



Smithsonian Institution Archives

Silvio A. Bedini Papers, 1952-1993

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu
Title:	Silvio A. Bedini Papers
Identifier:	Accession 02-221
Date:	1952-1993
Extent:	13 cu. ft. (13 record storage boxes)
Creator::	Bedini, Silvio A.
Language:	Language of Materials: English

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Smithsonian Institution Archives, Accession 02-221, Silvio A. Bedini Papers

Historical Note

Silvio A Bedini (b. 1917), an historian and author, attended Columbia University, 1935-1942, and received an L.L.D. 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 research into scientific instruments. 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:

Research
Science -- History
Scientific apparatus and instruments

Types of Materials:

Black-and-white negatives
Black-and-white photographs
Clippings
Color negatives
Color photographs
Drawings
Manuscripts

Names:

Bedini, Silvio A.
Dibner Library Keeper of Rare Books

Container Listing

Box 1

Research Files: Correspondence/Other, B-C

- Box 1 of 13 Bedini, Silvio A.: Book Reviews of Bedini's Publications
- Box 1 of 13 Bedini, Silvio A.: Book Reviews by Bedini, c. 1969 [two folders]
- Box 1 of 13 Bedini, Silvio A.: Select Bibliography, 1967-1978
- Box 1 of 13 Bonnelli, Maria, 1963-1982
- Box 1 of 13 Borghesi Astronomical Clock, 1962-1969
- Box 1 of 13 Branca, Giovanni, 1978
- Box 1 of 13 Bridges, Henry (photographs)
- Box 1 of 13 Brieux, Alain, 1962-1977 [two folders]
- Box 1 of 13 British Museum, 1969, 1978
- Box 1 of 13 Brown University, 1966-1976
- Box 1 of 13 Brusa, Giuseppe, 1975-1977
- Box 1 of 13 Buchan Boxes, 1979
- Box 1 of 13 C (general), c. 1968-1980 [three folders]
- Box 1 of 13 Cain, Walter O., 1975-1977
- Box 1 of 13 Calipers, 1981
- Box 1 of 13 Capriglia, 1979-1980
- Box 1 of 13 Carlisle, Roxane, 1974-1977
- Box 1 of 13 Cartography, c. 1977 [two folders]
- Box 1 of 13 Catholic University, 1979
- Box 1 of 13 Cheney, Benjamin
- Box 1 of 13 Chinese Clocks
- Box 1 of 13 Chinese Sundials, 1962-1966

Box 1 of 13 Chinese Water Clocks, 1968
Box 1 of 13 Ciphers and Codes, 1979
Box 1 of 13 Cipher Devices (MHT)
Box 1 of 13 Circumferentor
Box 1 of 13 Clap (Rector)
Box 1 of 13 Clocks (general), c. 1977-1983 [two folders]

Box 2

Research Files: Correspondence/Other, C-D
Box 2 of 13 Clock (Dial Plate)
Box 2 of 13 Clock (Mechanical)
Box 2 of 13 Clock of Wisdom
Box 2 of 13 Clock (Timekeeping), 1963-1968
Box 2 of 13 Clockwork Universe, 1979
Box 2 of 13 Colles, Christopher
Box 2 of 13 Columbia University, 1968-1976
Box 2 of 13 Columbus Exhibition, 1976 [four folders]
Box 2 of 13 Compass (Land Travelers)
Box 2 of 13 Compass Card, Thaxter & Son
Box 2 of 13 Compass (Surveying, Wood), 1967
Box 2 of 13 Compass (Surveying, Metal), 1972-1973
Box 2 of 13 Cosmos Club, 1972-1986 [three folders]
Box 2 of 13 Cryptography, c. 1980-1982 [three folders]
Box 2 of 13 Current Meters
Box 2 of 13 D (general), 1970-1977
Box 2 of 13 Dearborn, Benjamin, 1981-1984
Box 2 of 13 Diber, Bern, 1972-1975

- Box 2 of 13 Dividing Illustrations
- Box 2 of 13 Dividing Engines (MHT)
- Box 2 of 13 De Dondi, Giovanni, 1963-1974 [two folders]

Box 3

- Research Files: Correspondence/Other, D-E
- Box 3 of 13 De Dondi, Giovanni, 1963-1974 [two folders]
- Box 3 of 13 Drafting Instruments
- Box 3 of 13 E (general), 1968-1982
- Box 3 of 13 Early American Scientific Instruments, c. 1964-1982 [twenty-six folders]
- Box 3 of 13 Electrostatic Machines
- Box 3 of 13 Elephant (Hanno), c. 1979-1981 [five folders]

Box 4

- Research Files: Correspondence/Other, E-F
- Box 4 of 13 Eleutherian Mills-Hagley Foundation, 1965-1980 [five folders]
- Box 4 of 13 Emery, Matthew, 1976-1980 [two folders]
- Box 4 of 13 Emmett, Rowland, 1978-1983 [two folders]
- Box 4 of 13 F (general), 1963-1984 [three folders]
- Box 4 of 13 Ferguson, Eugene, 1964-1976 [two folders]
- Box 4 of 13 Filby, William P., 1978
- Box 4 of 13 First American Astronomical Observatory, c. 1980 [two folders]
- Box 4 of 13 Folger Library, 1974-1978
- Box 4 of 13 Folger Symposium, 1978 [two folders]
- Box 4 of 13 Franklin Institute, 1965-1977 [two folders]

