Guide to the Will Cuppy Papers circa 1884-1949

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# Table of Contents

Descriptive Summary 3  
Information on Use 3  
Access 3  
Citation 3  
Biographical Note 3  
Scope Note 5  
Related Resources 7  
Subject Headings 7  
INVENTORY 7  

Series I: Books 7  
Subseries 1: How to be a Hermit (1929) 8  
Subseries 2: How to Attract the Wombat (1949) 8  
Subseries 3: The Decline and Fall of Practically Everybody (1950) 9  
Subseries 4: How to Get from January to December (1951) 10  
Series II: Topical 10  
Subseries 1: Animals 11  
Subseries 2: History 12  
Subseries 3: Humor and Quotes 13  
Subseries 4: Lectures and Speeches 13  
Subseries 5: Food 14  
Subseries 6: Crime Fiction 14  
Subseries 7: General 14  
Series III: Correspondence 15  
Series IV: Manuscripts, Notes and Clippings 17  
Subseries 1: How to Attract the Wombat 17  
Subseries 2: The Decline and Fall of Practically Everybody 19  
Subseries 3: Animals 20  
Subseries 4: History 23  
Subseries 5: Lectures and Speeches 23  
Subseries 6: Food 24  
Subseries 7: Crime Fiction 25  
Subseries 8: Radio Scripts 25  
Subseries 9: General 26  
Series V: University of Chicago 31  
Series VI: Scrapbooks 31  
Series VII: Photographs and Illustrations 32  
Subseries 1: Photographs 33  
Subseries 2: Illustrations 35  
Series VIII: Publications 39  
Series IX: Journals 40  
Series X: Oversize and Artifacts 45
Descriptive Summary

Identifier       ICU.SPCL.CUPPYW
Title            Cuppy, Will. Papers
Date             circa 1884-1949
Size             70 linear feet (125 boxes)
Repository       Special Collections Research Center
                 University of Chicago Library
                 1100 East 57th Street
                 Chicago, Illinois 60637 U.S.A.

Abstract         William Jacob ("Will") Cuppy was an American humorist and journalist,
                 best known for his satirical books: How to be a Hermit (1929), How to
                 Tell your Friends from the Apes (1931), How to Attract the Wombat
                 (1949), and The Decline and Fall of Practically Everybody (1950), as well
                 as his numerous articles and book reviews. The Will Cuppy Papers consist
                 largely of index card files containing story leads, jokes, factoids, trivia, and
                 personal reminders. The collection also contains correspondence, drafts
                 and manuscripts of his writings, clippings, magazines, books, photographs,
                 illustrations, scrapbooks, artifacts and journals.

Information on Use

Access
Series IX: Journals includes material restricted by the donor. Researchers will need to consult
with staff before requesting materials from this series. The remainder of the collection is open for
research.

Citation
When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is: Cuppy, Will. Papers, [Box
#, Folder #], Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library

Biographical Note
William Jacob ("Will") Cuppy was an American humorist and journalist, best known for his
satirical books How to be a Hermit (1929), How to Tell your Friends from the Apes (1931),
How to Attract the Wombat (1949), and The Decline and Fall of Practically Everybody (1950).
He also wrote numerous essays, scripts, and reviews dealing with the animal kingdom, world
history, crime fiction, and his personal life.
Cuppy was born and grew up in Auburn, Indiana, spending his summers at the family farm near South Whitley, where he discovered his first interest in the animal world. In 1902, he entered the University of Chicago and remained there for the next 12 years studying literature, although he devoted more attention to his work as a campus reporter for the Chicago Record-Herald and the Chicago Daily News. He was also involved in amateur theatre. Upon finishing his BA in 1907, he decided to stay on and pursue a PhD in English literature. Cuppy's first book, Maroon Tales (1910), was a collection of humorous stories about student life at the University of Chicago. Cuppy eventually lost interest in his PhD and left the university in 1914, after turning in his Master's thesis, "The Elizabethan Conception of Prose Style."

Cuppy then moved to New York City and began working as a copywriter to support himself while pursuing his own literary projects. He briefly served in the US military near the end of the First World War, but did not leave the country in his post in the motor transport corps. Around this time, he began writing for the New York Tribune (and later its successor, the New York Herald Tribune) where his old college friend, Burton Rascoe, was literary editor. From 1924 until his death, he was a staff reviewer at the New York Herald Tribune.

Cuppy despised the noise and hectic pace of life in Manhattan, blaming it for his lack of success as a serious writer. He retreated to a shack made of clapboard, tarpaper, and tin sheeting on Jones Island off the coast of Long Island's South Shore in 1921. He later named his 'estate' "Tottering-on-the-brink". Though he continued to publish, he led a hermit-like existence there for the next eight years. He noted occasional encounters with the crew of the Zachs Inlet Coast Guard Station, who provided food and assistance to the writer, even rowing him ashore for his meetings in the city. Cuppy was eventually forced to give up permanent residence on the island with the expansion of the Jones Beach State Park near the end of the decade, but he received a special dispensation from the chairman of the New York state council of parks, which allowed him to keep the shack. Cuppy's second book, How to be a Hermit, published in 1929, was a humorous look at home economics and the life of a confirmed bachelor, based on his experiences. The book was a best-seller.

Though he became a well-known figure in the New York literary scene and also enjoyed popular success, Cuppy was a self-proclaimed curmudgeon, who often avoided social interaction. After being forced back to the city in 1929, he became an urban hermit in his apartment in Greenwich Village, sleeping during the day and working until the early hours of the morning. Though it was now in the middle of a state park, he continued to periodically retreat to his shack in search of solitude.

In the early 1930s, Cuppy tried his hand at radio and the lecture circuit, but was unsuccessful, due in part to his nervous manner of speaking. He briefly had a 15-minute long radio program with the National Broadcasting Company (NBC) in 1933, in which he and an actress discussed being a hermit, historical figures, food, animals and Cuppy's pet peeves. It was cancelled within six months due to its lack of broad appeal.
Many of the essays that would form his next three books, How to Tell Your Friends from the Apes (1931), How to Become Extinct (1941), and How to Attract the Wombat (1949), were first published as articles in the Saturday Evening Post, The New Yorker, the magazine For Men, and other publications. A compilation, The Great Bustard and Other People, containing How to Tell Your Friends from the Apes and How to Become Extinct, was published in 1944.

