

Daniel Treadwell Papers
2002.05

History

Daniel Treadwell (1791-1872) was born in Ipswich, Massachusetts. His parents died when he was a boy, and he was largely self-educated. His early interest in tinkering resulted later on in a number of inventions, including a machine for making screws, an improved canon, and one of the first power printing presses. He was appointed a professor at Harvard College in 1834. Mr. Treadwell added a large bequest to the endowment of Augustine Heard for the founding of Ipswich Public Library.

Scope and Content/Series Description

Three Boxes (1.3 linear feet)

1842 to 1880

The records are divided into five series: Letters/Papers, Scientific Documents, Legal and Financial Documents, Miscellaneous Documents, and Artifacts. Mr. Treadwell's letters include observations on his travels in Europe, as well as correspondence with the Navy Dept. regarding his improved canon. Drawings and calculations regarding his inventions are found in his papers. Various legal documents concerning his patent infringement case against Robert Parrott are in Series 3, Legal and Financial Documents. The Artifacts series contains a scrapbook of algae specimens, a porringer, and Mr. Treadwell's Rumford medal, awarded to him by the American Academy of Art and Sciences in 1865.

The main strength of the collection is the handwritten correspondence and data regarding Daniel Treadwell's inventions, which give much insight into the workings of a nineteenth century scientific mind. Also of note is the algae collection, which in its delicacy is a work of art as well as science.

Processed and described by Paula Grillo, July 2003

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Container List

Series 1

Letters/Papers

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1	1	Personal Letters	1846-1857
1	2	Scientific Letters/Papers	1842-1845
1	3	Scientific Letters/Papers	1846-1858
1	4	Scientific Letters/Papers	1862-1880

Series 2

Scientific Documents

1	5	Short Account of Improved Canon (p. 9-24)	No date
1	6	Diagram: View of Boilers of Common Engine	No date
1	7	Discussion on Darwin's Origin of Species	No date
1	8	Treatise . . . on Cordage, by Chapman	1808
1	9	Observations on Chronometers, by Daniel Treadwell (signed)	1829-1833
1	10	System of Geography, by M. Malte-Brun	1829
1	11	Comparative Merits of Canals and Railroads, by M. Howard	1832
1	12	Report on Steam Carriages, by a Select Committee of House of Commons, Great Britain	1832
1	13	Report on Steam Carriages (copy 2) (incomplete)	1832

Daniel Treadwell Papers Container List, continued

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1	14	System of Astronomical Illustrations, by Rev. Eli Meeker	1834
1	15	Report on Introduction of Soft Water to Boston	1836
1	16	Directions for Making Collections in Natural History, by H. King	1840
1	17	Service Pipes for Water, by E.N. Horsford	1849
1	18	On the American Prime Meridian, by Prof. J. Lovering	1850
1	19	Inventions and Improvements in Applied Science	1852
1	20	Diagram Showing Production, Consumption and Prices of Iron 1740-1855	1855
1	21	Lecture by Daniel Treadwell: Relations of Science to the Useful Arts	1855
1	22	On Statistics and Geography of Production of Iron, by Abram S. Hewitt	1856
1	23	Grammatical Fragment	1860
1	24	Testimony of Experts, by Emory Washburn	1866
1	25	First Annual Report of Trustees of Peabody Museum of American Archaeology and Ethnology	1868
Series 3		Legal and Financial Documents	
2	1	Annual Report of Receipts and Expenditures, Town of Cambridge	1844
2	2	Bill of Complaint, Daniel Treadwell v. R. P. Parrott	1862

Daniel Treadwell Papers Container List, continued

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
2	3	Daniel Treadwell v. Robert P. Parrott	1864
2	4	Daniel Treadwell v. Robert P. Parrott	1865
Series 4		Miscellaneous Documents	
2	5	Daniel Webster as a Jurist, an address by Joel Parker	1853
3	1	<i>Army Ordinance</i> , November-December 1938 issue	1938
Series 5		Artifacts	
3	2	Algae Specimens Scrapbook	
3	3	Rumford Medals	
3	4	Porringer	