Guide to the Frank P. Brackett Collection

Finding aid created by Russell Michalak
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Descriptive Summary

Title: Frank P. Brackett Collection
Creator: Brackett, Frank P.
Dates: 1887-1953
Quantity: 7 feet (14 boxes)
Repository: Libraries of the Claremont Colleges. Special Collections, Honnold/Mudd Library.

Abstract: The Frank P. Brackett collection include his manuscript for Granite and Sagebrush and the History of Pomona Valley; documents about the Belgium Relief Fund; his students' papers, tests, and homework with the syllabi for the classes he taught at Pomona College; pamphlets written by and about Professor Brackett and the Brackett observatory; meteorological, weather, and sun observations recorded for the U.S. Weather Bureau at the Brackett Observatory on the Pomona College campus; maps; and catalogs for astronomical equipment; 52 wood blocks used for an article about astronomy observations.

Collection Number: h2008.3
Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English
Physical location: Special Collections. Honnold/Mudd Library.

Restrictions on Access
This collection is open for research.

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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Frank P. Brackett Collection. Special Collections, Honnold/Mudd Library, Claremont University Consortium.

Acquisition Information

Processing Information
Arranged and processed by Russell Michalak

Accruals
No additions to the collection are anticipated.

Separated Material
For more information on Frank P. Brackett please refer to the Frank P. Brackett Papers, h073.

Biography of Frank P. Brackett
Dr. Brackett graduated from Dartmouth College in 1887. After he graduated he moved to California. He taught astronomy, mathematics, and Latin at Pomona College from 1892 to 1932. In 1912, he took a sabbatical. He travelled to Algeria to conduct experiments. During World War I, he took another leave of absence from teaching, to participate in the Belgium Relief Fund (also known as the Commission for Belgian Relief. Also, at that time, he worked closely with Captain A. W. Stevens in Los Angeles on the Selective Service during World War I. Brackett joined the R.O.T.C. at Angel Island, in the San Francisco harbor, during the 1920s. From 1892 to 1932 Dr. Brackett, his colleagues and his students, as well as members of the community observed climatic, meteorological, and solar observations at the Brackett Observatory on the Pomona College campus for the United States Department of Agriculture and later the Department of Commerce, Weather Bureau.

Scope and Contents of the Collection
This collection includes astronomy equipment catalogs; student homework assignments, tests, and syllabi for a couple of courses from 1926 to 1932 and professional publications; government documents from the U.S. Weather Bureau from 1892 to 1949; scientific observations of the Leonid meteor, Perseid meteor, and sun spot observations; 52 wood blocks used for an article; a manuscript about the Brackett Observatory; maps of ranches in Los Angeles County California and celestial maps; catalogs from astronomy equipment companies; selective service documents from World War I; correspondence
between Captain A. W. Stevens and himself; a biographical history of early pioneers of the Claremont area; lecture and class notes; and World War I documents.

**Arrangement**

Series 1 Astronomy Equipment Catalogs  
Series 2 Pomona College  
Subseries 2.1 Astronomy students' homework  
Subseries 2.2 Astronomy curriculum  
Series 3 Meteor and Solar observations  
Subseries 3.1 Leonid and Perseid observations  
Subseries 3.2 Solar observations  
Series 4 Government documents  
Subseries 4.1 Los Angeles Flood Control,  
Subseries 4.2 U.S. Agricultural Department, Weather Bureau, Meteorological record, 1893-1945  
Series 5 Copper and lead printing blocks  
Series 6 Photographs  
Series 7 Correspondence  
Series 8 Walter T. Whitney

**Index Terms**
This record series is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms  
Brackett, Frank Parkhurst, b. 1865-1951  
Watson, Fletcher G. (Fletcher Guard)  
Whitney, Walter T.  
Pomona College (Claremont, Calif.)  
Astronomy  
Claremont, California. Climatological publications. Solar energy series  
United States Department of Agriculture. Weather Bureau. (Los Angeles, Calif.)  
Brackett Observatory (Pomona College, Calif.)  
Mount Wilson and Palomar Observatories.  
astronomy catalogs

