



ARCHIVES – FINDING AID

Collection Title: William J. Beecher Papers

Creator: Beecher, William John (1914-2002)

Dates: 1917-1999 (bulk 1963-1992)

Language: English

Extent: 7.08 Linear Feet (17 manuscript boxes), plus unprocessed materials

Level of Description: Folder Level

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

Access Conditions: Being processed. Contact the Chicago Academy of Sciences' Collections Department for access conditions.

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

Acquisition Information: Accession 2019.2. Received from June Hanna, April 2019.

Processor and Date: Alexandra Katich and Dawn Roberts, May 2021.

Processing Note: Organization is not based on original order. Materials arrived in unorganized boxes and manuscripts had to be reconstructed. Final series were determined based upon the scope of the collection.

Biographical Sketch: Dr. William J. Beecher (1914-2002) was an ornithologist, conservationist, photographer, inventor, and educator. Beecher served as director of the Chicago Academy of Sciences from 1958-1983. During this time, he revamped the museum's exhibition spaces to be more inviting and informative and published enumerable publications, many written for general audiences to inspire a love of nature. Beecher was also active in promoting practices that would help reduce the number of bird deaths due to window collisions, such as dimming the lights in downtown buildings during migration periods.

Born on May 23, 1914 and a lifelong Chicagoan, Beecher left his mark on the city, especially in the conservation community. He worked with the Field Museum (then named the Chicago Natural History Museum) as an assistant zoologist from 1937 until he left to serve in World War II in 1942. His passion for birds didn't cease while serving in the Army, either. He made drawings of the birds he saw, along with other wildlife and members of his platoon. Upon returning to Chicago following the war, he attended the University of Chicago, earning doctorates in zoology and ornithology. In 1954, he joined the Cook County Forest Preserve District, becoming director of the Little Red Schoolhouse until joining the Academy.

Beecher was involved with numerous local organizations, including the Chicago Audubon Society, the Chicago Ornithological Society, the Illinois Audubon Society, and the American Ornithological Union, the Adventurers Club, the Nature Conservancy, Conservation Council, Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, Friends of Ryerson Woods, and the Open Lands Project. He was active in efforts to protect local natural areas and was instrumental in the campaign to protect Volo Bog, Goose Lake Prairie, Beall Woods, Osa Peninsula, and the Indiana Dunes.

Perhaps his greatest legacy for the Academy was his passionate commitment to develop educational programming to encourage budding zoologists. He implemented a "Science Seminar and Workshop Program" in 1959 that created science clubs in the fields of astronomy, biology, geology, microscopy, ornithology and ultimately herpetology and chemistry. The target audience for these clubs was high school children and teachers, but it reached a more diverse audience due to the quality of the lecturers and the enthusiasm of the club members. This effort morphed into the Chicago Junior Academy of Sciences in the mid-1960s. The Junior Academy provided not only scientific instruction for high school students, but specific, hands-on employment and experience at the museum where they learned about museum operations, exhibit design, and taxidermy.

Beecher even invented his own photographic equipment, like the binocular camera, to capture better photographs during his birding expeditions. Beecher died July 27, 2002.

References:

Bush, Rudolph. "William J. Beecher, 88". Obituary. Chicago Tribune. August 4, 2002.
<https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/ct-xpm-2002-08-04-0208040370-story.html>

Chicago Film Archives, blog on Beecher films: <http://www.chicagofilmarchives.org/news/chicago-academy-of-sciences-collection-dr-william-j-beecher>

Lowther, Peter F. "In memoriam: William J. Beecher, 1914-2002." Obituary. *The Auk*, 120(1):199-201, 2003. Accessed 2008: http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_qa3793/is_200301/ai_n9214325

Neise, Greg. "Remembering my mentor." Dec 8, 2010. <http://www.nabirding.com/2010/12/08/remembering-my-mentor/>

Bledig, Joan. "Remembering Dr. William J. Beecher – Part 2." Blog. Chicago Academy of Sciences/Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum. <https://naturemuseum.org/2015/07/remembering-dr-william-j-beecher-part-2/>

Morton, Robert. "Remembering Dr. William J. Beecher – Part 1." Blog. Chicago Academy of Sciences/Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum. <https://naturemuseum.org/2015/07/remembering-dr-william-j-beecher-part-1/>

Scope and Content: The materials found within this collection are the personal papers of Dr. William J. Beecher and include correspondence, biographical materials, documents detailing his active involvement with local conservation organizations, drafts of published and unpublished manuscripts on subjects ranging from ornithology to travel, original artwork, and documents pertaining to Beecher Research Co., the company he founded to produce and market the Beecher Mirage binocular. Highlights of the collection include design specifications for the Beecher Mirage binocular, an unpublished three-volume memoir *The Twilight of a Planet*, drafts and illustrations for an unpublished ornithological book *A Phylogeny of the Order of Birds*, and original ink drawings from his collaboration on *Zoo Parade* with zoologist and television host Marlin Perkins.

