Collection Overview

Repository: Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu
Creator: National Museum of Natural History. Office of Exhibits
Title: Chief Taxidermist Records
Quantity: 3.43 cu. ft. (3 record storage boxes) (1 12x17 box)

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation
Smithsonian Institution Archives, Accession 00-082, National Museum of Natural History. Office of Exhibits, Chief Taxidermist Records

Descriptive Entry

These records primarily document the work of Frank M. Greenwell, Smithsonian Taxidermist 1957-1999. Greenwell retired in 1999 and had achieved the title of Chief, Taxidermy/Conservation, National Museum of Natural History, Office of Exhibits. Greenwell was also a member of the National Taxidermists Association. Materials include information on the mounting of the "Fenykovi" Elephant (displayed in the rotunda of the National Museum of Natural History); the "Hasinger" Bengal Tiger (displayed in the National Museum of Natural History); and the mounting of "Mungo" a baby elephant, by William Temple Hornaday, nineteenth century Smithsonian Taxidermist. There are additional information files regarding Smithsonian Taxidermists William Temple Hornaday and Carl Ethan Akeley. Other featured collectors and collections include Smithsonian's joint African safari with Theodore Roosevelt (1909-1910). This safari substantially increased Smithsonian's African collections. There is one box of reference photographs that mostly depict live animals in various attitudes, and natural habitats. These were used as models for the Taxidermists in creating life-like mounts and dioramas of natural scenes. In addition to the animal and landscape photos, there are also photos of people, including two of Osa and Martin Johnson. Materials include articles, brochures, correspondence, drawings, formulas, informational files, memoranda, newsletters, newspaper clippings, notes, photographs, and sketches.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:
- Elephants
- Fenykovi elephant
Museum exhibits
Natural history museums
Taxidermists
Taxidermy
Tigers

Types of Materials:
Black-and-white photographs
Books
Brochures
Clippings
Color photographs
Drawings
Manuscripts
Newsletters
Newspapers
Picture postcards
Sketches

Names:
Akeley, Carl Ethan, 1864-1926
Greenwell, Frank M.
Hornaday, William Temple, 1854-1937
Johnson, Martin
Johnson, Osa
National Taxidermists Association
Roosevelt, Theodore, 1858-1919
Smithsonian-Roosevelt African Expedition (1909)
**Container Listing**

Box 1

"Fenykovi" Elephant (7 folders)
- Digital Content: Preparing Fenykovi Elephant for Exhibition (in folder 2) [SIA2010-0608]
- Digital Content: Unveiling of Fenykovi Elephant (in folder 2) [SIA2010-0609]

"Hasinger" Tiger

Mounting "Mungo"

Restoration of "Winchester" - General Sheridan's horse

Old taxidermist sketches of animal measurements

Copies of Articles

Taxidermy - General information file

Photographs of sixteen attic mounts - Destroyed May 13-15, 1985

National Taxidermists Association

Taxidermy Publications

Greenwell - Annotated Bibliography

Greenwell - Notes on preparing specimens

Greenwell - Correspondence

Greenwell - Biographical sketch


SI Conservation Council Meetings

National Museum of Natural History (NMNH) Taxidermic Collections - Lists and Notes on Care

Carl E. Akeley

Box 2

William T. Hornaday (4 folders)

Theodore Roosevelt Exhibition - San Francisco, September 7-October 5, 1980

Theodore Roosevelt - African Game

Theodore Roosevelt - African Safari, 1909-1910
Photographs - Bears
Photographs - Birds
Photographs - Boars
Photographs - Camels
Photographs - Cats
Photographs - Dogs, Wolves, Foxes
Photographs - Deer, Goats, Antelopes, Cows, etc
Photographs - Elephants
Photographs - Giraffes
Photographs - Kangaroos
Photographs - Monkeys, Apes
Photographs - Reptiles
Photographs - Rhinoceros, Hippo
Photographs - Rodents
Photographs - Walrus, Seals
Photographs - Miscellaneous Animals
Photographs - Taxidermy Shop (SI)
Negatives (Old Taxidermy Shop and Mounts)

Box 3

Photographs - Modeling and Mounting of Elephant (Excluding Fenykovi Elephant)

Photographs - Mounting of the Fenykovi Elephant
Digital Content: Fenykovi Elephant Skull Comparison [SIA2010-0892]
Digital Content: Miniature model of Fenykovi elephant done by Norman N. Deaton [SIA2010-0893]

Negatives of the Restoration of the Fenykovi Elephant and Giraffes in Hall 14 (1982)

Negatives of Greenwell Restorations

Photographs - Modeling and Mounting of Large Mammals (Excluding Elephant)

Photographs - Construction of Exhibit Cases (Mammals)

Photographs - SI Building
Photographs - New Exhibit Cases (Mammals)

Photographs - Mammals on Exhibit - Halls 14 and 15 (1961- )

Photographs - Old Exhibit Groups in Cases

Photographs - Miscellaneous Exhibits

Photographs - 75th Anniversary of the National Museum of Natural History
Commemorative Book

Photographs of People

Osa Johnson

Miscellaneous Images

Box 4

Making Blue Whale