

UNIVERSITY *of* PENNSYLVANIA



The University Archives
and Records Center

A Guide to the
George Frederick Barker Papers
1870-1900

1.0 Cubic feet

UPT 50 B255

Prepared by Lorelei Halley

March 1971

The University Archives and Records Center
3401 Market Street, Suite 210
Philadelphia, PA 19104-3358
215.898.7024
Fax: 215.573.2036
www.archives.upenn.edu
Mark Frazier Lloyd, Director

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>PROVENANCE</u>	1
<u>ARRANGEMENT</u>	1
<u>BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE</u>	1
<u>SCOPE AND CONTENT</u>	2
<u>CONTROLLED ACCESS HEADINGS</u>	2
<u>INVENTORY</u>	4
<u>PAPERS</u>	4
<u>BOOKS</u>	5

**Guide to the
George Frederick Barker Papers
1870-1900**

UPT 50 B255

1.0 Cubic feet

Prepared by Lorelei Halley

March 1971

Access is granted in accordance with the Protocols for the University Archives and Records Center.

PROVENANCE

The George F. Barker Papers were in the possession Dr. Horace G. Richards. After Dr. Richard's death they were presented by his widow to the University Archives, with the exception of the text book "Physics: Advanced Course" which was transferred to Professor T.D. Cope. After Professor Cope's death, this was also transferred to the Archives to be retained with the Barker papers.

ARRANGEMENT

Within each folder, the material is arranged chronologically. Undated pieces are in the front of the folder.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

George Frederick Barker was born in Charlestown, Massachusetts in 1835. After graduating from Yale, he worked as assistant to Harvard Chemistry Professor John Bacon. He then served as a chemistry professor at Wheaton College, Albany Medical College, Western University of

Pennsylvania, and Yale Medical School. In 1872 Barker was elected as Professor of Physics at the University of Pennsylvania, where he taught until his retirement in 1900. Penn awarded him an honorary Doctor of Science degree in 1898. Barker was active as an author, editor and public lecturer. His publications included articles in scientific journals as well as chemistry textbooks. He served as an editor of the American Journal of Science and the Journal of the Franklin Institute. He served as president of the American Chemical Society and as a vice-president of the American Philosophical Society. Barker's network of scientific colleagues included Thomas Edison and Marie Curie and his interests included research relating to the telephone, telegraph, light bulb and the calculations of the transit of Venus. His own special interest was in spectroscopy. Because of his scientific interests and achievements, Barker was involved in a wide range of other activities beyond the classroom. He was involved as an "expert" in court cases, both in criminal cases and in patent litigation, including suits involving Edison Berliner and also the Justice Department and Bell Telephone Company. Barker served as United States Commissioner to the both the Paris Electrical Exhibition in 1881 and the Electrical Exhibition at Philadelphia in 1884.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection includes correspondence and papers related to Barker's academic and scientific activities, organizations and colleagues. In addition, the collection contains Barker's own annotated copy of "Barker's Physics" plus materials related to his lectures and published articles.

CONTROLLED ACCESS HEADINGS

Corporate Name(s)

- University of Pennsylvania.

Genre(s)

- Correspondence.

Personal Name(s)

- Barker, George Frederick, 1835-1910., Date of a Work--1872.; Title of a work--Physics : Advanced Course.;
- Brewer, William Henry, 1828-1910
- Gray, Elisha, 1835-1901
- Koenig, Rudolph, 1832-1901
- Langley, S. P., (Samuel Pierpont), 1834-1906
- Rowland, Henry Augustus, 1848-1901

Subject(s)

- Chemists--Correspondence.--United States
- Chemists--United States.
- Physicists--Correspondence.--United States
- Physicists--United States.

**George Frederick Barker Papers
1870-1900**

UPT 50 B255

Access is granted in accordance with the Protocols for the University Archives and Records Center.

INVENTORY

PAPERS	Box	Folder
American Chemical Society	1	1
Brewer, William H.	1	2
Centennial (1876). See also Koenig, Scientific Supplies 1876	1	3
Chemistry, Book on - Correspondence	1	4
Court Cases and Patents - See also Morton and Gray	1	5
Department Business and Franklin Institute	1	6
Edison, Thomas A.	1	7
Exhibitions	1	8
Experiments, Observations, Scientific Discussions	1	9
Franklin Institute - See Department Business	1	
Gray, Elisha	1	10
Invitations to receptions, etc.	1	11
Job Opportunities - Inquiries, Discussions	1	12
Koenig, Rudolph	1	13
Langley, Samuel Pierpont	1	14

George Frederick Barker Papers

UPT 50 B255

Lectures by Barker, texts and correspondence	1	15
Lectures requested by Barker	1	16
Morton, Henry	1	17
Papers and Publications of Barker's - responses, requests for reviews	1	18
Patents - See Court Cases	1	
Personal Correspondence and Miscellaneous	1	19
Recommendations - requests, "thank you" letters, letters of introduction	1	20
Rowland, H. A. Scientific Apparatus - discussions of	1	21
Scientific Apparatus and Publications - procurement:		
1871-1880	1	22
1881-1890	1	23
1891-1900	1	24
Scientific Discussions and Observations - See also Experiments	1	25
Teaching	1	26
BOOKS	Box	Folder
"Barker's Physics: Advanced Course", personal, annotated copy	1	27