Related Resources: In addition to the materials identified in this finding aid, the Academy's collections include many scientific specimens, photographs and motion picture film, and institutional records from Beecher's time associated with the museum. Beecher deposited his scientific collections at the Academy and the Field Museum. The Smithsonian Institution's American Art Museum lists one painting by Beecher from 1940, titled "Duck Hawk after Widgeon". A few other natural history collections report small numbers of Beecher's specimens. CAS/PNNM is the only repository for Beecher's archive materials; no other online archive repository has published finding aids related to Beecher.

Series Description:

Series 1: Correspondence (1943-1999, undated)

This series contains correspondence with friends, admirers of his ornithological work, publishers considering his manuscripts and drawings for publication, conservation organizations with which he was actively involved, and holiday cards.

Series 2: Subject File (1946-1998, undated)

This series contains personal documents, most of which highlight Beecher's accomplishments and interests. The series includes academic and professional award certificates, biographical materials comprising his *Who's Who in America* listing and a list of patents he was granted, personal calendars, handwritten accounting ledgers, drafts of wills, press clippings featuring Beecher from the *Chicago Tribune*, *Chicago Sun-Times*, and *Chicago Daily News*, and international travel documents and itineraries. Of particular note are the papers documenting Beecher's attempt to arrange a trip to the U.S.S.R. in 1966 in order to photograph the tundra, taiga, and steppe communities for a life zones of the world diorama project for the Chicago Academy of Sciences.

Series 3: Chicago Academy of Sciences (1959-1983, undated)

This series contains documents related to Beecher's tenure as the director of the Chicago Academy of Sciences and includes articles published in the *Bulletin*, original drawings of a proposed Academy expansion created for a fundraising campaign, original drawings for holiday notecards, CAS Director's Reports and Newsletters written by Beecher, a program abstract for a Volo Bog tour he conducted for teachers, materials surrounding his retirement as director of the Academy in 1982, and his original text and drawings for *Science Notes*. Also included is a preliminary report with photographs to the National Science Foundation about CAS Science Seminars and Workshops.

Series 4: Conservation Organizations (1983-1998, undated)

This series contains materials related to conservation organizations with which Beecher was actively involved. Most of the papers detail his tenure as a member of the Friends of the Ryerson Woods in the Lake County Forest Preserve District where he helped create the Hermon D. and Ellen Smith Symposium featuring lectures and workshops about nature and an exhibition space in the Smith Center to teach visitors about the natural history of the Ryerson Conservation Area. Also included are materials denoting Beecher's involvement in the Adventurer's Club, American Ornithologist Union, The Nature Conservancy Illinois Chapter, The Nature of Illinois Foundation, Open Lands Projects, and the Prairie Society.

Series 5: Beecher Research Co. (1966-1998, undated)

This series contains materials related to Beecher Research Co., the business established to design and market the Beecher Mirage binocular, and is divided into two sub-series, Patent Applications and Business. The Patent Applications sub-series contains patent applications, supporting documentation, and correspondence with patent officers regarding edits to the applications. The applications are mostly for U.S. patents, but there are a few for Canada and Germany. The Business sub-series includes advertising and publicity materials, business correspondence, Beecher Research Co. financials, Beecher Mirage design specifications, and manuscripts explaining how to use the binoculars and highlighting the benefits of them. The most extensive business correspondence is with H. Suzuki, President of Tohkai Sangyo Co. in Tokyo, for the production of lenses for the Beecher Mirage binocular.

