Joseph A. Cushman (1881-1949) received his undergraduate education from Bridgewater (Mass.) Normal School, 1897-1901, and Harvard's Lawrence Scientific School, 1901-1903. He also received his Ph.D. degree, 1909, and an honorary Doctor of Science degree, 1937, from Harvard.

From 1903 to 1923 Cushman was employed at the Boston Society of Natural History where he studied recent foraminifera collected by the United States Fish Commission Steamer Albatross. In 1921, on leave from the USGS, Cushman was appointed consulting geologist for the Marland Oil Company, for which he spent several months in Mexico in field work. When he returned to his home in Sharon, Massachusetts, he built a laboratory which he called the Cushman Laboratory for Foraminiferal Research to continue his study of economic micropaleontology for Marland. In 1925 he severed his relationship with Marland and rejoined the USGS.

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These papers provide comprehensive documentation of Cushman's scientific career from around 1910 to 1949, with some records continued by his assistant, Ruth Todd, following his death. Included is correspondence with American and foreign scientists and students concerning the identification and exchange of specimens; use of the Cushman Laboratory for Research; his studies of European museum foraminiferal collections; his consulting work with the Marland Oil Company; his participation in professional societies, state geological surveys, international geological congresses, and geological expeditions; and the publishing of scientific journals. Also included are photographs of the Laboratory and prominent paleontologists; notebooks; scrapbooks of clippings, plates, notes, and tracings from published sources; and family correspondence, genealogies, reminiscences, paintings and sketches, photographs, and memorabilia.

There is no apparent logical arrangement to the papers, but there are several alphabetic correspondence series with similar subject matter and dates. It is unknown whether this is the order maintained by Cushman or whether the present order was established when the collection arrived at the United States National Museum. In some cases, folders are not identified so folder headings were added and enclosed in brackets.

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Creator: Cushman, Joseph A (Joseph Augustine) 1881-1949
Title: Joseph A. Cushman Papers, circa 1862-1977 and undated
Dates: 1862, 1862-1977, circa 1862-1977 and undated
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Summary: These papers provide comprehensive documentation of Cushman's scientific career from around 1910 to 1949, with some records continued by his assistant, Ruth Todd, following his death. Included is correspondence with American and foreign scientists and students concerning the identification and exchange of specimens; use of the Cushman Laboratory for Research; his studies of European museum foraminiferal collections; his consulting work with the Marland Oil Company; his participation in professional societies, state geological surveys, international geological congresses, and geological expeditions; and the publishing of scientific journals. Also included are photographs of the Laboratory and prominent paleontologists; notebooks; scrapbooks of clippings, plates, notes, and tracings from published sources; and family correspondence, genealogies, reminiscences, paintings and sketches, photographs, and memorabilia.

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Topics: Geology, Paleontology
Subjects: Cushman, Joseph A (Joseph Augustine) 1881-1949, Todd, Ruth 1913-, Cushman Laboratory for Foraminiferal Research, Marland Oil Company
Form/Genre: Scientific illustrations, Photographs, Scrapbooks, Art objects
Local Number: SIA RU1050101

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