



Smithsonian Institution Archives

Silvio A. Bedini Papers, 1952-1996

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Washington, D.C.
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu
Title:	Silvio A. Bedini Papers
Identifier:	Accession 02-187
Date:	1952-1996
Extent:	25.43 cu. ft. (25 record storage boxes) (1 12x17 box)
Creator::	Bedini, Silvio A.
Language:	Language of Materials: English

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Smithsonian Institution Archives, Accession 02-187, Silvio A. Bedini Papers

Historical Note

Silvio A Bedini (b. 1917), an historian and author, attended Columbia University, 1935-1942, and received a LLD from the University of Bridgeport in 1970. In 1961, he began his career at the Smithsonian Institution as Curator in the Museum of History and Technology (MHT), Department of Mechanical and Civil Engineering. By 1965, Bedini became Assistant Director of MHT, and in 1972 was appointed Deputy Director of the National Museum of History and Technology. Following his tenure as Deputy Director, he served as Keeper of the Rare Books at the Dibner Library from 1978 until his retirement in 1987. Bedini is currently Historian Emeritus at the Smithsonian, a title he has held since retiring. During his long association with the Institution he has authored more than twenty books and countless articles, particularly on the history of science, and is a leading authority on the life of Thomas Jefferson.

Descriptive Entry

This accession primarily consists of Bedini's correspondence and memoranda with Smithsonian colleagues, scholars, professional organizations, publishers, and the general public documenting his research activities for special projects and publications including a project related to Thomas Jefferson. Also included are Bedini's publications; book reviews; research notes; photographs of scientific instruments, individuals, and exhibitions; copies of primary and secondary sources; and biographical information.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Bedini, Silvio A.
Research
Science -- History

Types of Materials:

Black-and-white negatives
Black-and-white photographs
Brochures
Clippings
Color photographs
Manuscripts
Newspapers
Picture postcards

Names:

Jefferson, Thomas, 1743-1826

Container Listing

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	Bedini's Publications, c. 1962-1992
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Box 1 of 26	We Declare Independence
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Box 1 of 26	A Renaissance Lapidary Lathe
Box 1 of 26	G. Campani, Pioneer: Optical Inventor
Box 1 of 26	Giuseppe Campani: Pioneer Inventor
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Box 2 of 26	Papal Pachyderms
Box 2 of 26	Pectoral Cross Watch of Pope Pius VII

Box 2 of 26 Peter Hill: Clockworker

Box 2 of 26 Time and Light

Box 2 of 26 Andrew Ellicott: Surveyor of the Wilderness (printed copies)

Box 2 of 26 Andrew Ellicott: Surveyor of the Wilderness (photocopies and original in publication)

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Box 2 of 26 The Pocahontas Watch

Box 2 of 26 The Tinkers Timepiece

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Box 2 of 26 Benjamin Banneker and the Survey of the District of Columbia, 1791

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Ellicott Research

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- Box 4 of 26 Collection de Differens Traités Instrumens D'Astronomie, etc
- Box 4 of 26 Descriptions et usages de plusieurs nouveaux microscopes... (copy from microfilm)
- Box 4 of 26 An Account of the 71st Anniversary of the Providence Association of Mechanics and Manufacturers, 1860 (photocopy)

