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Collection Overview

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<tr>
<th>Repository</th>
<th>Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., <a href="mailto:osiaref@si.edu">osiaref@si.edu</a></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Frank A. Taylor Papers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identifier</td>
<td>Accession 18-009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>1835-2003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extent</td>
<td>5 cu. ft. (5 record storage boxes)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Creator</td>
<td>Taylor, Frank A. (Frank Augustus), 1903-2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language</td>
<td>English</td>
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Administrative Information

Oversize

This collection contains oversize material.

Preferred Citation

Smithsonian Institution Archives, Accession 18-009, Frank A. Taylor Papers

Descriptive Entry

Frank A. Taylor (1903-2007) was a Curator of Engineering and Industries and an administrator at the Smithsonian. He was born in 1903 in Washington, D.C., where he grew up. Taylor began his career at the Smithsonian in 1922 as a Laboratory Apprentice in the Division of Mechanical Technology of the United States National Museum (USNM). After receiving his B.S. in mechanical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1928 and his J.D. from Georgetown University in 1934, he became a Curator in the Division of Engineering at USNM and advanced to Head Curator of the Department of Engineering and Industries in 1948. During the 1950s, Taylor chaired the Exhibits Modernization Committee of the USNM. In 1955 he was appointed Assistant Director, USNM, with special responsibility for planning the new Museum of History and Technology (MHT), later the National Museum of History and Technology (NMHT) and now the National Museum of American History (NMAH), and in 1958 was appointed the first Director of the new museum. In 1962 Taylor became Director of the USNM with responsibility for both the National Museum of Natural History and National Museum of History and Technology, and in 1968 was appointed Director General of Museums. Taylor retired from the Smithsonian on January 23, 1971.

Active in the international museum community, especially through the American Association of Museums and the International Council of Museums, Taylor worked on national legislation to support museums, notably the National Museum Act. After his retirement, Taylor continued to work at the Smithsonian as a Research Associate of the Smithsonian Institution Archives and as Consultant to the Secretary until 1983.
Among his other accomplishments were that during the depression, he was assistant director of the Historical American Merchant Marine Survey, Works Progress Administration Federal Project #6, which was administered through the Smithsonian. Then during World War II, Taylor served as a Battery Commander in the 734th AAA Gun Battalion and as an Enemy Property Custodian Officer in the Southern Philippines until being honorably discharged as a Major in the Artillery Reserve.

These personal papers contain materials that document the personal life of Frank A. Taylor and his family. The son of Augustus C. Taylor and Josephine Kubel, Taylor was born in Washington, D.C. and graduated from McKinley High School. He also spent time working in his father's drug store, Taylor's Pharmacy. The collection contains genealogical research and information on members of the Taylor and Kubel families, including Taylor's grandfather, Edward Kubel, who was a professionally trained instrument maker who immigrated to Washington from Bayreuth, Germany in 1849. There are also materials related to Taylor's service in the military, both while in Europe and the Philippines.

In addition there are materials documenting Taylor's work while at the Smithsonian Institution including the building of the National Museum of American History, exhibition development, and projects on which he consulted for the Smithsonian.

Materials include correspondence, memoranda, yearbooks, grant proposals, contracts, posters, invitations, passports, immigration papers, scrapbooks, notes, articles, speeches, audiocassettes, images, floor plans, maps, newsletters, guides, clippings, brochures, and ephemera. Some materials are in German.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:
- Emigration and immigration
- Genealogy
- Museum buildings
- Museum directors
- Museum exhibits
- Museums -- Administration

Types of Materials:
- Audiotapes
- Black-and-white negatives
- Black-and-white photographs
- Brochures
- Clippings
- Color negatives
- Color photographs
- Ephemera
- Floor plans
- Illustrations
- Manuscripts
- Maps
- Picture postcards
- Serials (publications)
Names:
American Association of Museums
Georgetown University
International Council of Museums
Kubel, Edward
Kubel, Josephine
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
McKinley Manual Training School (Washington, D.C.)
Museum of History and Technology (U.S.)
National Museum Act Program
National Museum of American History (U.S.)
National Museum of American History (U.S.)
National Museum of History and Technology
National Museum of History and Technology (U.S.). Office of the Director
Smithsonian Institution -- Administration
Smithsonian Institution. Archives
Smithsonian Institution. Office of the Secretary. Consultant to the Secretary (Frank A. Taylor)
Taylor's Pharmacy
Taylor, Augustus C.
Taylor, Frank A. (Frank Augustus), 1903-2007
United States National Museum
United States National Museum. Assistant Director
United States National Museum. Department of Engineering and Industries
United States National Museum. Director
United States National Museum. Director General of Museums
United States National Museum. Division of Engineering
United States National Museum. Division of Mechanical Technology
United States. Army
United States. Works Progress Administration