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**Series 1  Astronomy equipment catalogs, 1900-1950**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1, folder 1</th>
<th>American Askania Corporation -- Astronomical instruments, Undated</th>
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<tr>
<td>Box 1, folder 2</td>
<td>Baker chemicals, June 1932</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, folder 3</td>
<td>Bausch and Lomb, 1930-1933 and Undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scope and Content Note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>This folder contains catalogs for lenses of optical instruments.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1, folder 3</th>
<th>Balopticons Microscopes for Educational Institutions, 1931</th>
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<tr>
<td>Box 1, folder 3</td>
<td>Balopticons and Accessories, Undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, folder 3</td>
<td>Catalog of Colorimetric Apparatus, 1932</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, folder 3</td>
<td>Lenses, Prism, Mirrors Catalog D-10, Undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, folder 3</td>
<td>Lenses, Prisms, Mirrors Catalog D-10 : an Instruction Dedicated to the Service of Science, Undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, folder 3</td>
<td>Catalog of Lenses, Prisms, and Reflections, Undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, folder 3</td>
<td>Lenses for the Commercial Photographer, Undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 1, folder 3</td>
<td>Motion Pictures of Micro-Organisms, 1930</td>
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<td>Box 1, folder 3</td>
<td>Optical Instruments for Examining and Analysising Metals, 1931</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, folder 3</td>
<td>Photomicrographic Equipment and Accessories, 1931</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 1, folder 3</td>
<td>Price List of Bausch and Lomb Photographic Lenses and Accessories, December 1, 1931</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 1, folder 3</td>
<td>Spectrographic Equipment Catalog D-20, Undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, folder 3</td>
<td>Suggestions for Classroom Projection: Combination Balopticon, Undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 1, folder 4</td>
<td>Bell and Howell Speed Panchro and Panchro Lenses, September 14, 1933</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, folder 4</td>
<td>Letter to the Brackett Observatory from Bell and Howell Company, September 14, 1933</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, folder 1</td>
<td>Friez and Sons Inc., 1935-1936</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scope and Content Note</td>
<td>This folder contains bulletins advertising Friez Recorders for humidity, temperature and operation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, folder 6</td>
<td>Gaertner Scientific Corporation Chronographs and Accessories: Catalog B, 1930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, folder 6</td>
<td>Gaertner Scientific Corporation Chronographs and Time Standards: Catalog B2, 1940</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 1, folder 6</td>
<td>Gaertner Scientific Corporation Interferometers and Interference Apparatus: Catalog 1, Undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 1, folder 6</td>
<td>Gaertner Scientific Corporation Instruments of Precision: Catalog M-130, Undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, folder 6</td>
<td>Gaertner Scientific Corporation Physical Apparatus for Elementary Laboratory and Demonstration Work Design for Use with the Millikan, Gale and bishop Courses, 1923</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 1, folder 6</td>
<td>Gaertner Scientific Corporation Studentia Calorimeters and Accessories: Catalog C1, 1927</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, folder 7</td>
<td>Jules Richard, 1929-1931</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scope and Content Note</td>
<td>This folder contains a catalog advertising astronomy equipment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, folder 8</td>
<td>Keuffel and Esser Company, 1927</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scope and Content Note</td>
<td>This folder contains a catalog advertising slides and calculating tools.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, folder 9</td>
<td>Leitz, Inc., 1925</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scope and Content Note</td>
<td>This folder contains a catalog advertising microscopes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, folder 10</td>
<td>Monroe Calculating Machines, 1933</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scope and Content Note</td>
<td>This folder contains a price-lists for different models of calculating machines.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, folder 11</td>
<td>Multiplex Display Fixture Company, Undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scope and Content Note</td>
<td>This folder contains a pamphlet for lantern slide cabinet.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, folder 12</td>
<td>N. V. Instrumentfabriek, 1933</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scope and Content Note</td>
<td>N. V. Instrumentfabriek en-handel produced balancing machines. In this folder there are pamphlets and price lists for various products manufactured by this Dutch company.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, folder 13</td>
<td>Paulin System, Inc., Educational Division, 1929</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scope and Content Note</td>
<td>Paulin System, Inc., Educational Division, published pamphlets about barometers and altimeters for flight test procedure as well as the barometer and altimeter’s origination.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, folder 13</td>
<td>&quot;Origin and Development of the Barometer and Altimeter, 1929</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, folder 13</td>
<td>Paulin System Record of Altimeter observations, 1929</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, folder 13</td>
<td>&quot;Flight Test Procedure using the Paulin Altimeters and Barometers&quot; -- Raymond H. Kelly, 1929</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Box 1, folder 13  "Preliminary Survey Procedure" -- Raymond A. Hill, 1929
Box 1, folder 14  Pioneer Instruments and Equipment, 1930
Box 1, folder 15  Pioneer Instruments and Equipment catalogs and price lists, 1930
Box 1, Folder 16  Standard Electric Time Systems, Undated
Box 1, folder 17  Universal Clock and Globe Corporation, 1930
Box 1, folder 18  Vitreosil, 1930
Box 2, folder 18  Walter Cloos, 1930

Scope and Content Note
Walter Cloos, a German Company, sells astronomical precision clocks.