Cuppy’s steadiest source of income was reviewing mystery and crime fiction for the weekly column "Mystery and Adventure" in the New York Herald Tribune. Cuppy reportedly read and reviewed more than 4,000 novels over the course of his career. He claimed to have an alter ego, "Oswald Terwilliger," whom he put to work reviewing murder mysteries while Cuppy pursued more dignified literary projects. Cuppy also edited several collections of murder mysteries, including World’s Great Mystery Stories: American and English Masterpieces (1943), World’s Great Detective Stories: American and English Masterpieces (1943) and Murder Without Tears: An Anthology of Crime (1946).

Near the end of his life, Cuppy suffered from depression and chronic poor health. Threatened with eviction from his apartment, he committed suicide by a fatal dose of sleeping pills on September 19, 1949. His cremated remains were buried in Evergreen Cemetery in Auburn, Indiana in an unmarked grave until 1985, when local donors erected a granite headstone with the inscription, "American Humorist".

Cuppy’s last book, The Decline and Fall of Practically Everybody, was published posthumously in 1950. It was based on Cuppy’s notes and drafts, sorted and assembled by Cuppy’s long-time editor and literary executor, Fred Feldkamp, and Feldkamp’s wife, Phyllis. Cuppy had been researching the book for more than sixteen years and was close to completing it. The book spent four months on the New York Times bestseller list, and went through several reprints. Feldkamp also arranged for another unfinished project to be published in 1951: the satirical almanac How to Get from January to December, featuring a humorous essay for every day of the year.

Scope Note
The Will Cuppy Papers consist largely of index card files containing story leads, jokes, factoids, trivia, and personal reminders. The collection also contains correspondence, drafts and manuscripts of his writings, clippings, magazines, books, photographs, illustrations, scrapbooks, artifacts and journals. The collection spans the 1880s-1949, though most materials are undated.

Cuppy’s writing method involved jotting ideas down on index cards, filed according to categories of his own devising. He collected a variety of research material related to the topic, primarily clippings. Cuppy continually reorganized the material as he added to his research on a given topic. The original organization of the collection has been preserved as much as possible, retaining the original labels and Cuppy’s hierarchy of categories.
The collections is organized into ten series:

Series I: Books, consists of index card files and clippings related to Cuppy’s published books How to be a Hermit (1929), How to Attract the Wombat (1949), The Decline and Fall of Practically Everybody (1950) and How to Get from January to December (1951).

Series II: Topical, consists of index card files and clippings on a variety of topics that Cuppy wrote about, including the animal kingdom, world history, and food. As a reviewer of crime fiction, Cuppy also kept notes related to this genre.

Series III: Correspondence, contains incoming and outgoing correspondence between Will Cuppy and his family, friends, and professional connections. Material spans the 1920s-1940s. It is organized alphabetically by correspondent.

Series IV: Manuscripts, Notes and Clippings, contains manuscripts, notes, and clippings related to Cuppy’s books. Material is organized alphabetically by subject and title.

Series V: University of Chicago, contains materials from Cuppy’s time as a student at the University of Chicago, 1902-1914. These include convocation programs and course work, including a manuscript for his thesis, “The Elizabethan Conception of Prose Style.” It also contains clippings related to Maroon Tales, his first book. Material is undated unless otherwise specified, and organized alphabetically by subject.

Series VI: Scrapbooks, contains Cuppy’s bound scrapbooks, dating from the 1920s through 1940s. They document publicity for Cuppy’s books, arranged chronologically. Publicity scrapbooks are followed by his “Thought for the Day!” scrapbooks from the 1930s.

Series VII: Photographs and Illustrations, contains photographs documenting Cuppy’s childhood, student days, and life as a hermit. It also contains illustrations by William Steig.

Series VIII: Publications, contains magazines and pamphlets collected by Cuppy. They are arranged alphabetically by title.

Series IX: Journals, contains Cuppy’s journals and personal index file cards. The journals begin in 1916 and are numbered but undated. The journals are followed by index files on various
topics, listed with Cuppy’s headings and arranged in the order in which he bundled them. This series requires donor permission for access.

Series X: Oversize and Artifacts, contains advertisements, clippings, and typescripts from Series IV. It includes a framed certificate from the Guild of Former Pipe Organ Pumpers. They are arranged alphabetically by topic.

Related Resources
The following related resources are located in the Department of Special Collections:

http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/spcl/select.html

Subject Headings
- Cuppy, Will, 1884-1949
- Steig, William, 1907-2003
- Humor
- Animals -- humor
- World history -- humor
- Humorists

INVENTORY
Series I: Books
This series is primarily comprised of index card files and clippings related to Cuppy’s published books How to be a Hermit (1929), How to Attract the Wombat (1949), The Decline and Fall of Practically Everybody (1950) and How to Get from January to December (1951).

Materials are organized into four subseries:

Subseries 1: How to Be a Hermit (1929), consists of material relating to How to Be a Hermit (1929) and a later reprint.

Subseries 2: How to Attract the Wombat (1949), consists of material about the animals represented in How to Attract the Wombat (1949). This series is organized roughly according to the original chapter order of the book; however, some animals represented in the notes did not receive an essay in the final publication, and not all of the animals in the book are represented in the notes.

Subseries 3: The Decline and Fall of Practically Everybody (1950), consists of material on the historical figures represented in Cuppy’s posthumously published book The Decline and Fall of Practically Everybody (1950). Though Cuppy collected notes on Betsy Ross, the seamstress credited with making the first American flag, she also was not included in the published book.
This series is organized according to the chapter order of the book, with the notes on Betsy Ross at the end of the subseries.

Subseries 4: How to Get from January to December (1951), consists of material relating to Cuppy’s almanac project, posthumously published as How to Get from January to December (1951).

