



Smithsonian Institution Archives

Chief Taxidermist Records, *circa* 1970-1999

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Smithsonian Institution Archives
Washington, D.C.
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu
Title:	Chief Taxidermist Records
Identifier:	Accession 00-082
Date:	<i>circa</i> 1970-1999
Extent:	3.43 cu. ft. (3 record storage boxes) (1 12x17 box)
Creator::	National Museum of Natural History. Office of Exhibits
Language:	English

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 African Expedition (1909-1910)

Container Listing

Box 1

- Box 1 of 4 "Fenykovi" Elephant (7 folders)
[Digital Content: Preparing Fenykovi Elephant for Exhibition \(in folder 2\) \[SIA2010-0608\]](#)
[Digital Content: Unveiling of Fenykovi Elephant \(in folder 2\) \[SIA2010-0609\]](#)
- Box 1 of 4 "Hasinger" Tiger
- Box 1 of 4 Mounting "Mungo"
- Box 1 of 4 Restoration of "Winchester" - General Sheridan's horse
- Box 1 of 4 Old taxidermist sketches of animal measurements
- Box 1 of 4 Copies of Articles
- Box 1 of 4 Taxidermy - General information file
- Box 1 of 4 Photographs of sixteen attic mounts - Destroyed May 13-15, 1985
- Box 1 of 4 National Taxidermists Association
- Box 1 of 4 Taxidermy Publications
- Box 1 of 4 Greenwell - Annotated Bibliography
- Box 1 of 4 Greenwell - Notes on preparing specimens
- Box 1 of 4 Greenwell - Correspondence
- Box 1 of 4 Greenwell - Biographical sketch
- Box 1 of 4 Workshop - "Principles of Conservation and Preventative Care," July 12-16, 1982
- Box 1 of 4 SI Conservation Council Meetings
- Box 1 of 4 National Museum of Natural History (NMNH) Taxidermic Collections - Lists and Notes on Care
- Box 1 of 4 Carl E. Akeley

Box 2

- Box 2 of 4 William T. Hornaday (4 folders)

- Box 2 of 4 Theodore Roosevelt Exhibition - San Francisco, September 7-October 5, 1980
- Box 2 of 4 Theodore Roosevelt - African Game
- Box 2 of 4 Theodore Roosevelt - African Safari, 1909-1910
- Box 2 of 4 Photographs - Bears
- Box 2 of 4 Photographs - Birds
- Box 2 of 4 Photographs - Boars
- Box 2 of 4 Photographs - Camels
- Box 2 of 4 Photographs - Cats
- Box 2 of 4 Photographs - Dogs, Wolves, Foxes
- Box 2 of 4 Photographs - Deer, Goats, Antelopes, Cows, etc
- Box 2 of 4 Photographs - Elephants
- Box 2 of 4 Photographs - Giraffes
- Box 2 of 4 Photographs - Kangaroos
- Box 2 of 4 Photographs - Monkeys, Apes
- Box 2 of 4 Photographs - Reptiles
- Box 2 of 4 Photographs - Rhinoceros, Hippo
- Box 2 of 4 Photographs - Rodents
- Box 2 of 4 Photographs - Walrus, Seals
- Box 2 of 4 Photographs - Miscellaneous Animals
- Box 2 of 4 Photographs - Taxidermy Shop (SI)
- Box 2 of 4 Negatives (Old Taxidermy Shop and Mounts)

Box 3

- Box 3 of 4 Photographs - Modeling and Mounting of Elephant (Excluding Fenykovi Elephant)
- Box 3 of 4 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 \[SIA2010-0893\]](#)

- Box 3 of 4 Negatives of the Restoration of the Fenykovi Elephant and Giraffes in Hall 14 (1982)
- Box 3 of 4 Negatives of Greenwell Restorations
- Box 3 of 4 Photographs - Modeling and Mounting of Large Mammals (Excluding Elephant)
- Box 3 of 4 Photographs - Construction of Exhibit Cases (Mammals)
- Box 3 of 4 Photographs - SI Building
- Box 3 of 4 Photographs - New Exhibit Cases (Mammals)
- Box 3 of 4 Photographs - Mammals on Exhibit - Halls 14 and 15 (1961-)
- Box 3 of 4 Photographs - Old Exhibit Groups in Cases
- Box 3 of 4 Photographs - Miscellaneous Exhibits
- Box 3 of 4 Photographs - 75th Anniversary of the National Museum of Natural History Commemorative Book
- Box 3 of 4 Photographs of People
- Box 3 of 4 Osa Johnson
- Box 3 of 4 Miscellaneous Images
- Box 4
- Box 4 of 4 Making Blue Whale