



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

Guide to the Gus Van Beek papers, circa 1959-2008

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National Anthropological Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	Gus Van Beek papers
Date:	circa 1959-2008
Identifier:	NAA.2008-28
Creator:	Van Beek, Gus W. (Gus Willard), 1922-
Extent:	53.5 Linear feet (106 document boxes 6 record storage boxes and 4 small boxes)
Language:	Multiple languages .
Summary:	This collection consists of the professional papers of Dr. Gus Van Beek, Curator of Old World Archaeology, Division of Archaeology, Department of Anthropology, Smithsonian Institution. Included is the overall body of field logs and notebooks, correspondence, administrative work, research for and about exhibits, photographs, drawings, work on a variety of Departmental committees, and work leading toward the publication of a number of manuscripts and papers. These materials cover roughly the period from 1959 when Dr. Van Beek was hired as an Associate Curator in the Department until 2008 when he actively ceased work in his office at NMNH.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

These papers were donated to the National Anthropological Archives by the Department of Anthropology at the Smithsonian Institution National Museum of Natural History.

Related Materials

See also Gus Van Beek's papers related to the Tel Jemmeh expedition.

Processing Information

The papers of Dr. Gus Van Beek were received partially organized. The processing archivist kept existing groupings. Original folder titles were retained, titles in brackets were provided by the archivist.

Preferred Citation

Gus Van Beek papers, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

Restrictions

The Gus Van Beek papers are open for research.

Access to the Gus van Beek papers requires an appointment.

Conditions Governing Use

Contact the repository for terms of use.

Biographical Note

<i>March 21, 1922</i>	Born in Tulsa, Oklahoma
<i>1943</i>	Bachelor of Arts with honors from University of Tulsa
<i>1945</i>	Bachelor of Divinity from McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago
<i>1947-49</i>	Louis J. and Mary E. Horowitz Christian Fellow, Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati
<i>1951</i>	Field research with the American Foundation for the Study of Man at Hajar Bin Humeid, Wadi Beihan, East Aden Protectorate, Arabia
<i>1952</i>	Archeological Fellow, American Schools of Oriental Research, Jerusalem, Jordan. Completed field research in the cities of Jericho, Qumran and Dhiban, Jordan.
<i>1953</i>	Doctor of Philosophy in Near Eastern Archaeology, History and Semitic Languages from the John Hopkins University
<i>1959-1967</i>	Associate Curator, Old World Archeology, Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History
<i>1961-62</i>	Intensive archaeological reconnaissance field research in Wadi Hadhramaut and East Aden Protectorate [South Yemen]
<i>1962-65</i>	Worked on Hall 26: Old World Archeology permanent exhibit at the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution
<i>1964</i>	Archaeological reconnaissance in Yemen and Axum
<i>1965</i>	Producing curator of the Dead Sea Scrolls Exhibit at National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution
<i>1966-67</i>	Completed archaeological survey of early Phoenician sites in Tunisia
<i>1967-[2008]</i>	Curator, Old World Archeology, Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History
<i>1967</i>	Field research to survey Tigre Province, Ethiopia and the Beq'a of Lebanon
<i>1967</i>	Curator of the Tunisian Mosaic Exhibit at the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution
<i>1968</i>	Archaeological survey of Wadi Negran, Saudi Arabia
<i>1968</i>	Guest Curator of the South Arabian Art Exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City
<i>1969</i>	Surveyed sites in Israel for possible excavation
<i>1969</i>	Curator of the Masada Exhibit at the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution
<i>1970-78</i>	Organized and directed major archaeological excavations at Tel Jemmeh, Israel. [Annually]
<i>1972</i>	Producing Curator of the Arabia Felix exhibit at the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution
<i>1982</i>	Directed excavation at Tell Jemmeh and researched terre pise, pise de terre construction in Morocco

1984	Excavation at Tel Jemmeh to increase the area of the 10th-9th centuries B.C. exposure
1987	Excavation at Tel Jemmeh
1989	Researched mud construction in Madras, Pondicherry and Kerala, Indian and in Punjab, Pakistan to determine if highland mud construction was sufficiently adapted environmentally to justify intensive study
1989	Researched mud construction (adobe) in Sante Fe, Abiquiu and Taos, New Mexico to compare construction methods and design elements with those of the Middle East
1990	Investigated layered mud construction and design in vicinity of Quetta, Baluchistan, Pakistan and directed small excavation at Tel Jemmeh
1991	Field research in vicinity of Quetta, Baluchistan, Pakistan; Gujarat State, India and across newly unified Yemen
1992	Advised the Israel Antiquities Authority on mud construction
1994	Field research in eastern architecture in Syria
1995	Participated in Adobe Workshop, sponsored by New Mexico State Monuments and J. Paul Getty Conversation organization
1997	Research on rammed earth (terre pise) construction and design in Dauphine Province, France and in the states of Hesse, Baden, and Wurtemberg, Germany
1999	Research on minimizing earthquake damage in ancient mud brick construction at Tel Rehov in the Jordan Valley, Israel

Scope and Contents

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Please note that the contents of the collection and the language and terminology used reflect the context and culture of the time of its creation. As an historical document, its contents may be at odds with contemporary views and terminology and considered offensive today. The information within this collection does not reflect the views of the Smithsonian Institution or National Anthropological Archives, but is available in its original form to facilitate research.

Arrangement

Collection is organized into 8 series: 1) Correspondence; 2) South Arabia; 3) Exhibits; 4) Publications; 5) Administrative; 6) Photographs; 7) Vertical file.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Archaeology
- Archeological excavations
- Dead sea scrolls
- Museum exhibits

Types of Materials:

- Articles
- Clippings
- Contact prints
- Correspondence
- Drafts (documents)
- Drawings
- Exhibit scripts
- Grant Proposals
- Memorandums
- Negatives (photographic)
- Newsletters
- Notes
- Papers
- Photocopies
- Photographic prints
- Photographs
- Press releases
- Reports
- Resumes
- Reviews (documents)
- Slides (photographs)
- Speeches

Names:

- Smithsonian Institution. Department of Anthropology

Places:

- Arabian Peninsula
- Egypt
- Hajar Āl Ḥumayd
- Ḥaḍramawt (Yemen : Province)
- Ma'rib (Yemen)
- Tunisia
- Yemen