



Smithsonian
*Freer Gallery of Art and
Arthur M. Sackler Gallery*

Sir Edmund Hillary Autograph

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery Archives
Title:	Sir Edmund Hillary Autograph
Identifier:	FSA.A1998.09
Date:	November 16, 1998
Extent:	1 Sheet (31 x 38 cm.)
Creator:	Hillary, Edmund, 1919-2008
Language:	English
Digital Content:	Image(s): Sir Edmund Hillary Autograph

Administrative Information

Provenance

Gift of Sir Edmund Hillary, 1998.

Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Permission to publish, quote, or reproduce must be secured from the repository.

Biographical / Historical

Sir Edmund Percival Hillary (1919-2008) was New Zealand mountaineer and explorer. As part of the ninth British expedition to Everest, Hillary and his Sherpa guide Tenzing Norgay were the first men to reach the summit of Mt. Everest, the highest point on Earth, on May 29, 1953. For this feat, he was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II, while Tenzing received the George Medal, one of Britain's highest civilian awards. Hillary would go on to participate in other expeditions in the Himalayas, as well as an expedition to the South Pole. In 1985, he was appointed New Zealand High Commissioner to India. Hillary also devoted much of his time and energy to various philanthropic causes, particularly those dedicated to preserving the ecology of the Himalayas and improving the living conditions of the Sherpa people. In 1998, Hillary was the recipient of the James Smithson Bicentennial Medal in honor of his "monumental explorations and humanitarian achievements." This autograph drawing was made by Hillary during a press conference at the Freer Gallery on November 16.

Scope and Contents

One sheet bearing Hillary's signature, along with a line drawing of two figures climbing a mountain, both in black ink.

Arrangement

Organized in one file folder.

Local Numbers

FSA A1998.09

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Mountaineering

Types of Materials:

Drawings

Ink drawings

Signatures (names)

Geographic Names:

Nepal

USA -- District of Columbia -- Washington

Washington (D.C.)