Series 6: Manuscripts (1950-1989, undated)

This series contains Beecher's writing and is divided into three sub-series, Publications, Draft Articles, Draft Books. The publications sub-series includes articles written by Beecher, mostly on ornithology, and published photographs taken by Beecher. The Draft Articles sub-series features articles on Chicago and

its surrounding areas, ecology, and travel. Most notably is the article “Zoogeographic Causes of Parallelism in the Old and New World” enclosed in a spring binder together with original handwritten edits, notes, and drawings. The Draft Books sub-series includes multiple drafts of *A Phylogeny of the Order of Birds*, a construction draft of *Zoo Artist: Secret of Nature’s Living Machines* that demonstrates Beecher’s editing process, and a three-volume memoir *The Twilight of a Planet*, the second of which details Beecher’s experiences while stationed in the South Pacific during WWII.

Series 7: Research (1911-1991, undated)

This series contains Beecher’s research and is divided into two sub-series, *The Field Museum Episode: My Life Among the Wizards* and *A Phylogeny of the Order of Birds*. The *Field Museum* sub-series contains research for the first volume of Beecher’s memoir, the majority of which is memorabilia related to Fred Sonne (1898-1965), a friend and mentor to Beecher, and the *Chicago Aerial Survey Company* that Sonne cofounded in 1922. The memorabilia includes Sonne’s personal correspondence, a small watercolor painting by Sonne, and a 1917 scrapbook created by his wife Eleanor Reusch Sonne (1889-1957). In addition to business documents, the *Chicago Aerial Survey Company* materials include a file on George Wallis (1906-1931), an aerial photographer employed by the company. The *Phylogeny of the Order of Birds* sub-series contains extensive notes, both typed and handwritten, original illustrations, and inventories of bird skulls used in creating his manuscript.

Series 8: Drawings (1955-1981, undated)

This series contains Beecher’s original black and white ink drawings, the majority of which were published in *Zoo Parade* and *Science Notes*, and were also intended to be reused in the *Zoo Artist: Secret of Nature’s Living Machines* manuscript. Also included are pencil sketches for *The Lost War Episode: The Adventure of a GI Artist-Naturalist in the South Pacific*, illustration plates for *A Phylogeny of the Order of Birds*, personalized book plates and holiday notecards, and a color painting “The Bridge that Walks” that illustrates the relationship between bridges and animal skeletons, a topic Beecher also addressed in *Science Notes*.

Series 9: Photography (tbd)

This series contains Beecher’s photography and includes photographic prints, 35mm slides, negatives, and motion picture film. Photographs related to Sonne research, such as family photo albums and aerial photographs, are also in this series. The series is still being processed.

Series 10: Ephemera (tbd)

This series contains objects related to Beecher, including his WWII Army uniform and medals, bird banding tools, awards and certificates, and camera equipment. This series is still being processed.

Container List:

Box 1		
Series 1: Correspondence (1943-1999, undated)		
	1	Correspondence – Miscellaneous
		1943-1982

	2	Correspondence – Miscellaneous	1983-1989
	3	Correspondence – Miscellaneous	1990-1996
	4	Correspondence – Miscellaneous	1997-1999, undated
	5	Holiday Cards	1983, 1985, 1987, 1997-1998, undated
Box 2			
Series 2: Subject File (1946-1998, undated)			
	1	Awards	1946, 1967, undated
	2	Biography	1983, 1996, undated
	3	Calendars	1988-1989
	4	Financials	1984, 1988, 1989, 1994-1995, 1998, undated
	5	Press Clippings	1963-1964, 1968, 1972, 1976, 1982- 1983, 1985 undated
	6	Travel – Miscellaneous	1964, 1973-1975, 1977-1978, 1981, 1983, undated
	7	Travel – U.S.S.R., Uganda, and Europe	1966-1967
Box 3			
Series 3: Chicago Academy of Sciences (1959-1983, undated)			
	1	<i>Bulletin of the Chicago Academy of Sciences</i> - “The Bio-Mechanics of the Bird Skull” 11(2) - “Possible Motion Detection in the Vertebrate Middle Ear” 11(6) - “Feeding Adaptations and Evolution in the Starlings” 11(8)	1962, 1969, 1978
	2	Fundraising	1973
	3	Holiday Notecards	undated
	4	<i>Museum Activities: Director’s Report of the Chicago Academy of Sciences</i> (No. 13, 17, 21, 22, 23, 27)	1963, 1967, 1971- 1973, 1977
	5	<i>Chicago Academy of Sciences Newsletter</i> Vols. 1(3), 2(1), 2(3), 3(2), 3(3), 4(1), 4(2), 5(1), 5(2), 5(3)	1977-1982
	6	Programs	1978
	7	Retirement	1982-1983
	8	Science Seminars and Workshop Program Report for the National Science Foundation	1959
	9	Science Seminars and Workshop Program Report for the National Science Foundation	1959

