
Hope College
Papers, 1925-2001. 0.25 linear ft.

Abstract

Hope College class of 1922; physical anthropologist. The collection includes biographical materials, correspondence and articles concerning Steggerda’s work with genetics and heredity.

Accession No.: H88-0145
Provenance: Morris Steggerda
Donor: Information Unavailable

Biography

Morris Steggerda was born on September 1, 1900, in Holland, Michigan, to John and Sena (Ter Vree) Steggerda. He obtained his A.B. at Hope College in 1922 and his A.M. and Ph.D. (1923, 1928) from the University of Illinois, in the Department of Zoology. From 1928 to 1930, he was an assistant professor of Zoology at Smith College (Northampton, Massachusetts); from 1930 to 1944, he was an investigator with the Carnegie Institution to Washington at Cold Spring Harbor (Long Island); thereafter, until his death, professor of Anthropology at Hartford Seminary Foundation (Connecticut). He was a member of Sigma Xi, Gamma Alpha, American Zoological Society, American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Society of Naturalists, Eugenics Research Association, Eugenics Society (honorary member), and the American Anthropological Association (council member). He was elected a member of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists at the time of its organization (1930); from 1943 to 1946, he served on its Executive Committee; from 1946-1948, he was its vice president.

Steggerda’s work focused on birth, growth, and the intermingling of biological strains—the procession of generations in plant, fowl, mammal, and man.

By 1926, young Steggerda, with his training in genetics and psychology, had attracted the attention of Charles Davenport. Under the auspices of the Department of Genetics, Carnegie Institution, together they explored the natives of the British West Indies (1926-1928); out of this there issued not only Steggerda’s doctoral dissertation (on the Negro-White hybridizations), but a series of publications, most notably the Race-Crossing in Jamaica, under joint authorship of the two collaborators (1929).

Steggerda passed away on March 15, 1950, in Hartford, Connecticut, leaving a son Charles, and wife Inez (Dunkelberger) Steggerda.

Container List

Articles, 1925-1940, n.d. (two folders containing)
  Rock Bottom Fauna of a Restricted Area near Friday Harbor, Washington, 1925
  Physical Development of Negro-White Hybrids in Jamaica, British West Indies, 1928
  The Relation of Domestic Fowls to Climate, 1929
  Student Researches in Human Heredity, 1930
Effect of Ovarian Injury on Date of First Egg in Fowls, 1931 (3 items)
Results of Physiological Tests Given to Maya Indians in Yucatan, Mexico, 1931
Physical Measurements on Dutch Men and Women, 1932 (2 items)
Testing Races for the Threshold with PTC, 1932
Critical Examination of Physical Anthropometry on the Living, 1934
Anthropology and Human Genetics, 1935
Finger Prints in a Dutch Family Series, 1935
The Gesall Schedule, 1935
Some Eugenical Aspects of the Indians of Piste, Yucatan, 1935
Anthropology and Human Genetics, 1936 (2 items)
The Food of Present-day Maya Indians of Yucatan, 1936
Height Weight and Age Tables for Homogeneous Groups, 1936
Incidence of Dental Caries Among Mayan and Navajo Indians, 1936
The McAdory Art Test Applied to Navaho Indian Children, 1936
A Racial Study of Palmar Dermatoglyphics, 1936
Anthropology and Human Genetics, 1937
Anthropology and Human Genetics, 1938 (2 items)
The Maya Indians of Yucatan, 1938
The Food of Present-day Navajo Indians in New Mexico and Arizona, 1939
Anthropology and Human Genetics, 1939
Mental and Social Characteristics of Maya and Navajo Indians as Evidenced by a Psychological Rating Scale, 1939
Physical Measurements on Negro, Navajo and White Girls of College Age, 1940
Effect of Ovarian Injury on Egg Laying in Fowls, n.d. (2 items)
Biographical Materials
General, 1950-1951
Charts (one folder containing)
Height Weight Age Table for Navajos 6 to 18 years old, n.d.
Height Weight Age Table for Dutch Whites 6 to 15 yrs. old Measured in Holland, Michigan, n.d.
Correspondence, 1949