

## Summary Information

**Title:** The Beal-Steere Philippines Collection

**Collector:** Joseph Beal Steere

**Donor:** Joseph Beal Steere

**Dates:** Collected 1874-1875

**Extent:** 22 catalog records representing approximately 31 objects.

**Abstract:**

U-M Professor Joseph Beal Steere arrived in the Philippines in 1874 on the behalf of the University of Michigan to build up its museum collections. He traveled all over the country, including islands previously not studied by other American ornithologists. The UMMAA's portion of the Beal-Steere Collection includes (among other objects) assorted weapons, two coats, and a bow for a stringed instrument.

**Accession number:** 1, 1173

**Language:** English

**Repository:**

University of Michigan Museum of Anthropological Archaeology

3600 Varsity Drive

Ann Arbor, MI 48108

734.764.0485

e-mail: [ummaa-collection-mgr@umich.edu](mailto:ummaa-collection-mgr@umich.edu)

Home Page: <https://lsa.umich.edu/ummaa>

**Other Repositories:**

Bentley Historical Library

1150 Beal Ave

Ann Arbor, MI 48109

734.764.3482

University of Michigan Herbarium

3600 Varsity Drive

Ann Arbor, MI 48108

University of Michigan Museum of Zoology

3600 Varsity Drive

Ann Arbor, MI 48108

University of Michigan Museum of Paleontology

3600 Varsity Drive  
Ann Arbor, MI 48108

**Collection Guide Created by:** Sophie Wolf

**Year Collection Guide Created:** 2022

**Funding for collection guide provided by:** ReConnect/ReCollect: Reparative  
Connections to Philippine Collections at the University of Michigan

## Access and Use

### Acquisition Information:

All accessions were collected by the Beal-Steere Expedition. Donation made by Steere himself.

### Access Restrictions:

The collection is open to research.

### Copyright:

Copyright is held by the Regents of the University of Michigan but the collection may contain third-party materials for which copyright is not held. Patrons are responsible for determining the appropriate use or reuse of materials.

### Preferred Citation:

UMMAA Object #/Document title. Accession #. The Joseph Beal Steere Collection, University of Michigan Museum of Anthropological Archaeology. Date Accessed.

## Biography

In 1870, Joseph Beal Steere, an ornithologist, traveled the world to build upon the University of Michigan's varied museum collections. His voyage was paid for by his mother's cousin Rice A. Beal (hence the inclusion of "Beal" in the name "Beal-Steere Expedition"), owner of the local newspaper the *Ann Arbor Courier*, on the condition that Steere send back letters of his travels to be published. After traveling and collecting in South America as well as East and Southeast Asia, he arrived in the Philippines in June 1874. He departed the Philippines in late May/early June of 1875, eventually arriving in Ann Arbor, Oct. 21, 1875. During this time he traveled all over the Philippines, returning

most frequently to the country's capital, Manila. He collected animal and plant specimens, as well as cultural materials.

## Collection Scope and Content Note

The majority of this collection consists of various ethnographic objects, including weapons, hunting instruments, clothing, a basket, a broom, and a horn. All items were collected between the years 1874-1875 in the Philippines.

The collection as a whole has not been attributed to any Philippine ethnolinguistic groups. A cultural expert has not reviewed the collection; the catalog information reflects what has been previously provided by the donor and the Museum's historic naming conventions. At this time, it cannot be stated with specificity when, where, or by whom the objects were created.

The collection contains human remains and associated burial items.

### Supplementary material includes:

- Notation of transfer of two pairs of deer horns from the UMMAA to the Museum of Zoology
- Original museum inventory
- Aged notecards containing addresses and formal information about Steere and Guthe
- Assorted tags with catalog numbers and object descriptions
- Copy of Bentley Library finding aid, "Joseph Beal Steere Papers 1861-1941"
- Assorted material regarding other expedition locations (Peru, Brazil, Ecuador)

### The collection contains the following objects (organized by the museum's historic naming conventions):

- Agriculture and Subsistence–Arrow (5)
- Agriculture and Subsistence–Hunting Object–Bow
- Agriculture and Subsistence–Hunting Object–Bowstring
- Armour and Weapons–Weapon–Sheath
- Armour and Weapons–Weapon–Sword
- Container–Basket (2)
- Container–Box
- Dress and Personal Adornment–Accessory–Ankle Band
- Dress and Personal Adornment–Clothing–Coat (2)
- Dress and Personal Adornment–Jewelry–Bracelet
- Dress and Personal Adornment–Toiletries–Comb (5)

- Food Preparation and Consumption–Spoon
- Human Remains–Human Remains (4)
- Music–Wind Instrument–Horn
- Textile–Cloth Fragments
- Tools and Equipment–Chisel
- Tools and Equipment–Broom
- Unassigned–Unworked Animal Bone

## Subject Terms

- Steere, Joseph Beal, – 1842-190
- Islands–Philippines
- Newspapers—Nonbook Materials
- Philippines–20th Century
- Weapons
- Zoology

## Bibliography

Beal Steere, Joseph. 1890. *A List of the Birds and Mammals Collected by the Steere Expedition to the Philippines : With Localities, and with Brief Preliminary Descriptions of Supposed New Species*. Ann Arbor: Courier Office, Printers.

Joseph Beal Steere Papers, Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan