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SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

**Inventory of the Lewis R.  
Gibbes Papers, 1800s-1893, 1937**

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## Descriptive Summary

<b>Title:</b>	Lewis R. Gibbes papers
<b>Date(s)</b>	1800s-1893,
<b>Date(s)</b>	1937
<b>Creator:</b>	Gibbes, Lewis Reeves, 1810-1894
<b>Abstract:</b>	Papers of Lewis R. Gibbes, Professor of mathematics, astronomy, and physics at the College of Charleston, Charleston, South Carolina, from 1838-1892. Papers include materials relating to Gibbes' studies in France, assorted obituaries, eulogies, and memorials, his published papers and newspaper articles (collected into several scrapbooks) on his scientific work and other topics, assorted Elliott Society of Natural History materials, astronomical charts and calculations, assorted cartes de visites, cabinet cards, and daguerreotype images of prominent scientific personages, including a daguerreotype of the Swiss-American biologist and geologist Louis Agassiz as well as a carte de visite of Confederate General Robert E. Lee, assorted prints collected by Gibbes, and correspondence including drafts of letters from Gibbes to C. S. Sargent at the Arnold Arboretum in Brookline, Massachusetts.
<b>Extent:</b>	4.35 linear feet (5 document boxes, 1 slim document box, 1 artifact box, 9 oversize paper folders, 1 volume)
<b>Repository:</b>	Special Collections, College of Charleston Libraries 66 George Street Charleston, SC 29424 Phone: (843) 953-8016 Fax: (843) 953-6319 URL: <a href="http://archives.library.cofc.edu">http://archives.library.cofc.edu</a>
<b>Call Number:</b>	Mss 0020
<b>Language of Material:</b>	Materials in English and French

## Biographical Note

Lewis R. Gibbes (1810-1894) was the Professor of mathematics, astronomy, and physics at the College of Charleston, Charleston, South Carolina, from 1837 to 1892. Gibbes studied medicine in the United States and in Paris and was the author of numerous journal articles on astronomy, natural history, and related subjects. He studied the classification of chemical elements, invented scientific instruments, and served as an officer of the Elliott Society of Natural History for thirty years.

## Collection Overview

Biographical materials, writings, materials relating to the Elliott Society of Science and Art, astronomical charts, specimens, prints, and other assorted papers of Lewis R. Gibbs, Professor of mathematics, astronomy, and physics at the College of Charleston, Charleston, South Carolina, from 1838-1892. Biographical materials include assorted class notes, pamphlets, miscellaneous receipts for room and board, and other ephemera relating to Gibbs' studies in France. Also included is a glass plate negative portrait of Gibbs, assorted obituaries, eulogies and memorials on his death, and a typescript for the play "Lewis Gibbs: A Legend for Tomorrow," written by Emmett Robinson for the centennial anniversary of the College of Charleston. Gibbs' writings make up a majority of the papers and consist of published papers and newspaper articles (collected into several scrapbooks) on his scientific work, natural history, inventions, mathematics, science, astronomy, natural history, poetry, local events, the Great Comet of 1861, and the Civil War for assorted newspapers and scientific journals including the *Charleston Mercury*, the *Charleston Daily Courier*, and the *Proceedings of the Elliott Society of Natural History of Charleston, South Carolina*. There are also assorted Elliott Society of Natural History materials including a handwritten membership list, handwritten reports of the corresponding secretary, foreign science society memberships, issues of the *Proceedings of the Elliott Society of Natural History of Charleston, South Carolina*, a broadside re reorganization, and a notice of meeting. Astronomical charts and calculations consist of a number of charts diagramming the parallel of declination, time, and other calculations of total and partial eclipses of the sun and moon, including additional calculations on the verso of each, as well as assorted miscellaneous calculations. There are also assorted cartes de visites, cabinet cards, and daguerreotype images of prominent physicians, naturalists, botanists, biologists, geologists, and astronomers including a daguerreotype of the Swiss-American biologist and geologist Louis Agassiz and a carte de visite of Confederate General Robert E. Lee. Prints collected by Gibbs include assorted images of French aristocracy, physicians, politicians, generals, and artists as well as prints of the Turkish-Armenian and Crimean wars, assorted maps of France (including several street maps of Paris), the Neva river, the Black Sea, and North America. There are also prints of assorted European and American locales including images of Wales, United Kingdom, and Paris, France. Correspondence consists of drafts of two letters (1890 July 14 and December 6) from Gibbs to C. S. Sargent at the Arnold Arboretum in Brookline, Massachusetts, stating that Gibbs is sending Sargent papers for publication. Gibbs also asks Sargent for plant specimens. Also included is a volume containing copies of letters in French with an index. Copies of letters are to family members and others in Charleston, South Carolina, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Havana, Cuba, Paris, France, and elsewhere.

## Collection Arrangement

Materials are described at the folder level.

## Restrictions

### Access Restrictions

This collection is open for research.

### Copyright Notice

The nature of the College of Charleston's archival holdings means that copyright or other information about restrictions may be difficult or even impossible to determine despite reasonable efforts. Special Collections claims only physical ownership of most archival materials.

