Guide to the Lorenzo Gordin Yates Papers, 1852-1906

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Note
Biological and Medical Sciences --Biological SciencesGeographical (By Place) --California
Guide to the Lorenzo Gordin Yates Papers, 1852-1906

Collection number: BANC MSS C-B 472

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Collection Summary

Collection Title: Lorenzo Gordin Yates Papers,
Date (inclusive): 1852-1906
Collection Number: BANC MSS C-B 472
Creator: Yates, Lorenzo Gordin, 1837-1909
Extent: Number of containers: 3 boxes, 1 carton, 1 oversize volume, 1 oversize folderLinear feet: 2.5
Repository: The Bancroft Library
Berkeley, California 94720-6000
Physical Location: For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.
Abstract: Letters written to him and by him; diary, 1871 and 1882; subject files with manuscripts of his writings, related notes and other material; catalogues of his shell and fossil collections; scrapbook of clippings and unmounted clippings of his articles. Relate primarily to his study of conchology, paleontology, mineralogy, flora, fauna, and other aspects of natural history and to his interest in the islands off the costs of Santa Barbara, California.
Languages Represented: English
Access
Collection is open for research.
Publication Rights
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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Lorenzo Gordin Yates papers, BANC MSS C-B 472, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.

Material Cataloged Separately
Photographs and drawings have been transferred to the Pictorial Collections.

Scope and Content
Yates’ papers were given to The Bancroft Library in 1952 and 1954 by Elizabeth Mason and Charles L. Camp with additions in 1964 from M. C. Richter. They consist of incoming and outgoing letters; a diary, 1871 and 1872; subject files containing manuscripts of his writings and related notes; catalogues of his shell and fossil collections; and clippings, relating to his many scientific interests. Photographs and drawings have been removed to the Library’s Pictorial Collections for separate indexing. The Key to Arrangement which follows describes the collection in greater detail.

Biography
Lorenzo Gordin Yates was born in England in 1837 and came to the United States when he was fourteen years old. He studied medicine and dentistry in the east and moved to Centerville, California, about 1864 where he continued his career as a dentist. He moved to Santa Barbara in 1882 and died there in 1909.
Interest from early childhood in collecting shells and fossils resulted in a lifelong study of numerous aspects of natural history. He became an expert on conchology, mineralogy, paleontology, North American Indians, flora, fauna, etc., and wrote and lectured extensively about these and related subjects, including the islands off the coast of Santa Barbara. In addition, he compiled valuable collections of ferns, shells, fossils, minerals, prehistoric relics, Indian artifacts, etc.
Yates was president of the Santa Barbara Society of Natural History, secretary of the Board of Horticultural Commissioners of Santa Barbara County, and president of the Santa Barbara Chapter of the Agassiz Association. He was a fellow of the Linnaean Society of London, an associate member of the Victoria Institute of London, and an honorary member of many other scientific organizations.

Box 1, folder 1-2
Notes by C. L. Camp re provenance of collection; biographical information on Yates

folder 3-4
Notes & plans for a museum [Santa Barbara?]; The Origin & Development of Museums (draft of article by Yates)

folder 5-41
Letters written to Yates.
Scope and Content Note
Arranged alphabetically. A list of important correspondents follows the Key to Arrangement.

folder 42-47a
Letters written by Yates, 1889-1902 & n.d.
Scope and Content Note
Mainly drafts re his collections & publications
See also Folder 55

folder 48
Letters relating to publication of "All Known Ferns."
Scope and Content Note

folder 49
Diary, 1871 & 1882. Account of journey from Centerville, Calif. to vicinity of San Benito, Calif. & return, collecting fossils, 1871. Account of journey from Santa Barbara, Calif. to Lompoc, Calif. & return, 1882

folder 50
MS of article by Yates: Knights, Templars & Masonry. Holograph
See subject files (Boxes 2-3) for MSS of other articles by Yates
folder 51 | **Miscellaneous Notes.**  
Scope and Content Note  
Lists & receipts for shells & fossils shipped to & by Yates, Notes on building a conservatory, etc.

