

Alpheus Hyatt Verrill fonds

An inventory of his fonds

In

The Library of the University of British Columbia
Special Collections Division

Prepared by:
Krista Hill
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FONDS DESCRIPTION

Alpheus Hyatt Verrill. – 1871-1954.

Alpheus Hyatt Verrill fonds. [1950-1954]

6.5 cm textual records.

Biographical Sketch:

A. Hyatt Verrill was born in 1838 in the United States. An archaeologist, explorer, inventor, illustrator, Verrill was also a prolific author, writing on extremely diverse subjects such as whaling, travel, natural history and the radio. This writing resulted in the publication of more than 100 books, including several science fiction novels written under the pseudonym Ray Ainsbury. Verrill served as the natural history editor of Webster's International Dictionary in 1896, and invented the autochrome process of natural colour photography in 1902.

According to the synopsis for his book *Never a Dull Moment*, Verrill discovered and described many new species of insects, reptiles, birds and shells, discovered and excavated countless prehistoric ruins and tombs, and devoted almost forty years of his life to exploring the deserts and jungles of Central and South America. He was a boat builder, a member of Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show, a member of several aboriginal tribes, and has lived through such disasters as shipwrecks, hurricanes and earthquakes.

A. Hyatt Verrill died after a series of strokes in November of 1954, at the age of 83.

Scope and content:

The fonds consists of the unpublished manuscript for Verrill's book *Never a Dull Moment*, and several letters.

Arrangement note: Original order was maintained in the arrangement of this fonds. Some chapters appear to be out of order, and the date range of each chapter is not exactly chronological, however, this was the way the author arranged them.

Source of supplied title: Title based on contents of fonds.

Restrictions: No restrictions on access.

Finding aids: File list is available.

Accruals: Further accruals are not expected.

FILE LIST

BOX/FOLDER		DATES
1-1	<i>Never a Dull Moment</i> – Synopsis Foreword Chapter 1 (1873-1875 – “When I Was a Boy”) Chapter 2 (1875-1883) Chapter 3 (1876) Chapter 4 (1880-1882) Chapter 5 (1875-1884)	[1950-1954]
1-2	<i>Never a Dull Moment</i> – Chapter 6 (1879-1888) Chapter 7 (1882-1890) Chapter 13a (1883-1900) Chapter 9 (“Over the Incan Road to an Incan Dance”) Chapter 10 (1884-1886)	[1950-1954]
1-3	<i>Never a Dull Moment</i> – Chapter 11 (1875) Chapter 12 (1880-1882) Chapter 13 (1886-1889) Chapter 13b (1887-1889) Chapter 14 (1884-1885)	[1950-1954]
1-4	<i>Never a Dull Moment</i> – Chapter 16 (1886) Chapter 18 (1885) Chapter 19 (1885-1887) Chapter 20b (1886-1888) Chapter 20 (1886) Chapter 20a (1888)	[1950-1954]
1-5	<i>Never a Dull Moment</i> – Chapter 21 (1889-1890) Chapter 22 (1900-1903) Chapter 23 (1892-1894) Chapter 24 (1878-1902 – “I Join the Sioux”) Chapter 24 (1892-1893) Chapter 25 (1894-1901) Chapter 26 (1895-1938) Chapter 27 (1902-1906)	[1950-1954]

1-6	<i>Never a Dull Moment</i> – Chapter 28 (1905-1908) Chapter 29 (1908-1915) Chapter 30 (1914-1918) Chapter 31 (1915-1916)	[1950-1954]
1-7	<i>Never a Dull Moment</i> – Chapter 32 (1918-1922) Chapter 32 (1920-1922) Chapter 33 (1920) Extract from Chapter 33 (1924-1926) Chapter 34 (1922-1924) Chapter 35 (1923-1926) Chapter 36 (1924-1926) Chapter 37 (1924)	[1950-1954]
1-8	<i>Never a Dull Moment</i> – Chapter 38 (1924) Chapter 39 (1926-1927) Chapter 40 (1929) Chapter 41 (1934-1935) Chapter 42 (1930-1933)	[1950-1954]
1-9	<i>Never a Dull Moment</i> – Chapter 43 (1934-1938) Chapter 44 (1937-1940) Final Chapter	[1950-1954]
1-10	Letters (includes a letter from A. Hyatt Verrill to Miss Street (September 24, 1952) and a note from Mrs. A. Hyatt Verrill explaining the nature of her husband's death and giving some biographical information)	(1952)