



University of Missouri, Laws Observatory Records (C3401)

Collection Number: C3401

Collection Title: University of Missouri, Laws Observatory Records

Dates: 1877-1954

Creator: University of Missouri

Abstract: Correspondence, class materials, reports, publications, and observing records of the observatory.

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(300 folders)

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Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

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Historical Note:

The Laws Observatory was established in 1879-1880 when Professor Joseph Ficklin arranged for the University to acquire the 7 ½ inch telescope of Shelby College in Kentucky for \$500 and the University's old telescope. University President S. S. Laws paid for the new equipment himself in addition to the enlargement of the observatory building. After the retirement of Professor Eli S. Haynes in 1950, the astronomy department was rolled into the physics curriculum.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into the following five series:

Correspondence
Lecture Notes and Examinations
Astronomical Observations
Miscellaneous
Publications

Scope and Content Note:

Correspondence

The correspondence series includes letters written by various members of the department such as Milton Updegraff, F. H. Seares, R. H. Baker, Eli S. Haynes, Frank N. Edmonds, Jr., and Richard D. Levee, 1877-1954.

Lecture Notes and Examinations

This series contains course work for R. H. Baker, Eli S. Haynes, Frank N. Edmonds, Jr., T. J. J. See, and Milton Updegraff. Also includes some student papers.

Astronomical Observations

This series includes the records of observation made at the Laws Observatory, filed alphabetically by constellation.

Miscellaneous

Cards which accompanied 100 slides from the Yerkes Observatory, giving description and explanation. Slides are not included. Grade books, one each from student days of Harlow Shapley and C.C. Wylie.

Publications

This series includes No. 1-34 of the *Laws Observatory University of Missouri Bulletins*.

Container List:

- f. 1 Correspondence, 1877-1889 - Correspondence about obtaining 7 1/2 inch refracting telescope from Shelby College; circumstances of

- purchase of telescope and reasons for naming observatory for S.S. Laws, president of the University; instruments and accessories for the telescope.
- f. 2-7 Milton Updegraff Correspondence, 1890-1900 - Maintenance problems of the observatory; reports and inventories; correspondence on work to establish longitude, latitude, and height above sea level of Columbia, Missouri and of the Laws Observatory; correspondence with opticians and instrument makers.
- f. 8-22 F.H. Seares Correspondence, 1901-1910 - Correspondence exclusively with instrument makers and opticians about equipment for the observatory.
- f. 23-50 R.H. Baker Correspondence, 1911-1922 - Correspondence with other astronomers, primarily Frank Schlesinger and R.H. Curtiss, about research and personal matters, and with instrument makers about equipment for the observatory. Baker was on leave during the 1922-1923 academic year.
- f. 51-122 Eli S. Haynes Correspondence, 1923-1950 - Primarily material on University committee work, keeping the observatory in good repair, and meteors and meteorites.
- f. 59 Move of Morrison Observatory to Central College in Fayette.
- f. 70-81 Meteorite fall near Archie, Missouri, in 1932, and Haynes' work on it.
- f. 114 Letter, 1944, from Haynes to Dean W.C. Curtis stating direction Astronomy Department should take after World War II.
- f. 123-135 Frank N. Edmonds, Jr., Correspondence, 1950-1952 - University correspondence about renovation of the observatory building and with S. Chandrasekhar about research matters.
- f. 136-142 Richard D. Levee Correspondence, 1952-1954 - General correspondence on University matters and answering questions on astronomy. Also material on tennis team, for which Levee served as coach.
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