

Robert Cushman Murphy journals, 1907-1971
1907-1971
Mss.B.M957

American Philosophical Society
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Summary Information

Repository	American Philosophical Society
Creator	Murphy, Robert Cushman, 1887-1973
Title	Robert Cushman Murphy journals, 1907-1971
Date [inclusive]	1907-1971
Call number	Mss.B.M957
Extent	42.0 Volume(s)
Extent	42 volumes.
Location	LH-B-21-6
Language	English
Container	1-42
Abstract	<p>This collection contains the diaries, journals, and observations of a naturalist, generously illustrated with newspaper clippings, photographs, letters, sketches, maps, and charts. This collection contains primarily correspondence, but includes articles and addresses by Murphy as well as scrapbooks, photographs, and other miscellaneous volumes documenting his career. From his earliest travels to South American and the Antarctic regions in 1912, until his Australia voyage in 1971, Murphy continually explored animal and bird life as a scientist, and also as a concerned citizen who became one of the earliest advocates of conservation and ecology.</p>

Background note

Robert Cushman Murphy (1887-1973), one of the twentieth century's great ornithologists, was curator of mammals and birds at the Brooklyn Museum (1911-1917) and was curator of birds and later chairman of birds at the American Museum of Natural History (1917-1973). The world's foremost authority on sea birds, in 1936, he penned *Oceanic Birds of South America*, a two volume set. An ardent traveler and explorer, he kept copious notes of his travels, which he typed up, illustrated and had bound. The APS library owns forty-two bound journals. Murphy was made an APS member in 1946. A pioneer in the study of the ecology, a louse, fish, plant, lizard, an Antarctic inlet, spider, and two mountains have acquired his name.

Scope & content

Native American Images note : Seventy Native American black & white silver gelatin photographs, sketches, maps and prints by Robert Cushman Murphy from 1900-1965. Taken or drawn during his natural history expeditions to Baja California, Florida, Panama, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, the images represent native portraits, encampments, dress and weapons. Tribes covered include Choco, Cocopa, Seminole, and Quechua. Also, includes images of the Montauk of Long Island, N.Y. Of particular interest, a sketch of Huaco pottery and watercolors of Quechua Indians. Note: the images are in the journals entitled Baja California, 1915; Florida Fisheries, 1919; Peruvian Littoral Expedition, 1919-1920; Expedition to Peru and Ecuador, 1924-1925; Choco Expedition, 1937; Long Island and Elsewhere, 1900, 1964-1965. Also referenced in Freeman's Guide to Manuscripts relating to the American Indian and its Supplement and Murphy Smith's Historical American Sketches.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

American Philosophical Society

Provenance

Acquisition Information

Presented by Robert Cushman Murphy, 1967-1970; Mrs. Grace E. B. Murphy, 1973, 1975; #42 journal presented by Mrs. Alison Murphy Conner, 1979 and accessioned, 1984 (1984 607ms). See in-house shelf list for additional accession numbers and dates.

Processing Information

Only scanned images are noted.

Indexing Terms

Corporate Name(s)

- American Geographical Society of New York.
- American Museum of Natural History.
- American Philosophical Society.
- Brooklyn Museum.

Family Name(s)

- Beck, R. H.
- Belt, Charles Banks.

Genre(s)

- Articles.
- Charts.
- Clippings.
- Diaries.
- Gelatin silver prints
- Journals (notebooks).
- Maps.
- Photomechanical prints
- Photoprints.
- Scrapbooks.
- Sketches.

Geographic Name(s)

- Antarctica -- Discovery and exploration.
- Australia -- Description and travel.
- Bahamas -- Description and travel.
- Baja California (Mexico : Peninsula)--Description and travel
- Bermuda Islands -- Description and travel.
- British Columbia -- Description and travel.
- Colombia -- Description and travel.
- England -- Description and travel.
- Europe -- Description and travel.
- Georgia -- Description and travel.
- Mexico -- Description and travel.
- Philippines -- Description and travel.
- South America -- Description and travel.
- United States -- Description and travel.

