



Smithsonian Institution Archives

Silvio A. Bedini Papers, 1965-1985

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu
Title:	Silvio A. Bedini Papers
Identifier:	Accession 05-115
Date:	1965-1985
Extent:	3 cu. ft. (3 record storage boxes)
Creator::	Bedini, Silvio A.
Language:	Language of Materials: English

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Smithsonian Institution Archives, Accession 05-115, 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 Bendini's correspondence and memoranda with Smithsonian colleagues, scholars, professional organizations, publishers, and the general public documenting his research activities for special projects, publications, and exhibitions. Also included are Bedini's articles and book reviews; research notes; copies of primary and secondary sources; photographs of scientific instruments, individuals, buildings, and exhibitions; and proposals.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Research
Science -- History

Types of Materials:

Audiotapes
Black-and-white photographs
Brochures
Clippings
Color photographs
Drawings
Manuscripts

Names:

Bedini, Silvio A.

Container Listing

Box 1

Benjamin Banneker Research

Box 1 of 3 Correspondence: A-Z, 1965-1984 (4 folders)

Box 1 of 3 Lectures, 1981

Box 1 of 3 Book Reviews, 1971-1973

Box 1 of 3 Stamp Project, 1972-1980

Box 1 of 3 Film Projects, 1975-1977

Box 1 of 3 Ellicott/Banneker Mural

Box 1 of 3 General Information, 1970-1983

Elijah Porter Research

Box 1 of 3 Correspondence and Research, 1983

Vatican Project

Box 1 of 3 Correspondence, 1977-1982

Box 1 of 3 Correspondence, 1976-1977

Box 1 of 3 The Vatican and Science: Exhibition Project, 1984-1985 (2 folders)

Box 1 of 3 Letter to the Pope, 1978

Redheffer Research

Box 1 of 3 Correspondence, 1975-1980

Box 1 of 3 Photographs: Redheffer House and Patent, 1972-1975

Anthony Lamb Research

Box 1 of 3 Correspondence and Research, 1972-1984

Lafayette's Watch Research (The Case of the Wandering Watch)

Box 1 of 3 Correspondence and Research, 1974-1983

Box 2

Bernardo Facini Research

Box 2 of 3 Correspondence and Research, 1983-1984

Relic of the Revolution (Thomas Jefferson's Lap Desk)

Box 2 of 3 Correspondence and Research, 1970-1984 (2 folders)

Athanasius Kircher Research

Box 2 of 3 Correspondence and Research, 1985

Waldseemuller Map Research ("The Map that Named America")

Box 2 of 3 Correspondence and Research, 1982-1984 (2 folders)

Other

Box 2 of 3 Relics of the Revolution: Proposal

Box 2 of 3 Correspondence re: The Nation's Attic, 1979-1980

Box 2 of 3 Photograph: Portrait of Andrew Ellicott

Box 2 of 3 Polygraph: Correspondence and Research, 1973-1978

Box 2 of 3 Audiotapes: America's Wooden Age, 1966 (2 folders)

Box 3

Box 3 of 3 Photographs of Houses for "A Nation of Nations" (2 folders)

Box 3 of 3 Photographs of Commercial Buildings for "A Nation of Nations" (2 folders)

Box 3 of 3 Photographs for "A Nation of Nations" (general) (6 folders)

Box 3 of 3 Exhibition: "Columbus and His Times," 1976

Box 3 of 3 Exhibition: "Anatomical Drawings by Leonardo Da Vinci," 1976

Box 3 of 3 Silver Jubilee Exhibition, 1977