Box 4 of 26	Ellicott: Miscellaneous Items
Box 4 of 26	Sborník pro dejiny přírodních ved a techniky
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- Box 5 of 26 Photographs of Chinese Sundails
- Box 5 of 26 Photographs: Compasses [two folders]
- Box 5 of 26 Correspondence: July-December, 1985 Jul-Dec [two folders]
- Box 5 of 26 Connecticut Historical Society Bulletin, Spring 1987 - A Skirmish in America:
A Rare Etching...by Silvio A. Bedini
- Box 5 of 26 Early Military Books in the University of Michigan Libraries
- Box 5 of 26 Il Bugnarroti de Benvenuto Gasparoni..
- Box 5 of 26 Physics and Astronomy by Accrombie
- Box 5 of 26 Relazione di Sintesi by Eugenio Garin
- Box 5 of 26 Natural History by Maries Boas Hall
- Box 5 of 26 Le Musée d'Histoire de la Science by Marla-Luisa Bonelli
- Box 5 of 26 Foreign Articles
- Box 5 of 26 Photographs: Chinese Sundials
- NMHT/Smithsonian Research
- Box 5 of 26 Brochures, 1982-1983
- Box 5 of 26 History of the National Museum of History and Technology, 1973-1979
- Box 5 of 26 A Study of the Smithsonian Centennial Collection, 1972
- Box 5 of 26 Collection Academique
- Box 5 of 26 The Smithsonian Institution and the American Philosophical Society
- Box 5 of 26 Correspondence, 1971
- Box 5 of 26 Orrery Photographs and List [two folders]
- Box 5 of 26 "The National Treasury of American History Proposal" by Silvio A. Bedini
- Box 5 of 26 General Information re: NMHT Research Project, c. 1961-1973 [four folders]
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- Box 5 of 26 NMHT Museum Project [three folders]
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- Box 6 of 26 "The Sinews of Independence" by Neil York [four folders]
- Box 6 of 26 "Research and Study Resources of the NMHT" (1977) by Silvio A. Bedini
- Box 6 of 26 Staff Publications, October 1977
- Box 6 of 26 "The National Museum of History and Technology, 1974-1978" by Silvio A. Bedini
- Box 6 of 26 Museum News Article
- Box 6 of 26 Newsletter: Conference Board of the Mathematical Science, May-June 1978
- Box 6 of 26 Long Term Plan for Revitalization of Exhibits in the Institution, May 31, 1950
- Box 6 of 26 Photograph: Underwood and Underwood
- Box 6 of 26 Notes
- Box 6 of 26 Conceptual Plan of the Museum of History and Technology
- Box 6 of 26 Correspondence, 1975
- Box 6 of 26 Relics of the Revolution, 1969 [two folders]
- Box 6 of 26 Howe, Elias
- Box 6 of 26 Proposal: "The National Treasury of American History," by Silvio A. Bedini
- Box 6 of 26 Preliminary Outline: "The National Treasury of American History"
- Box 6 of 26 Letter from Wittfield J. Bell, 1974
- Box 6 of 26 Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago, Illinois
- Box 6 of 26 Newspaper Clippings
- Box 6 of 26 Smithsonian Employees (prior to 1876)
- Box 6 of 26 Franklin Press, 1979-1980
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- Box 6 of 26 National Museum Children's Room
- Box 6 of 26 1876 Philadelphia Centennial
- Box 6 of 26 Early American Museums [two folders]

Box 6 of 26 Booklet: Exhibits in the Museums of the Smithsonian Institution

Box 6 of 26 Article re: Patent Office, Harpers Weekly, April 11, 1891 [two folders]

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Box 6 of 26 Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory (SAO) and SI News/Photo Recommendations [two folders]

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Box 7 of 26 NMHT book sources, 1979

Box 7 of 26 La LaFayette Cannon, 1980

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Box 7 of 26 Here at the Smithsonian

Box 7 of 26 "In the Smithsonian" Series

Box 7 of 26 The Canvas of Culture: Rediscovery of the Past as Adaptation for the Future

Box 7 of 26 Page 1, Unit V draft (copy)

Box 7 of 26 Lafayette Cannon, 1979-1981 [two folders]

Box 7 of 26 Photographs: Scientific Instruments

Box 7 of 26 Miscellaneous Research Items

Box 7 of 26 Dedication of the Museum of History and Technology of the Smithsonian Institution, 22 January 1964 (photocopy)

Box 7 of 26 SI Annual Reports [two folders]

Box 7 of 26 NMHT Book: Arts & Industries Building, 1979

Box 7 of 26 "The Torch" Articles, 1979-1980

Box 7 of 26 "Torch" article by FA Taylor, 5 March 1956

Box 7 of 26 "Mechanical Powers"

Box 7 of 26 Patent Models

Box 7 of 26 The Institute Polka

Box 7 of 26 Newspaper Sections re: Smithsonian, 1965-1966

Box 7 of 26 Articles

Box 7 of 26 Significant Patent Models

Box 7 of 26 "The Hardware of History" (1977) by Silvio A. Bedini

Box 7 of 26 Photographs: Arts & Industries Building

Box 7 of 26 Photographs: Patent Office

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Box 7 of 26 Photographs: Work Shop [?]

Box 7 of 26 Smithsonian Postcards

Box 7 of 26 Photographs: Washington DC

Box 7 of 26 Photographs: A&I Building Storage Areas

Box 7 of 26 Museums: Their History and Use by David Murray (Vol. 1)

Box 7 of 26 57th Congress House of Representatives, Doc. 314: New Building for the UD National Museum, 22 January 1903

Box 7 of 26 The Smithsonian Institution and the American Philosophical Society by Leonard Carmichael, Oct 1957 (reprint)

Box 7 of 26 News articles re: Smithsonian Institution

Box 7 of 26 Photographs: Washington Tents

Box 7 of 26 Photographs of Manuscript

Box 7 of 26 Photographs: Presidential Memorabilia

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- Box 8 of 26 Photographs: Arts & Industries Building/Exhibits [three folders]
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- Box 8 of 26 Photographs: NMHT Exhibits [four folders]
- Box 8 of 26 Newspaper Clippings and Pamphlets re: Smithsonian Museums, c.
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- Box 8 of 26 I (general), 1974-1980
- Box 8 of 26 Instruments in Art (photographs)
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- Box 8 of 26 ISIS: Correspondence, 1965-1986
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- Box 9 of 26 Lafayette: Printed Resources, c. 1952-1957 [three folders]
- Box 9 of 26 Lafayette Watch (photographs), 1979-1981 [two folders]
- Box 9 of 26 Leonardo DaVinci: Madrid Codices, 1963-1975
- Box 9 of 26 Leonardo DaVinci: Madrid Manuscript [three folders]

