Guide to the Frederick Starr Liberian Research Collection 1792-1914
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**Descriptive Summary**

**Identifier**  ICU.SPCL.STARRLIBERIAN

**Title**  Starr, Frederick. Liberian Research Collection

**Date**  1792-1914

**Size**  2 linear feet (2 boxes)

**Repository**  Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library  
1100 East 57th Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60637 U.S.A.

**Abstract**  Professor of Anthropology at the University of Chicago, Frederick Starr, maintained these research materials for his book, Liberia: Description, History, Problems.

**Information on Use**

**Access**

The collection is open for research.

**Digital Images**

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**Citation**
Biographical Note

Frederick Starr (1858-1933) was professor of anthropology at the University of Chicago from 1892 until his retirement in 1923. Starr was born in Auburn, New York, the fourth son of a Presbyterian minister. He was educated at the University of Rochester and received a Ph.D. in geology from Lafayette College in 1885. He served in various academic posts including registrar and professor of geography at Chautauqua where he became acquainted with William Rainey Harper. In 1892, Harper asked Starr to help organize a program in anthropology at the new University of Chicago. Starr taught anthropology in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology under the leadership of Head Professor Albion W. Small. He was an active and popular lecturer throughout his tenure at the University, combining a heavy teaching load with extensive travel. He also served as curator of the Walker Museum from 1895 until retirement. Starr’s reputation was not based on his scholarship, but on a popular and controversial lecture style which did much to create an interest in the study of culture. Fay-Cooper Cole, Starr’s successor at the University, praised him in the Dictionary of American Biography for “The wide interest he personally created in the subject of anthropology, and the appreciation of other peoples which he engendered in his students.” Starr retired from active teaching in 1923. His students gave him a sum of money, which he used to buy a house in Seattle. Starr remained active during the last ten years of his life, making a number of trips to the Orient and lecturing throughout the western United States. He died in Tokyo of bronchial pneumonia in August 1933.

Scope Note

For his work on the book Liberia: Description, History, Problems, Frederick Starr assembled a small collection of research materials. They cover the history of the American Colonization Society and Liberia from 1792 to 1914. The collection is divided into original documents and typed copies of original documents. Within each section, the papers are organized chronologically.

Folders 1 - 5 contain typed copies of letters and documents relating to the early years of the American Colonization Society and the Liberia Colony (1820-1836). Among other correspondents represented in this section of the papers are Ernest Boudinot Caldwell, Eli Ayres, Smith Thompson, Francis Scott Key, and Ralph R. Gurley. Folder 6 holds a small set of miscellaneous original correspondence from the founders of the A.C.S. The earliest letter, dated 1792, is from Bushrod Washington who was the first president of the Society; other correspondents include Gurley, R. F. Stockton, and Joseph Jenkins Roberts, first President of the Republic of Liberia. The remaining folders contain original correspondence, documents, and reports concerning the status of Liberia at the end of the nineteenth century. The bulk of material relates to Liberian efforts to attain international recognition, principally through the work of Liberian Secretary of State G. W. Gibson and his charge d'affairs in France Leopold Garrance.
Related Resources

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

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

Frederick Starr. Papers

Subject Headings

- Starr, Frederick, 1858-1933
- American Colonization Society
- Liberia -- History

INVENTORY

Box 1
Folder 1
Typescript copies of correspondence. undated

Box 1
Folder 2
Typescript copies of correspondence. 1820-1821

Box 1
Folder 3
Typescript copies of correspondence. 1822
View digitized documents. http://pi.lib.uchicago.edu/1001/srcr/md/starrliberian-0001-003

Box 1
Folder 4
Typescript copies of correspondence. 1823

Box 1
Folder 5
Typescript copies of correspondence. 1824-1836
View digitized documents. http://pi.lib.uchicago.edu/1001/srcr/md/starrliberian-0001-005

Box 1
Folder 6
Correspondence. 1792-1865

Box 1
Folder 7
Correspondence. 1874-1879
View digitized documents, part 1. http://pi.lib.uchicago.edu/1001/src/m/d/starrliberian-0001-007a
View digitized documents, part 2. http://pi.lib.uchicago.edu/1001/src/m/d/starrliberian-0001-007b

Box 1
Folder 8
   Correspondence. 1880-1882
   View digitized documents, part 1. http://pi.lib.uchicago.edu/1001/src/m/d/starrliberian-0001-008a
   View digitized documents, part 2. http://pi.lib.uchicago.edu/1001/src/m/d/starrliberian-0001-008b

Box 1
Folder 9
   Correspondence. 1883-1890
   View digitized documents, part 1. http://pi.lib.uchicago.edu/1001/src/m/d/starrliberian-0001-009a
   View digitized documents, part 2. http://pi.lib.uchicago.edu/1001/src/m/d/starrliberian-0001-009b

Box 1
Folder 10
   Documents
   View digitized documents, part 1. http://pi.lib.uchicago.edu/1001/src/m/d/starrliberian-0001-010a
   View digitized documents, part 2. http://pi.lib.uchicago.edu/1001/src/m/d/starrliberian-0001-010b

Box 1
Folder 11
   Reports

Box 2
Folder 1
   Oversized documents, 1867-1914
   View digitized documents. http://pi.lib.uchicago.edu/1001/src/m/d/starrliberian-0002-001

Box 2
Folder 2
   Oversized documents, 1867-1914
   View digitized documents. http://pi.lib.uchicago.edu/1001/src/m/d/starrliberian-0002-002

Box 2
Folder 3
   Oversized documents, 1867-1914
   View digitized documents. http://pi.lib.uchicago.edu/1001/src/m/d/starrliberian-0002-003