

Benjamin Smith Lyman papers,1850-1918
1850-1918
Mss.B.L982

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Summary Information

Repository	American Philosophical Society
Creator	Lyman, Benjamin Smith, 1835-1920
Title	Benjamin Smith Lyman papers, 1850-1918
Date [inclusive]	1850-1918
Call number	Mss.B.L982
Extent	49.0 Linear feet Ca. 18,000 items
Extent	Ca. 18,000 items, 49 linear feet.
Location	LH-B-19-3; LH-B-25-4 (OS)
Language	English
Container	1-98
Abstract	<p>There are notes, sketches, memoranda, etc., made while Lyman directed the geological survey of Japan, 1873-1879, with reports on petroleum resources, copper, coal, iron, and gold mines, mineral springs, and other mineral resources of the Japanese archipelago. There are data on the Japanese, Chinese, Ainu, and French languages, and on Japanese manners and customs, wit and humor, gardening, painting, measurements, swords, etc. Notes and data on the life, travels, and publications of Bernard Varenius. Notes collected for Lyman's Vegetarian Diet and Dishes. Materials on the geology of New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Iowa, Colorado, New Mexico, and West Virginia; and on coal and iron fields in those states and elsewhere. Manuscripts of articles on instruments for boring wells, theodolites for mining and civil engineers,</p>

other surveying instruments, etc. Of particular note is Lyman's period of study in Europe, where he attended the Imperial School of Mines in Paris, France (1859-1861), and the Royal Academy of Mines, Freiberg, Germany (1861-1862). There are about eleven notebooks for this period, written in English, French, and German, that contain: lecture notes, travel observations, comments on geology, mines and mining, railroads, with sketches of machinery, etc. There are a large number of letters (ca. 7,000 items), 1850-1917, from and to Lyman, on personal and business affairs.

Background note

Benjamin Smith Lyman studied geology and mining engineering in France and in Germany. He worked with J. Peter Lesley in the Second Geological Survey of Pennsylvania, and later worked on the Iowa Geological Survey. Lyman was surveyor of the coal fields of Cape Breton Island and Nova Scotia and of the gold fields of California, and he worked on many other geological and topographical surveys in the United States. He worked for several years in Japan, having been appointed general geologist and mining engineer for the empire in 1873.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

American Philosophical Society

Provenance

Custodial History

Deposited by the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, 1942.

Acquisition Information

Deposited by the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, 1942.

Processing Information

Only maps are noted.

Indexing Terms

Corporate Name(s)

- Ecole impériale des mines (France)
- Geological Survey (U.S.).
- Geological Survey of Pennsylvania.

Genre(s)

- Lecture notes.
- Notes.
- Sketches.

Geographic Name(s)

- France -- Description and travel.
- Germany -- Description and travel.
- Japan -- Social life and customs -- 1868-1912.

Personal Name(s)

- Varenus, Bernhardus, 1622-1650

Subject(s)

- Ainu language
- Chinese language
- Coal mines and mining.
- French language
- Gardening -- Japan.
- Geological surveys.
- Geology -- Colorado.
- Geology -- France.
- Geology -- Germany.
- Geology -- Iowa.
- Geology -- Japan -- Surveys.
- Geology -- New Jersey.
- Geology -- New Mexico.
- Geology -- Ohio.
- Geology -- Pennsylvania.
- Geology -- Virginia.
- Geology -- West Virginia.
- Iron mines and mining.
- Japanese language
- Mines and mineral resources -- Japan.
- Mining engineering.
- Mining machinery.
- Painting, Japanese.
- Railroads -- Europe.
- Surveying -- Instruments.
- Theodolites.

Collection Inventory

Maps

40.0 Item(s) See in particular, Box #54, Geological Survey Maps of Japan.

There are approximately forty maps in this huge collection, and most of them date from the time of Lyman's work in Japan. The few maps that can be identified pertain to the Tootoomi oilfield, the Ani mines, and the Magama area.

Other Finding Aids

Realms of Gold, 30.
