

Chicago Academy of Sciences / Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum
ARCHIVES – FINDING AID

Collection Title: C.W.G. Eifrig Papers

Creator: Eifrig, Charles William Gustav, Reverend (1871-1949)

Dates: 1903-1946, undated

Language: English

Extent: 2.5 Linear Feet (2.083 paper-based, specimen) (2 manuscript boxes, 1 photo print box (manuscript), 1 folder in oversize box, 1 flat storage specimen box)

Level of Description: Folder Level

Repository: Museum Collections and Archives, Chicago Academy of Sciences /Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, Chicago, Illinois.

Access Conditions: Open for research.

Ownership and Literary Rights: The C.W.G. Eifrig Papers are the physical property of the Chicago Academy of Sciences. Access is provided to materials in the collection for non-commercial educational and research purposes. Copyright may belong to the authors or their legal heirs or assigns. For permission to publish or reproduce any materials from this collection, contact the CAS/PNNM Collections Department.

Citation: Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [item], [folder], [box], C.W.G. Eifrig Papers, Chicago Academy of Sciences / Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum.

Acquisition Information: Accession 2001.2 (413-2001). Donation from William Eifrig, March 2001.

Processor and Date: Amber K. King, October 2010

Processing Note: The materials were found in various locations, so original order was not maintained. The photographic prints found within the photograph album had become loose from the pages to which they were originally glued, so these are not stored separately from the album with a notation as to where they were originally found within the album.

Biographical Sketch: Charles William Gustave Eifrig was born on September 23, 1871 in Döbeln, Sachsen, Germany. He emigrated to the United States with his family when he was seven years old. The

family settled in Freedom, Pennsylvania. In 1892 he graduated from Concordia College in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He continued his education at the Concordia Theological Seminary, graduating in 1895. In that same year, he married Maria Karolina Meyer, and then began his ministerial work as a Lutheran pastor in McKee's Rock, Pennsylvania. He stayed in there for four years and then moved to Cumberland, Maryland where he worked for another four years. From here, he continued his work in at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Ottawa, Canada, emigrating in 1903.

He began his teaching career in 1909, when he was appointed to the faculty of the then Addison Teachers' Seminary (later Concordia Teacher's College). He remained at Concordia until he retired in 1942 as a professor in biology and nature study. His love of nature extended beyond the classroom and started long before he officially started his teaching career. He wrote numerous articles, two published manuscripts, and two more unpublished manuscripts. He developed his own specimen collection, which was donated in its entirety to the Saint Mary of the Lake Seminary at Mundelein, Illinois at his death. Much of this collection was later transferred to the Chicago Academy of Sciences in 1969 in a gift from Father Schroeder.

He was also participated in various natural science organizations. He was an active member and contributor to the Wilson Ornithological Society from 1907 until his death in 1949. In addition, he was president of the Illinois Audubon Society from 1930-1941. He was also a member of the Kennicott Club, the American Society of Mammalogists, and the Chicago Ornithological Society.

Scope and Content Note: The majority of the materials in collection focus on the writings of C.W.G. Eifrig. Many of his published articles can be found in their handwritten and/or typescript form. There are even two unpublished manuscripts. One is a continuation of his published manuscript series, "Our Great Outdoors," focusing on birds. The other is entitled, "How Can They Do It? Glimpses in the Wonderful Life Activities of Plants and Animals." In addition are some letters and postcards as well as some printed materials, mostly relating to his writings and teachings.

Series Description:

Series 1: Correspondence (1932, 1934, undated)

This series includes cards, letters, and postcards sent to Eifrig. The letters all relate to his collecting efforts and include permits he obtained to further his efforts. The postcards are also related to his birding, requesting information on various bird species. The one card is in postcard format and carries Christmas wishes.

Series 2: Field Notes (1903-1929)

This series contains notes related to Eifrig's collecting trips or natural science observations. Two of the lists refer to a specific collecting trip made from 1903-1904, as part of the Low Expedition to Hudson's Bay and detail the mammal and bird specimens collected. The rest of the lists are related specifically to bird observations.

Series 3: Printed Materials (1917-1945, undated)

This series contains printed materials that are not related to Eifrig's own publications. The clippings are all related to natural science and are clipped from magazines and pamphlets. There is one bulletin

announcing the annual meeting for the Indiana Audubon Society. The other pamphlets are related to natural science. There is also an incomplete collection of printed botanical specimens.

Series 4: Teaching (undated)

This series contains typewritten lesson plans for “Botany” and “Zoology.” It also contains class work associated with these lessons, in both text and diagram form. Many of the diagrams were hand-drawn by Eifrig.

