfers

Negatives have been transferred to the Library's Prints and Photographs where they are identified as part of the David S. Broder Papers. Patrons are encouraged to contact the Prints and Photographs Division in advance of a research visit.

Additional Guides

A note concerning the Palmer Papers appeared in the Library's *Information Bulletin* 17, no. 1 (Jan. 6, 1958): 1. The collection was described in the *Library of Congress Quarterly Journal of Current Acquisitions* 15, no. 3 (May 1958): 190.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of T. S. Palmer is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of T. S. Palmer are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, T. S. Palmer Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1868, Jan. 26	Born, Oakland, Calif.
1888	A.B., University of California, Berkeley, Calif.
1890	Member, scientific research expedition, Death Valley, California
1890-1933	Held various posts with United States Biological Survey
1895	M.D., Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.
1905-1935	Vice president, National Association of Audubon Societies
1911	Married Bertha M. Ellis
1917-1937	Secretary, American Ornithologists Union
1933	Appointed associate in zoology, United States National Museum, Washington, D.C.
1955, July 23	Died, Washington, D. C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Theodore Sherman Palmer (1868-1955) consist primarily of Palmer's correspondence with fellow ornithologists and with persons interested in the field of ornithology during the years 1877-1954. Included is documentation reflecting his efforts in support of federal and state wildlife conservation measures. The collection does not contain general correspondence for the years 1932-1933 and 1952. The papers are organized into five series: [Diaries and Biographical Material](#), [General Correspondence](#), [American Ornithologists Union file](#), [Speech and Article File](#), and [Miscellany](#).

Much of the collection is devoted to correspondence regarding Palmer's duties as secretary of the American Ornithologist Union, 1917-1937. Many of these letters are replies to inquiries from Palmer requesting biographical data concerning members of the organization.

There are numerous handwritten drafts of articles that appeared in the ornithological journal *The Auk*, as well as articles for other scientific publications. The bulk of this material consists of obituaries of fellow members of the American Ornithological Union.

The collection includes diaries from 1877, 1885-1892, 1903-1906, and 1909, as well as memorandum books containing accounts of personal expenses. The collection also contains newspaper clippings and photographs.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in five series:

- [Diaries and Biographical Material, 1877-1909](#)
- [General Correspondence, 1895-1953](#)
- [American Ornithologists Union File, 1918-1932](#)
- [Speech and Article File, circa 1905-1953](#)
- [Miscellany, circa 1901-1954](#)

Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1	<p><u>Diaries and Biographical Material, 1877-1909</u></p> <p>Diaries, memorandum books, and a Palmer chronology. Arranged by year.</p>
BOX 2-34	<p><u>General Correspondence, 1895-1953</u></p> <p>Mainly letters received. Alphabetically arranged within years or groups of years, except that correspondence for 1895-1818 and 1950-1953 is segregated only according to year.</p>
BOX 35-53	<p><u>American Ornithologists Union File, 1918-1932</u></p>
BOX 35-50	<p><u>Correspondence, 1918-1932</u></p> <p>Mainly letters received. Alphabetically arranged within years by name of correspondent.</p>
BOX 51-53	<p><u>Name File, circa 1914-1937</u></p> <p>Correspondence containing biographical data pertaining to members of the American Ornithologists Union. Alphabetically arranged by name of correspondent.</p>
BOX 54-57	<p><u>Speech and Article File, circa 1905-1953</u></p> <p>Mostly handwritten drafts of speeches and articles; also lists of Palmer's publications. Arranged in loose chronological order.</p>
BOX 58-69	<p><u>Miscellany, circa 1901-1954</u></p> <p>Miscellaneous correspondence of mostly letters received, printed matter consisting of newspaper clippings, financial reports, and biographies in booklet form; material relating to game laws; scrapbooks of clippings from newspapers and magazines and of engravings; handwritten lists of birds; and a group of unmounted photographs. Organized by type of material or topic and therein alphabetically by name of person, organization, or topic.</p>