Manuscripts, drafts, large clippings, and other material related to Cuppy’s books are found in Series IV: Manuscripts, Notes and Clippings.

**Subseries 1: How to be a Hermit (1929)**

- Box 1
  - Hermit, introduction to reprint
- Box 1
  - Old house décor, hermiting
- Box 2
  - Old hermit memoirs

**Subseries 2: How to Attract the Wombat (1949)**

- Box 3
  - Mouse, rat, squirrel
- Box 4
  - Rabbit, armadillo, porcupine
- Box 5
  - Tapir, llama and alpaca, anteater, yak
- Box 6
  - Warthog, opossum, kangaroo, koala
- Box 7
  - Koala, Tasmanian wolf, bandicoot, wombat
- Box 8
  - “The Poet and the Nautilus,” frog
- Box 9
  - Toad
- Box 10
  - Salamander, newt
- Box 11
  - Oyster, clam
- Box 12
  - Snail, octopus
- Box 13
  - Squid, sea serpent
- Box 14
  - Ant
- Box 15
  - Bee
Box 16
  Cricket, mosquito
Box 17
  Gnat, butterfly
Box 18
  Beetle, firefly, ladybug
Box 19
  Flea, fly
Box 20
  Ostrich, emu, kiwi
Box 21
  Moa, pelican
Box 22
  Duck, goose
Box 23
  Swan, scorpion
Box 24
  Earthworm

Subseries 3: The Decline and Fall of Practically Everybody (1950)

Box 25
  Cheops
Box 26
  Cheops, Hatshepsut
Box 27
  Hatshepsut, Pericles
Box 28
  Pericles
Box 29
  Alexander the Great
Box 30
  Hannibal
Box 31
  Hannibal, Cleopatra
Box 32
  Nero
Box 33
  Attila the Hun
Box 34
  Charlemagne
Box 35
  Charlemagne, Lady Godiva, Lucrezia Borgia
Box 36
  Lucrezia Borgia, Philip the Sap, Louis XIV
Box 37
  Louis XIV
Subseries 4: How to Get from January to December (1951)

Box 50
Months by dates

Box 50
Months with dates

Box 51
Months, dates

Box 51
Months

Box 52
Months - subjects, sorted but no dates

Series II: Topical

This series consists mainly of index card files and clippings on a variety of topics that Cuppy wrote about, including the animal kingdom, world history, and food. As a reviewer of crime fiction, Cuppy also kept notes related to this genre.

Materials are organized into seven subseries, each organized alphabetically: Subseries 1: Animals; Subseries 2: History; Subseries 3: Humor and Quotes; Subseries 4: Lectures and Speeches; Subseries 5: Food; Subseries 6: Crime Fiction; and Subseries 7: General.
Manuscripts, drafts, large clippings, and other material related to Cuppy’s books are found in Series IV: Manuscripts, Notes and Clippings; and in Series X: Oversize.

**Subseries 1: Animals**

**Box 52**
Animal talk (Our Dumb Friends)

**Box 53**
Animal talk, monkeys, Argosy article

**Box 54**
Apes, for Times article

**Box 55**
Apes, for Times article

**Box 54**
Bat, whale, beaver, bear, platypus, aardvark

**Box 55**
Bat, whale, beaver, bear, platypus, aardvark

**Box 55**
Birds used in apes book

**Box 55**
Buffalo, cat, dog, cow, etc., camel, hog, goat

**Box 56**
Buffalo, cat, dog, wow, etc., camel, hog, goat

**Box 56**
Carlton Brown, Mom, Strange Pets

**Box 57**
Elephant, giraffe, sloth, hyena, lion, tiger, rhino, hippo, zebra

**Box 57**
Extinct - 6 Animals

**Box 58**
Extinct - 6 Animals

**Box 58**
Fish, out of water

**Box 59**
Fish, blenny, s. mackerel, perch, salmon, pike, silurus

**Box 59**
Fish, carp, minnow, goldfish, herring, cod, stickleback

**Box 60**
Fish, carp, minnow, goldfish, herring, cod, stickleback

**Box 60**
Fish, sex, seahorses

**Box 61**
Fur

**Box 61**
Garters, boas, viper, rattler, cobra, hog-nosed

**Box 62**
Gibbon & I

**Box 62**
Glen snake, chameleon, crocodile, alligator, tortoise, turtle

**Box 63**
Groundhog, woodchuck, antelopes (funny ones), bear, eras, ages of earth

**Box 63**
Horse

**Box 63**
I ought to know, vanishing birds, whooping crane

**Box 64**
In the water

**Box 64**
Insect article - spider

**Box 64**
Insect - pests

**Box 65**
Insect - pests

**Box 65**
Language of fish, noisy fish, intelligence of brain, experiments

**Box 66**
New snake article, own your own

**Box 66**
Pets

**Box 67**
Pets

**Box 67**
Pets, tasmanian devil, Miss Hobley's slow-worm

**Box 68**
Robin, display, peacock, spring - magnolias

**Box 68**
Skink, marsupial stuff, display bird, mating-sex

**Box 69**
Skink, marsupial stuff, display bird, mating-sex

**Box 69**
Steller's sea cow, fossils

**Box 70**
Wren, penguin, hen and rooster

**Subseries 2: History**

**Box 70**
Dauphin, eccentrics, humor, sayings, art

**Box 71**
Foreword, why write the past?, history, before the Greeks

**Box 71**
Individuals - forces, twerp theory, great men

**Box 72**
Man of feeling - Faust, fur hat cossack piece

**Box 72**
Names
Box 73
Names
Box 73
Thais III
Box 74
Thais III
Box 74
Thais IV
Box 75
Thinkers - Arist., Socrates, Greeks, Diogenes
Box 76
Thinkers - more slant on murderers and some suspects, some ancients
Box 76
Thinkers - Egypt, wisdom - wise men, science - religion, calendar
Box 77
Thinkers - Egypt, wisdom - wise men, science - religion, calendar
Box 77
Wilberforce
Box 78
Wilberforce