Box 2, folder 19  H. Wetzer, Undated
Scope and Content Note
This folder contains a catalog and price list for the Chronographen.

Box 2, folder 19  Letter to Brachett [Brackett] Observatory, Claremont, California from H. Wetzer,
September 15, 1926
Note
Signed by H. Wetzer.

Box 2, folder 20  Zeiss Ikon Camera, 1932
Scope and Content Note
This folder contains an instruction manual for a Kontax camera and price list catalogs for
camera lens filters made by Zeiss Ikon.

Box 2, folder 21  American companies, Undated
Box 2, folder 22  European Companies, 1929-1932
Series 2  Pomona College, 1916-1953

Subseries 2.1  Astronomy students' homework, 1916-1953
Box 3, Folder 1  Angell, Sarah, Astronomy notebook, 1952
Box 3, Folder 2  Arbuckle, David, Experiments, 1950
Box 3, Folder 3  Baldwin, Prudence, Astronomy experiments reports, 1950
Box 3, Folder 4  Balkam, Gilbert, Astronomy experiments, 1953
Box 3, Folder 5  Benson, Mal, Study of solar activity, 1926-1927
Box 3, Folder 6  Bostick, Hoyt, Solar radiation, 1952
Box 3, Folder 7  Brooks, Robert, Outer planet orbits, 1953
Box 3, Folder 8  Cobb, Wilson, Astronomy notebook, 1916
Conditions of Use
Fragile.

Box 3, Folder 9  Dolena, Nadya, Astronomy experiments, 1952
Box 3, Folder 10  Fernandez, Reuel, Sunspots, Undated
Box 3, Folder 11  Foogart, Beverly, Astronomy experiments, 1953
Box 3, Folder 12  Gardiner, Alice, Astronomy experiments, 1934
Box 3, Folder 13  Glass, Laurie, Astronomy experiments, 1952
Box 3, Folder 14  Jackson, Jean, Project Vesta -- Claremont Graduate School, Undated
Box 3, Folder 15  Kimball, Curtis, Photography of the Moon, 1935-1936
Box 3, Folder 16  Lanon, Frank, Astronomy experiments, 1953
Box 3, Folder 17  Morris, Dana, Astronomy experiments, 1953
Box 4, Folder 18  Norton, Helen Frances, Astronomy laboratory experiments and Record of class
procedure, 1926-1931
Box 3, Folder 19  Palmer, Kay, Astronomy notebook with clippings about Griffith Park Observatory,
1952-1953
Box 3, Folder 20  Peck, Doretta, Moon pictures experiment, 1942
Box 4, Folder 21  Pettit, Helen, Notebook, Undated
Box 3, Folder 22  Pettit, Marjorie, Occultations, 1952
Box 3, Folder 23  Putnam, Murray, Position and intensity of spectral lines on plates supplied by the Mount Wilson Observatory, 1927
Box 3, Folder 24  Raboff, Paul, Astronomy experiments, 1953
Box 3, Folder 25  Richmond, Mike, Astronomy experiments, 1953
Box 3, Folder 26  Ringer, Margaret, Astronomy B100 notebook, 1930
Box 3, Folder 27  Rohrer, Michael, Qualifying examination for candidacy for the master of arts degree and notes covering selected readings in Astronomy sourcebook, 1949-1950
Box 3, Folder 28  Small, Patricia, Our galaxy, 1952-1953
Box 4, Folder 29  Smith, Don, Astronomy experiments, 1953
Box 4, Folder 30  Smith, Dorothy, Calculating the preliminary orbit of a comet, 1938
Box 4, Folder 31  Sperry, Robert, Astony experiments, 1952
Box 4, Folder 32  Stone, Doris, Astronomy papers, 1950-1951
Box 4, Folder 33  Thompson, Patrick, Astronomy experiments, 1952
Box 4, Folder 34  Thorndike, Alden, Astronomy experiments, 1952
Box 4, Folder 35  Tinkley, Allen, Astronomy experiments, 1952
Box 4, Folder 36  Utter, Merwyn, Ozone program in the visible spectrum, 1952
Box 4, Folder 37  Van Osdel, Astronomy experiments, 1953
Box 4, Folder 38  Wager, Robert, Astronomy notebook, 1952-1953
Box 4, Folder 39  Watson, Fletcher, Computation of the Height of a MEteor Path From Photographic Observations, May 22, 1933

Note
Fletcher Watson's distinction paper was approved by Pomona College Professor Walter T. Whitney. Fletcher Watson's papers are located in Harvard's archives.

