



ARCHIVES – FINDING AID

Collection Title: Dr. Reuben M. Strong Papers

Creators: Strong, Reuben M., Dr.
Buell, Dorothy Richard, Mrs.
Black, Jannette A., Mrs.
Bauman, C.W.

Dates: 1926-1963 (inclusive), 1945-1962 (bulk)

Language: English

Extent: 1 Linear Foot (2 box)

Level of Description: Folder Level

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

Access Conditions: Open for research.

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Citation: Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [item], [folder], [box], Dr. Reuben M. Strong Papers, Chicago Academy of Sciences / Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum.

Acquisition Information: The original acquisition of this collection is unknown. Other items received through a donation from Dr. Strong were gifted to the Academy in 1935 (accession 4231).

Processor and Date: Amber King, 2012; updated by Alexandra Katich, November 2019; updated by Mattie Draftz, January 2020.

Processing Note: Organizational structure created during processing. Staples removed.

Biographical Sketch: Reuben M. Strong (1872-1964) was born to Myron W. Strong and Mary (Leonard) Strong in North Greenfield, Wisconsin, a rural environment in which Reuben enjoyed collecting wild plants in his youth. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Oberlin College in 1897 and continued his education studying zoology and morphology at Harvard from 1898-1901, earning a Masters of Arts and a Doctorate of Philosophy. From 1909 through 1910, Strong studied with Dr. Ludwig at the Neurologisches Institut in Frankfurt, Germany.

Strong was a professor at institutions across Illinois, Pennsylvania, Mississippi, and Tennessee. He mainly was a professor of anatomy, but also taught across scientific disciplines such as chemistry, physics, biology, botany, zoology, and physiography. During Strong's time as a zoology instructor at the University of Chicago from 1903 to 1914, he was the protégé of Prof. Carl O. Whitman studying the genetics of pigmentation in feathers, which greatly influenced Strong's later works and publications. During this time in 1912, students from his bird course showed interest in a local bird club, which led to Strong organizing the Chicago Ornithological Society. In 1946, Strong accepted an office and the honorary title of Research Associate in Zoology at the Chicago Natural History Museum (Field Museum) where he studied the comparative anatomy of albatrosses.

Despite his academic interests in medicine, Strong had a lifelong appreciation for the natural world, resulting in tireless research that mainly focused on birds, 125 publications, and the creation and involvement in environmental organizations. His most notable contribution was his 1939 "A bibliography of birds"—a four volume work that grew out of a project on the anatomy of Procellariiformes. The third volume of his bibliography was published in 1947 and the finding index was published ten years into his retirement. In 1962, Strong took an accompanying manuscript to his apartment to work on it further and it mysteriously disappeared. Another notable organization that Strong helped found was the Wilson Ornithological Society, where he served as President from 1891-1897 and again from 1920-1921. Strong wrote a history of the society in 1939. Some of the other organizations that Strong was a part of included the Illinois Audubon Society, where he served as President from 1941-1951, the Chicago Conservation Council (where ChAS board members served on the board), the Illinois Chapter of the Wild Flower Preservation Society, the Save the Dunes Council, and the Illinois Governor's Advisory Committee on State Parks.

He married Mary Ethel Freeman in 1907, who preceded him in death, and was survived by their daughter Madelaine Freeman Strong.

Scope and Content: The majority of these materials relate to Strong's involvement and leading of local councils and organizations, mainly focusing on the topic of conservation.

Related Resources: The University of Chicago Library has a typescript essay on the organization, administration, and faculty of the Stritch Medical School of Loyola University. The Biodiversity Heritage Library has a scanned version of Reuben Strong's "A bibliography of birds" from the Field Museum. The Field Museum Library also has the printed version of "A bibliography of birds", digital and physical copies of The Wilson Quarterly and The Wilson Bulletin, a copy of the Wisconsin Naturalist journal from the library of Reuben Strong, a Treasurer's Report and a President's Address of Reuben's from the Wilson Bulletin. The Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis has a folder titled "Strong,

Reuben M., 1918-1927” in their Bernard Becker Medical Library with correspondence from the E.V. Cowdry Papers. The Smithsonian Institution Archives has correspondence from 1885-1930 that include materials from Reuben Strong.

Series Description:

Series 1: Clippings (1952-1962, undated)

This series comprises photocopies of newspaper and magazine clippings collected by Strong on a variety of different topics.

Series 2: Conservation Council (1945-1962, undated)

This series comprises correspondence between Strong and various other correspondents. The materials all relate to conservation issues or conservation groups that were dealt with via the Conservation Council.