Occupation(s)

- Ornithologists.

Personal Name(s)

- Armstrong, John Charles
- Avila, Enrique
- Bowman, Isaiah, 1878-1950
- Brooks, Paul
- Byrd, Richard Evelyn, 1888-1957

- Carson, Rachel, 1907-1964
- Chapman, Frank M.
- Deevey, Edward Smith, 1914-1988
- Falla, R. A., (Robert Alexander)
- Faunce, Wayne M.
- Fleming, C. A., (Charles Alexander), 1916-1987
- Greely, A. W., (Adolphus Washington), 1844-1935
- Grosvenor, Gilbert H., 1875-1966
- Mayr, Ernst, 1904-2005
- Mead, Margaret, 1901-1978, comp.
- Mumford, Lewis, 1895-1990
- Peterson, Roger Tory, 1908-1996
- Ripley, Sidney Dillon, 1913-2001
- Stefansson, Vilhjalmur, 1879-1962
- Vogt, William, 1902-1968

Subject(s)

- Bermuda petrel.
- Biogeography.
- Birds -- Geographical distribution.
- Birds -- New York (State) -- Long Island.
- Birds -- Peru.
- Birds -- Research.
- Birds -- Venezuela.
- Choco Indians
- Cocopa Indians
- Conservation of natural resources.
- DDT (Insecticide)
- Eastern Woodlands Indians
- Ecology.
- Fisheries -- Florida.
- Fisheries -- North Carolina.
- Fisheries -- Peru.
- Fishes -- Peru.
- Fishes -- Venezuela.
- Guano.
- Indians of Central America--Panama
- Indians of North America--Florida
- Indians of North America--New York (State)
- Indians of South America--Colombia
- Indians of South America--Ecuador
- Indians of South America--Peru

- Marine biology.
- Montauk Indians
- Oceanography.
- Ornithology--South America
- Quechua Indians
- Seminole Indians
- Southeast Indians
- Sperm whale.
- Voyages and travels.
- Water birds.
- Whaling.
- Zoology -- New York (State) -- Long Island.
- Zoology -- New Zealand.
- Zoology -- South Carolina.
- Zoology.

Collection Inventory

Murphy, Robert Cushman, 1887-1973	1940-1942	1.0
1 1. Long Island, 1940-1942		Volume(s)

Murphy, Robert Cushman, 1887-1973	24 August 1940	1 map, 2
Hollins Island, Long Island		pieces, 8.3 x 15.2 cm

Other Finding Aids
Realms of Gold, 35 (14).

Murphy, Robert Cushman, 1887-1973	1943-1945	1.0
2 2. Long Island, 1943-1945		Volume(s)

Murphy, Robert Cushman, 1887-1973	1946-1949	1.0
3 3. Long Island, 1946-1949		Volume(s)

Murphy, Robert Cushman, 1887-1973	1950-1952	1.0
4 4. Long Island and elsewhere, 1950-1952		Volume(s)

Murphy, Robert Cushman, 1887-1973	1953	1.0
5 5. Long Island and elsewhere, 1953		Volume(s)

Murphy, Robert Cushman, 1887-1973	1954-1955	1.0
6 6. Long Island and elsewhere, 1954-1955		Volume(s)

Murphy, Robert Cushman, 1887-1973	16 September 1955	1 map, 18.4 x
Riverhead tract, Long Island		21 cm

Other Finding Aids

Realms of Gold, 35 (20).

Murphy, Robert Cushman, 1887-1973	1956-1958	1.0
77. Long Island and elsewhere, 1956-1958		Volume(s)

Murphy, Robert Cushman, 1887-1973	1959	1.0
8 8. Long Island and elsewhere, 1959		Volume(s)

Murphy, Robert Cushman, 1887-1973	1915	1.0
9 9. Baja California, 1915		Volume(s)

Native American images note: 28 black and white silver gelatin prints, 1 map.

