

C. Hart Merriam Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2014

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm82032698>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms015020>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2015
Revised 2023 August

Collection Summary

Title: C. Hart Merriam Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1864-1938

ID No.: MSS32698

Creator: Merriam, C. Hart, 1855-1942

Extent: 5,000 items

Extent: 71 containers plus 1 oversize

Extent: 28.5 linear feet

Extent: 10 microfilm reels

Language: Collection material in English and native American languages.

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm82032698>

Summary: Naturalist, zoologist, and ethnologist. Correspondence, writings, journals, bibliographies, maps, and other papers. Includes journals of scientific expeditions and compilations of Indian vocabularies, with accompanying large-scale maps showing the distribution of all known Indian tribes in California and Nevada, as well as notes relating to the Adirondack Mountains and files pertaining to other sites and regions in the United States and abroad. Contains subject material relating to the Bering Sea Tribunal of Arbitration and the Harriman Alaska Expedition.

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

Merriam, C. Hart (Clinton Hart), 1855-1942.

Organizations

American Ornithologists' Union.

Bering Sea Tribunal of Arbitration.

Harriman Alaska Expedition (1899)

United States. Bureau of Biological Survey.

United States. Division of Biological Survey.

United States. Division of Economic Ornithology and Mammalogy.

Washington Academy of Sciences (Washington, D.C.)

Subjects

Biology--California.

Biology--Nevada.

Biology.

Ethnology--California.

Ethnology--Nevada.

Ethnology.

Indians of North America--California.

Indians of North America--Languages.

Indians of North America--Nevada.

Natural history--California.

Natural history--Nevada.

Natural history.

Sealing--Alaska--Pribilof Islands.

Zoology.

Places

Adirondack Mountains (N.Y.)--Discovery and exploration.

Alaska--Discovery and exploration.

California--Discovery and exploration.
United States--Discovery and exploration.
West (U.S.)--Discovery and exploration.

Occupations

Ethnologists.
Naturalists.
Zoologists.

Acquisition Information

The papers of C. Hart Merriam, naturalist, zoologist, and ethnologist, were given to the Library of Congress as a bequest of Merriam in 1947. Additional material was given by the National Geographic Society in 1976.

Processing History

The C. Hart Merriam Papers were processed in 1947. Additions and revisions were made between 1976 and 1987 and again in 2002. The finding aid was revised in 2014.

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

Restrictions apply governing the use, photoduplication, or publication of items in this collection. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division for information concerning these restrictions. In addition, many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Microfilm

A microfilm edition of part of these papers is available on ten reels. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan. To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the microfilm edition.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container or reel number, C. Hart Merriam Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

| Date | Event |
|--------------|--|
| 1855, Dec. 5 | Born, New York, N.Y. |
| 1872 | Naturalist, Hayden Survey of the territories |
| 1877 | Published <i>A Review of the Birds of Connecticut</i> . New Haven: Tuttle, Morehouse, & Taylor |
| 1879 | M.D., Columbia University, New York, N.Y. |
| 1883 | Surgeon, <i>Proteus</i> (Bark) |

| | |
|---------------|--|
| 1884 | Published <i>Mammals of the Adirondacks</i> . New York: L. S. Foster |
| 1885-1910 | Head, U.S. Department of Agriculture's Division of Economic Ornithology and Mammology (later the U.S. Division of Biological Survey and then the U.S. Bureau of Biological Survey) |
| 1886 | Married Virginia Elizabeth Gosnel |
| 1889 | Participated in U.S. Biological Survey to the San Francisco Mountains, Ariz. |
| 1891 | Participated in U.S. Biological Survey of Death Valley, Calif. Appointed to commission to investigate the problems of pelagic sealing in the Bering Sea |
| 1891-1892 | President, Biological Society of Washington |
| 1898 | Participated in U.S. Biological Survey of Mount Shasta, Calif. |
| 1899 | Participated in Harriman Alaska Expedition |
| 1900-1902 | President, American Ornithologists' Union |
| 1905 | Published "Indian Population of California" |
| 1907 | Published "Distribution and Classification of the Mewan Indians of California" |
| 1910-1936 | Conducted biological and ethnological investigations with California Indian tribes |
| 1910 | Published <i>Dawn of the World</i> . Cleveland: A. H. Clark |
| 1917-1925 | Chairman, U.S. Board on Geographic Names |
| 1919-1921 | President, American Society of Mammalogists |
| 1920-1921 | President, Anthropological Society of Washington |
| 1924-1925 | President, American Society of Naturalists |
| 1928 | Published <i>An-nik-a-del, the History of the Universe, as told by the Modes-se Indians of California</i> . Boston: Stratford Co. |
| 1942, Mar. 19 | Died, Berkeley, Calif. |