folder 52-54 | **MSS of writings (not by Yates)**  
Costa Rican Earthquakes, by Juan F. Ferraz  
San Miguel Island, Calif. by C. D. Voy  
Santa Rosa Island, Calif. by C. D. Voy

folder 55 | **Letters written by Yates, 1874-1876**  
Scope and Content Note  

folder 56 | **Accounts**  
Scope and Content Note  

folder 57 | **"Etymological Lexicon"**  
Scope and Content Note  

Box 2 | **Subject Files**  
Scope and Content Note  
Primarily holograph and typescript manuscripts of articles written by Yates, with related drafts, notes and lithograph plates. Arranged as follows:

folder 75-76 | **Aboriginal art - California**  
folder 77-82 | **Anthropology**  
Scope and Content Note  
Aboriginal cooking, Indians. Mainly in California

folder 83-88 | **Artifacts**  
Scope and Content Note  
Re coins, charm stones, aboriginal shell money, etc. -mainly in California

folder 89-91 | **Folklore**  
Scope and Content Note  
Legends of California Indians

folder 92 | **Linguistics**  
Box 3,  
folder 93-101 | **Island Studies**  
Scope and Content Note  
Islands off the coast of Southern California

folder 102-115 | **Botany**  
Scope and Content Note  
Trees, shrubs, & plants including the bottle tree, ferns, orchids, manzanita, & yucca -mainly in California

folder 116 | **Natural history**
folder 117  
**Geology**  
Scope and Content Note  
Re lithographic limestone in California

folder 118-119  
**Shells**  
Scope and Content Note  
Helix in Southern California, land shells of Jamaica

folder 120-121  
**Worms**  
Catalogues of Yates' collections  
Scope and Content Note  
Shells, minerals, fossils, etc.

carton Carton,  
folded 122-123  
**Catalogues of Yates' collections**  
Scope and Content Note  
Shells, minerals, fossils, etc.

folder 123a  
**Tear sheets of articles by Yates**  
Newspaper clippings  
Scope and Content Note  
Some are articles by or about Yates. Re Indians, flora, fauna, minerals, etc. Unarranged.

oversize Oversize  
**Clippings of articles by or about Yates. Re shells, Indians, flora, fauna, etc.**

Scrapbook  
Diploma, D.D.S., Wisconsin Dental College, May 25, 1881

oversize Oversize  
folder  
Diploma, Santa Barbara County Agricultural Association, [for display of minerals], 9 Oct. 1886  
Certificate of corresponding membership, San Francisco Microscopical Society, 5 April 1872  
Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia  
2 letters, 1886-1890. Letter, 1886, written by G. W. Tryon.  
Barry, James Henry (1856-1927)  
See Letters relating to publication of “All Known Ferns” (Folder 48)  
Baum, Henry Mason, 1848-  
4 letters, 1901-1903. Written while Editor, Records of the Past. Mainly re Yates' manuscripts which were published in the magazine.  
Branner, John Casper, 1850-1922  
Letter, Oct. 3, 1892. Re placing Yates' geological collection on deposit at Stanford University.  
Britton, L. H.  
2 letters, 1903. Transmitting photographs of two Chilcat blankets.  
Britton, Nathaniel Lord, 1859-1934  
Brown, Edwin  
2 letters, 1852-1853  
Browne, G. L.  
2 letters, 1893. Written while Assistant Editor, The Californian. Re articles Yates wrote for the magazine.  
Bryan, William V.  
California Historical Society  
3 letters, 1887-1888. Written by William Carey Jones. Re Yates' paper, "Prehistoric California," which was read at a meeting.  
California. State Mining Bureau  
9 letters, 1889-1893. Written mainly by William Irelan. Letter, Aug. 16, 1890, transmits copy of Yates' letter to him. Most letters concern his articles which were published by the Bureau.  
Campbell, John H.
List of Correspondents

