Guide to the Alvin Seale Diaries, 1901-1940

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Guide to the Alvin Seale Diaries, 1901-1940

Collection number: M0172

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Alvin Seale Diaries, 1901-1940

Date (inclusive): 1901-1940

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Extent: 2.5 linear ft.

Repository: Stanford University. Libraries. Dept. of Special Collections and University Archives.

Language: English.

Access Restrictions
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Scope and Content
A collection of volumes of the diary of Alvin Seale and his wife Jessie recorded from 1901 to 1940. In the diary there are accounts of various parts of the world (e.g. Philippines, Hawaii, Hong Kong, South Seas, Galapagos, Latin America, U.S.A.). Most of the information recorded has to do directly with the place being visited, the biological activity in the area, and Seale’s career as an Ichthyologist. There are extensive notes on fish and bird specimens, many informative pictures, and a great deal of vivid narrations of his travels.

Information related to Stanford University and D.S. Jordan is included. There are accounts of Seales appointment to a fisheries post in the Philippines, work for the Steinhart Aquarium, and the San Francisco Aquarium. Also included are miscellaneous items and photographs dating from 1892 to 1956. Letters to Seale are in this section as well.

Biographical Note
ALVIN SEALE, 1871-1967

A. B. Stanford: ’96

Ichthyologist, curator of fishes, Bishop Museum, Honolulu, 1901-4; assistant Smithsonian Institute and U.S. Bureau Fisheries, 1905; chief, Division of Fisheries; associate ichthyologist, museum comparative zoology, Harvard; Superintendent Steinhart Aquarium, Calif. Academy of Sciences, 1923-41. Emeritus Supt. since 1941. Participated in various expeditions to such places as Alaska, the South Pacific, New Zealand and Australia, Samoa, and the Far East. Author of Systematic Ichthyology, Ichthyology of the Pacific Islands, and Aquarium Building and Management.

Box 1, Folder 1. Diary 1901-1902. Fish and Bird specimens; archeology and anthropology sketches and maps; notes on birds; some plates, one dated 1914 or 1916, typed with MS corrections or variations.

Box 1, Folder 2.

Diary 1905-1915. Philippine Islands; Stanford University; Pickwick Club; Death of Mrs. Stanford; David Starr Jordan; Hawaii; Canada; New York and east coast; appointment to post in Philippines concerning fisheries; Anna Alexander’s Expedition to Alaska for Berkeley Museum; Big Game; Earthquake in San Francisco ’06; Stanford University; photographs of Philippine Islands, Hawaii.

Box 1, Folder 3.

In Distant Lands—picture album, 1911. By Alvin and Ethel Seale: pictures taken shortly after wedding; Pacific Grove; Indiana; pictures of western states; Hongkong; Haight’s saw mill; province of La Laguna.

Box 2, Folder 4.

Under Pine and Palm, 1911. Picture album: pictures of Alvin and Ethel Seale; the Anna Alexander expedition to Alaska 1906; Big Game; Indiana; Stanford University; Hawaiian Islands; Guam; Australia; Tahiti; Olive Rush.

Box 2, Folder 5.

Film Book. The Moro County, 1914, negatives identified, San Ramon Penal Colony—travel.

Box 2, Folder 6.

Diary 1929. Samoan Islands typescript—collecting fishes Steinhart Aquarium maps; photos; passenger list; Hawaii, New Royal Hawaiian Hotel; crossing the equator; Pago Pago. Cousin: Alfred Seale of Palo Alto; interesting summaries; bibliography; photo of Evermann; envelope in back containing 1916 passport; Many newspaper clippings.

Box 3, Folder 7.

Diary 1930, California. Photos of Alvin and Ethel Seale (1930) Diary (handwritten). Aquarium routing; cataloging library; I expect to leave these all to my alma mater Stanford University; Bob Prouty; Mariposa County; Dr. Herre; Crane Expedition; Swain Wilbur; Hoover; references to Stanford University and its people; Prohibition; recovery of Stanford Axe; New Zoo; postcards; David Starr Jordan; clip from Ripley’s Believe It or Not; A Seale is superintendent of the S.F. Aquarium; W. Cameron Forbes telegram.