	10	Science Seminars and Workshop Program Report for the National Science Foundation	1959
	11	<i>Science Notes</i>	Undated
Box 4			
Series 4: Conservation Organizations (1983-1998, undated)			
	1	Friends of Ryerson Woods: Smith Symposium Advisory Committee and Smith Center Exhibits Committee	1983-1985 (May)
	2	Friends of Ryerson Woods: Smith Symposium Advisory Committee and Smith Center Exhibits Committee	(June) 1985-1986
	3	Miscellaneous - Adventurer's Club, American Ornithologist Union, The Nature Conservancy Illinois Chapter, The Nature of Illinois Foundation, Open Lands Projects, and the Prairie Society	1983-1985, 1988, 1993, 1995-1998, undated
Box 5			
Series 5: Beecher Research Co. (1968-1996)			
<i>Sub-series 1: Patent Applications (1968-1996)</i>			
	1	Applications and Supporting Documentation for U.S. Patent Nos. 4,140,568, 4,140,567, and 4,488,790 (06/344,062) and Canadian Patent No. 1,101,645 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Patent No. 4,140,568/1,101,645: "Mechanism for Forming and Mounting Mirrors in the Shell of a Binocular or Like Viewing Instrument" - Patent No. 4,140,567/1,101,645: "Method of Forming and Mounting Mirrors in the Shell of a Binocular or Like Viewing Instrument" - Patent No. 4,488,790 (Serial 06/344,062): "Binocular and Spectacle-Type Mounting Assembly Therefor" 	1968, 1979-1983
	2	Applications and Supporting Documentation for U.S. Patent Nos. 4,488,790 (Serial 06/344,062), 4,568,154 (Serial 06/580,816), and 4,779,965 (Serial 06/583,944) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Patent No. 4,568,154 (Serial 06/580,816): "Spectacle Type Mounting Assembly for Binocular" - Patent No. 4,779,965 (Serial 06/583,994): "An Eccentric Close-Up Lens Converting a Binocular Into a Stereomicroscope" 	1984
	3	Applications and Supporting Documentation for U.S. Patent Nos. 4,758,077 (Serial 06/723,543), 4,568,154 (Serial 06/580,816), and 4,877,318 (Serial 06/693,180) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Patent No. 4,758,077 (Serial 06/723,543): "Binocular Using Collimating Mirrors to Replace Porro Prisms" 	1985

		- Patent No. 4,877,318 (Serial 06/693,180): “Ultra-Short Optical System for Binoculars”	
	4	Applications and Supporting Documentation for U.S. Patent Nos. 4,877,318 (Serial 06/693,180), 4,758,077 (Serial 06/723,543) and 4,779,965 (06/583,994)	1986
	5	Applications and Supporting Documentation for U.S. Patent Nos. 4,877,318 (Serial 06/693,180), 4,758,077 (Serial 06/723,543), and 4,779,965 (06/583,994) and Corresponding German Patent Applications	1987-1992, 1996
Box 6			
Series 5: Beecher Research Co. (1966-1998, undated)			
<i>Sub-series 2: Business (1966-1998, undated)</i>			
	1	Advertising and Publicity	1988, 1990, undated
	2	Advertising Mockups	undated
	3	Branding	undated
	4	Contracts	1987-1988, 1992
	5	Correspondence – Beecher Research Co.	1966, 1969, 1976, 1978, 1980-1988
	6	Correspondence – Beecher Research Co.	1989-1994, 1996, 1998, undated
	7	Design Specifications	1977-1979, 1983-1984, 1988-1990, 1993, 1996-1997, undated
Box 7			
Series 5: Beecher Research Co. (1974-1997, undated)			
<i>Sub-series 2: Business (1974-1997, undated)</i>			
	1	Financials	1974-1975, 1982, 1987-1998
	2	Financials – Handwritten Ledgers	1976, 1988-1989, undated
	3	Holiday Notecards	undated
	4	Invoices	1978, 1981, 1983-1989, 1991, 1997, undated
	5	Manuscripts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “The Beecher Mirage – A Binocular That Helps the Blind to See” - “Beecher Mirage – The World’s Finest Binocular” - “Designing the ‘Most Efficient Binocular” 	1983, 1988, undated

