Inventory to the papers of Joseph R. Slevin at the California Academy of Sciences MSS.429

Slevin (Joseph R.) Papers

Finding aid prepared by Christina V. Fidler
California Academy of Sciences Archives
55 Music Concourse Drive
Golden Gate Park
San Francisco, CA, 94118
415-379-5484
library@calacademy.org
April 24, 2009

Note
Box list on web Bio on server at N:\library\ARCHIVES\1 Biography\Wynne biographies and N:\library\ARCHIVES\1 Biography\Biography - Text
Descriptive Summary

Title: Slevin (Joseph Richard) papers
Collection number: MSS.429
Repository: California Academy of Sciences, Special Collections
55 Music Concourse Drive
Golden Gate Park
San Francisco, CA 94118
Languages: Materials are in English.
Physical Description: 4.2 Cubic feet2 archives box, 6 legal archives boxes, 1 half-size archives box, 1 flat archives box, wrapped items
Date: 1881-1957
Abstract: The collection consists of papers and materials relating to Joseph R. Slevin’s life, primarily surrounding his research of the history of the Galapagos Islands. The collection includes manuscripts, correspondence and photographs. The collection also contains numerous research materials relating to Slevin’s work as the curator of the herpetology department at the California Academy of Sciences.
Language of materials: Materials are in English.
Location note: AR6/I/1-AR6/K/3 and PR6/B/5
Creator: Slevin, Joseph Richard, 1881-1957

1881 Born in San Francisco, September 13, 1881.
1904 Hired by the California Academy of Sciences in preparation for the Galapagos Islands Expedition.
1905 Sails for the Galapagos Islands onboard the schooner, Academy.
1906 Returns to San Francisco and helps to rebuild Academy after 1906 earthquake and fire. Becomes the assistant curator of the herpetology department.
1928 Becomes curator of the herpetology department.
1954 Elected Honorary Member by the California Academy of Sciences.
1956 Last bibliography of scientific publications is published.
1957 Dies in San Francisco on February 17th.

Biographical note
Joseph Richard Slevin was born in San Francisco on September 13, 1881. He attended St. Ignatius College, San Francisco and completed his studies in Humanities at St. Mary’s College in Kansas. His mother was an avid philatelist, one brother was an ornithologist, another brother was an entomologist, and his father, Thomas E. Slevin, was a member of the California Academy of Sciences as well as an amateur ornithologist.

Inevitably, after serving in the United States Navy and completing 20 voyages with the Oceanic Steamship Company, Joseph R. Slevin accepted a position at the California Academy of Sciences in 1904. At this time, the Academy was preparing for a Galapagos expedition and Slevin was found to be uniquely qualified for the trip. Prior to his departure, he was given extensive training by Dr. John Van Denburgh, curator of the Herpetology Department. On June 28, 1905, Slevin and the crew of the schooner, Academy, set sail for the Galapagos Islands.

While the expedition was taking place, most of the Academy’s collection was destroyed in the San Francisco 1906 earthquake. The expedition returned November 29, 1906, and its collection of the flora and fauna of the Galapagos served as the new building blocks for the Academy collection.

After the expedition, Slevin continued to work for the Academy as Dr. Van Denburgh’s assistant. Dr. Van Denburgh died in 1928 and Slevin assumed the curatorship for the herpetology department. In addition to his specialty in the Galapagos Islands, Slevin collected in Mexico, the Gulf of California, Australia, Guatemala, and elsewhere.

After 53 years of service to the California Academy of Sciences, Slevin died on February 15, 1957. At the time of his death, he had two books in manuscripts; a history of explorations in the Galapagos Islands, and a popular handbook of reptiles.


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Preferred citation
[Item], Joseph Richard Slevin papers, Special Collections, California Academy of Sciences Library, San Francisco, CA.

Related materials
The Smithsonian Institution holds the Schmitt/Slevin Correspondence collection.
Rollo Howard and Ida Menzies Beck papers, California Academy of Sciences Library, San Francisco, CA.
Francis Xavier Williams papers, California Academy of Sciences Library, San Francisco, CA.
Edward Winslow Gifford Galápagos expedition photographs, California Academy of Sciences Library, San Francisco, CA.
Alban Stewart papers, California Academy of Sciences Library, San Francisco, CA.
Galapagos Islands collection, California Academy of Sciences Library, San Francisco, CA.
Ornithology and Mammalogy Department field note collection, California Academy of Sciences Library, San Francisco, CA.

