



Smithsonian Institution Archives

Subject Files, 1998-2011

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Collection Overview

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| Repository: | Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu |
| Title: | Subject Files |
| Identifier: | Accession 12-182 |
| Date: | 1998-2011 |
| Extent: | 1 cu. ft. (1 record storage box) |
| Creator:: | National Museum of Natural History. Office of the Director |
| Language: | Language of Materials: English |

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Smithsonian Institution Archives, Accession 12-182, National Museum of Natural History.
Office of the Director, Subject Files

Descriptive Entry

The Institut für Deutsche Ostarbeit (IDO) opened in German-occupied Krakow, Poland, in 1940. The Sektion für Rasse- und Volkstumforschung (IDO-SRV) (Section for Racial and National Traditions Research) was an anthropological unit of the IDO that classified people by studying their anthropometric and genealogical information. The collection was seized by the United States and British armies after the end of World War II and given to the Smithsonian Institution on permanent loan once they were deemed of no further value for military intelligence.

In 2003, the Polish government requested this collection be transferred back to Poland. These records document the task force that was created by Cristián Samper, Director of the National Museum of Natural History (NMNH), at the request of the Secretary of the Smithsonian to investigate the legal, scientific, ethical, and archival issues related to the return of these records. In 2004, the task force recommended the records be returned after microfilm copies and digital surrogates had been made. In a ceremony at the Polish Consulate in New York on September 27, 2007, the IDO records were transferred from the National Anthropological Archives to Uniwersytet Jagielloński (Jagiellonian University), Krakow. (See also related records in Accession 05-091.)

These records were compiled and maintained by Ruth Osterweis Selig, Special Assistant to the Director, NMNH. Materials include correspondence, meeting minutes, notes, clippings, brochures, and reports. Some materials are in electronic format.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Anthropology
- Anthropometry
- Committees
- Museum archives
- Natural history museum directors
- Natural history museums
- World War, 1939-1945

Types of Materials:

- Brochures
- Clippings
- Digital versatile discs
- Electronic records
- Manuscripts

Names:

- Institut für Deutsche Ostarbeit (Kraków, Poland)
- Institut für Deutsche Ostarbeit. Sektion für Rasse- und Volkstumforschung
- National Anthropological Archives
- National Museum of Natural History (U.S.)
- Osterweis Selig, Ruth
- Samper, Cristián
- Uniwersytet Jagielloński

Geographic Names:

- Krakow (Poland)

Container Listing

Box 1

- Box 1 of 1 Institut fur Deutsche Ostarbeit (IDO) Project Chronology/Contacts/Description of Materials
- Box 1 of 1 Key Documents in IDO Project, October 3, 2003-July 7, 2009
- Box 1 of 1 IDO Task Force Meeting Minutes, December 4, 2003-July 12, 2004 (February 20, 2004, meeting includes National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) information)
- Box 1 of 1 Correspondence between Smithsonian Institution (SI) Officials and Embassy/Jagiellonian University
- Box 1 of 1 State Department (John P. Becker)
- Box 1 of 1 Gretchen Schafft/Department of Anthropology/Schafft-Zeidler Register to IDO Collection
- Box 1 of 1 United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM)
- Box 1 of 1 Bundesarchiv
- Box 1 of 1 David L. Evans (SI Under Secretary for Science)
- Box 1 of 1 Hoover Institution Archives/Stanford University/Elena S. Danielson, Director
- Box 1 of 1 Fundraising Proposals and Letters re: IDO Project
- Box 1 of 1 Correspondence with Rector Karol Musiol, 2005
- Box 1 of 1 Winid Meeting, October 2004; Conservation/Digitization Proposals; IDO Box Description (Bain)
- Box 1 of 1 Completing the Project (2006-2008): Hedlin Contract; Jagiellonian University/Holocaust Museum
- Box 1 of 1 Beth Schuster: Internship/Contract/Work Accomplished
- Box 1 of 1 Digitization/Crowley and Company
- Box 1 of 1 Talks/Presentations about the IDO Project
- Box 1 of 1 IDO Events and Celebrations, May 1, 2007-January 2, 2008
- Box 1 of 1 Closing the Case, 2008-2009
- Box 1 of 1 *Alma Mater*, Miesiecznik Uniwersytetu Jagiellonskiego, numer specjalny 118, 2009

- Box 1 of 1 IDO Project Materials (electronic records)
- Box 1 of 1 Transfer of Custody Agreement, September 21, 2007 (Accession 15-210)
- Box 1 of 1 IDO Project Materials Maintained by Edie Hedlin, 2003-2011 (Accession 15-210)