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "For Low Vision Patients: Adjusting the Beecher Spectacle Binocular" - "Help At Last For the Blind" - "How to Use Your Beecher Mirage 7x30 Wide Angle Binocular" - "The Man Who Helped the Blind to See" (review by Diane Preacely) - "Observations on the Beecher Mirage" - "The 7x30 Beecher Mirage: It Disappears Before Your Eyes" - "The 7x30 Beecher Mirage Spectacle Binocular" - "Space Age Miracle" - "A Spectacle Binocular for the Blind" - "Technique for Proper Hand-Held Use of the Beecher Mirage Binocular" - "The Uniqueness of the Beecher Mirage Optical System" - "Universal Focus in the Beecher Mirage" - "The World's Best Binocular" 	
	6	Manuscript Fragments	undated
	7	Press Releases	1987
Box 8			
Series 6: Manuscripts (1950-1986, undated)			
<i>Sub-series 1: Publications (1950-1987, undated)</i>			
	1	Publications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "Convergent Evolution in the American Orioles" in <i>The Wilson Bulletin</i> 62(2) - "A Possible Navigation Sense in the Ear of Birds" in <i>The American Midland Naturalist</i> 46(2) - "Adaptations for Food-Getting in the American Blackbirds" in <i>The Auk</i> 68 - "Convergence in the Coerebidae" in <i>The Wilson Bulletin</i> 63(4) - "A Phylogeny of the Oscines" in <i>The Auk</i> 70 - "Feeding Adaptations and Systematics in the Avian Order Piciformes" in <i>Journal of the Washington Academy of Sciences</i> 43(9) - "Safari to the Mountains of the Moon" in <i>Chicago Tribune Magazine</i> - "The Last Prairie" in <i>Chicago Tribune Magazine</i> 	1950-1951, 1953, 1967, 1972, 1985-1986, undated

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "Earth – A Space Ship Named Titanic?" in <i>Quality Management & Engineering</i> - "Chicago's Lost Marsh" in <i>Field Museum of Natural History Bulletin</i> - "In Quest of Starlings" in <i>Field Museum of Natural History Bulletin</i> - "Lincoln Park: The Jewel in Chicago's Crown" in <i>Inside Lincoln Park</i> - "Arbor Day" - "Celestron 5 Photos" - "Of Space and Time" photo in <i>Celestron Multipurpose Telephotos</i> 6(76) 	
Sub-series 2: Draft Articles (1985-1987, undated)			
	2	<p>Draft Articles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "The Archbishop of Africa: An Anecdote" - "Binocular Bird Photography" - "Boomer of the Illinois Prairie" - "The Calumet Marsh" - "The Calumet Marsh—an Airport of Doom" - "The Calumet Marsh As I Knew It" - "Chicago's Fall Bird Migration" - "Chicago's Lost Marsh" - "Chicago's Museums Ignored by Panel as Tourist Attraction" - "Chicago's Natural Setting" - "The City in a Garden" - "A Class Study of Normal Bill Attitude in the Bird Head at Rest" 	1985, 1987, undated
	3	<p>Draft Articles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "Doc Sutton's Lost Peregrine Paintings" - "An Ecologists' View of Life" - "The Elephants of the Ruaha" - "The Enchanted Isles" - "The Great East African Bird Rally" - "The Green Mansions of Costa Rica" - "The Green Necklace – The Story of the Cook County Forest Preserve District" 	undated
	4	<p>Draft Articles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "A Hard Choice Dilemma – Too Many Deer" - "If You Travel, Ask Me" - "The Indiana Dunes: Birthplace of Ecology" 	undated