Subseries 3: Humor and Quotes
Box 78
Art of conversation
Box 79
Art of conversation
Box 79
For an article on humor
Box 79
Humor comments
Box 80
Humor of great
Box 80
Royal romps
Box 80
Sayings
Box 81
Sayings
Box 81
Theory of humor, books - serious, comedy, farce

Subseries 4: Lectures and Speeches
Box 81
Earlier lecture
Box 82
Lecture, career

**Subseries 5: Food**

**Box 83**
Favorite foods, aversions to

**Box 84**
Food

**Box 84**
Food of the great

**Box 85**
Food of the great

**Box 85**
More food of great, coffee

**Subseries 6: Crime Fiction**

**Box 86**
Caledonia

**Box 86**
MBM articles, murders in good taste, ("We are all talented killers!"), the ideal murder (no Chinaman), college

**Box 86**
Reviewing

**Box 86**
Unidentified files

**Box 87**
Suspense, psychological novel, love life of detectives, play fair

**Subseries 7: General**

**Box 87**
Allergies

**Box 88**
Am I Musical

**Box 88**
Blanket, alphabet

**Box 89**
Budget, memoirs

**Box 89**
OED, garden book

**Box 89**
Unidentified files

**Box 90**
Unidentified files

**Box 91**
Radio program, mystery man

**Box 91**
Science
Box 91
Unidentified files

Box 93
Science

Box 93
Unidentified files

Box 94
Food

Box 94
Noise

Box 94
Unidentified files

Box 95
Unidentified files

Series III: Correspondence

Box 96
Folder 1
  Correspondence, A-B

Box 96
Folder 2-3
  Correspondence, Chambrun, Jacques

Box 96
Folder 4
  Correspondence, Christmas cards

Box 96
Folder 5
  Correspondence, C-D

Box 96
Folder 6
  Correspondence, Editors

Box 96
Folder 7
  Correspondence, E-F

Box 96
Folder 8-9
  Correspondence, Family

Box 96
Folder 10
  Correspondence, General, 1929

Box 96
Folder 11
  Correspondence, General, 1940s

Box 96
Folder 12
  Correspondence, G-H
Box 96
Folder 13
  Correspondence, "IMP"
Box 96
Folder 14
  Correspondence, I-J
Box 96
Folder 15
  Correspondence, K-L
Box 96
Folder 16
  Correspondence, "Murder Without Tears"
Box 96
Folder 17
  Correspondence, M-N
Box 96
Folder 18
  Correspondence, M-P
Box 96
Folder 19
  Correspondence, NBC
Box 96
Folder 20
  Correspondence, New Yorker
Box 96
Folder 21
  Correspondence, "New Yorker readers"
Box 96
Folder 22
  Correspondence, O-Q
Box 96
Folder 23
  Correspondence, R-S
Box 96
Folder 24
  Correspondence, Steig, William
Box 96
Folder 25
  Correspondence, Sullivan, Frank
Box 96
Folder 26
  Correspondence, T-U
Box 96
Folder 27
  Correspondence, V-W
Folder 28
   Correspondence, X-Z

Series IV: Manuscripts, Notes and Clippings

This series contains manuscripts, notes, and clippings related to Cuppy’s books. Material is organized alphabetically by subject and title. It is divided into 9 subseries:

Subseries 1: How to Attract the Wombat, contains notes and manuscripts for the book, as well as clippings on various animals.

Subseries 2: The Decline and Fall of Practically Everybody, contains notes and manuscripts for the book, as well as clippings on various historical figures.

Subseries 3: Animals, contains animal clippings and typescripts for short pieces by Cuppy.

Subseries 4: History, contains typescripts for short pieces written by Cuppy on historical topics.

Subseries 5: Lectures and Speeches, contains drafts of speeches given by Cuppy. These are arranged by title and by the place in which the lecture was given.

Subseries 6: Food, contains menus from restaurants and cafes, as well as short pieces by Cuppy.

Subseries 7: Crime Fiction, contains notes and essays by Cuppy on crime fiction.

Subseries 8: Radio Scripts, contains transcripts of interviews Cuppy gave on the radio.

Subseries 9: General, contains general and unidentified manuscripts, notes, and clippings.

Subseries 1: How to Attract the Wombat

Box 97
   Folder 1
      Anteater, clippings
Box 97
   Folder 2
      Armadillo, clippings
Box 97
   Folder 3
      Bandicoot, clippings
Box 97
   Folder 4
      Beetle, clippings
Box 97
   Folder 5
      Chambered nautilus, manuscript
Box 97
Folder 6
  Chapter outline, typescript
Box 97
Folder 7
  Earthworm, clippings and letter
Box 97
Folder 8
  Flea, clippings
Box 97
Folder 9
  Ladybug, clippings
Box 97
Folder 10
  Llama and alpaca, clippings
Box 97
Folder 11
  Moa, clippings
Box 97
Folder 12
  Mouse, clippings
Box 97
Folder 13
  Opossum, clippings and note
Box 97
Folder 14
  Porcupine, clippings
Box 97
Folder 15
  Rabbit, clippings,
Box 97
Folder 16
  Scorpion, letter
Box 97
Folder 17
  Sea-serpent, clippings
Box 97
Folder 18
  Snake, clippings
Box 97
Folder 19
  Squid, clippings
Box 97
Folder 20
  Squirrel, clippings
Box 97
Folder 21
"Swan-upping," clippings and typescript
Box 97
Folder 22
  Tasmanian wolf, clippings
Box 97
Folder 23
  Toad, clippings and book order
Box 97
Folder 24
  Warthog, clippings,
Box 97
Folder 25
  Wombat, clippings and letter
Box 97
Folder 26
  "More about Wombats," manuscript