- Box 9 of 26 Leonardo DaVinci: The Unknown Leonardo, 1973
- Box 9 of 26 Leonardo DaVinci, 1980
- Box 9 of 26 Leonardo DaVinci: Exhibition Booklet [three folders]
- Box 9 of 26 Leonardo DaVinci: "To Do With Time (The Horological Sketches of Leonardo)" by Silvio A. Bedini

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- Box 10 of 26 Lewis and Clark: Speech and Article, 1983 ("The Scientific Instrumentation of the Lewis and Clark Expedition" by Silvio A. Bedini) [two folders]
- Box 10 of 26 Library Research
- Box 10 of 26 Library of Congress: Council of Scholars, 1979
- Box 10 of 26 Latrobe, Benjamin Henry, c. 1963
- Box 10 of 26 Lynch, Kenneth, 1964-1986 [four folders]
- Box 10 of 26 M (general), 1967
- Box 10 of 26 Machgamer, Peter K., 1968-1973
- Box 10 of 26 Mailing List: "Early American Scientific Instruments and Their Makers," 1964-1974
- Box 10 of 26 "Man and Time: Proposal for an Exhibition," by Silvio A. Bedini
- Box 10 of 26 "Man-Made Man (Mechanical Automata to Modern Computer)" by Silvio A. Bedini
- Box 10 of 26 Man, Time, and the Sun
- Box 10 of 26 Maryland Academy of Science, 1975
- Box 10 of 26 Maryland Historical Society, 1965-1976
- Box 10 of 26 "Mechanical Universe (The Astrarium of Giovanni de Dondi)" by Silvio A. Bedini and Francis R. Maddison, c. 1964-1973

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- Box 11 of 26 Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1959-1977

- Box 11 of 26 Michaelis, Anthony, 1966-1974
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- Box 11 of 26 Microscopes, 1963
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- Box 12 of 26 Patent Office Research, 1962-1968
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- Box 13 of 26 Queen Elizabeth II, 1977
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- Box 20 of 26 Whitaker, 1983
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- Box 20 of 26 SI Libraries: History, 1990-1992
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- Box 21 of 26 Project Vatican: Articles, c. 1984 [three folders]
- Box 21 of 26 Vatican Obelisk, 1982 [two folders]
- Box 21 of 26 Vatican Library and Archives, 1987
- Box 21 of 26 "The Vatican's Astronomical Paintings" by Silvio A. Bedini, 1978-1982 [four folders]
- Box 21 of 26 Vatican & Science: Articles [three folders]
- Box 21 of 26 Instruments in Art, 1962
- Box 21 of 26 Vatican News, c. 1984 [three folders]

- Box 21 of 26 The Vatican & the New World, 1977
- Box 21 of 26 Vatican Scientific Collections, 1980 [two folders]
- Box 21 of 26 Vatican Timekeeping, 1981
- Box 21 of 26 The Vatican and Calendar Reform, 1984
- Box 21 of 26 Barberini Instruments, 1978
- Box 21 of 26 Cryptography [two folders]
- Box 21 of 26 "Research at the Vatican," (1978) by Silvio A. Bedini
- Box 21 of 26 Lecture: Vatican Research, 1978 [two folders]
- Box 21 of 26 "The Academia Fisicamatematica Romana (A Preliminary Survey)" by Silvio A. Bedini, 1978
- Box 21 of 26 Tower of the Winds, 1980
- Box 21 of 26 Cardinal Baum, 1976-1981
- Box 21 of 26 Vatican Musei, Monumenti, & Gallerie, 1977-1980

Box 22

- Box 22 of 26 Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana, 1977-1978
- Box 22 of 26 Archivio Segreto Vaticano, 1977-1979 [two folders]
- Box 22 of 26 Specola Vaticana, 1976-1980
- Box 22 of 26 Papal Processions
- Box 22 of 26 Vatican Film Project, 1981
- Box 22 of 26 Travel to Italy, 1979-1984
- Box 22 of 26 Papal Correspondence, 1981
- Box 22 of 26 Vatican: Mappamundi
- Box 22 of 26 Vatican Research Expenses, 1982
- Box 22 of 26 Vatican Exhibition, 1981
- Box 22 of 26 Vatican Correspondence, 1981

