

Gettysburg College
Musselman
Library
special collections

Guide to MS-010:
Papers of the Linnaean Association



Gettysburg College, Musselman Library
Special Collections and College Archives

Melodie Foster
May 2000

MS-010: Papers of the Linnaean Association

Processed by Melodie Foster
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Size

11 boxes, 3.58 cubic feet

Dates

Inclusive: 1836-1881

Historical Note

The Linnaean Association was founded on June 8, 1844 to aid "the advancement of science in Pennsylvania College, by fostering among its members a spirit of investigation, and a love for the works of God." (Constitution 1844) During its first decade of existence, the Association collected and maintained a widely acclaimed specimen cabinet, arranged for and helped with the construction of Linnaean Hall (1845-1847), published four volumes of the *Literary Record and Journal of the Linnaean Association of Pennsylvania College* (1844-1848), created a small library, planted hundreds of trees and flowers, and constructed numerous paths across campus.

Membership was open to students of Pennsylvania College and the Theological Seminary. Men who were seen by the society as significantly advancing the cause of science were granted honorary membership. Unlike in the literary societies, honorary members played an active role in the Linnaean Association; the president was elected from among their ranks, and their work filled the pages of the *Literary Record and Journal*. Student members researched, wrote, and presented essays on scientific questions, and the association sponsored lecturers and commencement speakers. The association was highly active during its first decade of existence, but fell into inactivity in 1862. It was revived by the faculty in 1876, but was declared dead by the *College Monthly* in 1881.

Scope and Content Note

The Linnaean Association collection is varied in its makeup. **Series I** consists largely of the published versions of addresses given by association-sponsored speakers between 1844 and 1861. **Series II** contains a number of copies of the four volumes of the faculty publication *The Literary Record and Journal of the Linnaean Association of Pennsylvania College*, both bound and unbound. Volume III is in scarcest supply, and many editions are incomplete. **Series III** contains items from the Library of the Linnaean Association: scientific journals from the 1830s and 1840s and a bound collection of catalogues and scientific articles from various sources.

The bulk of the collection is contained in **Series IV**. Constitutions and minute books cover the entire period of the association's life, and the treasurer's account books have only a small gap. Also included are multiple catalogues of the specimen collection and a list of subscribers to the *Literary Record* and

Journal (the cost was one dollar per year). Correspondence spans the years 1844-1861, and relates primarily to the Record and Journal. A number of letters from honorary members and John G. Morris, the first president of the association, were bound into one volume.

An interesting part of the collection is the folder of 93 essays written by active members for presentation at weekly meetings. They are illustrative of the nature and focus of the Victorian science of which the association was a direct product.

Series Description

The collection is divided into four series. **Series I:** Pamphlets, **Series II:** *Literary Record and Journal*, **Series III:** Library, **Series IV:** Records and Papers.

Box List

Box 1

Series 1: Pamphlets

- 1-1 Addresses delivered before the society (unless noted, one copy of each is also located in the Pamphlet Collection (PC) and can be called up using MUSCAT)
- Haldeman, S.S., "Delivered on the occasion of laying the corner-stone of the Linnaean Hall," July 23, 1846
 - Patterson, Henry S., "The character and labors of Linnaeus," September 20, 1848, (2)
 - Smyser, Daniel M., "The study of natural history," September 19, 1849
 - Atlee, Washington L., "Physical education: The only solid foundation of moral and intellectual culture and development," September 19, 1851
 - Webster, A., "Education," April, 18, 1853
 - Biddle, John B., "Study of botany," September 16, 1857 (PC copy not found)
 - M'Conaughy, D., "Language: its origin, utility, power and mission," 1860 (not in MUSCAT or PC)
- 1-2 "A sketch of the Linnaean Association," by members H.W. Roth, A. Thompson, M.C. Horne, August 10, 1861 (52 copies)

Series 2: *Literary Record and Journal of the Linnaean Association of Pennsylvania College #9*