Box 5, Folder 40  Wehr, Robert, Astronomy Experiment B, 1953
Box 5, Folder 41  Weston, Edwin, Discussion of sun templates, 1953
Box 5, Folder 42  Whitney, James, Moon terminator project, 1950
Box 5, Folder 43  Wilhite, Margie, Astronomy notebook, Undated
Box 5, Folder 44  Williams, Ann, Circumpolar photograph, 1953
Box 5, Folder 45  Astronomy notebook, 1926
Box 5, Folder 46  Cloud photographs, Undated
Box 5, Folder 47  Palomar Mountain and Mount Wilson, Undated

Subseries 2.2 Astronomy curriculum, 1922-1950

Box 6, Folder 1  Frank Brackett's Gradebooks 1-4, 1930-1950
Box 6, Folder 2  Astronomy Course B100, Undated
Box 6, Folder 3  Astronomy Exercises 1-12, 1930-1950

Exercise number one : Circumpolar constellations and diurnal motion, 1930-1950
Exercise number two : Cygnus and Lyra estimation of coordinates and arcs, 1930-1950
Exercise number three : Jupiter, 1930-1950
Exercise number four : Persus and Algol and circumpolar region, 1930-1950
Exercise number five : First observation of the moon, 1930-1950
Exercise number six : Andromeda, Pegasus and Pisces, 1930-1950
Exercise number seven : Taurus and Auriga, 1930-1950
Exercise number eight : Orion, 1930-1950
Exercise number nine : the Planet Venus, 1930-1950
Exercise number nine : Gemini and neighboring constellations, 1930-1950
Exercise number nine : Venus and constellations in its vicinity, 1930-1950
Exercise number ten : Leo, Hydra and Neptune, 1930-1950
Exercise number ten : Neptune and surrounding constellations, 1930-1950
Exercise number eleven : Saturn and the constellations bootes, Virgo and Libra, 1930-1950
Exercise number twelve : Mars, 1930-1950

Astronomy Exercises A-D 1930-1950
Exercise number A : Use of the celestial globe, 1930-1950
Exercise number B : Comparative study of charts and atlases, 1930-1950
Exercise number C : Planetary orbits, 1930-1950
Exercise number D : Star catalogs, 1930-1950

Chemistry 5, Discussion of the course, its contents and prerequisites, 1929
Research, 1922 and Undated
Research : Calendars, Undated

Series 3 Meteor and Solar observations, 1898-1949

Subseries 3.1 Leonid and Perseid observations, 1898-1949

Description of individual meteors in Southern California, 1898-1901
Observations of Leonid meteor by voluntary observers, 1930-1933
Correspondence to Brackett about Leonid observations, 1932
College Urges Meteor Count, Los Angeles Times, November 13, 1932
Note
The Leonid meteor is seen every 24th day of November, according to the Gregorian calendar.

Solo observations of the Leonid Meteor, 1932
Observations of Leonid meteor by solo observers in Southern California, 1933-1936
Observations of Leonid meteor at the Frank P. Brackett Observatory, 1937-1949
Leonid meteor charts and graphs at the Frank P. Brackett Observatory, 1930-1949 and Undated
Perseids Meteor charts and graphs at the Frank P. Brackett Observatory, 1934-1935 and Undated
Leonids at Claremont, 1898-1901
Note
This article was printed by the Astronomy Society of Pomona College.

Photographs of meteorites, 1926, 1939, 1941, and Undated

Subseries 3.2 Solar observations, 1926-1953
Scope and Content Note
Students and faculty observed the sun and meteors from 1926 to 1953 at Brackett observatory on the Pomona College campus.

Solar observations -- the Second Half, 1926-1927
Solar observations -- the 1927 Half, 1926-1927
Solar observations -- the 1927 Half, 1927-1928
Solar observations -- the 1928 Half, 1927-1928
Solar observations, September-October 1928
Solar observations, November 1928
Solar observations, December 1928
Solar observations, January 1929
Solar observations, February 1929,
Solar observations, March 1929,
Solar observations, April 1929
Solar observations, May 1929
Solar observations -- The 1929 Half, 1929-1930
Series 3 Meteor and Solar observations, 1898-1949
Subseries 3.2 Solar observations, 1926-1953

Scope and Content Note
Prior to the 1950s observers of the sun used charts, after 1950 photographs of the moon are included with the report.

Note
Solar observations taken in 1952 are missing.