Cocopa settlement	1915
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Cocopa settlement, 1915 (Baja California)

[\[http://diglib.amphilsoc.org/fedora/repository/graphics:2718\]](http://diglib.amphilsoc.org/fedora/repository/graphics:2718)

Papa Laguna	1915
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Papa Laguna, 1915 (Baja California)

[\[http://diglib.amphilsoc.org/fedora/repository/graphics:2719\]](http://diglib.amphilsoc.org/fedora/repository/graphics:2719)

Murphy, Robert Cushman, 1887-1973
10 10. Florida fisheries, 1919. West coast of
Florida and North Carolina capes

1919

1.0
Volume(s)

Native American images note: 1 black and white silver gelatin print of Seminole Indians at Turners River, Florida.

Murphy, Robert Cushman, 1887-1973	1932	1.0
11 11. Tring, 1932. Visit to England to secure the Rothschild collection of birds for the American Museum of Natural History		Volume(s)

Murphy, Robert Cushman, 1887-1973	1919-1920	1.0
12 12. Peruvian Littoral Expedition, 1919-1920		Volume(s)
Native American images note: 4 pencil sketches of Huaco twin vases.		
Murphy, Robert Cushman, 1887-1973	4 November 1919	1 map, 14 x 21.6 cm
Bay of Pisco and waters about Paracas Peninsula		
Other Finding Aids		
Realms of Gold, 35 (3).		
Murphy, Robert Cushman, 1887-1973	14 October 1919	1 map, 14 x 21.6 cm
Chincha Islands		
Colored.		
Other Finding Aids		
Realms of Gold, 35 (1).		
Murphy, Robert Cushman, 1887-1973	1 January 1920	1 map, 14 x 21.6 cm
Chincha Islands, Middle Island		
Colored.		
Other Finding Aids		
Realms of Gold, 35 (7).		
Huaco (pottery)	1919-1920	
Huaco (pottery), 1919-1920 (Peruvian Littoral expedition)		
[http://diglib.amphilsoc.org/fedora/repository/graphics:2722]		
Murphy, Robert Cushman, 1887-1973	1920	1 map, 14 x 21.6 cm
Isla de Lobos de Afuera		
Other Finding Aids		
Realms of Gold, 35 (9).		

Murphy, Robert Cushman, 1887-1973 1 January 1920 1 map, 14 x
Islas de Guanape 21.6 cm

Colored.

Other Finding Aids

Realms of Gold, 35 (8).

Murphy, Robert Cushman, 1887-1973 1920 1 map, 14 x
Islas de Lobos de Tierra 21.6 cm

Colored.

Other Finding Aids

Realms of Gold, 35 (11).

Murphy, Robert Cushman, 1887-1973 1920 1 map, 14 x
Islas de Macabi 21.6 cm

Other Finding Aids

Realms of Gold, 35 (10).

Murphy, Robert Cushman, 1887-1973 1919-1920 1 map, 5.1 x
Peruvian coastline 18.4 cm

Other Finding Aids

Realms of Gold, 35 (5).

Murphy, Robert Cushman, 1887-1973 1919 1 map, 14 x
San Gallan Island 21.6 cm

Colored.

Other Finding Aids

Realms of Gold, 35 (6).

Murphy, Robert Cushman, 1887-1973 16 November 1919 1 map, 14 x
Santa Rosita Island and Isla Viegas 21.6 cm

Other Finding Aids

Realms of Gold, 35 (4).

Murphy, Robert Cushman, 1887-1973
South Island, Chincha

14 October 1919

1 map, 14 x
21.6 cm

Colored.

Other Finding Aids

Realms of Gold, 35 (2).

Murphy, Robert Cushman, 1887-1973 13 13. Peru, 1953-1954. Oceanography, fish, birds, fishing operations, guano	1953-1954	1.0 Volume(s)
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Murphy, Robert Cushman, 1887-1973 Coastal valley north of Lima, Peru	12 December 1953	1 map, 10.2 x 17.8 cm
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Other Finding Aids
Realms of Gold, 35 (19).