Box 5

- Research Files: Correspondence/Other, F-H

Box 5 of 13 Franklin, Benjamin, 1969 [two folders]
Box 5 of 13 Fraser, T.J., 1965-1978
Box 5 of 13 G (general), 1970-1977 [two folders]
Box 5 of 13 Galileo's Instruments, 1964-1982 [two folders]
Box 5 of 13 Galvez, Bernardo de, 1975
Box 5 of 13 Gauge/Gunnery (MHT), 1971
Box 5 of 13 Gauge
Box 5 of 13 Gazebo/Bandstand, 1978-1979
Box 5 of 13 Gear Train, 1973
Box 5 of 13 Gems and Jewelry, c. 1964
Box 5 of 13 George Washington University, 1965-1978
Box 5 of 13 Giles, Orrery, 1963-1984 [two folders]
Box 5 of 13 Globes, 1982-1984
Box 5 of 13 Graphometer
Box 5 of 13 Greene, Carroll, 1967-1978
Box 5 of 13 Greenough, Hamilton P., 1965-1980 [two folders]
Box 5 of 13 Grolier Club, 1978-1979
Box 5 of 13 H (general), 1962-1978 [three folders]
Box 5 of 13 Hardware of History, c. 1964-1965 [three folders]
Box 5 of 13 Hill, Peter, 1979 [two folders]

Box 6

Research Files: Correspondence/Other, H
Box 6 of 13 Hiller, Joseph
Box 6 of 13 Hindle, Brooke, 1964-1976
Box 6 of 13 Historical Society of Pennsylvania, 1966-1976
Box 6 of 13 Hume, Ivor Noel, 1966-1969

General Correspondence, c. 1962-1978

Box 6 of 13	Civil Service Commission
Box 6 of 13	Dutch Street Organs
Box 6 of 13	L (a-i)
Box 6 of 13	L (j-z)
Box 6 of 13	M (a-b) [two folders]
Box 6 of 13	M (c-i) [two folders]
Box 6 of 13	M (j-z) [two folders]
Box 6 of 13	N [three folders]
Box 6 of 13	NSF (National Science Foundation) Travel Grant
Box 6 of 13	O [two folders]
Box 6 of 13	P [three folders]
Box 6 of 13	Q
	Box 7
Box 7 of 13	R [two folders]
Box 7 of 13	S (a-l) [two folders]
Box 7 of 13	S (m-z) [two folders]
Box 7 of 13	T
Box 7 of 13	U
Box 7 of 13	V
Box 7 of 13	W [three folders]
Box 7 of 13	X, Y, Z [two folders]
Box 7 of 13	General Correspondence, 1978-1979 [two folders]
	Scientific Instruments Research
Box 7 of 13	Historical Societies, 1971

Box 7 of 13 Sextants, 1967
Box 7 of 13 Octants, 1967-1974
Box 7 of 13 University of Pennsylvania, 1962-1973
Box 7 of 13 Washington Academy of Science, 1965-1966
Box 7 of 13 Washington History of Science Club, 1964-1972
Box 7 of 13 Waters, David W., 1963-1971

Box 8

Box 8 of 13 Webster, Roderick, 1964-1978
Box 8 of 13 Winterthur Museum, 1972-1973
Box 8 of 13 Zorn, George, 1964
Box 8 of 13 Cooperative Program for Advise, 1972-1977 [two folders]
National Inventory of Scientific Instruments (NISI)
Box 8 of 13 NISI Project Description
Box 8 of 13 Correspondence (general), c. 1965-1977 [six folders]
Box 8 of 13 Correspondence: A-Z, c. 1964-1969 [ten folders]

Box 9

Box 9 of 13 Navigational Instruments, c. 1967-1973 [eight folders]
Box 9 of 13 Demonstrational Inventory Forms, c. 1966 [two folders]
Box 9 of 13 Surgical Instruments, c. 1966-1967
Box 9 of 13 Observational Instruments, c. 1964-1967 [three folders]
Box 9 of 13 Machines, c. 1968
Box 9 of 13 International Inventory, 1959-1966 [two folders]
Box 9 of 13 Non-Inventory Instruments
Box 9 of 13 Drafting Instruments, c. 1968
Box 9 of 13 Gnomonic Instruments, c. 1967
Box 9 of 13 Weights and Measures, 1967-1968

