Unpublished Materials of Dr. Curtis Fletcher Marbut

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The Western Historical Manuscript Collection of the Univ. of Missouri-Columbia has established a collection of the papers of Dr. Curtis Fletcher Marbut (1863 to 1935), and solicits additional material for it. The Marbut Papers comprise personal and professional correspondence, diaries, field notes, maps and drawings, published and unpublished articles and manuscripts, and photographs.

In the Western Historical Manuscript Collection, the papers are arranged, indexed and described, and stored under conditions of controlled temperature and humidity. Necessary conservation measures are taken on deteriorating items. Descriptions will be entered in national guides and professional journals to assure that interested researchers can learn of their availability. They may be used in the Collection’s quarters on any Univ. of Missouri campus: Columbia, Kansas City, Rolla, and St. Louis.

Biographers, historians, and scholars concerned with the development of Soil Science and American Agriculture will all benefit from a comprehensive collection documenting C. F. Marbut’s pioneering contributions. Help to make the Marbut papers as complete as possible by donating materials you have. Please contact Nancy Lankford, associate director, Western Historical Manuscript Collection, 23 Ellis Library, Univ. of Missouri-Columbia, Columbia, MO 65201 (Telephone 314/882-6028) to make arrangements or for further information.

A detailed description of the collection follows. This description is a compilation of the shelf cards which are in the reading room of the Collection.


These papers relate to the life of C. F. Marbut, his family, and the development of soil science during the early twentieth century. Materials are skimpy for the years prior to the 1910s, but become more substantial thereafter through the 1940s. Collection is arranged in series according to source and form of materials and chronologically within series. Excepted are miscellaneous manuscripts which are arranged alphabetically by author.

Marbut the man is best revealed by his correspondence—much of his professional correspondence probably remains in government files—while Marbut the scientist emerges most clearly from manuscripts, publications, and organizational materials. Photographs show both aspects.

1 Joint collection, Univ. of Missouri, Western Historical Manuscript Collection/State Historical Society of Missouri, 23 Ellis Library, Univ. of Missouri-Columbia, Columbia, MO 65201.