Subseries 2: The Decline and Fall of Practically Everybody
Box 97
Folder 27-30
  Decline and Fall, manuscript and notes
Box 97
Folder 31
  Attila the Hun, clippings and typescript
Box 97
Folder 32
  Borgia, Lucrezia
Box 97
Folder 33-34
  Catherine the Great, clippings, notes, and typescript
Box 97
Folder 35-36
  Charlemagne, clippings and typescript
Box 97
Folder 37
  Cleopatra, clippings
Box 98
Folder 1-2
  Columbus, Christopher, clippings and typescript
Box 98
Folder 3-4
  Elizabeth, clippings and typescript
Box 98
Folder 5
  Fredrick the Great, clippings
Box 98
Folder 6-7
  George III, clippings
Box 98
Folder 8
  Hannibal, clippings
Box 98
Folder 9
  Henry VIII, clippings
Box 98
Folder 10
  Lady Godiva, clippings and typescript
Box 98
Folder 11
  "Leif the Lucky," clippings
Box 98
Folder 12
  Leif and Columbus, clippings
Box 98
Folder 13
  Louis XIV, index cards and manuscript
Box 98
Folder 14
  Madame du Barry, typescripts
Box 99
Folder 1-3
  Montezuma, clippings
Box 99
Folder 4
  Peter the Great, clippings
Box 99
Folder 5
  Philip the Sap, clippings
Box 99
Folder 6
  Ross, Betsy, clippings
Box 99
Folder 7-8
  Smith, John, clippings
Box 99
Folder 9-10
  Standish, Miles, clippings and typescript
Box 99
Folder 11
  William the Conqueror, clippings and manuscript

Subseries 3: Animals
Box 99
Folder 12
  Aardvark, typescript
Box 99
Folder 13
  "Animal talk," clippings, notes, and typescript
Box 99
Folder 14
  Bats, clippings
Box 99
Folder 15
  "Birds used in apes book," manuscript
Box 99
Folder 16
  Camel, clippings and typescript
Box 99
Folder 17
  Carp, script
Box 99
Folder 18
  Cat, clippings
Box 99
Folder 19
  Cuckoo, script
Box 99
Folder 20
  Dodo, manuscript
Box 99
Folder 21
  Elephant, typescripts
Box 99
Folder 22
  Ermine, typescript
Box 99
Folder 23
  Fish, clipping and typescript
Box 99
Folder 24
  Fur, clippings
Box 100
Folder 1
  Guppy, clippings and typescript
Box 100
Folder 2
  Horse, clippings,
Folder 3
  "In the water," clippings and typescript
Box 100
Folder 4
  Insects, clippings and manuscript
Box 100
Folder 5
  Language, clippings
Box 100
Folder 6
  Mink, clippings
Box 100
Folder 7
  "Mom is here," clippings and typescript
Box 100
Folder 8
  "O is for Ornithorhynchus," typescript
Box 100
Folder 9
  Pets, clippings and typescript
Box 100
Folder 10
  Robin, clippings
Box 100
Folder 11
  Seahorse, clippings
Box 100
Folder 12
  Skink, clippings
Box 100
Folder 13
  Snake, clippings
Box 100
Folder 14
  Wren, script
Box 100
Folder 15
  Reptiles, proof
Box 100
Folder 16
  "Meet the Aardvark," manuscript
Box 100
Folder 17
  "The Sloth," manuscript
Box 100
Folder 18
"That She Blows!" manuscript
Box 100
Folder 19
"Ring in the Gnu," manuscript
Box 100
Folder 20
"Swan-upping, indeed!" manuscript
Box 100
Folder 21
"The Sea Serpent," manuscript
Box 100
Folder 22
"The Squid," manuscript
Box 100
Folder 23
"Reptiles I’m Always Meeting," manuscript

Subseries 4: History

Box 100
Folder 24
"Aspasia," typescript
Box 100
Folder s 25-30
"History at a Glance," manuscript
Box 101
Folder 1
Schlitz advertisement, typescript
Box 101
Folder 2
"Well Dressed Queens," typescript
Box 101
Folder 3
"Who Said That?" typescript

Subseries 5: Lectures and Speeches

Box 101
Folder 4
"About the Berne Lecture"
Box 101
Folder 5
Barbizon
Box 101
Folder 6
Fort Wayne
Box 101
Folder 7
"From Demosthenes to Me"
**Box 101**
**Folder 8**
"How Dante Became the World’s Most Famous Bookend"
**Box 101**
**Folder 9**
"Humor: Its Cause and Cure"
**Box 101**
**Folder 10**
Massachusetts
**Box 101**
**Folder 11**
Rochester
**Box 101**
**Folder 12-13**
Trenton
**Box 101**
**Folder 14**
Unidentified

**Subseries 6: Food**
**Box 101**
**Folder 15**
"All-American Menu"
**Box 101**
**Folder 16**
Child’s, menu
**Box 101**
**Folder 17**
Crackers, chart
**Box 101**
**Folder 18**
Calorie chart
**Box 101**
**Folder 19**
"Cantaloupe scraping," manuscript
**Box 101**
**Folder 20**
Charles, menu
**Box 101**
**Folder 21**
Coffee, manuscript
**Box 101**
**Folder 22**
Epicure club, catalogue
**Box 101**
Folder 23
   Food, clippings
Box 101
Folder 24
   "Food of the Stars," clipping
   • Folder 25: "Gastronomy," clipping
Box 101
Folder 26
   Louis XIV’s gluttony, clipping
Box 101
Folder 27
   Navy Day menu
Box 101
Folder 28
   New York Herald Tribune Home Institute, typescripts
Box 101
Folder 29
   New York Times Magazine, "It’s Thanksgiving," clipping
Box 101
Folder 30
   Oyster stuffing, manuscript
Box 101
Folder 31
   Russian Bear, menu
Box 101
Folder 32
   Ye White Horse Tavern, menu
Box 101
Folder 33
   White House dinner, memorandum

Subseries 7: Crime Fiction
Box 102
Folder 1
   Essays
Box 102
Folder 2
   Outlines
Box 102
Folder 3
   Reviews

Subseries 8: Radio Scripts
Box 102
Folder 4
   "How to Become Extinct," interview
Box 102
Folder 5-29
"Just Relax Program #1-25," scripts

Box 102
Folder 30
"Mystery Stories," interview

Box 102
Folder 31-33
Unidentified radio scripts

**Subseries 9: General**

Box 103
Folder 1
"After Aunt Ella"

Box 103
Folder 2-3
"Am I Musical?"