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "In Memoriam: Walter T. Fisher, 1892-1991" - "In Quest of Starlings" - "In Search of the Primeval" - "Is Chicago a Trap for Migrating Birds?" - "Keepers of the Earth and Sky" - "Kennicott's Grove" - "The Lost Illinois Prairie" - "Lost in the Jungle Night" 	
Box 9			
Series 6: Manuscripts (1980-1989, undated)			
<i>Sub-series 2: Draft Articles (1980-1989, undated)</i>			
	1	Draft Articles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "A Magic Garden" - "Man and Bird in the Air Age" - "Man and Other Endangered Species" - "Mission of the Nature Conservancy" - "The Moorlands of East Africa" - "A New Ethic for Humans – Live and Let Live" - "A New Ethic Toward Nature" - "The Next Phase: Rooftop Ecology" - "A Novel Internal Flash System for Cameras" - "Ornithology for Bird Watchers" - "Penguins by Roger Tory Peterson" (Book Review) - "Peregrine Falcon Populations" (Book Review) - "Puffins, Murres, and Guillemots in Lincoln Park Zoo" - "Questions of Survival" (Conservation Film Script) - "The Saga of Herbert Lang" - "The Search for Primeval Europe" - "The Singing Sands" - "South American Reconnaissance" - "Statement on John Hancock Center's Proposed New Atrium Before the Zoning Board of Appeals" 	1980, 1988, undated
	2	Draft Articles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "Tales of the Calumet: The Great Bird Tragedy" - "Testimony Opposing the Poplar Creek Landfill" - "To See Like and Eagle" - "Trail of the Ivory-Bill" - "Tricks with Mini-Recorders" - "Tri-X and Diafine: Work-Horse Pair" - "The Underwater 'Flying' of Penguins and Auks" - "The World of Roger Tory Peterson" (Book Review) 	1989, undated

	3	Draft Articles - "Zoogeographic Causes of Parallelism in the Old and New World" (Bound with original handwritten edits, notes, and drawings)	undated
	4	Draft Article Fragments	undated
Box 10			
Series 6: Manuscripts (undated)			
Sub-series 3: Draft Books (undated)			
	1	<i>A Phylogeny of the Order of Birds</i>	undated
	2	Edited draft of <i>A Phylogeny of the Order of Birds</i>	undated
	3	Early draft with handwritten edits of <i>A Phylogeny of the Order of Birds</i>	undated
	4	Fragments for <i>A Phylogeny of the Order of Birds</i>	undated
	5	Spiral-bound draft #1 of <i>A Phylogeny of the Order of Birds</i> with illustrations and handwritten edits	undated
	6	Spiral-bound draft #2 of <i>A Phylogeny of the Order of Birds</i> with illustrations and handwritten edits	undated
Box 11			
Series 6: Manuscripts (undated)			
Sub-series 3: Draft Books (undated)			
	1	<i>The Twilight of the Planet</i> summary and outline	undated
	2	<i>The Field Museum Episode: My Life Among Wizards</i> – Preface, Introduction, Chapters 1-2	undated
	3	<i>The Field Museum Episode: My Life Among Wizards</i> – Chapters 3-6	undated
	4	<i>The Field Museum Episode: My Life Among Wizards</i> – Chapters 7-8, Illustrations, Fragments	undated
	5	<i>The Lost War Episode: The Adventure of a GI Artist-Naturalist in the South Pacific</i> – Illustrations, pp. 1-75	undated
	6	<i>The Lost War Episode: The Adventure of a GI Artist-Naturalist in the South Pacific</i> – pp. 76-175	undated
Box 12			
Series 6: Manuscripts (undated)			
Sub-series 3: Draft Books (undated)			
	1	<i>The Lost War Episode: The Adventure of a GI Artist-Naturalist in the South Pacific</i> – pp. 176-275	undated
	2	<i>The Lost War Episode: The Adventure of a GI Artist-Naturalist in the South Pacific</i> – pp. 276-321, Appendix, Fragments	undated
	3	<i>Chicago Academy of Sciences Episode: My Life Among the Savages</i>	undated
	4	<i>Zoo Artist: Secret of Nature's Living Machines</i>	undated

