

American Antiquarian Society

Manuscript Collections

NAME OF COLLECTION:

Tuckerman, Edward, Correspondence, 1832-1873

LOCATION:

Octavo vols. "T"

SIZE OF COLLECTION:

10 octavo volumes

SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON COLLECTION:

The correspondence has been item-cataloged. For a biographical sketch of Tuckerman, see *DAB*, vol. XIX, p. 42-44, and *AAS Proceedings*, vol. IV, p. 83-86.

SOURCE OF COLLECTION:

Octavo volume one, the gift of Benjamin Tighe, 1961. The remaining volumes, the gift of Edward Tuckerman Esty, 1921.

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION:

Edward Tuckerman (1817-1886), the son of Edward Tuckerman (1775-1843) and Sophia May Tuckerman (1784-1870), was a botanist and authority on lichens. He was born in Boston, Mass., and received degrees from Union College, Harvard Law School, and Harvard Divinity School. From 1854 until his death, he was a professor at Amherst College. A devoted scholar, Tuckerman published extensively. He contributed measurably to the classification and description of North American lichens. He also wrote upon biographical, historical, and theological topics, and was elected a member of the American Antiquarian Society in 1855.

This collection consists primarily of incoming correspondence from Tuckerman's colleagues in natural history, many of them leading natural scientists of the day. The letters relate chiefly to the exchange of botanical specimens, their identification, and the publication of botanical papers and catalogs. Correspondents include Asa Gray (1810-1888), Thaddeus William Harris (1795-1856), Increase Allen Lapham (1811-1875), W. F. Macrae (-), William Oakes (1799-1848), Benjamin Silliman (1779-1864), Henry Parker Sartwell (1792-1867), and John Torrey (1796-1873). Henry William Ravenel (1814-1887) wrote Tuckerman from South Carolina. In addition to scientific exchanges, he analyzed the political and cultural situation in the South following the Civil War (see his letter of 20 March 1866). Tuckerman also corresponded with several Europeans.

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