- Thomas Jefferson Project

- Box 22 of 26 Chronology of Thomas Jefferson and Science
- Box 22 of 26 Thomas Jefferson: New Chapters
- Box 22 of 26 Correspondence: A-M, 1965-1984
- Box 22 of 26 Correspondence: N-Z, 1965-1984
- Box 22 of 26 Correspondence: Bear, James A. Jr., 1963-1984
- Box 22 of 26 Correspondence: H.J. Coolidge, 1981-1985
- Box 22 of 26 Cryptography: Negatives
- Box 22 of 26 Cryptography: Papers, c. 1974-1977
- Box 22 of 26 Frontiers: Philadelphia Academy of Science, 1981-1982
- Box 22 of 26 "Thomas Jefferson and the Beginnings of American Paleontology" by Silvio A. Bedini, c. 1984 [two folders]
- Box 22 of 26 Photographs: Thomas Jefferson and Science Exhibition [four folders]
- Box 22 of 26 Photographs: Declaration of Independence Desk [two folders]
- Box 22 of 26 Declaration of Independence Desk, 1979-1985 [two folders]
- Box 23
- Box 23 of 26 Declaration of Independence Desk, 1979-1985 [three folders]
- Box 23 of 26 Study at Monticello
- Box 23 of 26 Photographs: Polygraphs [three folders]
- Box 23 of 26 Polygraph: Thomas Jefferson, 1971-1982 [three folders]
- Box 23 of 26 "Thomas Jefferson: Man of Invention" by Silvio A. Bedini
- Box 23 of 26 Thomas Jefferson & Science Exhibit Catalogue Scripts
- Box 23 of 26 Thomas Jefferson Exhibition: Loans, 1986
- Box 23 of 26 Thomas Jefferson Exhibition: Script, 1981 [two folders]
- Box 23 of 26 Thomas Jefferson Exhibition: Articles, 1981-1982
- Box 23 of 26 Thomas Jefferson Exhibition: News Releases, 1981
- Box 23 of 26 Research: Thomas Jefferson, 1976-1985 [six folders]
- Box 23 of 26 Declaration of Independence: The Evolution of the Text

- Box 23 of 26 Thomas Jefferson: A Reference Biography
- Box 23 of 26 Correspondence: The Scientific Pursuits of Thomas Jefferson, 1973-1979
- Box 24
- Box 24 of 26 Lectures on Thomas Jefferson
- Box 24 of 26 Thomas Jefferson Bible, 1975 [two folders]
- Box 24 of 26 Harper's Weekly
- Research Files: Correspondence/Other, A-B
- Box 24 of 26 A (general), 1964-1978 [four folders]
- Box 24 of 26 Abrams, Harry N., 1969-1980
- Box 24 of 26 Adler Planetarium, 1966-1970
- Box 24 of 26 Air Pumps (Dr. Prince)
- Box 24 of 26 Almanacs (photographs)
- Box 24 of 26 Almanacs: Research
- Box 24 of 26 Althin, Tarsten, 1964-1969
- Box 24 of 26 American Antiquarian Society, 1964-1979
- Box 24 of 26 American Association of Museums, 1975-1979
- Box 24 of 26 American Historical Review, 1971-1975
- Box 24 of 26 American Philosophical Society, c. 1964-1984 [four folders]
- Box 24 of 26 Animals on the Mall, 1975-1976
- Box 24 of 26 Announcement of Books, 1976
- Box 24 of 26 Antiquarian Horological Society, 1979
- Box 24 of 26 Anthony, Susan B., 1975
- Box 24 of 26 Apostolic Clocks, 1980
- Box 24 of 26 Applied Optics, 1965
- Box 24 of 26 Armillary Spheres (photographs)
- Box 24 of 26 Astrarium (photographs)

Box 24 of 26 Astrolabes: Research, 1963-1983

Box 24 of 26 Astrolabes: Photographs [two folders]

Box 25

Box 25 of 26 Astrolabes: Photographs, c. 1966-1980 [five folders]

Box 25 of 26 Astrolabe Analysis Project, 1963-1972 [two folders]

Box 25 of 26 Astronomy, 1968, 1984

Box 25 of 26 B (general), 1970-1978 [four folders]

Box 25 of 26 Backstaffs (photographs)

Box 25 of 26 Barometers (photographs)

Box 25 of 26 Bassett, Preston, 1963-1981

Box 25 of 26 Bedini, Silvio A.: Research Grant/Sabbatical, 1984-1985

Box 25 of 26 Bedini, Silvio A.: Publications, 1983-1984 [two folders]

Box 25 of 26 Bedini, Silvio A.: Projects in Progress, 1969-1978 [two folders]

Box 25 of 26 Bedini, Silvio A.: Bibliography

Box 25 of 26 Bedini, Silvio A.: Biographical Sketch

Box 26

Box 26 of 26 Photographs: Thomas Jefferson and Science

Box 26 of 26 Photographs: Arts & Industries Building

Box 26 of 26 Photographs/Negatives: Octants

Box 26 of 26 Photographs: Miscellaneous