Scope and content
The collection consists of papers and materials relating to Joseph R. Slevin’s life, primarily surrounding his research of the history of the Galapagos Islands. The collection includes manuscripts, correspondence and photographs. The collection also contains numerous research materials relating to Slevin’s work as the curator of the herpetology department at the California Academy of Sciences.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Academy (Schooner).
California Academy of Sciences. Dept. of Herpetology.
Photographs
Field notes
Galapagos Islands.
Cowan, John S., Lt.
Cowley, William, Ambrosia
Davis, Edward, fl. 1683-1702
Hancock, Allan, 1875-
Leviton, Alan E.
Lindsay, George E., (George Edmund), 1916-
California Academy of Sciences--Curators
California Academy of Sciences--History
California Academy of Sciences--Scientists
Herpetologists
Herpetology
Natural history museum curators
Scientific expeditions--Galapagos Islands.

Series 1: Biographical and personal materials

Mixed materials 1, Folder 2
Mixed materials 1, Folder 3
Mixed materials 1, Folder 4
Mixed materials 1, Folder 5

Obituaries of Joseph R. Slevin 1957
In Memoriam - Thomas Edwards Slevin, The Magnetic Pole, Geographical Society of the Pacific: Constitution
Photographs, Herpetologists League certificate, newspaper clippings, obituaries

CAS Constitution and By-laws 1915 and 1925

Inventory to the papers of Joseph R. Slevin at the California Academy of Sciences ...
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mixed materials 1, Object 4, Mixed materials 1, Object 5, Mixed materials 1, Object 6, Mixed materials 1, Object 7, Mixed materials 1, Object 1, Mixed materials 1, Object 2, Mixed materials 1, Object 3, Mixed materials 1, Object 8</th>
<th><strong>Passports 1855-1952</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mixed materials 1, Object 10, Mixed materials 1, Object 11</td>
<td><strong>Slevin's CAS membership cards</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mixed materials 1, Object 13, Mixed materials 1, Object 14</td>
<td><strong>Vaccination cards</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mixed materials 3, Object 1</td>
<td><strong>Slevin's journal containing research notes</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Mixed materials 6, Folder 3, Mixed materials 8, Object 1, Mixed materials 1 | **Miscellaneous personal documents including maps, passport instructions, and various publications undated**
|  | **Scrapbook of newspaper clippings** |
|  | **Framed portraits of relatives and ancestors** |
|  | **Series 2: Correspondence** |
| Mixed materials 1, Folder 7 | **Al Leviton replies to correspondence addressed to Slevin after Slevin's death**
| creator: Leviton, Alan E. |  |
| Mixed materials 3, Folder 3, Mixed materials 3, Folder 4, Mixed materials 3, Folder 5, Mixed materials 3, Folder 8, Mixed materials 3, Folder 9, Mixed materials 3, Folder 10, Mixed materials 3, Folder 11 | **Correspondence regarding the search for Cowan's grave, St. James Island, and other Galapagos research**
|  | **Correspondence - Request for information on the grave of Lt. Cowan**
|  | **Photos of the Officers of the Hassler, letter by J. Henry Blake, and map tracing route of the Heller**
|  | **Correspondence regarding search for ships to the Galapagos 1940's**
|  | **Correspondence regarding search for ships to the Galapagos 1950's**
|  | **Correspondence and research into the "Beagle" and other captains and vessels**
|  | **Correspondence - Search for information on Fray Tomas de Berlanga** |
|  | **Series 3: Manuscripts and publications (non Galapagos)** |
| Mixed materials 1, Folder 1, Mixed materials 2, Folder 3, Mixed materials 2, Folder 4 | **Manuscript, "Las Islas Encantadas"** |
|  | **Manuscript, "Extracts From a Report of the Sea" (in Slevin's History)** |
|  | **Mounted photos taken in Bogurte, Panama** |

**Inventory to the papers of Joseph R. Slevin at the California Academy of Sciences ...**
### Series 3: Manuscripts and publications (non Galapagos)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Manuscript of Handbook of California Reptiles 1950&lt;br&gt;Scope and Contents note&lt;br&gt;A. Leviton notation stating &quot;An un published Slevin manuscript&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Instructions of the Revillagigedo Islands Expedition of the California Academy of Sciences 1925&lt;br&gt;Assorted papers including manuscripts, correspondence and trip reports 1925</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Assorted manuscripts by Slevin undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Newspaper clippings and publications by Slevin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Manuscript of Slevin's &quot;The Academy in the Field&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Academy publications, correspondence and information regarding snakes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Graphic time table, Outing Bureau trip report, and publications regarding the Miwok tribe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Publications and works by Slevin and CAS Newsletters referencing Slevin</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Series 4: Galapagos papers and research