	5	Construction draft of <i>Zoo Artist: Secret of Nature's Living Machines</i>	undated
	6	Fragments of <i>Zoo Artist: Secret of Nature's Living Machines</i>	undated
Box 13			
Series 7: Research (1917-1990, undated)			
<i>Sub-series 1: Field Museum Episode: My Life Among the Wizards (1917-1990, undated)</i>			
	1	<i>Field Museum Episode My Life Among the Wizards</i> Notes	undated
	2	Fred Sonne Art	undated
	3	Fred Sonne Certificates	1946, 1956, 1961-1962
	4	Fred Sonne Correspondence	1918, 1943, 1958, 1960-1961, 1964, 1972, undated
	5	Fred Sonne Naval War College Global Strategy Discussions	1961
	6	Fred Sonne Obituaries	1965
	7	Fred Sonne Press Clippings	1937, 1941, 1943-1944, 1946, 1953-1954, 1961-1962, 1964-1965, 1990, undated
	8	Eleanor Sonne Scrapbook	1917
Box 14			
Series 7: Research (1911-1968, undated)			
<i>Sub-series 1: Field Museum Episode: My Life Among the Wizards (1911-1968, undated)</i>			
	1	Chicago Aerial Survey Company Correspondence	1928, 1940, 1942-1943, 1945, 1964
	2	Chicago Aerial Survey Company Financials	1922-1930, 1945, 1966-1968, undated
	3	Chicago Aerial Survey Company Miscellaneous	1911, 1921, 1934, undated
	4	Chicago Aerial Survey Company Writings	undated
	5	George Wallis	1926, 1928, 1930-1931, 1940, undated
Box 15			
Series 7: Research (1959-1991, undated)			
<i>Sub-series 2: Phylogeny of the Order of Birds (1959-1991, undated)</i>			
	1	Drawings	1986-1988, undated
	2	Critique	1986, undated
	3	Inventories	1970, 1980, 1986-1988, 1991, undated
	4	Notes – Handwritten	1986, undated

	5	Notes – Typed	1959-1960, 1986-1987, 1990, undated
	6	Promotional Text	undated
	7	References	1960, 1962, 1986, undated
Box 16			
Series 8: Drawings (1955-1960, undated)			
	1	Published Drawings	undated
	2	Published Animal Drawings in <i>Zoo Parade</i>	1955-1956
	3	Color Painting “The Bridge That Walks”	undated
	4	B/W Ink Drawings of Animals Used for <i>Zoo Parade</i> and <i>Science Notes</i> , No. 194-6580	1954-1956, undated
	5	B/W Ink Drawings of Animals Used for <i>Zoo Parade</i> and <i>Science Notes</i> , No. 6791-15701, unnumbered	1954-1956, undated
	6	B/W Ink and Pencil Drawings – Miscellaneous	1960, undated
Box 17			
Series 8: Drawings (1981, undated)			
	1	Pencil Sketches for <i>The Lost War Episode: The Adventure of a GI Artist-Naturalist in the South Pacific</i>	undated
	2	Illustration Plates for <i>Phylogeny of the Order of Birds</i>	undated
	3	Wildlife Sketches (photocopies) for <i>Zoo Artist: Secret of Nature’s Living Machines</i> , originally for <i>Zoo Parade</i>	undated
	4	Sketches (photocopies) – Miscellaneous	1981, undated
	5	Book Plates	undated
	6	Holiday Notecards	undated
Box – to be processed (13 manuscript boxes)			
Series 9: Photography - Photographic Prints			
		Chicago Aerial Survey Company; Aerial photographs – see boxes 14 & 15 for Sonne research	
		Fred and Eleanor Sonne; Fred and Itoko Sonne – see boxes 14 & 15 for Sonne research (2 boxes)	
		Family photos – Beecher or Sonne	
		Beecher Mirage – see box 6 for Beecher Research Co advertisement mock-ups (2 boxes)	
		Celestron 5 photos – see box 8 for published photos	
		Bird photos	
		Photos of Beecher; drawings; travel; CAS dioramas	
		Beecher unidentified travel and personal photos	
		Beecher CAS project & events, Chicagoland	
		Landscapes, plants, animals, unidentified buildings	

		Unidentified people, identified people without context	
Box – to be processed (14 manuscript boxes)			
Series 9: Photography – 35mm Slides			
		unsorted	
Box – to be processed (2 boxes)			
Series 9: Photography -- Albums			
		Sonne – photo albums, oversized prints	
		Beecher negatives in binders	
Box – to be processed (6 boxes, plus many unsorted)			
Series 10: Ephemera			
		Beecher’s WWII Army shirt	
		Beecher’s WWII Army coat	
		Beecher’s WWII Army hat	
		Bird banding tools, knife holder, WWII Army medals	
		Awards and certificates: professional; Chicago Academy of Sciences; personal Oversized documents: “The Unforgettable Birdman” – article written by Beecher	
		Camera equipment	