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Clinton Hart Merriam (1855-1942) span the years 1872-1938 and consist of correspondence, writings, journals, bibliographies, maps, and other papers. Especially prominent are more than a hundred journals of scientific expeditions and an extensive set of Native American vocabularies, with accompanying large-scale maps showing the distribution of Indian tribes in California and Nevada, as well as notes relating to the Adirondack Mountains and files relating to the Bering Sea Tribunal of Arbitration and the Harriman Alaska Expedition. Other topics include subject material relating to expeditions and regions and sites in the American West as well as others parts of the country and abroad.

Merriam's indexed journals form a continuous record of his accomplishments in science as well as of his personal relations and cooperation with scholars in the United States and internationally. In addition to twenty-five years of service as organizer and head of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Division of Economic Ornithology and Mammology (later the U.S. Division of Biological Survey and then the U.S. Bureau of Biological Survey), and a somewhat longer period of ethnological and biological research in California and Nevada, begun in 1910 under the Harriman Fund of the Smithsonian Institution, Merriam's many activities included a twenty-year membership on the Board on Geographic Names, of which he was chairman from 1917-1925. Also documented are his activities with the American Ornithologists' Union and the Washington Academy of Sciences, Washington, D.C. In 1891 he was appointed fur seal commissioner to represent the United States on a joint American and British commission to study the problems of pelagic sealing on the Pribilof Islands. In 1899 he visited Alaska as part of the Harriman Alaska Expedition and later served as editor of the publications of its scientific staff.

The Merriam Papers are organized by type of material or topic and are arranged largely as received by the Library. Indian vocabulary terms in the container list were transcribed from information extracted from files or folders in the collection.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is organized by type of material or topic and are arranged largely as received

Container List

| Container | Contents |
|-----------|--|
| BOX 1 | Adirondack vertebrates, notes, vols. 1-3 Fauna and flora of Lewis County, N.Y., notes Vol. 1, 1878 Vol. 2, 1878-1879 Vol. 3, 1879-1880 Vol. 4, 1881-1883 |
| BOX 2 | Vol. 5, 1883-1884 Vol. 6, 1884-1885 Journals 1873 1873-1874 1874-1875 1875-1876 1876-1878 |
| BOX 3 | 1878-1879 1881-1882 1882 1883 1881, trip of Proteus 1881, Bermuda notes 1882, trip to Big Moose Lake and Lake Terror 1885, trip to Europe 1885, Lake Champlain notes 1886, rice fields of Georgia and South Carolina 1887, Great Smoky Mountains |
| BOX 4 | 1887, Tennessee and North Carolina 1888, Puget Sound to Southern California 1889, Arizona (2 folders) 1890, Idaho 1891, Death Valley expedition (2 folders) 1891, Bering Sea |
| BOX 5 | 1892, Big Marble Cave, Missouri, short trip in Indian Territory 1892, Roan Mountain |
| BOX 5 | Journals <i>Some journals available on microfilm. Shelf no. 19,605</i> 1893, Winter Park, Fla. 1893, Utah and Wyoming 1894 and 1896, Arizona 1895, Dismal Swamp 1896, Oregon |