Geographic Names:
Bayreuth (Germany)
Europe
Philippines
United States -- History
Washington (D.C.) -- History
Washington (D.C.) -- Social life and customs
Container Listing

Box 1


Box 1 of 5  Correspondence - S. Dillon Ripley, 1965, 1979
Box 1 of 5  Correspondence - Robert P. Multhauf, 1991
Box 1 of 5  Correspondence - Barney Finn, 1992
Box 1 of 5  Correspondence - Cliff Petersen Collection - Patent models, 1981
Box 1 of 5  Correspondence - Indira Gandhi, circa 1981
Box 1 of 5  Correspondence - General, 1958-1997
Box 1 of 5  Photograph - West Germany Exchange Program, 1954
Box 1 of 5  Photographs - Dedication of the Museum of History and Technology, January 22, 1964
Box 1 of 5  Photographs, 1962-1974 (2 folders)
Box 1 of 5  Exhibit - Historic series of injectors, 1860-1929; 1929
Box 1 of 5  Papers and speeches, 1930-1977 (2 folders)
Box 1 of 5  The World is Yours - Programs, 1937
Box 1 of 5  History of Engineering, 1939, 1950
Box 1 of 5  National Zoological Park, 1953, 1976
Box 1 of 5  Check list and Outline of Requirements for the Design of the Museum of History and Technology, 1956
Box 1 of 5  Awards, 1962-1981
Box 1 of 5  Arts and Industries Building, 1965-1966
Box 1 of 5  Statement on assistance to museums and the National Museum Act of 1966
Box 1 of 5  NMAH - Building dimensions, 1966
Box 1 of 5  Nomination - Presidential Award for Distinguished Civilian Service, 1966
Box 1 of 5  White House - President Lyndon B. Johnson, 1967
Box 1 of 5  *The American Parade of Politics, 1788-1960*, by Keith Melder, Assistant Curator, Division of Political History, 1967
Box 1 of 5  Research in Exhibits - Prepared for the Southeastern Museums Conference on Museum Communication and Evaluation, 1968
Box 1 of 5  Career information and resumes, 1968-1985, 1997
Box 1 of 5  Japan trip, 1969
Box 1 of 5  Contract work for the Smithsonian, 1971-1975
Box 1 of 5  Concept for Building on Mall Site, bounded by Jefferson Drive, Maryland Avenue, 3rd and 4th Streets, SW, 1971-1973
Box 1 of 5  Major exhibitions program, FY 1972
Box 1 of 5  Memorandum Report - National Museum of Natural History, Research Center, October 1, 1971 to May 30, 1972
Box 1 of 5  Compte-Rendu de la Reunion de Comite no. 1, Prague, October 2-6, 1972 (includes photographs)
Box 1 of 5  Memorandum Report, Part II - Symposium: "Systematic Biology - The Development of a National Program on Resources and Resource Management," Discussion papers, April 1972
Box 1 of 5  International Council of Museums (ICOM) - Working Party Appointed Study, 1972
Box 1 of 5  Museum of the City of Washington (MCW) [also known as the City Museum Project (CMP)], 1976-1993 (folders 1-2 of 4)

Box 2

Box 2 of 5  Museum of the City of Washington (MCW) [also known as the City Museum Project (CMP)], 1976-1993 (folders 3-4 of 4)
Box 2 of 5  Exhibit planning, 1979-1992
Box 2 of 5  National Museum of American Art - Cityscape: A Journal of Urban Life - Special Section from the Young Writers Project, October 1981
American Institute of Architects - Letter to the editor regarding NMAH building, 1981

60th work anniversary celebration at the Smithsonian, 1982 (includes photographs)