Letter, Mar. 9, 1891
Cattell, James McKeen, 1860-
Letter, June 5, 1902.
Clarke, William H.
Postcard, Oct. 3, 1882. Asking to be informed if he makes additional discoveries of fossil elephant teeth.
Comstock, Theodore Bryant, 1849-1915
5 letters, 1905. Re publication of Yates' article on pre-historic California in the Bulletin of The Southern California Academy of Sciences.
Cooper, James Graham, 1830-1902
Letter, Oct. 25, 1874
Coquillett, Daniel William, 1856-1911
Letter, May 5, 1893. Identifying sample of grape vine scales which Yates sent him.
Davidson, Anstruther, 1860-1932
4 letters, 1902-1905. Re Yates' articles on prehistoric California which were published by the Southern California Academy of Sciences.
Depue, J. E.
4 letters, 1900-1901. Letter, 1900, thanks Yates for sending a copy of his article on charm stones. Several letters transmit drawings of plummets.
Fairchild, Herman LeRoy, 1850-1943
2 letters, 1894. Written while Secretary, Geological Society of America.
Flint, Earl
Letter, Jan. 4, 1892. Mainly re shells.
Geological Society of America
See Fairchild, Herman LeRoy
Hyatt, Alpheus, 1838-1902
Postcard, Feb. 23, 1892. Requesting a copy of his paper on Pinna.
Ireland, William, Jr., 1842-
See California. State Mining Bureau
Jones, William Carey, 1854-1923
See California Historical Society
Keep, Josiah, 1849-1911
Letter, Aug. 12, 1899. Written while Professor of Natural Science, Mills College. Replying to his letter, Aug. 3, 1899, to Mrs. Mills re selling his collection to Mills College.
Layard, Edgar Leopold, 1824-1900
Letter, Nov. 29, 1890. Re their mutual interest in shells. Transmits letter from his son, re exchanging postage stamps with Yates.
Lewis, James
3 letters, 1876-1878. Mainly re his identification of shells.
Maiden, Joseph Henry, 1859-1925
Letter, Jan. 19, 1891. Re Yates' attempt to obtain pine tree seeds.
Moorehead, Warren King, 1866-1939
Letter, Feb. 5, 1900. Written for him by M.C. Hale.
Newcombe, Charles Frederic, 1851-
Letter, Nov. 6, 1893. Written while Honorary Secretary, Natural History Society of British Columbia.
Parish, Samuel Bonsall, 1838-1928
Postcard, Jan. 10, 1891. With this: reprints of several of his articles on plants.
Peet, Stephen Denison, 1830-1914
Letter, Feb. 26, 1898. Written while Editor, American Antiquarian.
Pike, Walter N.
Letter, Sept. 30, 1891. Asking for articles to publish in The Mayflower [magazine?].
Putnam, Frederic Ward, 1839-1915
Rust, Horatio Nelson, 1828-1906
Santa Barbara Natural History Society
   Postcard, n.d. Notifying Yates of his appointment as a member of the Society's
   section on conchology, archaeology, paleontology & mineralogy.
Santa Cruz Island Company
   Letter, July 31, 1889. Denying Yates permission to visit Santa Cruz Island.
Smith, James Perrin, 1864-1931
   Letter, Dec. 12, 1902. Re sending Yates copies of his publications.
Smithsonian Institution
   Letter, Apr. 22, 1899
Stearns, Robert Edwards Carter, 1827-1909
   See U.S. Geological Survey
Studer, Jacob Henry, 1840-1904
   Letter, Mar. 3, 1893. Written while President, Natural Science Association of
   America.
Taylor, William Alton, 1863-
   Letter, June 30, 1902. Written while Pomologist, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture. Re a
   mango tree he sent Yates & requesting samples of avocados grown by Yates.
Tryon, George Washington, 1838-1888
   See Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia
U.S. Geological Survey
   3 letters, 1890-1906. 2 letters written by R. E. C. Stearns.
Wesley (William) & Son