The materials from our collections are made available for use in research, teaching, and private study, pursuant to U.S. copyright law. The user must assume full responsibility for any use of the materials, including but not limited to, infringement of copyright and publication rights of reproduced materials. Any materials used for academic research or otherwise should be fully credited with the source.

## Related Material

Related materials in Special Collections include 8 microfilm reels of the Lewis R. Gibbes papers (Mss 17,327). Originals are held by the Library of Congress.

## Separated Material

The pamphlet *Constitution and By-Laws of the Elliott Society of Natural History of Charleston, S.C.: As Adopted by the Society in Convention, February, 1857*, the *Proceedings of the Elliott Society of Natural History of Charleston, South Carolina*, volumes 1 and 2, and *A Catalogue of the Phoenogamous Plants, of Columbia, S.C. and Its Vicinity* have been removed and cataloged separately.

## Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person, family, or organization, by topical subject, by place, and by types of material.

### Names

- Gibbes, Lewis Reeves, 1810-1894
- College of Charleston--Faculty
- Elliott Society of Science & Art--Records and correspondence
- Agassiz, Louis, 1807-1873--Photographs
- Lee, Robert E. (Robert Edward), 1807-1870--Photographs
- Sargent, Charles Sprague, 1841-1927--Correspondence

### Subjects

- College teachers--South Carolina--Charleston
- Astronomy--Research
- Biology--Research
- Botany--Research
- Geology--Research
- Natural history--Societies, etc.
- Astronomy--Observations
- Astronomy--Charts, diagrams, etc.

### Types of Material

- Writings (documents)
- Black-and-white prints (prints on paper)
- Clippings (information artifacts)
- Scrapbooks
- Charts (graphic documents)
- Letters (correspondence)
- Journals
- Receipts (financial records)
- Printed ephemera
- Notes
- Pamphlets
- Cartes-de-visite (card photographs)
- Cabinet photographs
- Daguerreotypes (photographs)
- Glass plate negatives

## **Administrative Information**

### **Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item], Lewis R. Gibbes papers, College of Charleston Libraries, Charleston, SC, USA.

### **Acquisitions Information**

The volume "Paris Illustrated" was donated in 1941 by Sarah P. Gibbes and Anna Gibbes.

### **Processing Information**

Originally processed by Special Collections Staff, date unknown.

Reprocessed by Joshua Minor, May 2016

Encoded by Joshua Minor, July 2016.

Reviewed, edited, and uploaded by Joshua Minor, July 2016.

# Inventory

## Biographical materials, 1834-1937

Box 1 Folder 1-2	Studies in France, 1834-1838, 1853
Oversize Paper Folder 1	Studies in France, 1836-1837
Box 1 Folder 3	<i>The American Journal of Science</i> , 1888 September
	Contains ad in back of journal advertising the sale of Gibbes' library.
Box 1 Folder 4	Obituaries, eulogies, and memorials, 1894-1895
Oversize Paper Folder 2	Obituaries, eulogies, and memorials, 1894-1895
Box 1 Folder 5	"Lewis Gibbes: A Legend for Tomorrow" typescript and playbills, 1937
Box 1 Folder 6	Glass plate negative of Lewis R. Gibbes, undated
Box 1 Folder 7	Biographical notes, undated
Oversize Paper Folder 3	Clippings, 1857, 1892, 1901

## Writings, 1834-1890

Box 1 Folder 8	"Annular Phase of Venus," <i>Science</i> , 1890 November 28
Box 1 Folder 9	"Botany of Edings Bay," 1857
Box 1 Folder 10	<i>A Catalogue of the Phoenogamous Plants of S.C. and its Vicinity</i> , 1835 October
Box 1 Folder 11	"Description of a New Species of Salamander," 1844 August
Box 1 Folder 12	"Description of Menobranchnus Punctatuts," 1853 October
Box 2 Folder 1	"Description of Ranilia Muricata Milne Edwards," 1857
Box 2 Folder 2	"Description, With Figures, of Six Species of Porcellana, Inhabiting Eastern Coast of North America," <i>Proceedings of the Elliott Society</i> , 1854 May
Box 2 Folder 3	"Early Life of Francis Arago," <i>Charleston College Magazine</i> , 1855 January 1
Box 2 Folder 4	Earthquake of 1886, <i>Proceedings of the Elliott Society</i> , 1887 July
Box 2 Folder 5	Eugene Chevreul autograph, <i>Proceedings of the Elliott Society</i> , 1889 May
Box 2 Folder 6	"Flight of Butterflies," <i>The Canadian Entomologist</i> , No. 3, Volume XII, 1880
Box 2 Folder 7	"The Identity of the Comets 1886 b, 1844 b, and 1678," <i>Proceedings of the Elliott Society</i> , 1886 November
Box 2 Folder 8	"Monograph of Genus Cryptopodia," 1856
Box 2 Folder 9	"Note on Pieris Rapae," <i>Proceedings of the Elliott Society</i> , 1887 August
Box 2 Folder 10	"Note on the Cycloid, and on the Maxima and Minima," 1859