Smithsonian Institution Archives (SIA) - Oral history transcripts review, 1982

Memory Book for Frank A. Taylor, 1983

Lathe, 1984, 1995-1996

Contact sheets and images - Frank A. Taylor Gallery dedication at NMAH, April 12, 1989 (negative nos. 89-6830 to 89-6833)

Naming of exhibition hall in Frank A. Taylor's honor, 1989

25th anniversary of the opening of the NMAH, 1989

American Precision Museum, 1989-1993

Anacostia Museum, 1992-1994

Loan of collections, 1996

John C. Ewers - Memorial service - NMAH, June 13, 1997 (includes audiocassette)

Programming and Architectural History Project, Hal Aber, 1998

Writing - "Something about early condition at SI"

Writing - Anecdotes

Exhibits renovation recommendations for first year

NMHT - Chronology

General, 1967 and undated

Picture postcards

Clipping - Smithsonian Gallery of Art - Eero Saarinen design

Clippings, 1959-1969 (2 folders)

School

Tech Life - Year Book - McKinley Manual Training School, 1917

The Maroon and Gray - A Review of the School Year - McKinley Manual Training School, 1919-1920 (includes photograph)
| Box 2 of 5 | The Techite - Annual Year Book - McKinley Manual Training School, 1921 |
| Box 2 of 5 | The Adjutant - 35th Annual Drill, Washington High School Cadets - Official Program, June 5-6, 1922 |
| Box 2 of 5 | The Techite - Annual Year Book - McKinley Manual Training School, 1922 |
| Box 2 of 5 | The Techite - Annual Year Book - McKinley Manual Training School, 1923 |
| Box 2 of 5 | Paper - "The Rule Against Perpetuities in the District of Columbia," by Frank A. Taylor, January 15, 1934 |
| Box 2 of 5 | Techites of the Twenties - Biographical Sketches, Volume 1, 1967 |
| Box 2 of 5 | Techites of the Twenties - Biographical Sketches, Revised, Volume 1, 1968 |
| Box 2 of 5 | Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) - Class of 1928 - 55th Reunion, June 1983 |

| Box 3 | Family History |
| Box 3 of 5 | Correspondence - Silvio A. Bedini, 1995-1999 |
| Box 3 of 5 | Responses to Silvio A. Bedini's article on Edward Kubel, 2000 |
| Box 3 of 5 | Correspondence - John Farnsworth, 1998 |
| Box 3 of 5 | Correspondence - Barbara and John Harrigan, 2001 |
| Box 3 of 5 | Correspondence and poetry - Edith Hines, 1986 |
| Box 3 of 5 | Correspondence - Joan Taylor, 1985 |
| Box 3 of 5 | Correspondence - Family, General, 2003 |
| Box 3 of 5 | Correspondence - General, undated |
| Box 3 of 5 | Genealogy - Carrier family, 1964-1992 (includes photographs) |
| Box 3 of 5 | Genealogy - Elliott family, 1904, 1925-1996 |
| Box 3 of 5 | Genealogy - Augustus C. Taylor, 1923-1951, 1983 (includes photographs) (2 folders) |
| Box 3 of 5 | Genealogy - Augustus Kubel Taylor, 1901 (includes photograph) |
Box 3 of 5  Genealogy - Edward Taylor and family, 1972-1982 (includes photographs)
Box 3 of 5  Genealogy - Elizabeth Josephine Taylor (Libby), 1907-1998 (includes photographs) (2 folders)
Box 3 of 5  Genealogy - Henry ("Jim") Willis Taylor, 1932-1933 (includes photographs)
Box 3 of 5  Genealogy - Josephine Marie Taylor, 1892-1960 (includes photographs) (2 folders)
Box 3 of 5  Genealogy - Taylor Drug stores, 1906, 1978 (includes photographs)
Box 3 of 5  Genealogy - Taylor Family Papers, 1950-1953
Box 3 of 5  Genealogy - Taylor Bible
Box 3 of 5  Genealogy - Taylor miscellaneous, 1934-1972
Box 3 of 5  Genealogy - Manuscript - Taylor Family History (includes photographs)
Box 3 of 5  Genealogy - "50 Years of Married Life" - Augustus C. Taylor and Josephine Marie Taylor
Box 3 of 5  Genealogy - Westfield, Massachusetts, 1969 (includes photographs)

