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Enola Gay Exhibition Records, 1987-1999

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Collection Overview

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| Repository: | Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu |
| Title: | Enola Gay Exhibition Records |
| Date: | 1987-1999 |
| Identifier: | Accession 14-212 |
| Creator:: | National Air and Space Museum |
| Extent: | 1 cu. ft. (1 record storage box) |
| Language: | English |

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Smithsonian Institution Archives, Accession 14-212, National Air and Space Museum, Enola Gay Exhibition Records

Descriptive Entry

This accession consists of records created and maintained by Martin Harwit, Director of the National Air and Space Museum (NASM), 1987-1995, documenting plans to exhibit the "Enola Gay" and the resulting controversy. A script for "The Crossroads: The End of World War II, the Atomic Bomb and the Origins of the Cold War" was released for comment in January 1994. The exhibition was retitled "The Last Act: The Atomic Bomb and the End of World War II" and the script underwent several major revisions through January 1995. Each version of the script was met with controversy, particularly from veterans groups. On January 30, the exhibition was cancelled and Harwit resigned as Director on May 2, 1995. On June 28, 1995, "Enola Gay" was presented as a fact-based exhibition with little interpretation and significant emphasis on the aircraft's restoration. After his resignation, Harwit continued to collect clippings and journal articles related to the "Enola Gay" and its exhibition. In 1996, Harwit published the book "An Exhibit Denied: Lobbying the History of Enola Gay." Materials include correspondence, exhibition floor plans, Congressional hearing statement, articles, clippings, notes, brochures, and related materials. Some materials document projects and professional activities undertaken by Harwit after his resignation.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Aeronautical museums
- Atomic bomb
- Exhibitions
- Legislative hearings -- United States
- Museum directors

World War, 1939-1945

Types of Materials:

Brochures
Clippings
Floor plans
Manuscripts

Names:

Enola Gay (Bomber)
Enola Gay (Exhibition) (1995-1998: Washington, D.C.)
Harwit, Martin, 1931-
National Air and Space Museum (U.S.). Office of the Director
The Crossroads: The End of World War II, the Atomic Bomb and the Origins of the Cold War
(Proposed exhibition)
The Last Act: The Atomic Bomb and the End of World War II (Proposed exhibition)

Preferred Titles:

An Exhibit Denied: Lobbying the History of Enola Gay (Monograph). 1996

Container Listing

| Box 1 | |
|------------|--|
| Box 1 of 1 | Personal Correspondence re: Enola Gay Exhibition Controversy and Resignation, January-May 1995 |
| Box 1 of 1 | "Constructing a Peaceful World: A Forum," American University, July 9, 1995 |
| Box 1 of 1 | Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum Pamphlets |
| Box 1 of 1 | Restoration Guidelines: Boeing B-39 Superfortress (Enola Gay) |
| Box 1 of 1 | Enola Gay Exhibition Plans, 1993-1994 |
| Box 1 of 1 | "Academic Freedom in 'The Last Act'" Manuscript for Journal Introduction |
| Box 1 of 1 | "Articles on the Exhibition of the Enola Gay: A Commentary," late 1995 |
| Box 1 of 1 | Summary of Fan Mail and News Articles, 1987-1988 |
| Box 1 of 1 | "Hiroshima and Nagasaki Memories and Questions: Congregational Resources for the Anniversary of the Atomic Destruction of Two Japanese Cities" by Gaillard Hunt, 1995 |
| Box 1 of 1 | Notes on Conversation with Paul Tibbets, June 22, 1994 |
| Box 1 of 1 | David Umansky/Nippon TV Interview, April 24, 1995 |
| Box 1 of 1 | "A Museum of the Space Age" Article by Sam Smith |
| Box 1 of 1 | Notes and Reminders, June 19-24, 1995 |
| Box 1 of 1 | Statement of Martin Harwit, Former Director of the National Air and Space Museum, for the Committee on Rules and Administration, United States Senate, 104th Congress, Hearings on the Smithsonian Institution's Future Management Practices, May 15, 1995 |
| Box 1 of 1 | Radiation Effect Research Foundation Newsletters and Other Publications, 1989-1993 |
| Box 1 of 1 | 48th Nagasaki Peace Ceremony, August 9, 1993 |
| Box 1 of 1 | Mike Wallace Manuscripts on the Enola Gay Exhibition Controversy, 1995 |
| Box 1 of 1 | Exhibition Catalog - "Nagasaki, 11:02, August 9, 1945," Photographs by Shomei Tomatsu, Photo Musee |

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| Box 1 of 1 | "Presenting History: Museums in a Democratic Society" Symposium, University of Michigan - Neil Harris Statement, April 19, 1995 |
| Box 1 of 1 | Comments and Speech Texts re: Controversial Exhibits (context unidentified) |
| Box 1 of 1 | Effect of the National Armed Forces Advisory Board Legislation on the National Air and Space Museum, January 1995 |
| Box 1 of 1 | "Hiroshima/Nagasaki as History and Politics," Paper Prepared for the Organization of American Historians Conference, Hosei University, Tokyo, March 30, 1995 |
| Box 1 of 1 | "Reflection on the Enola Gay Controversy at the National Air and Space Museum," Draft Paper by Edward T. Linenthal, March 1995 |
| Box 1 of 1 | Long Term Effects of Atomic Bombing Research |
| Box 1 of 1 | "The Enola Gay: An Editorial," Albatross Newsletter, Auburn University, May 1995 |
| Box 1 of 1 | "Footprints of Nagasaki" |
| Box 1 of 1 | "Yushukan: An Exhibition of Treasures in the Possession of Yasukuni Jinja and Items Left by the War Dead" Brochure, 1988 |
| Box 1 of 1 | Martin Harwit's Calendar, 1996 |
| Box 1 of 1 | Enola Gay Exhibit Observations by an Intern, 1996 |
| Box 1 of 1 | "Presenting the American Past," Cornell University, Course Materials, Fall 1996 |
| Box 1 of 1 | "If the Radiance of a Thousand Suns: The Hiroshima Project," Play by Nick Patricca, 1995-1997 |
| Box 1 of 1 | USS Arizona Memorial Brochure |
| Box 1 of 1 | Historians' Committee for Open Debate on Hiroshima Information Packet, 1995 |
| Box 1 of 1 | Hiroshima Peace Memorial, 1996 |
| Box 1 of 1 | Essay by Tamami Yamamoto, 1996 |
| Box 1 of 1 | "Japan's 'Postwar Ambiguities': The Pacific War, Denial, and the Future" Manuscript by Milton Leitenberg, 1997 |

Box 1 of 1 "An Exhibit Denied: Lobbying the History of the Enola Gay" Book Reviews, 1997-1999

Box 1 of 1 "An Exhibit Denied: Lobbying the History of the Enola Gay" Epilogue Drafts

Box 1 of 1 Miscellaneous Articles and Clippings, 1994

Box 1 of 1 Miscellaneous Articles and Clippings, 1995 (3 folders)

Box 1 of 1 Miscellaneous Articles and Clippings, 1996-1997