- Box 9 of 13 Gunnery, 1967
- Scientific Instruments Research
- Box 9 of 13 Horology, c. 1953-1965 [three folders]
- Box 10
- Box 10 of 13 Horology, 1953-1965 [three folders]
- Box 10 of 13 Mariner Astrolabes, 1969
- Box 10 of 13 Oriental Astrolabes
- Box 10 of 13 Western Astrolabes
- Box 10 of 13 New York University
- Box 10 of 13 Wellesley College
- Box 10 of 13 Perpetual Calendars, 1952
- Box 10 of 13 Smithsonian Collections
- Box 10 of 13 Compasses and Tools
- Box 10 of 13 Astronomical Rings, 1965
- Box 10 of 13 Astronomical Compendiae
- Box 10 of 13 Sanskrit Instruments, 1963-1964
- Box 10 of 13 Public Inquiries re: Scientific Instruments, 1961-1965 [two folders]
- Box 10 of 13 Instruments Purchased, 1962-1963
- Box 10 of 13 Instruments (general)
- Box 10 of 13 Regiomontanus
- Box 10 of 13 Felix, David
- Box 10 of 13 Drafting Instruments
- Box 10 of 13 Globes and Spheres, 1962, 1972
- Box 10 of 13 Globes: Celestial and Terrestrial, 1965
- Box 10 of 13 Armillary Spheres
- Box 10 of 13 Gunnery Instruments

Box 10 of 13 18th Century Instrument Makers, 1962-1963
Box 10 of 13 English Instrument Makers, 1965
Box 10 of 13 Trade Cards
Box 10 of 13 Lodestones and Terellae
Box 10 of 13 Nautical Instruments, c. 1965
Box 10 of 13 Measuring Instruments
Box 10 of 13 Nocturnals
Box 10 of 13 Microscopes, 1973
Box 10 of 13 Egyptian Medical Museums, 1976 [two folders]
Box 10 of 13 Planispheres
Box 10 of 13 Planetaria, 1976
Box 10 of 13 Opticals, c. 1967-1968 [four folders]
Box 10 of 13 Watches

Box 11

Box 11 of 13 Astronomical Korean Clock, 1963-1967 [two folders]
Box 11 of 13 Egypt Trip, 1976
Box 11 of 13 Quadrants
Box 11 of 13 Tiffler Clock, 1974-1976
Box 11 of 13 Sundials, 1968-1971
Box 11 of 13 Graphometers and Circumferentors
Box 11 of 13 Gelb, J.W.
Box 11 of 13 Dentzel, M., 1962
Box 11 of 13 American Astronomy
Box 11 of 13 Surveying Instruments
Box 11 of 13 Telescopes, 1976
Box 11 of 13 Sand Glasses

- Box 11 of 13 Bogardus, 1963
- Box 11 of 13 Philip Immser/Timekeeping, 1974
- Box 11 of 13 Timekeeping/Spanish Missions, 1975
- Box 11 of 13 Clockwork Chronology, 1965
- Box 11 of 13 Water Clocks
- Box 11 of 13 Water Clocks/Ctesibian, 1961-1962
- Box 11 of 13 Weights and Measures, 1962
- Box 11 of 13 USNM (United States National Museum) Instruments, 1964-1965
- Box 11 of 13 Reference Works
- Box 11 of 13 Istanbul Conference, 1977
- Box 11 of 13 Heralds of Science
- Box 11 of 13 Relics of the Revolution, 1986-1987
- Professional Surveyor: Correspondence/Other
- Box 11 of 13 Surveying Equipment, 1982-1993 [six folders]
- Box 11 of 13 Correspondence re: "Collectors Corner," 1983-1986
- Box 12
- Box 12 of 13 Correspondence re: "Collectors Corner," 1983
- Box 12 of 13 Bedini, Silvio A.: "Collectors Corner" Articles, 1983-1992 [three folders]
- NMHT/NMAH (National Museum of American History)- Smithsonian Research
- Box 12 of 13 Tools in Art
- Box 12 of 13 Archival Collections, 1965
- Box 12 of 13 Historic Site Archeology, 1962-1965
- Box 12 of 13 Industrial Archeology, 1965-1966
- Box 12 of 13 Underwater Exploration, 1965
- Box 12 of 13 Projects Proposed, 1965

Box 12 of 13 Public Relations Committee, 1964 [two folders]
Box 12 of 13 Index of American Culture, 1965
Box 12 of 13 National Endowment for the Humanities, 1978
Box 12 of 13 Settala Museum (photographs)
Box 12 of 13 National Science Foundation, 1972-1975 [two folders]
Box 12 of 13 Maloy, Robert M., 1979-1981
Box 12 of 13 Smithsonian Institution Libraries, 1979-1983
Box 12 of 13 Humanistic Themes & Interpretive Goals
Box 12 of 13 Jefferson and Science Exhibition, 1981 [three folders]

Box 13

Box 13 of 13 Dibner Library, 1977-1978 [two folders]
Box 13 of 13 Museum Exhibitions, 1971-1977 [four folders]
 Bedini's Publications Research/Travel Reports
Box 13 of 13 Correspondence, 1966
Box 13 of 13 Correspondence, 1963-1979
Box 13 of 13 Publications Research, c. 1964-1993 [ten folders]
Box 13 of 13 Reviews, c. 1975-1976
Box 13 of 13 Travel Reports, 1958-1977