Box 4
Box 4 of 5  Genealogy research, 1998
Box 4 of 5  Dougherty, Dorothea A. - Obituary, 1946
Box 4 of 5  Dougherty, Edward Francis and Clara Anna Kubel (Aunt Lollie), 1903, 1909, 1946 (includes photographs)
Box 4 of 5  Dougherty, Edward K. and Helen Murray Barrett - Marriage announcement, 1946
Box 4 of 5  Hartbrecht, Josephine Elizabeth (June 1, 1835-January 14, 1899) (includes photograph)
Box 4 of 5  Kramer, Andrew, 1959 (includes photograph)
Box 4 of 5  Kubel, Edward (July 11, 1820-June 21, 1896), 1971, 1979 (includes photographs)
Box 4 of 5  Kubel, Edward Frederick (1854- )
Box 4 of 5  Kubel, Herbert G., 1918 (includes photographs)
Box 4 of 5  Kubel, Stephen (April 2, 1858-1936)
| Box 4 of 5 | Kubel - Bible, 1993-1994 (includes photographs) |
| Box 4 of 5 | Kubel - Descendants, 1995 |
| Box 4 of 5 | Kubel, Emil Adrian (April 15, 1869-January 19, 1864) |
| Box 4 of 5 | Kubel Family Papers, 1854, 1881-1896 |
| Box 4 of 5 | Kubel Family - Silvio Bedini, 1995 |
| Box 4 of 5 | Kubel Family - Clippings, 1896, 1934-1935 |
| Box 4 of 5 | Gertrude McCaig family history from Colonel Smith, 1980 |
| Box 4 of 5 | Taylor Family - Edward Carrier, Helen, Jack, and Ann, circa 1950s-1970s (includes photographs) (2 folders) |
| Box 4 of 5 | Descendants - Third and Fourth Generations |
| Box 4 of 5 | Family timelines |
| Box 4 of 5 | Photograph - Henry G. Ainsworth |
| Box 4 of 5 | Photograph - Mrs. I. Carsus |
| Box 4 of 5 | Photograph - Ruth Washburn Collins, 1946 |
| Box 4 of 5 | Photograph - Nathan Elliott |
| Box 4 of 5 | Photograph - Uncle Adrien Endres |
| Box 4 of 5 | Photograph - Aunt Margaret Endres |
| Box 4 of 5 | Photograph - Robert M. Grindell, 1937 |
| Box 4 of 5 | Photograph - Margaret and Robert Grindell |
| Box 4 of 5 | Photographs - Harrigan family, 1971, 1992 |
| Box 4 of 5 | Photograph - George Johnson |
| Box 4 of 5 | Photograph - Josephine Johnson and Ethel |
| Box 4 of 5 | Photograph - Charles E. Kress |
| Box 4 of 5 | Photographs - Clara A. Kubel |
| Box 4 of 5 | Photographs - Eduard Kubel |
| Box 4 of 5 | Photographs - Edward Frederick Kubel |
| Box 4 of 5 | Photographs - Emil Kubel |
Box 4 of 5  Photographs - Ernst Kubel
Box 4 of 5  Photographs - Herbert Graham Kubel, 1903 and undated
Box 4 of 5  Photograph - Lollie Kubel
Box 4 of 5  Photograph - Margaret Helen Kubel
Box 4 of 5  Photographs - Marie Louise Kubel, 1900 and undated
Box 4 of 5  Photograph - Mother Kubel
Box 4 of 5  Photographs - Stephen J. Kubel
Box 4 of 5  Photograph - Eduard Kuer
Box 4 of 5  Photographs - John Stuart McCaig and family
Box 4 of 5  Photographs - Eileen Rafferty, 2003
Box 4 of 5  Photographs - Reverend Peter Schleuter
Box 4 of 5  Photographs - Ann Taylor
Box 4 of 5  Photograph - Augustus I. Taylor
Box 4 of 5  Photograph - Edward Carrier Taylor, 1897
Box 4 of 5  Photographs - Frank A. Taylor, 1944 and undated
Box 4 of 5  Photographs - Frank A. Taylor - 80th birthday
Box 4 of 5  Photographs - Frank A. Taylor - Birthday parties, 2002 and undated (2 folders)
Box 4 of 5  Photographs - Frank A. Taylor, passport
Box 4 of 5  Capitol Hill History Project - Oral history interview with Frank A. Taylor - Transcripts, with corrections by Nancy Metzger, 2000
Box 4 of 5  Photographs - Joan Taylor, circa 1940s-1950s

