

**The Meaning of Evolution: A Study of the
History of Life and of Its Significance for Man**

1949

Mss.575.Si52.m

American Philosophical Society
105 South Fifth Street
Philadelphia, PA, 19106
215-440-3400
manuscripts@amphilsoc.org

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Summary Information

Repository	American Philosophical Society
Creator	Simpson, George Gaylord, 1902-1984
Title	The Meaning of Evolution: A Study of the History of Life and of Its Significance for Man
Date	1949
Call number	Mss.575.Si52.m
Extent	1.0 Volume(s) 1 volume, 298 p.
Extent	1 volume, 298 p.
Location	LH-MV-E-10
Language	English
Container	1
Abstract	The manuscript of a book published by Yale University Press, 1949.

Background note

One of the seminal figures in the emergence of the Modern or Neo-Darwinian Synthesis during the mid-twentieth century, George Gaylord Simpson (1902-1984) helped define the unique contribution made by vertebrate paleontology to the life sciences. A specialist in Mesozoic and early Cenozoic mammals, Simpson's contributions to the fusion of Darwinian natural selection and Mendelian genetics were both empirical and theoretical, culminating in his major works *Tempo and Mode in Evolution* and *The Meaning of Evolution*. From his posts at the American Museum of Natural History (1927-1959), Columbia University (1945-1959), Harvard (1959-1967), and the University of Arizona (1967-1984), Simpson became one of the most influential paleontologists of the century, helped in part by his ability to write successfully for both a technical, professional audience and a popular audience.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

American Philosophical Society

Provenance

Acquisition Information

Presented by the author, 1949.

Indexing Terms

Subject(s)

- Darwinism.
- Evolution.