

HISTORIES OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY LIBRARIES

AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES LIBRARY

In 1965 the Smithsonian Institution Libraries and specifically the Natural History Library took over the books and periodicals of the Division's collections, cataloguing them according to L.C. classification scheme, and barcoding them. Since then the Division of Amphibians and Reptiles has maintained the reprint collection and selected books (especially collections of papers). The majority of recent materials have been purchased by the Smithsonian Institution Libraries, with additional gifts by the curators.

Spencer Baird was an herpetologist and donated some of his materials (books and reprints) to the core of the collection. Leonard Stejneger, the curator of the Division of Amphibians and Reptiles from the 1890's to the early 1940's was a bibliophile, and a personal collector, who also bought and gave many volumes and reprints to the division. This pattern of giving was followed by Doris Cochran and James A. Peters, who had become curator in 1964. There was a rebirth for the collections in the 1960's, since there was money at that time to buy books.

In the mid-1970's curator George Zug, who arrived in 1969, created an extensive exchange collection using SHIS Smithsonian Herpetological Information Service publications (see link in Reptiles Home Page) for publishing both professional and amateur herpetological publications, which continues today.

FISHES LIBRARY

In the 1860's, most of the ichthyological works held by the SI Library were transferred uncataloged to the Division of Fishes because the central library lacked space. Leonard P. Schultz, Curator in Charge of Ichthyology from 1937-1968 kept the books in his office arranged by author. The Division maintained the uncatalogued books (with a card catalog) and arranged them alphabetically by main entry, usually author. Sometime around 1970, SIL offered to provide the Division with part-time library help if the Division would permit the books to be cataloged. The Division agreed with the provision that the main entry filing would be continued. In the early 90s, SIL persuaded the Division to re-order the collection by LC number, to be consistent with other divisional collections. The books and periodicals were housed separately.

Victor Springer, who came in 1961, has been the Division liaison with the SIL vertebrate zoology librarian since about 1965, mainly providing new book requests, passing judgment on new orders and discards involving duplicates or irrelevant literature, providing funding from Division sources for purchasing and binding books when SIL funds were not forthcoming, suggesting rearrangements in the library, and recommending books for transfer to the rare book library. His idea was to replace transferred rare materials with

photocopies that would be retained in the Fishes library, but eventually that practice was stopped.

Dr. Herbert R. Axelrod, owner of Tropical Fish Hobbyist, Inc. (T.F.H.), which published books on fishes, was actively involved with the Division from 1963-1995. He has been a significant supporter to the Fishes Library by donating to it a copy of every fish book he published. He also reprinted several out-of-print fish books, and donated them to the Division. The book and reprint collection has been increased substantially over the years by gifts from the Division's present and former curators, such as Ernie Lochner and R. H. Gibbs, and occasional gifts from other ichthyologists, particularly those who authored books and received assistance from the Division, for example Dr. Ray Birdsong.

BIRDS LIBRARY

The Richmond Memorial Library, located in the Division of Birds, established its library collection in 1881, with the volumes of Spencer Baird. The division's specimen collection became the center of systematic studies on North American birds, while the library concentrated on systematics worldwide. The collection has received two significant gifts. The Jonathan Dwight, Jr. ornithological library of 1808 was given by Mrs. Carl Tucker in 1969. A gift of 3,000 volumes from the estate of Alexander Wetmore, the sixth Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, was acquired in 1979.

Probably the most significant contribution to the library came from curator Charles W. Richmond, whose interest in avian nomenclature caused him to obtain many old and rare classics in ornithology containing original descriptions of new species. The library has been in the same location ever since the Bird Division moved into the east wing. Prior to that it was in the main part of the building, and after being housed in the Castle.

See also: Churgin, Sylvia and Ruth Schallert. "History of the Smithsonian Institution Libraries, with special emphasis on the natural history." *J. Soc. Biblio. Nat. Hist.* (1980) 9 (4):601 (Birds, the Richmond Memorial Library).

MAMMALS LIBRARY

From the 1940's to 1950's the Division of Mammals was on the ground floor of the Natural History building (in the same area where the Main Library of Natural History is presently.) Mammals offices were a bank of square high-ceilinged rooms where double decks held the specimen cabinets and books, requiring a ladder to reach the higher shelves. They faced the West Court's scenic view of flowers, canoes, totem poles, and benches, with kestrels and mockingbirds flying around. In the later 1950's the Mammals Division moved to the west wing (6th floor) then to 3rd floor, main in the mid 1960's. The Mammal's Library was first in Rm 390-392 (now the Mammal Office) and moved to Rm 398 around 1978. The library continued the ground floor tradition of having the book shelves around the walls, with some free-standing stacks. Books were arranged by subject, then by author.

