Department of Geology Field Notebooks and Catalogs, 1881-1953
Series 11/3/14/12
Boxes 1-5 (Including one dropfront box)

Abstract:

This collection contains field notebooks, cross section books, and catalogues of minerals, composed by professors, instructors, and students of the Geology Department between the years 1881 through 1953.

History

Geology at Northwestern University was first offered as a course in natural history in 1856. At that time the field of natural history included botany, zoology and mineralogy. Despite a limited knowledge of geology, Oliver Marcy accepted appointment as Northwestern's first professor of natural science in 1862. For the next thirty-seven years he taught all of the University's courses in natural history. In 1892 the professorship of natural history was changed to a professorship of geology. Geology was still a part of the Department of Natural History and involved the fields *dynamical geology, structural geology and geography,* and *historical geology.*

Oliver Marcy died in 1899 and Northwestern president Henry Wade Rogers choose geologist Ulysses Sherman Grant to succeed Marcy. Grant soon became chairman of the Department of Geology and Geography. He spent his summers in the field, traveling widely across the United States and Alaska, and filling his notebooks with drawings and descriptions of daily activities. Some of his notebooks are located in this collection. Until his death in 1932, Grant specialized on the regions of Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Alaska, searching for iron and copper-bearing ore, zinc and lead deposits, mineral resources, gas and oil.

Arthur L. Howland, Robert M. Garrels and David V. Harris, Oscar E. Gram and Howard W. Miller organized trips to explore the large chromite deposits in Montana during the late 1930s and early 1940s, areas of importance to industry and war manufacture.

At the same time William E. Powers mapped the general geology of Massachusetts with special consideration for road materials. Of economic as well as scientific importance was the investigation of gravel, clay and sand deposits of glacial origin in the valley of the Connecticut River. Notes and drawings of Powers trips are located in this collection. So are the field notebooks of John T. Stark, who went to Colorado in the summer of 1943 to examine an iron ore deposit to predict its extent and grade. Despite its relative inaccessibility – heights at Elk Mountain reach up to 13,000 feet - it was meant to be a possible supplement to the other domestic iron ore resources.

After World War II, efforts were made within the Department of Geology to develop mathematical geology. Mathematical techniques were applied to the exploitation of oil-bearing formations and other minerals and their accurate mapping and interpretation. The Department became a leader in research programs that were of special interest to the petroleum industry.

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Description of the Series

The Department of Geology Field Notebooks and Catalogs fill five boxes and span the dates from 1881 through 1953. The bulk of the materials within the series dates between 1916 and 1953. The collection is divided into two subseries, **field notebooks** and **catalogs of minerals and rocks**.

The field notebooks take the general form of diaries, with chronologically-arranged entries documenting geological expeditions and observations. The notebooks include brief narratives as well as measurements, tabulations, position descriptions, and hand-drawn illustrations of geological formations. Field notebooks are arranged alphabetically by surname of associated geologist. Where there are multiple volumes from a given geologist the notebooks are arranged thereafter in alphabetical order by name of location under study. A few notebooks, unattributed to any single geologist, complete the collection.

Catalogs of minerals and rocks identify specimens acquired for the Department of Geology's collection. The catalogs typically list specimens according to an identification number and type-of-rock classification. Sometimes the catalogs include information relating to the place and date of a specimen's acquisition and the name of the item's collector. Catalogs are arranged by physical format.

Cross Reference: See also provenance folders Ulysses Sherman Grant Papers, Oliver Marcy Papers, Arthur Howland Papers, and photograph files of the Geology Department.

Provenance: The Department of Geology Field Notebooks and Catalogs were transferred to the University Archives on May 11, 2004 (Accession #04-70).

Restrictions: None.

Processor: Yvonne Spura; March, 2009.

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Container List

Box	Folder	Title	Dates
		Field Notebooks and Cross Section Books	
1	1	Gram, Oscar E., South Park, Colorado	1935
	2	Grant, Ulysses S., Alaska, No. 1	1908
		Grant, Ulysses S., Alaska, No. 2	1908
	3	Grant, Ulysses S., Lake Superior	1916-1926
		Grant, Ulysses S., Lake Superior	1928-1930
	4	Harris, David V., South Park, Colorado	1933
		Harris, David V., South Park, Colorado	1934
	5	Howland, Arthur L., Beartooth Mountains, Montana	1931-1932
		Howland, Arthur L., Beartooth Mountains, Montana	1936
	6	Howland, Arthur L., Brazil	1957
		Howland, Arthur L., Calumet, Colorado	1937
	7	Howland, Arthur L., Calumet Stock Salida, Colorado	1937
		Howland, Arthur L., Lake Michigamme, Michigan	1930
	8	Howland, Arthur L., Lake Superior	1929
		Howland, Arthur L., Marquette, Michigan	1936
2	1	Howland, Arthur L., Manganese, Newfoundland	1938
		Howland, Arthur L., Snows Pond, Newfoundland	1938
	2	Howland, Arthur L., South Park, Colorado, No. 1	1934
		Howland, Arthur L., South Park, Colorado, No. 2	1934-1935
	3	Howland, Arthur L., Stillwater Complex, Montana	1953
		Howland, Arthur L., Upper Peninsula of Michigan	n.d.
	4	Miller, Howard W., Colorado, No. 1	1934-1935
	5	Russell, R. T., Calumet, Colorado	1937
	6	Stark, John T., Grand Canyon, Arizona	1932
		Stark, John T., Gunflint Lake, Minnesota	1920-1923

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Box	Folder	Title	Dates
2	7	Stark, John T., Kentland, Illinois	1950
		Stark, John T., Lake Superior	1936
	8	Stark, John T., Montello-Baraboo, Wisconsin	1947
		Stark, John T., Raiatea and Tahaa, French Polynesia	1939
	9	Stark, John T., South Park, Colorado, No. 1	1933-1934
		Stark, John T., South Park, Colorado, No. 2	1934
3	1	Stark, John T., South Park, Colorado, No. 2	1935
		Stark, John T., St. Francis Mountains (St. Francois Mountains), Missouri	n.d.
	2	Duluth, Minnesota	1949-1952
	3	Hanover, Montana	1937
	4	Vail, East Boulder, Colorado	1953
	5	Wichita Mountains, Oklahoma	1958
		Catalogs of Minerals and Rocks	
	6	Preliminary Catalogue of Minerals in the Department of Mineralogy Northwestern University	1906
4	1	A Systematic Catalogue of Minerals	1881
	2	Catalogue of the Museum of Northwestern University Rock Collection	1901-1932
	3	Catalogue	n.d.
	4	Catalogue	n.d.
	5	Catalogue	ca. 1854-1884
	6	Catalogue of Specimens Belonging to Jos. Hendley	n.d.
5		Catalog of Mineral Collection Northwestern University by H. M. Parks	1906