Box 3, Folder 8.

Diary 1931. Notes along the way;

Physical Description: photos; postcards; programs; postcards; clips in envelope.

Box 3, Folder 9.

Diary 1931-2. G. Allen Hancock Expedition to Galapagos Islands; map; equator stamp; Diary typed list of members; photos; collecting species; Mexico; Panama; Canal Zone; Dr. Ritter; Cocos Is.; Nicaragua; lecture outline; radiogram news, etc.
Physical Description: clips.

Scope and Content Note

5/17/32. ALS W.C. Forbes from Barrel P.O. Bay Galapagos;

Box 3, Folder 10

Diary 1933. Trip to Salt Lake; Rough Log; Bum Town Sacramento; photos; William Beele; research on brine [UNK]; national affairs; wild flowers; Salt Lake; AAAS convention; Nevada; beginning of Bay Bridge;

Physical Description: clips.

Box 3, Folder 11

Diary 1934-8. Postcards; S.F. general strike; Reds; notes signed from J. Diviny, V.P. of Teamsters local 85; Crocker collection (fish); China Clipper, first airmail flight to Manila; motion picture of fish in color (1936) gift of and dedication Seale; South Sea library to Pacific Grove; clipping of Mr. Belloli.

Box 3, Folder 12

Diary 1938. Note to Jessie. world trip typed; Japan, Hong Kong; signs of war; Philippines; Manila; visits several aquariums; Singapore; Penany; Ceylon; Bombay; Suez; Cairo; Naples; Aquarium; Rome, Interlaken; Frankfort; Berlin; Amsterdam; Brussels; Paris; London; Brighton; War Averter New York; Indiana; Chicago 1916 passport signed H.L. Hershey; map of cruise.

Box 4, Folder 13

Diary 1940. Air trip U.S. to Mexico; itinerary for air trip June 1; engagements; costs; New York Aquarium; St. Augustine Marineland, Mexico; Approaching Retirement, postcards and photos; some from earlier dates, including S.U. prior to 1906; construction of chapel; professors Julius Seminole; Stanford and Palo Alto 1892, etc., construction of Steinhart Aquarium; South Seas and Hawaii; Eclipse Expedition 1930; Aquarium Society outings; Stanford Univ. portrait of Seale.

Box 4, Folder 14

Pacific Exploration and Voyages; hand copied maps; typed notes with ms corrections and additions re. earlier voyages.

Box 4, Folder 15

The Seale South Sea Library; lists 1292 vol. by author, publisher, date, and price.

Box 4, Folder 16

Mis. pieces:

a. 24 June 1892 commencement program of Fairmont Academy

b. 1930 pic. of Patterson Family

c. 1931 photo of Joseph Mailliard, Naturalist.

d. 1942 photo of Alvin Seale
e. 1942, 25 Nov. Jacqueline Perry to A. Seale

f. 1942, 30 Dec. W. C. Forbes to A. Seale

g. 1943, 3 Jan. Alice Eastwood to A. Seale

h. 1943, 6 Jan. A. M. Alexander to A. Seale

i. 1944, 4 Apr. Edwin Bryan to A. Seale

j. 1941, Mar. Page of Diary

k. 1948, Oct. 3 Pages of Diary

Folder 5, Folder 16

l. 1948, Nov. Pages of Diaries

m. 1952, Apr. 15 Lady-in-waiting of Queen Elizabeth II to A. Seale

Folder 5, Folder 17

Misc. Pieces:

a. 4 Feb. 1950 Alice Eastwood to A. Seale

b. 19 July 1952 Jose Montilla to Seale

c. 20 Nov. 1952 Allan Hancock to Seale


e. Page Pic. Diary from Mar. 15 to 24, 1953.


g. 29 June 1954 Allan Hancock to Seale.
h. 21 July 1954 M. F. Bettencourt.


j. 28 Nov. 1955 Wm. Dennis to Seale

k. 29 Dec. 1955 Robt. R. Harry to Seale

l. 23 Jan. 1956 W. Cameron Forbes to Seale

Folder 5, Folder 18

Misc. photos, undated letters, pic. of D. S. Jordan, and Jock (His dog), poem Galapagos by Edwin O. Palmer.