Murphy, Robert Cushman, 1887-1973	1937	1.0
14 14. Florida and the Gulf Stream, 1937		Volume(s)

Murphy, Robert Cushman, 1887-1973	1941	1.0
15 15. Askoy Expedition, 1941. Voyage in the schooner <i>Askoy</i> along the coasts of Darien, Colombia, and Ecuador to the Malpelo Islands, investigating shorelines and outlying pelagic waters from points of view of geographer, oceanographer, and marine biologist		Volume(s)
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Murphy, Robert Cushman, 1887-1973	30 March 1941	1 map, 2 pieces, 28 x 21.6 cm
Malpelo Island		
Other Finding Aids		
Realms of Gold, 35 (15).		

<p>Murphy, Robert Cushman, 1887-1973 16 16. New Zealand, 1947-1948. New Zealand flora, fauna, and sea-life; Seventh Pacific Science Congress</p>	<p>1947-1948</p>	<p>1.0 Volume(s)</p>
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<p>McCaskill, Murray R. C. Murphy's New Zealand travel route</p>	<p>8 March 1948</p>	<p>1 map, 17.1 x 19.1 cm</p>
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Other Finding Aids

Realms of Gold, 35 (16).

Murphy, Robert Cushman, 1887-1973	1949	1.0
17 17. New Zealand, 1949. New Zealand flora, fauna, and sea-life; Seventh Pacific Science Congress		Volume(s)
Murphy, Robert Cushman, 1887-1973	30 January 1949	1 map, 21.6 x 28 cm
Other Finding Aids		
Realms of Gold, 35 (17).		

Murphy, Robert Cushman, 1887-1973	1928-1947	1.0
18 18. Low Country, 1928-1947. South Carolina and southeastern United States		Volume(s)

Murphy, Robert Cushman, 1887-1973	1951	1.0
19 19. Bermuda, 1951. Rediscovery of the cahow, or Bermuda petrel		Volume(s)

Murphy, Robert Cushman, 1887-1973	1951	1 map, 16.5 x 25.4 cm
Northeastern end of Bermuda		

Other Finding Aids

Realms of Gold, 35 (18).

Murphy, Robert Cushman, 1887-1973	1955-1956	1.0
20 20. Coast to Coast, and Mexico, 1955-1956.		Volume(s)
A 12,000-mile motor trip to British Columbia, the west coast of the United States, and Mexico		

Murphy, Robert Cushman, 1887-1973	1957-1958	1.0
21 21. Around the World, 1957-1958. Ninth Pacific Science Congress		Volume(s)

Murphy, Robert Cushman, 1887-1973	1960	1.0
22 22. Operation Deep Freeze, 1960. Cruise of the <i>U.S.S. Glacier</i> in Antarctica, to the head of the Bellingshausen Sea		Volume(s)

Murphy, Robert Cushman, 1887-1973	1912-1913	1.0
23 23. South Georgia Expedition, 1912-1913.		Volume(s)
Microfilm. Printed as Logbook for Grace. See volume 30 below		

Murphy, Robert Cushman, 1887-1973	1952	1.0
24 24. Venezuela, 1952. Birds and fish of the coastal areas		Volume(s)

Murphy, Robert Cushman, 1887-1973	1953	1.0
25 25. Philippines, 1953. Eighth Pacific Science Congress		Volume(s)

Murphy, Robert Cushman, 1887-1973	1950	1.0
26 26. Europe, 1950. Congressus Internationalis Ornithologicus, at Uppsala		Volume(s)

Murphy, Robert Cushman, 1887-1973	1956	1.0
27 27. Stranger Pacific Cruise, 1956.		Volume(s)
Journal of the Scripps Cooperative Oceanic Productivity Expedition		

Murphy, Robert Cushman, 1887-1973	1945	1.0
28 28. San José Island, 1945. Flora and fauna of an island "which has had almost no human inhabitants since the extermination of the native Indians early in the 16th century"		Volume(s)

Murphy, Robert Cushman, 1887-1973	1924-1925	1.0
29 29. Expedition to Peru and Ecuador, 1924-1925		Volume(s)
Native American images note: 2 watercolor sketches, 1 ink sketch.		