Box 103
Folder 4
"Ambergris"

Box 103
Folder 5
"Arguments With My Friends"

Box 103
Folder 6
"Aren’t Crackers Wonderful"

Box 103
Folder 7
"Aristotle"

Box 103
Folder 8
"Baby Mammoth"

Box 103
Folder 9
"Bergson"

Box 103
Folder 10
"Blondes Prefer Gentlemen"

Box 103
Folder 11
"Breathing"

Box 103
Folder 12
Brown, Anne, memorandum

Box 103
Folder 13
Budget, clippings
Box 103
Folder 14
Cardigans, clippings
Box 103
Folder 15
"Certainly, I Play the Piano"
Box 103
Folder 16
"Chintz Isn’t Everything"
Box 103
Folder 17
"Cicero"
Box 103
Folder 18
"College Professors"
Box 103
Folder 19
"Conversation Clinic"
Box 103
Folder 20
"Demosthenes"
Box 103
Folder 21
"Do Beadles Exist"
Box 103
Folder 22
"Drama"
Box 103
Folder 23
"Editors"
Box 103
Folder 24
"Emerson"
Box 103
Folder 25
"Epiglottis"
Box 103
Folder 26
"Faithful Ponto"
Box 103
Folder 27
"Featherbeds and Lightening"
Box 103
Folder 28
Fireworks, catalogue
Box 103
Folder 29  
"Free Love"
Box 103
Folder 30  
"Freud"
Box 103
Folder 31  
"George Bellairs"
Box 103
Folder 32  
"Hay Fever"
Box 103
Folder 33  
"He Couldn’t It"
Box 103
Folder 34  
"Health"
Box 103
Folder 35  
"Hermiting"
Box 103
Folder 36  
"Hobbies"
Box 103
Folder 37  
"House"
Box 103
Folder 38  
"How I Broke Into Pictures"
Box 103
Folder 39  
"How to Become Rich"
Box 104
Folder 1  
"How to Budget"
Box 104
Folder 2  
"How to Eat in One Lesson"
Box 104
Folder 3  
"How to Eat the Worst Way"
Box 104
Folder 4  
"How to Talk"
Folder 5
  "Humor of the Great"
Box 104
Folder 6
  "The Ideal House"
Box 104
Folder 7
  Joke books
Box 104
Folder 8
  "Journal of Calendar Reform"
Box 104
Folder 9
  "Kant"
Box 104
Folder 10
  Money, correspondence
Box 104
Folder 11
  "My Methods of Writing," clipping
Box 104
Folder 12
  "Names"
Box 104
Folder 13
  "Nero"
Box 104
Folder 14-15
  New Yorker, clippings
Box 104
Folder 16
  "Octavus Roy Cohen"
Box 104
Folder 17
  "The Old Farmer’s Almanac," booklet
Box 104
Folder 18
  "Outgoing Fan Mail"
Box 104
Folder 19
  "The Pleasures of Hermiting"
Box 104
Folder 20
  "Reincarnation"
Box 104
Folder 21
Saturday Review, clipping

Box 104
Folder 22
"Sayings"

Box 104
Folder 23
"Schopenhauer"

Box 104
Folder 24
"Seven Ages of Cuppy"

Box 104
Folder 25
"Sir P. Sidney"

Box 104
Folder 26
"So You’re Going to Decorate!"

Box 104
Folder 27
"Some Royal Romps"

Box 104
Folder 28
"Speaking of Fun"

Box 104
Folder 29
"Speaking of the Weather"

Box 104
Folder 30
"Staring"

Box 104
Folder 31
"A Table for Two"

Box 104
Folder 32
"Theory of Humor"

Box 104
Folder 33
"They Don’t Seem to Care"

Box 104
Folder 34
"Tips For Lazy Husbands"

Box 104
Folder 35
"The Truth About Thomas Blanket"

Box 104
Folder 36
Weather forecasting, booklets and clippings
Box 104
Folder 37
"Why I Never Concentrate"

Box 104
Folder 38
"World’s Great Thinkers"

Box 104
Folder 39
"Yours Truly"

Box 104
Folder 40
"Zeising"

Box 104
Folder 41-43
Unidentified manuscripts and clippings

Box 105
Folder 1-11
Unidentified manuscripts and clippings

Box 106
Folder 1-2
Unidentified manuscripts and clippings

**Series V: University of Chicago**

This series contains materials from Cuppy’s time as a student at the University of Chicago, 1902-1914. These include convocation programs and course work, including a manuscript for his thesis, "The Elizabethan Conception of Prose Style." It also contains clippings related to Maroon Tales, his first book. Material is undated unless otherwise specified, and organized alphabetically by subject.

Box 107
Folder 1
Convocation programs, 1912, 1914

Box 107
Folder 2-5
"The Elizabethan Conception of Prose Style," manuscript

Box 107
Folder 6-8
English papers

Box 107
Folder 9
Maroon Tales, clippings and copies

**Series VI: Scrapbooks**

This series contains Cuppy’s bound scrapbooks, dating from the 1920s through 1940s. They document publicity for Cuppy’s books, arranged chronologically. Publicity scrapbooks are
followed by his "Thought for the Day!" scrapbooks from the 1930s. "IMP" refers to Isabel Paterson, (1886-1961), journalist, novelist, and libertarian.

Box 108
"How to Be a Hermit Publicity," 2 volumes, 1920s

Box 108
"IMP Comments," 1920s-1930s

Box 109
"Apes," 1930s

Box 109
"Biographies for Decline and Fall," 2 volumes, 1930s

Box 109
"Comic Pieces, Some Historical," 2 volumes, 1930s

Box 110
"Fish in The New Yorker (Swan-Upping)," 2 volumes, 1930s

Box 110
"The Housewife’s Almanac," 1930s

Box 111
"Cuppy Animals," 2 volumes, 1940s

Box 112
"The Great Bustard," 1940s

Box 112
"How to Become Extinct," 3 volumes, 1940s

Box 113
Folder 1-3
"Thought for the Day!" 1934

Box 113
Folder 4-6
"Thought for the Day!" 1935

Box 114
Folder 1-3
"Thought for the Day!" 1935

Box 114
Folder 4-5
General scrapbooks, 1933-1935

Series VII: Photographs and Illustrations
This series contains photographs, illustrations, and artifacts. It is divided into three subseries:

Subseries 1: Photographs, documents Cuppy’s childhood, his student days at University of Chicago, and his later hermitage on Long Island. Photographs are undated unless otherwise specified. They are organized alphabetically by subject.