Series 4 Government documents, 1892-1950

Subseries 4.1 Los Angeles County Flood Control District, 1892-1933
Note
These observations were conducted at the Claremont Station no. 92, at Pomona College, Claremont, California, at the Frank P. Brackett Observatory.

Subseries 4.2 U.S. Agriculture Department, Weather Bureau, Meteorological record, 1893-1919

Guide to the Frank P. Brackett Collection
Box 14, Folder 11  U. S. Department of Agriculture, Weather Bureau, Meteorological Record, 1903
Box 14, Folder 12  U. S. Department of Agriculture, Weather Bureau, Meteorological Record, 1904
Box 14, Folder 13  U. S. Department of Agriculture, Weather Bureau, Meteorological Record, 1905
Box 14, Folder 14  U. S. Department of Agriculture, Weather Bureau, Meteorological Record, 1906
Box 14, Folder 15  U. S. Department of Agriculture, Weather Bureau, Meteorological Record, 1907
Box 14, Folder 16  U. S. Department of Agriculture, Weather Bureau, Meteorological Record, 1908
Box 14, Folder 17  U. S. Department of Agriculture, Weather Bureau, Meteorological Record, 1909
Box 14, Folder 18  U. S. Department of Agriculture, Weather Bureau, Meteorological Record, 1910
Box 14, Folder 19  U. S. Department of Agriculture, Weather Bureau, Meteorological Record, 1911
Box 14, Folder 20  U. S. Department of Agriculture, Weather Bureau, Meteorological Record, 1912
Box 14, Folder 21  U. S. Department of Agriculture, Weather Bureau, Meteorological Record, 1913
Box 14, Folder 22  U. S. Department of Agriculture, Weather Bureau, Meteorological Record, 1914
Box 14, Folder 23  U. S. Department of Agriculture, Weather Bureau, Meteorological Record, 1915
Box 14, Folder 24  U. S. Department of Agriculture, Weather Bureau, Meteorological Record, 1916
Box 14, Folder 25  U. S. Department of Agriculture, Weather Bureau, Meteorological Record, 1917
Box 14, Folder 26  U. S. Department of Agriculture, Weather Bureau, Meteorological Record, 1918
Box 14, Folder 27  U. S. Department of Agriculture, Weather Bureau, Meteorological Record, 1919
Box 14, Folder 28  U. S. Department of Agriculture, Weather Bureau, Meteorological Record, 1920-1926
Box 14, Folder 29  U. S. Department of Agriculture, Weather Bureau, Meteorological Record, 1927-1933
Box 14, Folder 30  U. S. Department of Agriculture, Weather Bureau, Meteorological Record, 1933-1945

Box 15  Series 5 Copper and lead printing blocks, Undated

Box 16, Folder 1  Pomona College - Students, 1890
   Note
   One photograph is of George S. Sumner, the son of Charles Sumner who wrote The Story
   of Pomona College.

Box 16, Folder 2  Claremont, Pomona, and Vicinity - People, 1890
Box 16, Folder 3  Lucretia Burdick Brackett, 1890
Box 16, Folder 4  Ramon Vejar, Teresa Palomores the daughter, Undated
Box 16, Folder 5  Bates and Burdick Family photographs, Undated
Box 16, Folder 6  Barrows, Undated
Box 16, Folder 7  Brackett Family, Undated
Box 16, Folder 8  Brackett Family Photographs, Undated
   Note
   Two large folders and 3 small folders.

Box 16, Folder 9  Claremont, Pomona and Vicinity, Undated
   Note
   Two large folders.

Box 16, Folder 10  Filming of Darkness at Midnight, Undated
   Note
   Documentary photographs of the Filming of the eclipse.

Box 16, Folder 11  Pomona College, Undated
Box 16, Folder 12  7th Regiment Band, Pomona California, Undated
Box 16, Folder 13  Brackett family, Undated
   Note
   Loose Photographs in mylar sleeves.
### Series 7 Correspondence, 1868

- **Box 17, Folder 1**: Burdick family, 1868-1892
- **Box 17, Folder 2**: Brackett family, 1892-1930
- **Box 17, Folder 3**: Pomona College, Undated
- **Box 17, Folder 4**: Business Correspondence, Undated
- **Box 17, Folder 5**: Professional, 1901-1903

### Series 8 Walter T. Whitney, 1927-1951

- **Box 18, Folder 1**: Walter Whitney's notebook, 1951
- **Box 18, Folder 2**: Walter Whitney's notecards, 1941
- **Box 18, Folder 3**: Walter Whitney's papers, 1951
- **Box 18, Folder 4**: Publications, Undated