- 1-3 Volume I, pamphlets, no. 1-12, duplicates of no. 4, 7(2), 10(2), 12

Box 2

- 2-1 Volume II, pamphlets, no.1-12, with duplicates of no. 1, 3(3), 4, 5(3), 6(10)
- 2-2 Volume II, pamphlets, duplicates of no. 7(13), 8(16), 9(11), 10, 11, 12(2)
- 2-3 Volume III, pamphlets, no. 1, 2, 5, 8, 11, 12

Box 3

- 3-1 Volume IV, pamphlets, no. 1-9, 12, with duplicates of no. 4, 6(2), 7(3), 8
- 3-2 Volume I-II & III, bound

Box 4

- 4-1 Volume IV, bound

Series 3: Items from the Library of the Linnaean Association

- 4-2 Annales des Sciences Naturelles, September and November 1836; May, September (no cover), October 1837; January, February 1838; March 183? (no cover)
- 4-3 New York Medical and Philosophical Journal and Review, vol. 1:1
- 4-4 Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, vol. 2:6, November and December 1844

Box 5

- 5-1 Reports, see list of contents

Series 4: Records and Papers of the Linnaean Association

- 5-2 Constitution and by-laws 1844, 1851, includes member lists

Box 6

- 6-1 Minutes, June 8, 1844 - September 11, 1852
- 6-2 Minutes, November 13, 1852 - December 13, 1862
- 6-3 Constitution and Minutes, December 2, 1876 - June 11, 1881
- 6-4 Treasurers' Book, June 8, 1844-1858

Box 7

- 7-1 Treasurer's Account Book, 1877-1880
- 7-2 Catalogue of Minerals and Antiquities of the Cabinet of Penna. College, June 19, 1844-1852
- 7-3 The Property of the Linnaean Association, 1852-1863
- 7-4 Catalogue of Minerals Cabinet of Pennsylvania College, ca. 1875

Box 8

- 8-1 List of Subscribers to the Literary Record and Journal
- 8-2 Letter Book, 1844-1861, letters regarding honorary membership, donations to the cabinet, Record and Journal, a speaker for the laying of the cornerstone of Linnaean Hall, and other speaking engagements, see index. A number of letters are from John G. Morris of Baltimore (president 1844-1851)
- 8-3 Correspondence 1844-1845, regarding Record and Journal, resignation

- 8-4 Correspondence 1846, regarding subscriptions and contributions to the Record and Journal, the dedication of Linnaean Hall, donations to the cabinet
- 8-5 Correspondence 1847, regarding subscriptions to the Record and Journal, portrait printing (Dr. Krauth), Linnaean Hall dedication, donations to the cabinet
- 8-6 Correspondence 1848, regarding subscriptions to the Record and Journal

Box 9

- 9-1 Correspondence 1849-1851, regarding payment for use of Christ Church for anniversaries, the Record and Journal, resignations
- 9-2 Correspondence undated, regarding the Record and Journal,
- 9-3 Correspondence to Edward McPherson, class of 1848, regarding Phonography (shorthand)
- 9-4 papers removed from 1877 Account Book - meeting notes 1880-1881
- 9-5 papers and essays read before the association (93), see list of topics
- 9-6 miscellaneous papers - committee reports, subscription forms, accounts
- 9-7 miscellaneous illustrations - earthwork antiquities of Wisconsin

Box 10

- 23 bound volumes from various sources containing 9 copies of volume I, 9 copies of volume II (1 incomplete), 8 copies of volume III (4 incomplete), 8 copies of volume IV (1 incomplete)

Addendum 12/18/2019

Added to Box 1, Folder 1 a reprint:

Morris, J. G. "An Address Delivered Before the Linnaean Association of Pennsylvania College"

Related Collections

Pamphlet Collection:

- Stille, Alfred, "Humboldt's life and character," September 14, 1854
- Hepburn, Samuel, "Responsibilities of educated men to their country," 1854
- Jessup, William, "Address before the Linnaean Association," #9; September 19, 1860

Gettysburgiana:

- Kelley, W.D., "Characteristics of the age," September 18, 1850, D2001.G4047 1850

Contact Information

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