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| | Vol.1 |
| BOX 6 REEL 1 | Vol. 2 1897, Washington, vol. 1 <i>Also available on microfilm shelf no. 18,001</i> 1897, Washington and Oregon, vol. 2 1897, Washington, vol. 3 <i>Also available on microfilm shelf no. 18,001</i> 1898, California, vols. 1-2 |
| BOX 7 REEL 1-2 | 1898, California, vols. 3-4 1899, Alaska expedition vols. 1-3 |
| BOX 8 REEL 2-3 | 1899, California, vols. 1-2 1900, California, vols. 1-2 1901, California, vols. 1-2 |
| BOX 9 REEL 3 | 1902, California, vols. 1-4 1903, California, vols. 1-2 |
| BOX 10 REEL 3-4 | 1903, California, vols. 3-5 1904, California, vols. 1-2 1905, California, vol. 1 |
| BOX 11 REEL 4-5 | 1905, California, vols. 2-4 1906, California, vols. 1-3 |
| BOX 12 REEL 5 | 1907, California, vols. 1-5 1908-1909, Montana buffalo range 1909, California |
| BOX 13 REEL 5-6 | 1910, California, vols. 1-2 1911, California, vols. 1-2 1912, California 1913, California |
| BOX 14 REEL 6-7 | 1914, California 1915, California 1916, California 1917, California 1919, California |
| | Vol. 1 |
| BOX 15 REEL 7 | Vol. 2 1920, California, vols. 1-2 1921, California, vol. 1, and 1922, California, vol. 1 1922, California, vol. 2 |
| BOX 16 REEL 7-8 | 1923, California, vols. 1-2 1924, California 1925, California, vol. 1 1925, California, vol. 2, and 1926, vol. 1 1926, California, vol. 2 1927, California |
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| BOX 18 | 1934, California | |
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| | 1937-1938, California | |
| | Home journals | |
| | 1896-1899 | |
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| BOX 22 | 1935-1937 | |
| | Miscellaneous notes | |
| | Annotated list of birds of East Hampton, Hampshire County, Mass, 1874 | |
| | Birds | |
| | (2 folders) | |
| | Birds seen at big Moose Lake, Herkimer and Hamilton Counties, N.Y., 1882 | |
| | Catalogue of birds eggs, vol. 1 | |
| | Catalogue of birds eggs, vol. 2 | |
| | Godbout River, Quebec, Canada, lists, 1881 | |
| | Mammal skins | |
| | Maminalia, Big Moose Lake | |
| | Notes on a brief trip to the marches and outer beach near Freeport, Long Island, N.Y., 1883 | |
| | Notes on the birds observed near Godbout, PQ, Canada | |
| | Ornithological | |
| | Ornithological directory of state of New York | |
| | Private catalogue of specimens of natural history | |
| | Seal Island investigations | |
| | Seals | |
| | 1875 | |
| | 1883 | |
| | Skins, Big Moose Lake | |

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| BOX 23 | Account books, 1864-1884 (4 folders) Anatomio del canino Appointment books, 1894, 1916 (2 folders) Brown=s tract journal, 1884 Bay of Fundy, East Port, Maine, 1876 Echinodorata Invertebrates Diary, 1896 Journal, 1897 Materia medica, tables used by Edward Curtis, 1878-1879 Muskrat as a fish eater Myalological variations Plants found at Big Island Plants found at Brantingham Lake, N.Y. Sasufen Isac River, lists of birds and plants Zoology |
| BOX 24 | Locus Grove, Lewis County, N.Y., native study, 1875 Zoological lecture notes from class of A. E. Verrill Indian vocabularies Ab-sah`-ro-kan Ahts-oo-kā`-e (2 folders) Aś-tah-ke-wi-che |
| BOX 25 | Ah-choo-mah-we Algonkian Apache Athapaskan (2 folders) At-wum-we Blackfeet Cheyenn Cree Ham-amah-we Hoø-pah Mo-des-se Pā-gan Sak-e-fot |
| BOX 26 | Hwil-kut Kah-to Ken-nes-te Køt-tel Kittøl Lo-lahn-kök Mattøl Nek-kan-ni |