Series 5: Writings (1904-1946, undated)

This series contains writings by Eifrig and is divided into three sub-series: Natural Science, Religious, and School Work. The Natural Science sub-series contains all his writings related to his interest in animals and nature. It consists of handwritten and typescript copies of many of his articles, many later published in various journals, typescript copies of two unpublished manuscripts, and copies of two published articles. The Religious sub-series contains handwritten and typescript copies of articles specifically related to his faith, possibly these could be sermons. The third sub-series, School Work, contains papers written by Eifrig during his school years on various topics. One even contains a “Very Good” notation on the back from his teacher.

Series 6: Photography (1929, undated) (housed separately, RVWD.302 Film Room.Unit 1.I)

This series contains all materials related to photography. It is divided into two sub-series: Photographic Prints and Photograph Album. Most of these consist of loose photographic prints or photographic prints found within a photograph album. All are natural science related, with the majority images of bird species or their natural habitats. The actual album is stored separately from the prints that it contained.

Series 7: Specimens (undated) (stored separately, RVWD.302.Bot 11.Q)

This series contains pressed and mounted plant specimens collected by Eifrig.

Container List:

Box 1			
Series 1: Correspondence (1910, 1932, 1934, undated)			
	1	Letters	1910, 1932, 1934
	2	Cards/ Postcards	1934, undated
Series 2: Field Notes (1903-1929)			
	3	Field Notes	1903-1904, 1917, 1927, 1929
Series 3: Printed Materials (1917-1945, undated)			
	4	Clippings	undated
	5	Bulletins/ Pamphlets	1917, 1931, 1945
	6	“The Parts of Plants and What They Are Called”	undated
Series 4: Teaching (undated)			
	7	Botany	undated

	8	Zoology	undated
Series 6: Photography (1929, undated)			
<i>Sub-series 2: Photograph Album (photographic prints stored separately, C.W.G. Eifrig Photo Box 1)</i>			
	9	Photograph Album	undated
Box 2			
Series 5: Writings (1904-1946, undated)			
<i>Sub-series 1: Natural Science</i>			
	1	Handwritten - General	ca. 1904, 1906, ca. 1909, ca. 1921, ca. 1923, undated
	2	Typescripts – General	ca. 1926, undated
	3	Handwritten with Typescript – “Is Photoperiodism a Factor in the Migration of Birds?”	1922
	4	Handwritten with Typescript – “The Birds of the Sand Dunes of Northwestern Indiana”	undated
	5	Handwritten with Typescript – “Order Pygopodes: Diving Birds”	undated
	6	Unpublished Manuscripts – “How Can They Do It? Glimpses in the Wonderful Life Activities of Plants and Animals” (diagrams stored separately, Oversize Box 1)	1946
	7	Unpublished Manuscripts – “Our Birds: Learn to Know Them” – Foreword, Pp. 1-90	undated
	8	Unpublished Manuscripts – “Our Birds: Learn to Know Them” – pp. 91-181, Glossary	undated
	9	Published Articles	1929
<i>Sub-series 2: Religious</i>			
	10	Handwritten	undated
	11	Typescripts	undated
<i>Sub-series 3: School Work</i>			
	12	Handwritten	undated
Photo Box 1 (housed separately, RVWD.302 Film Room.Unit 1.I)			
Series 6: Photography (1929, undated)			
<i>Sub-series 1: Photographic Prints</i>			
	1	Photographic Prints	1929, undated
<i>Sub-series 2: Photograph Album (album stored separately, C.W.G. Eifrig Box 1)</i>			
	2	Photographic Prints – from pp. 1-5	undated
	3	Photographic Prints – from pp. 6-13	undated
	4	Photographic Prints – from pp. 14-21	undated
Manuscript Oversize Box 1 (stored separately, Unit 3.Shelf D, with other oversize materials from other manuscript collections)			

C.W.G. Eifrig – Series 5: Writings (1904-1946, undated)		
<i>Sub-series 1: Natural Science</i>		
	Unpublished Manuscripts – Diagrams for “How Can They Do It? Glimpses in the Wonderful Life Activities of Plants and Animals” (manuscript stored separately, C.W.G. Eifrig Box 2)	undated
Botany Box 1 (stored separately, RVWD.302.Bot Cab)		
Series 7: Specimens (undated)		
	Botany – <i>Deparia achrosticoides</i> (previously <i>Anthyrium thelypteroides</i>) Silvery Spleenwort	undated
	Botany – <i>Deparia achrosticoides</i> (previously <i>Anthyrium thelypteroides</i>) Silvery Spleenwort	undated
	Botany – <i>Anthyrium filix-femina</i> , Lady Fern	undated
	Botany – <i>Anthyrium filix-femina</i> , Lady Fern	undated
	Botany – <i>Cystopteris fragilis</i> , Brittle Bladder Fern and <i>Cystopteris bulbifera</i> , Bulbet Bladder Fern	undated
	Botany – <i>Cystopteris fragilis</i> , Brittle Bladder Fern	undated