Subseries 2: Illustrations, contains drawings by William Steig. It includes illustrations Cuppy sent Steig as models for the illustration of How to Become Extinct. It begins with Steig’s
drawings, followed by model illustrations organized by animal. "IMP" refers to Isabel Paterson (1886-1961), journalist, novelist, and libertarian.

**Subseries 1: Photographs**

- **Box 114**
  - **Folder 6**
    - Beach, 1948
  - **Box 114**
    - **Folder 7**
      - Cuppy, Frances Stahl
  - **Box 114**
    - **Folder 8**
      - Cuppy, Thomas Jefferson
  - **Box 114**
    - **Folder 9**
      - Cuppy, 1947
  - **Box 115**
    - **Folder 10**
      - Cuppy
  - **Box 115**
    - **Folder 1-3**
      - Cuppy
  - **Box 115**
    - **Folder 4**
      - Cuppy, adolescent
  - **Box 115**
    - **Folder 5**
      - Cuppy, child
  - **Box 115**
    - **Folder 6**
      - Cuppy, infant
  - **Box 115**
    - **Folder 7-8**
      - Cuppy, University of Chicago, circa 1902-1914
  - **Box 115**
    - **Folder 9**
      - Cuppy, WHN, 1946
  - **Box 115**
    - **Folder 10**
      - Cuppy, World War I
  - **Box 115**
    - **Folder 11-12**
      - Cuppy and Anna Cuppy as children
  - **Box 115**
    - **Folder 13-16**
Cuppy, Coast Guard, and Tottering-on-the-brink
Box 115
Folder 17
   Cuppy and dog
Box 115
Folder 18
   Cuppy and Finnegan the cat
Box 115
Folder 19
   Cuppy and friends at Tottering-on-the-brink
Box 115
Folder 20
   Cuppy and IMP at the New York Herald Tribune office
Box 115
Folder 21
   Cuppy and Portuguese Pete at Jones Beach/High Hill Beach
Box 115
Folder 22
   Cuppy and siblings
Box 115
Folder 23
   Cuppy and stuffed apes, publicity for How to Tell Your Friends from the Apes, circa 1931
Box 115
Folder 24
   Cuppy and Taylor, Ruth, and Fred Feldkamp
Box 115
Folder 25
   Family Christmas
Box 115
Folder 26
   How to Become Extinct in a Washington Square bookshop, circa 1941
Box 115
Folder 27
   Peggy
Box 115
Folder 28
   "Pix at the Beach by Allan"
Box 115
Folder 29
   Powers, Tom
Box 115
Folder 30
   The Staggs
Box 115
Folder 31
   Tottering-on-the-brink
Box 115
Folder 32
   University of Chicago, postcards, circa 1904
Box 115
Folder 33
   University of Chicago, with Christmas card from the Steigs
Box 116
Folder 1
   Cuppy, adolescent
Box 116
Folder 2
   Cuppy, older
Box 116
Folder 3
   Cuppy and Frankie
Box 116
Folder 4
   Cuppy, University of Chicago, circa 1902-1914
Box 116
Folder 5
   Cuppy, World War I

Subseries 2: Illustrations

Box 117
Folder 1
   J. C. Bennett, birthday card
Box 117
Folder 2
   William Steig, Decline and Fall
Box 117
Folder 3
   William Steig, How to Become Extinct
Box 117
Folder 4
   William Steig, "The Salmon"
Box 117
Folder 5
   Ant and termite
Box 117
Folder 6
   Anteater
Box 117
Folder 7
   Bee
Box 117
Folder 8
Blenny
Box 117
Folder 9
  Carp
Box 117
Folder 10
  Clam
Box 117
Folder 11
  Codfish
Box 117
Folder 12
  Cricket and cicada
Box 117
Folder 13
  Dinosaur
Box 117
Folder 14
  Dodo
Box 117
Folder 15
  Duck
Box 117
Folder 16
  Emu
Box 117
Folder 17
  Fish
Box 117
Folder 18
  Fish out of water
Box 117
Folder 19
  Fossil reptiles of New Jersey, and Aristotle
Box 117
Folder 20
  Frog
Box 117
Folder 21
  Goldfish
Box 117
Folder 22
  Goose
Box 117
Folder 23
  Great auk
Box 117
Folder 24
   Herring
Box 117
Folder 25
   Horse
Box 117
Folder 26
   Kangaroo
Box 117
Folder 27
   Kiwi
Box 117
Folder 28
   Koala
Box 117
Folder 29
   Llama
Box 117
Folder 30
   Minnow and trout
Box 117
Folder 31
   Moa
Box 117
Folder 32
   Nautilus
Box 117
Folder 33
   Newt
Box 117
Folder 34
   Octopus
Box 117
Folder 35
   Opossum
Box 117
Folder 36
   Ostrich
Box 117
Folder 37
   Pelican
Box 117
Folder 38
   Perch
Box 117
Folder 39
  Pike
Box 117
Folder 40
  Porcupine
Box 118
Folder 1
  Reptile
Box 118
Folder 2
  Salamander
Box 118
Folder 3
  Salmon
Box 118
Folder 4
  Sea cow
Box 118
Folder 5
  "Sly silurus"
Box 118
Folder 6
  Snail
Box 118
Folder 7
  Snake
Box 118
Folder 8
  Snakes and reptiles
Box 118
Folder 9
  Spanish mackerel
Box 118
Folder 10
  Squid
Box 118
Folder 11
  Stickleback
Box 118
Folder 12
  Swan
Box 118
Folder 13
  Tapir
Box 118
Folder 14
"These fish do not make noises"

Box 118
Folder 15
Toad

Box 118
Folder 16
Warthog

Box 118
Folder 17
Yak

Series VIII: Publications

This series contains magazines and pamphlets collected by Cuppy. They are arranged alphabetically by title.