Box 2 Folder 11	"Note on the Usual Methods of Demonstrating the Arithmetical Rule for Finding the Area of a Triangle When the Three Sides are Given," <i>Proceedings of the Elliott Society</i> , 1887 September
Box 2 Folder 12	"Notice of Stalactites Formed in Artificial Structures," <i>Proceedings of the Elliott Society</i> , 1889 May
Box 2 Folder 13	"Of the Collection of Crustaceans in the Cabinet of the Boston Society of Natural History," <i>Proceedings of the Boston Society of Natural History</i> , 1845 November 5
Box 2 Folder 14	"On a Convenient Form of Aspirator," circa 1857
Box 2 Folder 15	"On an Easy Mode of Illustrating the Difference in the Velocity of Sound in Different Gases," <i>Proceedings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science</i> , undated
Box 2 Folder 16	"On Some Points Which Have Been Overlooked in the Past and Present Condition of Niagara Falls," circa 1857
Box 2 Folder 17	"On the Carcinological Collections in the Cabinets of Natural History in the United States with an Enumeration of the Species Contained Therein, and Descriptions of New Species," 1850
Box 3 Folder 1	"On the Existence in Some Individuals of Two Insensible Spots on the Retina," <i>Proceedings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science</i> , 1850
Box 3 Folder 2	"On the Occultator," <i>The American Journal of Science and Arts</i> , 1869
Box 3 Folder 3	"A Portable and Easily Made Heliotrope," <i>Proceedings of the Elliott Society</i> , 1887 August
Box 3 Folder 4	"Remarks on Niagara Falls," 1857
Box 3 Folder 5	"Rules for the Accentuation of Names in Natural History with Examples Zoological and Botanical," 1860
Box 3 Folder 6	"Synoptical Table of Chemical Elements," <i>Proceedings of the Elliott Society</i> , 1875 October
	Clippings, 1834-1869
	Scrapbooks, 1834-1869
Box 3 Folder 7	1834-1869
Box 3 Folder 8	1836-1862
Box 4 Folder 1	1838-1849
Box 4 Folder 2	1849-1856
Box 4 Folder 3	1854-1859
Oversize Paper Folder 4	Oversize clippings, 1860-1861

Elliott Society of Science and Art, 1850s-1889, 1937



- Box 4 Folder 4 Membership list, 1850's  
*Proceedings of the Elliott Society of Natural History of Charleston, South Carolina, 1853-1889*
- Box 4 Folder 5 Volume 1, 1853 November-1858 December
- Box 5 Folder 1 1853 November 1
- Box 5 Folder 2 1885 March-1889 May (partial)
- Box 5 Folder 3 "Journal of the Elliott Society of Natural History, Volume I, Article III., The Law of Development by Specialization, A Sketch of Its Probable Universality," 1860
- Box 5 Folder 4 Notice of meeting, 1868 October 7
- Box 5 Folder 5 Foreign scientific society memberships, 1874-1898
- Box 5 Folder 6 Broadside re reorganization, 1885
- Box 5 Folder 7 Reports of corresponding secretary, 1887 April-May
- Box 5 Folder 8 "Elliott Society at College Long a Center of Learning," *Post and Courier* clipping, 1937 April 25
- Box 5 Folder 9 Cooperating societies, undated
- Astronomical charts and calculations, 1878-1891
- Oversize Paper Folder 5 Total and partial eclipse of sun and moon charts including calculations, 1878-1891
- Box 5 Folder 10 Miscellaneous calculations, 1882, undated
- Photographs, circa 1845, 1870s-1880s
- Box 5 Folder 11 Carte de visite, 1870, 1871, undated  
Images of John Perkins Barratt, Alvan Wentworth Chapman, Robert E. Lee, and John Torrey.
- Box 5 Folder 12 Cabinet cards, 1870s-1880s  
Images of James Dwight Dana, Benjamin Apthorp Gould, Asaph Hall, Joseph LeConte, Matthew Fontaine Maury, and the United States Naval observatory.
- Box 7 Daguerreotype of Louis Agassiz, circa 1845
- Oversize Paper Folder 6 Mont Blanc, undated
- Prints, 1800s
- Box 5 Box 13 Crimean and Turkish-Armenian wars, 1800s
- Box 5 Folder 14 European and American locales, 1800s  
Includes prints colored by Gibbes.

Box 5 Folder 15-19	French personages, 1800s
Volume 1	"Paris Illustrated," undated
	Oversize prints, 1800s
Oversize Paper Folder 7	European locales, 1800s
Oversize Paper Folder 8	French personages, 1800s
Oversize Paper Folder 9	Maps, 1800s
Box 6 Folder 1	Correspondence, 1838-1854, 1888, 1890
Box 6 Folder 2	Botanical specimen of Lacebark Tree of Jamaica, undated
Box 6 Folder 3	Architectural drawing of unidentified building, undated
Box 6 Folder 4	Writer's guide for correcting printer's errors, undated
Box 6 Folder 5	Handwritten transcription of a madrigal by F. Nichols Crouch, undated
Box 6 Folder 6	Clippings, 1834-1893

Includes assorted clippings colored by Gibbes.