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>5x7 photographs of Hancock’s 1927 Galapagos Expedition onboard the Oaxaca 1927</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Galapagos photographs, assorted photographers 1905-1906</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>D.H. Bates letter and photographs of the Galapagos 1905-1906</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Assorted magazines and articles referencing the Galapagos Islands&lt;br&gt;Scope and content&lt;br&gt;Stamps Magazine article referencing Slevin, E.A. Agazziz's A Cruise Through the Galapagos for the Atlantic Monthly, and Uni's Nature with letter from Slevin.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Rear Admiral Francisco Benito Perera, &quot;Historia del Archipielago de Las Islas Galapagos&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Map of 1921 California Academy of Sciences Gulf of California expedition route</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Copy negatives made from Slevin Album&lt;br&gt;Scope and content&lt;br&gt;Created by Gamma Photo, June, 2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Slevin's Galapagos history notes, bibliography. Dimensions, services and log excerpts of the H.M.S. Beagle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Photos of Galapagos Islands, and Berlanga, Spain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Galapagos Research notes</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Photos of Galapagos charts and maps</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Galapagos histories and memoirs written by various authors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Manuscripts for The Galapagos Islands / A History of their Exploration</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
The Galapagos Islands / A History of their Exploration 1959

Galapagos histories and memoirs written by various authors

Research and manuscript for the "The Galapagos Islands / A History of Their Exploration" undated
Correspondence, research notes and bibliography for "The Galapagos / A History of Their Exploration" undated
Draft of "The Galapagos Islands / A History of Their Exploration" bibliography undated
Correspondence and research materials for "The Galapagos / A History of Their Exploration" undated
Various reference materials regarding the Galapagos Islands, bibliographic index cards and photographs.
Manuscripts and articles by Slevin
Photographs - Botanical negatives/photos and indications of landings carved in rock, Darwin and the Beagle
Photographs - Galapagos early landings and charts and graphs
Copy of the Captain's log of the Beagle
Portfolio of photographs from the Hancock expedition
20 pages of the diary of Fletus, of the USS ESSEX, and Slevin correspondence
Photographs from Hancock's expedition
Publications regarding the Galapagos Islands
Photograph album of mostly Galapagos photos and few Sierra photos
Photos and captions for "The Galapagos / A History of Their Exploration"
Photos and captions for "The Galapagos / A History of Their Exploration"
Photos of Lieutenant Gamble and Galapagos maps
Two woodcuts from Slevin
Drawing of Columbine ship sails
Navigation log of Frigate Eugenie
Photo of the Corvette Decres of the French Navy
Copies of Ambrose Cowley's drawings and maps of Galapagos Islands from 1684
Copies of Ambrose Cowley's diary pages from 1684 Galapagos expedition
Copies of Edward Davies's diary from 1684 Galapagos expedition
Charts by G.W.P. Edwardes from H.M.S. Daphne Galapagos expedition.
Copies of early maps of South America and Galapagos Islands
Copies of H.M.S. Brisk plans
Narborough Island map and negative photostat prints
1905-1906 Galapagos Islands expedition field notes. 1905-1906
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mixed materials</th>
<th>1905-1906 Galapagos expedition collection catalog and 1909 Klamath Falls collection catalog. 1905-1909</th>
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**Series 5: Miscellaneous papers, magazine clippings, and notes**

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<tr>
<th>Mixed materials 1, Object 9</th>
<th>3x5 cataloging cards</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mixed materials 1, Object 12</td>
<td>Miscellaneous notes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mixed materials 6, Folder 5</td>
<td>Newspaper clippings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed materials 6, Folder 7</td>
<td>Glassware price lists, photographs and other miscellaneous documents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed materials 8, Folder 4</td>
<td>Envelope of newspaper clippings and photos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed materials 8, Folder 5</td>
<td>Film of eclipse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed materials 8, Folder 7</td>
<td>Newspaper clippings, photographs, and correspondence</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>