In 1965 the Smithsonian Institution Libraries, catalogued the books and periodicals according to L.C. classification scheme, and barcoded them. Most rare materials were housed in a locked cabinet until many of them were removed to the Dibner Library in 1980. A caged area was then created under the advice of Al Gardner, which housed some rare books, museum catalogs, divisional field notes, and books of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

For at least 50 some years the reprints have been bound. Before that they were organized by author, all miscellaneous reprints being held in letter file boxes. The reprints remained with the Division. The map collection, originally in the library, became part of the division's collections. Two curators of Mammals, Gerrit Smith Miller Jr., c.1900-1940, and Remington Kellogg (later Director the Museum of Natural History) willed their personal libraries to the Mammals Library, the Birds Library, and the newly established Kellogg Library of Marine Mammals (opened in 1969-70) respectively. Clayton Ray, Curator Emeritus of Paleobiology, has also given books and many reprints.

ENTOMOLOGY LIBRARY

The Entomology collection, established in 1881, supports the taxonomic interests of both the Smithsonian Department of Entomology, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (Systematic Entomology Laboratory), and the Department of Defense (Walter Reed Biosystematics Unit) entomologists who are stationed at the Smithsonian. As the Smithsonian received large quantities of insect specimens from government-sponsored expeditions, it divided these among collaborators for study and arrangement. SIL has received gifts and bequests from both agencies. With in-depth resources in systematic and taxonomic entomology, The Entomology collection stresses orders of Hemiptera, Lepidoptera, Coleoptera, Hymenoptera, and Diptera within Insecta.

INVERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY LIBRARY

The library collections of the Department of Invertebrate Zoology have had a flexible existence coinciding with the many reorganizations of the Department which they serve. Their origin dates from 1881 when they were housed as separate collections in the Smithsonian's National Museum. The present-day Department of Invertebrate Zoology was originally established as the Department of Marine Invertebrates during the general reorganization of the U.S. National Museum in 1880. Except for mollusks and insects, all marine and aquatic invertebrates were included under its care and study.

In 1897 when the U.S. National Museum was again reorganized, Marine Invertebrates became a division within the Department of Biology. In 1914 the Division of Marine Invertebrates merged with the Division of Mollusks to form a more comprehensive Division of Marine Invertebrates. A few years later, at different times, the echinoderm and molluscan specimen collections were removed from the Division to form the Divisions of

Echinoderms and Mollusks. In 1947, with another reorganization, the Division of Marine Invertebrates was placed under the newly created Department of Zoology which later, in 1964, became three departments: Vertebrate Zoology, Entomology, and Invertebrate Zoology.

The division of Marine Invertebrates remained in the Department of Invertebrate Zoology until the Division was abolished in 1965 to become three new divisions: Crustacea, Echinoderms and Worms. These three in addition to the Mollusk Division formed the existing Department of Invertebrate Zoology.

Throughout these reorganizations of the Division of Marine Invertebrates, the library collections remained as a unified entity of the Division, as far as we can ascertain. With the newly created Divisions of Crustacea, Echinoderms and Worms, the corresponding books from the Division of Marine Invertebrates Library were separated out and newly formed collections developed into the Crustacea, Echinoderms, Worms and Copepods collections. The addition of the lower invertebrates and the mollusks library collections to this roster comprise our complete set of invertebrate zoology libraries. (Because the Mollusks library is of such substance and import to the SIL, it is treated separately below.) The personal libraries of two eminent carcinologists led to the establishment of two special collections in the Division of Crustacea: "The Mary J. Rathbun Memorial Library of Crustacean Literature" and the "C.B. Wilson Copepod Library" both primarily reprint collections. Also, the Frank Smith library of (largely) earthworm literature was maintained as a separate entity for some time, but it has since been integrated into the Worms Library. SIL does not have responsibility for either of these reprint collections.

MOLLUSK LIBRARY AND WILLIAM HEALEY DALL LIBRARY

The Division of Mollusks under the Department of Invertebrate Zoology got under way with the acquisition of large quantities of shells from exploring expeditions. Little interest in researching the specimens existed until the publishing of a report on the Mollusca collected on the U.S. Exploring Expedition (Wilkes, 1838-42). William Healey Dall, one of America's foremost malacologists, came to the Smithsonian under Baird's influence in 1865, continuing under the employ of the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey and later the Geological Survey. Dall contributed to the sectional library over 7,500 books of his own, many of them rare and finely illustrated volumes. The gift volumes deal with voyages and travels as well as mollusks. In 1990, a rare book collection was created from both the holdings extracted from a gift collection donated by Stillman S. Berry and the holdings from the general Mollusks collection, many of which came from William H. Dall's collection.

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