



Smithsonian Institution Archives

**Frank A. Taylor Papers, 1835-2003**

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Smithsonian Institution Archives  
Washington, D.C.  
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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>	Frank A. Taylor Papers
<b>Identifier:</b>	Accession 18-009
<b>Date:</b>	1835-2003
<b>Extent:</b>	5 cu. ft. (5 record storage boxes)
<b>Creator::</b>	Taylor, Frank A. (Frank Augustus), 1903-2007
<b>Language:</b>	English

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## Administrative Information

### Oversize

This collection contains oversize material.

### Preferred Citation

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

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## 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.

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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:

- 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

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## Container Listing

### Box 1

National Museum of American History/National Museum of History and Technology/Museum of History and Technology/United States National Museum/Smithsonian Institution

- 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 Report on Iran Bastan, The National Archeological Museum - Tehran, Iran - Frank A. Taylor, Director, USNM - Consultant - UNESCO contract CLT-8527, 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 MCW/CMP - *Two Centuries of Change: The Idea of Downtown Washington* - Exhibition - National Portrait Gallery, 1979-1980
- 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

- Box 2 of 5 American Institute of Architects - Letter to the editor regarding NMAH building, 1981
- Box 2 of 5 60th work anniversary celebration at the Smithsonian, 1982 (includes photographs)
- Box 2 of 5 Smithsonian Institution Archives (SIA) - Oral history transcripts review, 1982
- Box 2 of 5 Memory Book for Frank A. Taylor, 1983
- Box 2 of 5 Lathe, 1984, 1995-1996
- Box 2 of 5 Contact sheets and images - Frank A. Taylor Gallery dedication at NMAH, April 12, 1989 (negative nos. 89-6830 to 89-6833)
- Box 2 of 5 Naming of exhibition hall in Frank A. Taylor's honor, 1989
- Box 2 of 5 25th anniversary of the opening of the NMAH, 1989
- Box 2 of 5 American Precision Museum, 1989-1993
- Box 2 of 5 Anacostia Museum, 1992-1994
- Box 2 of 5 Loan of collections, 1996
- Box 2 of 5 John C. Ewers - Memorial service - NMAH, June 13, 1997 (includes audiocassette)
- Box 2 of 5 Programming and Architectural History Project, Hal Aber, 1998
- Box 2 of 5 Writing - "Something about early condition at SI"
- Box 2 of 5 Writing - Anecdotes
- Box 2 of 5 Exhibits renovation recommendations for first year
- Box 2 of 5 NMHT - Chronology
- Box 2 of 5 General, 1967 and undated
- Box 2 of 5 Picture postcards
- Box 2 of 5 Clipping - Smithsonian Gallery of Art - Eero Saarinen design
- Box 2 of 5 Clippings, 1959-1969 (2 folders)
- School
- Box 2 of 5 Tech Life - Year Book - McKinley Manual Training School, 1917
- Box 2 of 5 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 Article - "Edward Kubel (1820-1896) Washington, D.C. Instrument Maker, With Notes on His Descendants Having Careers in Science and Technology," by Silvio A. Bedini, 1998
- 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

Box 5 of 5	Photographs - 1980s
Box 5 of 5	Photographs - 1990s
Box 5 of 5	Photographs - 2000s
Box 5 of 5	Photographs - Hawaii, 2001
Box 5 of 5	Family photograph
Box 5 of 5	Photograph - California Oak tree, Sulphur Mountain, Ventura County, California
Box 5 of 5	Photograph - Rock Island Route or Rocky Mountain Limited, June 4, 1902
Box 5 of 5	Photographs - Unidentified
Box 5 of 5	Writing - "Our First Automobile"
Box 5 of 5	Writing - "Children of the American Revolution (CAR)"
Box 5 of 5	Writing - "Growing up on Capitol Hill" - Frank A. Taylor, 1980
Box 5 of 5	Souvenir case - Eduard Kubel, 1843
Box 5 of 5	German story book, 1883
Box 5 of 5	Historical Society of Washington (HSW) - German American Collection, 1993
Box 5 of 5	Pharmacy law in Washington, D.C., circa 1900
Box 5 of 5	Clippings - John K. Farnsworth, 1946
	Military Records
Box 5 of 5	Correspondence, 1936-1948
Box 5 of 5	Army Officers notebook, 1941-1944
Box 5 of 5	Military Record and Report of Separation, Certificate of Service - February 20, 1943 to April 6, 1946
Box 5 of 5	Photograph - Defense Command Officers School, Class no. 5, Ft. Eustis, Virginia, March 10, 1943
Box 5 of 5	Notebook, circa 1943
Box 5 of 5	Photograph - Lake Arrowhead trip, July 1944
Box 5 of 5	<i>Pacific Ocean Handbook</i> , 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                      "The Beginnings of a Modern Museum: National Museum of American History" - Cynthia R. Field, Sabina Wiedenhoeft, and Robert J. Orr
- 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