



Smithsonian Institution Archives

Warren M. Robbins Papers, 1923-2009

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., <a href="mailto:osiaref@si.edu">osiaref@si.edu</a>
<b>Title:</b>	Warren M. Robbins Papers
<b>Identifier:</b>	Accession 13-136
<b>Date:</b>	1923-2009
<b>Extent:</b>	5 cu. ft. (5 record storage boxes)
<b>Creator::</b>	Robbins, Warren M.
<b>Language:</b>	English

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## Administrative Information

### Preferred Citation

Smithsonian Institution Archives, Accession 13-136, Warren M. Robbins Papers

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## Descriptive Entry

This accession consists of the personal papers of Warren M. Robbins, founder and director of the Museum of African Art which became a part of the Smithsonian Institution in 1979 and was later renamed the National Museum of African Art. The records document his early life growing up in Worcester, Massachusetts; his work in the Foreign Service; his work at the Museum of African and the National Museum of African Art; his lectures and interviews regarding African art; and his personal relationships with a variety of individuals including Saul Bellow, Maya Angelou, Chaim Gross, S. I. Hayakawa, Frances Humphrey Howard, Hubert H. Humphrey, and Raphael Soyer. Materials include correspondence, memoranda, publications, lectures, audiovisual materials, images, clippings, and other related materials. Some materials are in German and French.

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## Names and Subject Terms

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

### Subjects:

- Art museums
- Art, African
- Museum directors

### Types of Materials:

- Audiotapes
- Black-and-white photographs

Clippings  
Color photographs  
Color transparencies  
Manuscripts  
Videotapes

Names:

Angelou, Maya  
Bellow, Saul  
Gross, Chaim, 1904-1991  
Hayakawa, S. I. (Samuel Ichiyé), 1906-1992  
Howard, Frances Humphrey  
Humphrey, Hubert H. (Hubert Horatio), 1911-1978  
Museum of African Art (U.S.)  
National Museum of African Art (U.S.)  
Robbins, Warren M.  
Smithsonian Institution  
Soyer, Raphael, 1899-1987  
United States. Foreign Service

Geographic Names:

Worcester (Mass.)

## Container Listing

### Box 1

#### Biographical

- Box 1 of 5 Birth certificate, September 4, 1923
- Box 1 of 5 Classical High School - 1941, 2001-2004
- Box 1 of 5 Classical High School - 50th reunion - Class of 1941, 1991
- Box 1 of 5 University of New Hampshire - Academic record, 1941-1942
- Box 1 of 5 University of New Hampshire - Yearbook, 1945
- Box 1 of 5 University of New Hampshire - 50th reunion - Classes of 1945 and 1946, 1995
- Box 1 of 5 American Dependents High Schools of Germany - Erinnerungen, 1950
- Box 1 of 5 American Dependents High Schools of Germany - Erinnerungen, 1951
- Box 1 of 5 Lebanon Valley College, 1975
- Box 1 of 5 Passports, 1950-1998
- Box 1 of 5 Identification cards, 1949-1997

#### Family

- Box 1 of 5 Correspondence and clippings, 1935- 1948, 1977-1982

#### Correspondence

- Box 1 of 5 The Aspen Institute, 1981-1995
- Box 1 of 5 The Barnes Foundation, 1983, 1991-1993
- Box 1 of 5 Saul Bellow, 1977-1998
- Box 1 of 5 Caring Institute, 1991-1996

- Box 1 of 5 Hillary Rodham Clinton, 1997
- Box 1 of 5 Duke Ellington School of the Arts, 1979-1987
- Box 1 of 5 General, 1958-1998, 2001-2002, 2009
- Box 1 of 5 Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, 1980-1987
- Box 1 of 5 Museum of African Art, 1966-1975
- Box 1 of 5 Charles O. Perry, 1988
- Box 1 of 5 Jesse O. Tanner, 1977-1980
- Box 1 of 5 Letters to the Editor, 1961-1999
- Box 1 of 5 Cards, 1978-1979

Chronological Files

- Box 1 of 5 January to June 1993 (2 folders)

Box 2

- Box 2 of 5 July to December 1993
- Box 2 of 5 January to June 1994 (2 folders)
- Box 2 of 5 July to December 1994 (2 folders)
- Box 2 of 5 1995
- Box 2 of 5 January to July 1996
- Box 2 of 5 July 1996 to February 1997
- Box 2 of 5 February to December 1997
- Box 2 of 5 1998
- Box 2 of 5 1999 (2 folders)

Box 2 of 5	2000
Box 2 of 5	2001
Box 2 of 5	January to April 2002
Box 2 of 5	April to October 2002
Box 2 of 5	2003
Box 2 of 5	2004

