



Smithsonian Institution Archives

Curatorial Records, 1946-2001

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu
Title:	Curatorial Records
Identifier:	Accession 18-095
Date:	1946-2001
Extent:	3 cu. ft. (3 record storage boxes)
Creator:::	National Museum of American History
Language:	English

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Smithsonian Institution Archives, Accession 18-095, National Museum of American History, Curatorial Records

Descriptive Entry

This accession consists of curatorial records that document the research and work of Robert C. Post. After receiving his Ph.D. from the University of California, Los Angeles in 1973, Post was hired as a museum technician in the Division of Mechanical and Civil Engineering, National Museum of History and Technology (NMHT). From 1974-1977, Post was a Special Assistant to Director, Brooke Hindle, NMHT; from 1977-1979 he was the supervising historian for the Exhibits Task Force, NMHT; from 1979-1980 he was the senior editor for Smithsonian Books; from 1980-1982 he was a curator, Division of Transportation, National Museum of American History (NMAH); from 1983-1994 he was curator at large under Director, Roger G. Kennedy; from 1994-1995 he was the Associate Director, Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation, NMAH; and then from 1996 he was Curator Emeritus, NMAH.

These records primarily document Post's research for his publication, *Urban Mass Transit: The Life Story of a Technology*, first published in 2007 with a revised edition published in 2010. The book covered urban transportation, including subways and street-railroads across the United States. Some materials date to before Post was at the National Museum of American History. Materials include correspondence, memoranda, articles, newsletters, magazines, clippings, and other related materials.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:
Museum curators

Street-railroads
Subways
Urban transportation

Types of Materials:

Clippings
Manuscripts
Newsletters
Serials (publications)

Names:

Hindle, Brooke
Kennedy, Roger G.
Lemelson Center
National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Transportation
National Museum of History and Technology (U.S.). Division of Mechanical and Civil Engineering
National Museum of History and Technology (U.S.). Exhibits Task Force
National Museum of History and Technology (U.S.). Special Assistant to the Director
Post, Robert C.
Smithsonian Books (Publisher)
University of California, Los Angeles

Preferred Titles:

Urban Mass Transit: The Life Story of a Technology (Monograph : 2007)

Container Listing

Box 1

- Box 1 of 3 "The Abandonment of Pacific Electric Rail Passenger Service," by Robert C. Post, 1959
- Box 1 of 3 "Remembering the Red Cards and Why It Matters," by Robert C. Post - Henry E. Huntington Library, 1997
- Box 1 of 3 "The Myth Behind the Streetcar Revival," by Robert C. Post, *American Heritage Magazine*, May/June 1998
- Box 1 of 3 "Fourteenth and G, Washington, D.C., Summer of '41" by Robert C. Post - *Technology & Culture*, Journal of the Society for the History of Technology, October 1998
- Box 1 of 3 "Images of the Pacific Electric: Why Memories Matter" by Robert C. Post, *Railroad History*, Autumn 1998
- Box 1 of 3 Auto Club of Southern California - Symposium, 1996
- Box 1 of 3 Transportation Research Board, 1999
- Box 1 of 3 Detroit Forum, 1997-1999
- Box 1 of 3 Documentary film - "Taken for a Ride," 1997
- Box 1 of 3 Correspondence - Donald Davis, 1997-2000
- Box 1 of 3 Correspondence - Matt Roth, 1996
- Box 1 of 3 Correspondence - Street railcars, 1963, 1966, 1971, and undated
- Box 1 of 3 Correspondence - Van Wilkins, 1998-1999
- Box 1 of 3 Correspondence - General, 1966, 1983, 1996-2001
- Box 1 of 3 Critique - *Transport of Delight: The Mythical Conception of Rail Transit in Los Angeles* by Jonathan E. D. Richmond, 1998
- Box 1 of 3 Subject - Baltimore railways, 1998-1999
- Box 1 of 3 Subject - Boston railways, 1961
- Box 1 of 3 Subject - Chicago railways, 1974, 1980
- Box 1 of 3 Subject - Cleveland, Ohio railways, 1955
- Box 1 of 3 Subject - Conspiracy: Pacific City Lines and GM, 1970s-1990s (2 folders)

- Box 1 of 3 Subject - Denver, Colorado railways, 1961
- Box 1 of 3 Subject - European subways, 1970
- Box 1 of 3 Subject - Great Britain railways, 1989-1998
- Box 1 of 3 Subject - Los Angeles history, Pacific Electric, 1971
- Box 1 of 3 Subject - Los Angeles history, Rapid transit, 1968-1970 (2 folders)
- Box 1 of 3 Subject - Los Angeles history, 1980s-1990s (Folder 1 of 4 folders)
- Box 2
- Box 2 of 3 Subject - Los Angeles history, 1980s-1990s (Folders 2-4 of 4 folders)
- Box 2 of 3 Subject - Montreal railways, 1961
- Box 2 of 3 Subject - New Orleans railways, undated
- Box 2 of 3 Subject - New York City railways, 1952-1966, 1995-1998
- Box 2 of 3 Subject - New York State railways, 1950-1951
- Box 2 of 3 Subject - Phoenix, Arizona railways, 1961
- Box 2 of 3 Subject - Philadelphia, Pennsylvania railways, 1958, 1991, 1998
- Box 2 of 3 Subject - Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania railways, 1952-1974
- Box 2 of 3 Subject - Portland, Oregon railways, 1951
- Box 2 of 3 Subject - Rail fares
- Box 2 of 3 Subject - Railway museums, 1961
- Box 2 of 3 Subject - Railways, miscellaneous, 1944-1966
- Box 2 of 3 Subject - Salt Lake City railways, 1998
- Box 2 of 3 Subject - San Diego railways, 1961-1964
- Box 2 of 3 Subject - San Diego railways - Railway Historical Society of San Diego, California - *Dispatcher* magazine, 1960-1965
- Box 2 of 3 Subject - San Francisco railways, 1946-1973
- Box 2 of 3 Subject - St. Louis, Missouri railways, 1941
- Box 2 of 3 Subject - Stealth airplanes, technology, and defense spending, 1980s-2000s (3 folders)

Box 2 of 3 Subject - Street and electric railways, 1986-2003 (2 folders)

Box 2 of 3 Subject - Texas railways, 1983-1998

Box 2 of 3 Subject - Toronto, Canada railways, 1945-1963

Box 2 of 3 Subject - Vancouver, Canada railways, 1949

Box 2 of 3 Subject - Washington, D.C. railways, 1972-1999

Box 3

Box 3 of 3 Electric Railroads Association, Inc. (ERA) - *Headlights* magazine, 1952-1972
(5 folders)

Box 3 of 3 ERA - *Headlights* magazine - Indexes, 1950-1970

Box 3 of 3 ERA - Miscellaneous items, 1960s-1970s

Box 3 of 3 Timepoints newsletter, September 1952

Box 3 of 3 Clippings, circa 1950-2000 (4 folders)