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| BOX 28 | Tsen-hah-ken-nes Mo-kāl-um-ne Hoo-koo-e-ko Karokan (2 folders) Klamath Mewan (2 folders) Modok |
| BOX 29 | Chow-lah Mew-wūh (2 folders) Me-wuk (Northern) (3 folders) Me-wuk (Pleasant Valley) O-la ment ke O-lā-yo-me Southern Məwah |
| BOX 30 | Miduan Cushna Kowwahk Kum-mø-win Mitchøpdo Nis-sim-pa-we-han (2 folders) Pā-we-nan Wipā |
| BOX 31 | Es-tōm-se-nan Ne-se-non (Northern) Ne-se-non (Southern) No-to-koiyo (2 folders) No-tø-mus-se Tahn-kum Thankum (Oleepa) |
| BOX 32 | Muskogean Choktaw Seminole Olhonean Hoø-mon-twash |

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| | Piman |
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| | Ner-er-ner |
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| | <i>Tribes of California</i> by Stephen Powers |
| | Pomoan |
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| | Kah-chi-ah |
| | Kah-tah-we chum-ni |
| | Kl-yow-bah |
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| | Akatchma |
| | So-bo-bo |
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| | Mahke Cahvilla |
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| | Panamit Shoshone |
| | Northern Piute |
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| BOX 38 | Mono Lake |
| | Owens Valley and Lone Pine |
| | Pyramid Lake |
| | Walker Lake |
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| | Ho-pe |
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| | Soolahotelukan |
| | Soo-lah-te-luk |
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| | Indian vocabularies collected by Merriam, regarding these Indians |
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| | Pahn-kā-lā-che |
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| | Washuan |
| | Washoo |
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| BOX 44 | Wintu Ono wintu Winton Northern |
| | Yokutan |
| | Choei`mne Choi-yø-choi-yø Chuk-chan-se Win Kopěh |
| BOX 45 | Kosh-ø-o Ko-yøt-te No-tu-no-to Pal-low-yam-me Tā-dum-ne Tah-che Tal-linche Tin-lin-ne |
| BOX 46 | Wik-chum-ne Yow-lanch Yow-wel-man-ne Yokut vocabularies |
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| | Hevasupi Kammei Imperial Valley, Colorado |
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| BOX 54 | Nos. 548, 1910 Nos. 549, 1910 Nos. 574-583, 1917-1924 Nos. 584-627, 1917-1924 Nos. 608-615a, 1925-1934 |
| BOX 55 | Nos. 616-639, 1925-1934 Bibliography Comments by Merriam and others regarding his biography Early drafts to 1912 Second manifesto, 1872-1925 Third manifesto, 1873-1926 Ribbon copy, 1872-1930 |
| BOX 56 | Duplicate material, 1925-1927, of that prepared for binding by Library of Congress Scientific matters, 1884-1913 Scientific observations and comment on a paper by Merriam Mount Rainier proposed name change Merriam's role and statement, 1924 Concerned citizens' letters to Merriam and others, 1917-1929 Reprints of articles, 1889-1933 |
| BOX 57 | Subject file A Arizona and Grand Canyon Grand Canyon Colorado and District of Columbia |
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| | Edward L. Palmer, notes and personal letter |
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| BOX 69 | Pacific islands |
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| | Russia, mainly Siberia |
| | Serbia |
| | South America |
| | Antarctic |
| BOX 70 | Arctic |
| | (3 folders) |
| | Duplicated material in A. W. Greely collection |
| BOX 71 | Miscellaneous |
| | (2 folders) |
| | Duplicate material |
| BOX OV 1 | Maps detailing location of Indian tribes referred to in Indian vocabularies section (Container 37) <i>Available on microfilm shelf no. 19,605, Reel 9</i> |