Box 3

Europe

Box 3 of 5	Correspondence - 1951
Box 3 of 5	Correspondence - 1952
Box 3 of 5	Correspondence - 1953
Box 3 of 5	Correspondence - 1954
Box 3 of 5	Correspondence - 1955
Box 3 of 5	Correspondence - 1956
Box 3 of 5	Correspondence - 1957-1963
Box 3 of 5	Correspondence - France, 1967-1991
Box 3 of 5	Correspondence - Italy, 1981-1990
Box 3 of 5	State Department, 1961-1962
Box 3 of 5	Foreign Service, 1950-1960, 1996, 1998 (2 folders)
Box 3 of 5	United States Information Agency, 1949-1962 (4 folders)
Box 3 of 5	Germany, 1949-1962 (3 folders)

Box 4

Box 4 of 5                    Germany - Personal, 1955-1960

Box 4 of 5                    Germany - Teaching, 1949-1950

Box 4 of 5                    Germany - Publication - Erziehung, 1952-1952

Box 4 of 5                    Publications - General, 1952-1955

Box 4 of 5                    McCarthyism in Austrian papers, 1953-1954

Box 4 of 5                    Washington, D.C. - Work to be done, 1958-1960

                                    Lectures

Box 4 of 5                    Brochures and announcements, 1986-1991

                                    Awards and Honors

Box 4 of 5                    University of New Hampshire - Honorary degree, 1979

Box 4 of 5                    Certificate of Public Service - Advisory Council of the Bureau of African  
Affairs, October 15, 1970

                                    Subjects

Box 4 of 5                    Sale of the Frederick Douglass townhouses, 1989

Box 4 of 5                    Cameroon - Afo-A-Kom, 1973-1974, 1980, 1983

Box 4 of 5                    Friends of the Frederick Douglas Museum, 1991

Box 4 of 5                    Duke Ellington School of the Arts - African Gallery, 1985-1991

Box 4 of 5                    Duke Ellington School of the Arts - Pan African Day, 1989

Box 4 of 5                    Duke Ellington School of the Arts - Sculpture garden, 1985-1989

Box 4 of 5                    General, 1982-1995

Box 4 of 5                    Clippings, 1953-1996



## Images

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| Box 4 of 5 | Warren Robbins - Individual portraits, 1974, 2004     |
| Box 4 of 5 | Warren Robbins - Early life                           |
| Box 4 of 5 | Maya Angelou  |
| Box 4 of 5 | Leonard Baskin  |
| Box 4 of 5 | Saul Bellow, 1982-1983                                |
| Box 4 of 5 | Wilbur J. Cohen                                       |
| Box 4 of 5 | R. Buckminster Fuller                                 |
| Box 4 of 5 | Chaim Gross, 1983                                     |
| Box 4 of 5 | Francoise Gilot                                       |
| Box 4 of 5 | S. I. Hayakawa, 1979, 1982                            |
| Box 4 of 5 | Frances Humphrey Howard                               |
| Box 4 of 5 | Hubert H. Humphrey                                    |
| Box 4 of 5 | Lady Bird Johnson                                     |
| Box 4 of 5 | Lyndon B. Johnson, 1967                               |
| Box 4 of 5 | Mary McFadden   |
| Box 4 of 5 | Eleanor Roosevelt                                     |
| Box 4 of 5 | Raphael Soyer, 1983                                   |
| Box 4 of 5 | Europe and the Foreign Service, 1950-1963 (2 folders) |
| Box 4 of 5 | Museum of African Art, 1964-1981                      |
| Box 4 of 5 | Frederick Douglass Museum                             |
| Box 4 of 5 | Smithsonian, 1981                                     |

Box 4 of 5 University of Michigan Outstanding Achievement Award, 1994

Box 4 of 5 Capitol Hill house, 1989, 1992, 1997, 2004

Box 4 of 5 General, 1983-2004

Box 5

Audiovisual

Box 5 of 5 Hawaii - Lecture, 1994 (VHS tape)

Box 5 of 5 Frostburg State University - 109th commencement, morning ceremony, December 19, 1996 (VHS tape)

Box 5 of 5 In Black America, 1984 (audiocassette)

Box 5 of 5 Sierra Leone (audiocassette)

Box 5 of 5 African Art festival - Tape 3, 1989 (audiocassette)

Box 5 of 5 National Museum of African Art opening at Quadrangle, September 15, 1987 (audiocassette)

Box 5 of 5 Interview with Bill Rubin about Picasso (audiocassette)

Box 5 of 5 Discussion of Picasso and Braque exhibition (audiocassette)

Box 5 of 5 Museum of African Art - Dinner, July 25, 1978 (audiotape)

Box 5 of 5 African art discussion with Mr. Adeyemi and Mr. Chindongo (audiotape)

Box 5 of 5 Warren Robbins interview with Steve Allison (side 1) and Funny Girl, You are a Woman, etc. (Side 2) (audiotape)

Box 5 of 5 Warren Robbins speech for Grant Hillaber farewell party, 1963 (audiotape)

Box 5 of 5 Radio Smithsonian - Art of Africa, program no. 527, 26:30 minutes (audiotape)

Box 5 of 5 Window on Washington - Anne Blair interview with Warren Robbins, 27:30 minutes, March 24, 1972 (audiotape)

Box 5 of 5

Warren Robbins (audiotape)