Quechua man	1924-1925	
Quechua man, 1924-1925		
[http://diglib.amphilsoc.org/fedora/repository/graphics:2720]		

Quechua woman and child	1924-1925	
Quechua woman and child, 1924-1925		
[http://diglib.amphilsoc.org/fedora/repository/graphics:2721]		

Murphy, Robert Cushman, 1887-1973	1912-1913	1.0
30 30. Logbook for Grace, Published, Logbook for Grace: Whaling Brig Daisy, 1912-1913. (New York, 1947)		Volume(s)

Murphy, Robert Cushman, 1887-1973	1926	1.0
31 31. Europe, 1926		Volume(s)

Murphy, Robert Cushman, 1887-1973	1951	1.0
32 32. Coast to Coast, 1951		Volume(s)

Murphy, Robert Cushman, 1887-1973	1956-1958	1.0
33 33. Inagua, 1956, 1958		Volume(s)

Murphy, Robert Cushman, 1887-1973	1960-1962	1.0
34 34. Long Island and elsewhere, 1960-1962		Volume(s)

Murphy, Robert Cushman, 1887-1973	1964-1965	1.0
35 35. Long Island and elsewhere, 1964-1965		Volume(s)

Native American images note: 2 newspaper clippings, Montauk Indians.

Murphy, Robert Cushman, 1887-1973	1965-1966	1.0
36 36. Long Island and elsewhere, 1965-1966		Volume(s)

Murphy, Robert Cushman, 1887-1973	1967-1968	1.0
37 37. Long Island and elsewhere, 1967-1968		Volume(s)

Murphy, Robert Cushman, 1887-1973	1937	1.0
38 38. Chocó Expedition, 1937. Field work in the launch "Wilpet" between Panama and Ecuador		Volume(s)
<p>Primarily concerned with collection of water samples from the Pacific, meteorological data, etc. Some notes and discussion of Indians of Colombia and Ecuador. Groups mentioned: Choco, Citara, Noanama, Cholo, Paparo, Tucura, and Cuna. Native American images note: 2 photomechanical prints, 2 black and white silver gelatin prints.</p>		

Murphy, Robert Cushman, 1887-1973	1937	1 map, 16.5 x 17.1 cm
Chocó, Columbia		
Other Finding Aids		
Realms of Gold, 35 (12).		

Murphy, Robert Cushman, 1887-1973	1937	1 map, 12.7 x 15.2 cm
Map of Panama and Colombia Indian tribes		
Other Finding Aids		
Realms of Gold, 35 (13).		

Murphy, Robert Cushman, 1887-1973	1969-1970	1.0
39 39. Long Island and elsewhere, 1969-1970		Volume(s)

Murphy, Robert Cushman, 1887-1973	1971	1.0
40 40. Australasia, 1971		Volume(s)

Murphy, Robert Cushman, 1887-1973	1912-1913	1.0
41 41. The Way of the Sperm Whale, 1912-1913. Photo essay on whale hunting and way of life, while aboard the brig Daisy		Volume(s)

Murphy, Robert Cushman, 1887-1973	1907	1.0
42 42. The birds of Long Island, 1907		Volume(s)

Murphy, Robert Cushman, 1887-1973

1903-1949

1.0

Columbia University, 1941-1942

Volume(s)

Diary of Robert Cushman Murphy, includes many illustrations, sketches, and photographs pertaining to his early life. Native American images note: 23 pencil and ink sketches of arrowheads found near boyhood home, portraits of Sioux.

Murphy, Robert Cushman, 1887-1973	1933	1.0
Migrant Cruise, June - July 1933		Volume(s)

Murphy, Robert Cushman, 1887-1973	1941	1.0
Oceanography Notes, 1941		Volume(s)

Murphy, Robert Cushman, 1887-1973	1924-1925	1.0
Panama, 1924-1925. Third Pan-American Scientific Congress, Lima		Volume(s)