Box 118
Folder 18
  The Atlantic Bookshelf, December 1929

Box 118
Folder 19
  Encore Magazine, November 1946

Box 118
Folder 20
  English as She is Taught

Box 118
Folder 21
  Everybody’s Digest, May-July 1943

Box 118
Folder 22
  For Men, September 1937

Box 118
Folder 23
  For Men, January, March, May, 1938

Box 119
Folder 1
  For Men, June, November-December, 1938

Box 119
Folder 2
  For Men, February, April, June, 1939

Box 119
Folder 3
  Forum and Century, October 1933

Box 119
Folder 4
  Home Magazine, Volume 1, Number 6
Folder 5-6  
Mystery Book Magazine, Numbers 10-19

Box 119

Folder 7  
Mystery Book Magazine, July-December 1945

Box 120

Folder 1  
Mystery Book Magazine, January-February 1946

Box 120

Folder 2  
Mystery Book Magazine, Fall 1947

Box 120

Folder 3  
New Books, December 1942-June 1943

Box 120

Folder 4  
Publishers’ Weekly supplement, 30 September 1939

Box 120

Folder 5  
Reader’s Digest, May 1943

Box 120

Folder 6  
Saturday Evening Post, 4 and 11 June, 1949 (see Box 116, Folder 6)

Box 120

Folder 7  
Strand Magazine, November-December 1942

Box 120

Folder 8  
Strand Magazine, January-February, April, June, 1943

Box 120

Folder 9  
Strand Magazine, October-November 1943

Box 120

Folder 10  
Strand Magazine, March, August, November, 1944

Box 120

Folder 11  
Strand Magazine, March 1945

Box 120

Folder 12  
This Month, July 1945

Box 120

Folder 13  
Transatlantic, 1945

Series IX: Journals
This series contains Cuppy’s journals and personal index file cards. The journals begin in 1916 and are numbered but undated. The journals are followed by index files on various topics, listed with Cuppy’s headings and arranged in the order in which he bundled them. This series requires donor permission for access.

Box 121
Folder 1
   N51, N55-65
Box 121
Folder 2
   T1-10
Box 121
Folder 3
   T12-20
Box 121
Folder 4
   T21-31
Box 121
Folder 5
   T32-40
Box 121
Folder 6
   T41-50
Box 122
Folder 1
   T51-61
Box 122
Folder 2
   T61-75
Box 122
Folder 3
   T76-100
Box 122
Folder 4
   T101-112
Box 122
Folder 5
   T113-125
Box 123
Folder 1
   T126-146
Box 123
Folder 2
   T148-163
Box 123
Folder 3
T164-181
Box 123
Folder 4
  Astronomy, clippings
Box 123
Folder 5
  Cat cartoon
Box 123
Folder 6
  Drinking
Box 123
Folder 7
  Liquor Life and Questionnaires
Box 123
Folder 8
  Working Notes From Various Books on Women
Box 124
  Bumblebee Buzz
Box 124
  Blurb
Box 124
  Gunfounder
Box 124
  Safety fun
Box 124
  Quarto
Box 124
  Polynomials
Box 124
  Celsius to Fahrenheit
Box 124
  Thumb
Box 124
  Rutherford B. Hayes
Box 124
  Science- Mars
Box 124
  Mausolus
Box 124
  Faded Harness
Box 124
  60 degrees below
Box 124
  Odd
Box 124
  Lecture
Box 124
Eg. Limes
Box 124
Speech
Box 124
Earth motions
Box 124
Cosmic?
Box 124
Threshing machine
Box 124
A penny saved...
Box 124
?
Box 124
Aristotle
Box 124
Has done it again!
Box 124
Memory
Box 124
Drinking
Box 124
Just saved!
Box 124
3 minute speech
Box 124
A Will
Box 124
SEP DUMB Column
Box 124
Various
Box 124
Royal Albert
Box 124
Moon Rose
Box 124
Dionne Quintuplets?
Box 124
Fell on a Friday
Box 124
Recipes to make
Box 124
Earth
Box 124
Publisher’s blurb
Box 124
  Cuppy stuff
Box 124
  Booksellers
Box 124
  21
Box 124
  Unidentified files
Box 124
  M.E.
Box 124
  La Rochefoucauld
Box 124
  Stendhal
Box 124
  Photostats
Box 124
  Science?
Box 124
  Goldfish bowl
Box 124
  Bee stung me
Box 124
  Taught Anna to read
Box 124
  High school
Box 124
  Pictures
Box 124
  Our Books
Box 124
  Childhood candy
Box 124
  The Farm!
Box 124
  Church
Box 124
  T-Books
Box 124
  Unidentified files
Box 124
  Get in humor?
Box 124
  Contents
Box 124
  More on Ponto
Box 124
  Intelligence of day
Box 124
  Add?
Box 124
  Animal Crax
Box 124
  Pat
Box 124
  Unidentified files
Box 124
  Use?
Box 124
  Hormones
Box 124
  Science

Series X: Oversize and Artifacts

This series contains advertisements, clippings, and typescripts from Series IV. They are arranged alphabetically by topic. It includes a framed certificate from the Guild of Former Pipe Organ Pumpers.

Box 125
Folder 1
  Dog clothes, clippings
Box 125
Folder 2
  Jokes, clippings
Box 125
Folder 3
  Inner sanctum mysteries, clippings
Box 125
Folder 4
  Missing confessions, clippings
Box 125
Folder 5
  Modern Priscilla, clippings
Box 125
Folder 6
  Pie, clippings
Box 125
Folder 7
  Schlitz advertisement
Box 125
Folder 8
  Thinkers, clipping
Box 125
Folder 9
  Untitled typescript
Box 125
Folder 10
  Weight reduction, clipping
Box 125
Folder 11
  Witches, clipping
Box 126
  The Guild of Former Pipe Organ Pumpers, framed certificate, 1929