Series 3: Governor’s Natural History Advisory Committee for Illinois Beach State Park (1950-1963, undated)

This series contains materials related to Strong’s time as a member and chairman of the Governor’s Natural History Advisory Committee. This committee was formed to help the governor’s office make informed decisions about conservation issues related to Illinois Beach State Park. It is divided into nine sub-series: Correspondence, Legislation, Lists, Meeting Agenda, Meeting Notes, Notes, Printed Materials, Reports, and Writings. Some of the materials in the Printed Materials sub-series are found in oversize.

Series 4: Illinois Dunesland Preservation Society (1926-1962, undated)

This series contains materials related to the conservation efforts of the Illinois Dunesland Preservation Society which was created to help conserve the area that became Illinois Beach State Park and then to maintain the area. It is divided into five sub-series: By-laws, Correspondence, Notes, Printed Materials, and Writings.

Series 5: Printed Materials (1949, undated)

This series is composed of printed materials, including publications, relating to various conservation issues. It also includes printed copies of resolutions proposed in Illinois state legislation.

Container List:

Box 1			
Series 1: Clippings (1952-1962, undated)			
	1	Clippings	1952-1962, undated
Series 2: Conservation Council (1945-1962)			
	<i>Sub-series 1: Correspondence (1945-1962)</i>		
	2	Bicket, Jack	1954-1960
	3	Black, Jannette A.	1945-1949
	4	Black, Jannette A.	1950-1951
	5	Black, Jannette A.	1952-1953, undated

	6	Foldvary, Evangeline	1945-1955
	7	Hurlbutt, Hazel	1953-1961
	8	Kerner, Otto, Honorable	1961-1962
	9	Mostek, Raymond	1960-1962
	10	Olson, Howard R.	1952-1961
	11	Palmer, Glen	1953-1960, undated
Box 2			
Series 2: Conservation Council (1945-1962, undated)			
<i>Sub-series 1: Correspondence (1945-1962, undated)</i>			
	1	Stevenson, Adlai, Honorable	1950-1951
	2	Stratton, William G., Honorable	1952-1959, undated
	3	Swink, Floyd	1952, 1957
Series 3: Governor's Natural History Advisory Committee for Illinois Beach State Park (1950-1963, undated)			
<i>Sub-series 1: Correspondence (1951-1963, undated)</i>			
	4	Correspondence	1951-1954
	5	Correspondence	1955-1963, undated
<i>Sub-series 2: Legislation (1953, undated)</i>			
	6	Legislation	1953, undated
<i>Sub-series 3: Lists (1957-1960, undated)</i>			
	7	Committee Members	1957-1960, undated
	8	Specimens	1958
<i>Sub-series 4: Meeting Agenda (1954-1958)</i>			
	9	Meeting Agenda	1954-1958
<i>Sub-series 5: Meeting Minutes (1951-1961)</i>			
	10	Meeting Minutes	1951-1961
<i>Sub-series 6: Notes (undated)</i>			
	11	Notes	undated
<i>Sub-series 7: Printed Materials 1950-1961, undated)</i>			
	12	Printed Materials (see oversize)	1950-1961, undated
<i>Sub-series 8: Reports (1951, undated)</i>			
	13	Reports	1951, undated
<i>Sub-series 9: Writings (1961, undated)</i>			
	14	General	undated
	15	Recommendations/ Resolutions	1961, undated
Series 4: Illinois Dunesland Preservation Society (1926-1962, undated)			
<i>Sub-series 1: By-laws (undated)</i>			
	16	By-laws	undated
<i>Sub-series 2: Correspondence (1948-1962, undated)</i>			
	17	Correspondence	1948-1962, undated
<i>Sub-series 3: Notes (1926, undated)</i>			
	18	General	undated

	19	Specimen	1926, undated
<i>Sub-series 4: Printed Materials (1950-1958, undated)</i>			
	20	General	1953-1954, undated
	21	Newsletters	1950-1958
<i>Sub-series 6: Writings (1950, undated)</i>			
	22	General	undated
	23	Recommendations/ Resolutions	1950, undated
Series 5: Printed Materials (1949, undated)			
	24	Printed Materials	1949, undated
Manuscript Oversize Box 3 (stored separately, Unit 3.Shelf D, with other oversize materials from other manuscript collections)			
Series 3: Governor's Natural History Advisory Committee for Illinois Beach State Park (1950-1963, undated)			
<i>Sub-series 7: Printed Materials 1950-1961, undated)</i>			
	6	Printed Materials	1951-1958, undated