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Diaries and Biographical Material, 1877-1909 Diaries, memorandum books, and a Palmer chronology. Arranged by year.
BOX 1	Diaries
BOX 1	1877
BOX 1	1885-1892
BOX 1	1903-1906
BOX 1	1909
BOX 1	Memorandum books, chronology
BOX 2-34	General Correspondence, 1895-1953 Mainly letters received. Alphabetically arranged within years or groups of years, except that correspondence for 1895-1818 and 1950-1953 is segregated only according to year.
BOX 2	1895-1898
BOX 2	1899-1900
BOX 2	A-C
BOX 3	D-Z
BOX 3	1901-1902
BOX 3	A-F
BOX 3	Letterbook
BOX 4	G-Z
BOX 4	1903
BOX 5	1904-1905
BOX 6	1906-1907
BOX 7	1908-1909
BOX 8	1910-1911
BOX 9	1912-1913
BOX 10	1914
BOX 10	1915
BOX 10	A-J
BOX 11	K-Z
BOX 11	1916
BOX 12	1917
BOX 12	1918
BOX 12	A-J
BOX 13	K-Z
BOX 13	1919
BOX 14	1920-1921
BOX 14	1922

General Correspondence, 1895-1953

Container	Contents
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BOX 15	1923
BOX 15	A-C
BOX 16	D-Z
BOX 16	1924
BOX 16	A-R
BOX 17	S-Z
BOX 17	1925
BOX 17	1926
BOX 17	A-C
BOX 18	D-Z
BOX 18	1927
BOX 19	1928
BOX 19	1929
BOX 19	A-B
BOX 20	C-Z
BOX 20	1930
BOX 20	A-J
BOX 21	K-Z
BOX 21	1931
BOX 21	A-F
BOX 22	G-Z
BOX 23	1934
BOX 23	1935
BOX 23	A
BOX 24	B-Z
BOX 24	1936
BOX 24	A
BOX 25	B-Z
BOX 25	1937
BOX 25	A-F
BOX 26	G-Z
BOX 26	1938
BOX 26	A-F
BOX 27	G-Z
BOX 27	1939
BOX 28	1940
BOX 28	1941
BOX 28	A-J
BOX 29	K-Z
BOX 29	1942
BOX 30	1943
BOX 30	1944
BOX 30	A-F
BOX 31	G-Z
BOX 31	1945-1946
BOX 32	1947

General Correspondence, 1895-1953

Container	Contents
BOX 32	1948-1949
BOX 32	A-M
BOX 33	N-Z
BOX 33	1950-1951
BOX 34	1953
BOX 35-53	American Ornithologists Union File, 1918-1932
BOX 35-50	Correspondence, 1918-1932 Mainly letters received. Alphabetically arranged within years by name of correspondent.
BOX 35	1919
BOX 35	A-L
BOX 36	M-Z
BOX 36	1920
BOX 36	A-L
BOX 37	M-Z
BOX 37	1921
BOX 37	A-M
BOX 38	N-Z
BOX 38	1922
BOX 38	A-S
BOX 39	T-Z
BOX 39	1923
BOX 39	1924
BOX 39	A-B
BOX 40	C-V
BOX 41	W-Z
BOX 41	1925
BOX 42	1926
BOX 42	1927
BOX 42	A-B
BOX 43	C-Z
BOX 44	1928
BOX 44	A-R
BOX 45	S-Z
BOX 45	1929
BOX 45	A-L
BOX 46	M-Z
BOX 46	1930
BOX 46	A-D
BOX 47	E-Z
BOX 47	1931
BOX 47	A
BOX 48	B-V
BOX 49	W-Z

American Ornithologists Union File, 1918-1932

Container	Contents
BOX 49	1932
BOX 49	A-L
BOX 50	M-Z
BOX 51-53	Name File, circa 1914-1937 Correspondence containing biographical data pertaining to members of the American Ornithologists Union. Alphabetically arranged by name of correspondent.
BOX 51	A-B
BOX 52	C-L
BOX 53	M-Z
BOX 54-57	Speech and Article File, circa 1905-1953 Mostly handwritten drafts of speeches and articles; also lists of Palmer's publications. Arranged in loose chronological order.
BOX 54-57	circa 1905-1953
BOX 58-69	Miscellany, circa 1901-1954 Miscellaneous correspondence of mostly letters received, printed matter consisting of newspaper clippings, financial reports, and biographies in booklet form; material relating to game laws; scrapbooks of clippings from newspapers and magazines and of engravings; handwritten lists of birds; and a group of unmounted photographs. Organized by type of material or topic and therein alphabetically by name of person, organization, or topic.
BOX 58	Correspondence, circa 1914-1954
BOX 58	A-D
BOX 59	D-G
BOX 60	G-L
BOX 61	M-P
BOX 62	P-R
BOX 63	S-Z
BOX 64-65	Printed matter, circa 1901-1954
BOX 66-67	Game laws, 1902-1915
BOX 67-69	Scrapbooks and photographs, 1907-1954 (Container 69 includes a copy of Titian Peale's journal of a trip to Florida, 1824-1825)