Box 5

Box 5 of 5  Photographs - Virginia McCaig Taylor
Box 5 of 5  Photograph - Ethel?
Box 5 of 5  Photographs - 1940s
Box 5 of 5  Photographs - 1950s
Photographs - 1980s

Photographs - 1990s

Photographs - 2000s

Photographs - Hawaii, 2001

Family photograph

Photograph - California Oak tree, Sulphur Mountain, Ventura County, California

Photograph - Rock Island Route or Rocky Mountain Limited, June 4, 1902

Photographs - Unidentified

Writing - "Our First Automobile"

Writing - "Children of the American Revolution (CAR)"

Writing - "Growing up on Capitol Hill" - Frank A. Taylor, 1980

Souvenir case - Eduard Kubel, 1843

German story book, 1883

Historical Society of Washington (HSW) - German American Collection, 1993

Pharmacy law in Washington, D.C., circa 1900

Clippings - John K. Farnsworth, 1946

Military Records

Correspondence, 1936-1948

Army Officers notebook, 1941-1944

Military Record and Report of Separation, Certificate of Service - February 20, 1943 to April 6, 1946

Photograph - Defense Command Officers School, Class no. 5, Ft. Eustis, Virginia, March 10, 1943

Notebook, circa 1943

Photograph - Lake Arrowhead trip, July 1944

*Pacific Ocean Handbook*, by Eliot G. Mears, 1944
Box 5 of 5  Maps, circa 1944
Box 5 of 5  Thanksgiving in the Philippines, Army Forces Western Pacific, 1945
Box 5 of 5  Records jacket - Service records, 1946-1953
Box 5 of 5  Antiaircraft Artillery and Guided Missile Newsletter, 1949-1951
Box 5 of 5  Army Reserve, 1949-1952
Box 5 of 5  Honorable Discharge, April 1, 1953
Box 5 of 5  Retirement, 1963-1964
Box 5 of 5  Military service of Frank A. Taylor, by Philip K. Lundeberg, 1996
Box 5 of 5  Esso War Map III featuring the Pacific Theater
Box 5 of 5  Ephemera, 1941-1944
Box 5 of 5  Clippings, 1946

General
Box 5 of 5  "Our Washington as the Artist Sees it" - Series no. 1 - 20 sketches by J. Himmelheber, 1931
Box 5 of 5  "A Short History of the Museum" - Alan Ullberg, Patricia Ullberg, Ann Hofstra Grogg, and Robert Lind, 2000
Box 5 of 5  Article - "Menageries on the Mall (Beasts, Birds, Bees and Bugs)," by Silvio A. Bedini
Box 5 of 5  Frank Taylor - Margaret West, April 8, 2003 (audiocassette)
Box 5 of 5  Music - "Advice to Chloe"
Box 5 of 5  Music - "Chloe" - Set by Dr. Greene
Box 5 of 5  Clippings - Development of downtown Washington, D.C., 1979-1980
Box 5 of 5  Clippings - Rhodes Tavern, 1979-1980

Oversize
Oversize  Folder 1 Genealogy - Family tree, 1859
Note:  
• Certificate of Marriage - Augustus C. Taylor and Josephine M. Kubel, October 23, 1895

Oversize  
Folder 2 Poster - Twenty Years on the Mall: History as Seen from the National Museum of American History, August 10, 1984

Oversize  
Folder 3 Exhibition brochure - Two Centuries of Change: The Idea of Downtown Washington, 1979

Note:  
• Photograph - John, Fred, Herbert, and Patrice Farnsworth  
• Photographs - John and Herbert Farnsworth  
• Photograph - Herbert Graham Kubel  
• Photograph - Augustus C. Taylor  
• Photograph - Taylor Pharmacy  
• Clippings - Smithsonian, 1965