

**A guide to the papers of Alpheus Hyatt (1839-1902)**  
**Marine Biological Laboratory**  
**Woods Hole, MA 02543**

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Archives of the Marine Biological Laboratory  
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Manuscript Collection MBL  
(One 24" x 12" boxes)

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BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Alpheus Hyatt was born on April 5, 1838 in Washington DC. In 1857, he attended Yale for a year before transferring to Harvard to study under Louis Agassiz. Graduating in 1862, he served in the Civil War before becoming a professor of zoology and paleontology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In 1877, he joined Boston University as a professor of biology.

Professor Hyatt organized a Teachers' School of Science which taught over twelve hundred teachers from 1870-1890. From 1880 to 1886, he also maintained a marine laboratory at Annisquam, Massachusetts with the assistance of the Women's Education Association of Boston and the Boston Society of Natural History. From this laboratory grew the MBL. Alpheus Hyatt served as the first president of the MBL Corporation from 1888-89.

His research focused on fossil cephalopods as well as the evolution and genetic relationships of sponges, bryozoans, bivalves, gastropods, and insects. He was one of the main proponents of the "neo-Lamarckian" school of evolution. A noted teacher as well, Alpheus Hyatt died in 1902 in Cambridge Massachusetts.

## PROVENANCE

The Hyatt papers were acquired by Jane Fessenden and Cathy Norton from the Hyatt-Mayer, Annisquam in July 1986.

## ARRANGEMENT

The materials were left in their original order

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Barths' papers are in one 12" x 24" box.

### Description of the Collection

- Bound group of letters (typed) of A. Hyatt to Charles Darwin and (typed) letters of C. Darwin to A. Hyatt (c. 1872)
- Bound (typed) essay by A. Hyatt "Early views of Life" - written after he had been at Harvard University.
- Hyatt's diary (1889) - Journal of Hyatt's fossil-collecting experiences in Las Vegas, New Mexico (120 typewritten pages, written by his wife. Personal account of his daily life, among his last trips.)
- Photo album  
"Prof A. Hyatt made an expedition for scientific research to Newfoundland and took his students from his house laboratory at Seven Acres with him." 1880's
- Miscellaneous photos of Hyatt and Hyatt's family members.
- Album-scrapbook of L. A. Beebe's Sea Weeds (Hyatt's mother).
- Several books and articles by A. Hyatt.
- Biographical sketch of Hyatt by Alfred G. Mayer.

Also in the MBL Archives the Bound collected Reprints by A. Hyatt (See old reprint collection).