



Smithsonian Institution Archives

Ursula B. Marvin Papers, circa 1928-2012

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu
Title:	Ursula B. Marvin Papers
Identifier:	Accession 19-001
Date:	circa 1928-2012
Extent:	4 cu. ft. (4 record storage boxes)
Creator::	Marvin, Ursula B.
Language:	English

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Smithsonian Institution Archives, Accession 19-001, Ursula B. Marvin Papers

Historical Note

Ursula Bailey Marvin (1921-2018) was a planetary geologist at the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory (SAO). Marvin received her bachelor's degree in history from Tufts University in 1943, her master's degree in geology from Harvard University-Radcliffe in 1946, and her Ph.D. in geology from Harvard in 1969. After marrying Thomas Crockett Marvin (1916-2012) in 1952, they moved abroad where work involved prospecting for ore deposits in Brazil and Angola. After returning to the United States in 1958, Ursula taught mineralogy at Tufts for two years before starting meteorite research at Harvard. She became part of the permanent research staff at the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory in 1961. Ursula Marvin retired in 1998, but continued to research and publish well into her nineties.

Descriptive Entry

These papers document Ursula Marvin's professional career and personal life. Materials include correspondence with friends, family and colleagues; biographical information about Marvin; detailed dairy-like journals of her work and travels; and photographs and slides of her family, work, lectures, and travels. Of special note are journals detailing her trips to Antarctica, and family correspondence describing her activities while in Brazil and Angola.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Geologists
Geology
Meteorites
Planets -- Geology
Women scientists

Types of Materials:

Artifacts
Black-and-white photographs
Clippings
Color negatives
Color photographs
Color transparencies
Drawings
Journals (accounts)
Manuscripts
Picture postcards
Scrapbooks
Sketches
Transcripts

Names:

Harvard University
Marvin, Thomas Crockett, 1916-2012
Marvin, Ursula B.
Radcliffe College
Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory
Tufts University

Geographic Names:

Angola
Antarctica
Brazil

Container Listing

Box 1

- Box 1 of 4 Folder 1 Family of Ursula Marvin
- Box 1 of 4 Folder 2 Childhood Essays and Art by Ursula Bailey
- Box 1 of 4 Folder 3 Illustrated Letter - Angola Travels, 1953
- Box 1 of 4 Folder 4 Family Correspondence, 1952-1953. Incoming and outgoing letters written when Tom and Ursula Marvin were in Angola.
- Box 1 of 4 Folder 5 Family Correspondence, 1956-1958. Incoming and outgoing letters written when Tom and Ursula Marvin were in Angola and Brazil.
- Box 1 of 4 Folder 6 Personal Correspondence, 1953-1954. Outgoing correspondence from Ursula Marvin while in Angola.
- Box 1 of 4 Folder 7 Personal Correspondence, 1954. Outgoing correspondence from Ursula Marvin while in High Zambezi.
- Box 1 of 4 Folder 8 Personal Correspondence, 1953. Outgoing correspondence from Ursula Marvin while traveling from Rio to Lisbon.
- Box 1 of 4 Folder 9 Personal Correspondence, 1954. Outgoing correspondence from Ursula Marvin while traveling from Quanza to Lisbon.
- Box 1 of 4 Folder 10 Personal Correspondence, October-December 1953. Outgoing correspondence from Ursula Marvin.
- Box 1 of 4 Folder 11 Personal Correspondence, 1954. Outgoing correspondence from Ursula Marvin.
- Box 1 of 4 Folder 12 Personal Correspondence and Notes, 1952-1965. Incoming and outgoing letters, notes, and photographs.
- Box 1 of 4 Folder 13 Personal and Professional Correspondence, 1940-1961
- Box 1 of 4 Folder 14 Christmas Letters, 1995-2010
- Box 1 of 4 Folder 15 Family Correspondence, 1994-2012
- Box 1 of 4 Folder 16 Correspondence, 1998, 2010. Includes review of Lyell.
- Box 1 of 4 Folder 17 Frank, 2011
- Box 1 of 4 Folder 18 Universities Space Research Association, 1979
- Box 1 of 4 Folder 19 Geological Society, 2005. Sue Tyler Friedman Award given to Ursula Marvin.

- Box 1 of 4 Folder 20 Tufts, 2008
- Box 1 of 4 Folder 21 Tufts Photographs, 1989 and undated
- Box 1 of 4 Folder 22 Meteoritical Society Award, 2011-2012
- Box 1 of 4 Folder 23 Childhood Photographs (photocopies)
- Box 1 of 4 Folder 24 Kenneth Taylor Interview with Ursula (transcript and correspondence), 2001
- Box 1 of 4 Folder 25 Harvard Appointments
- Box 1 of 4 Folder 26 Miscellaneous Personal Information and Articles. Includes Ursula Marvin Professional Accomplishments and Evaluation (PAEC) dossier, September 12, 1988.
- Box 1 of 4 Folder 27 Birds of the World. Ursula Marvin's Life List.
- Box 1 of 4 Folder 28 Meteorites Life List
- Box 1 of 4 Folder 29 Tufts Paper. Written by Ursula Marvin her junior year at Tufts.
- Box 1 of 4 Folder 30 Chladni Article by Ursula Marvin, 1996
- Box 1 of 4 Folder 31 Dorrit Hoffleit Article by Ursula Marvin, 1988
- Box 1 of 4 Folder 32 Origin and Early History of the U.S. Search for Antarctic Meteorites, by Ursula Marvin
- Box 1 of 4 Folder 33 Correspondence re: Ensisheim, 1991-1994
- Box 1 of 4 Folder 34 "Granite House" Article and Correspondence, 1982-1984
- Box 1 of 4 Folder 35 Articles, 1983-1991
- Box 1 of 4 Folder 36 Calendars/Diaries, 1975-1977
- Box 1 of 4 Folder 37 Calendars/Diaries, 1980, 1985, 1986-1996
- Box 1 of 4 Folder 38 Tufts College Notebook, 1941
- Box 1 of 4 Folder 39 Brazil Scrapbook, 1952
- Box 1 of 4 Folder 40 Angola Expenses - Personal, 1954
- Box 1 of 4 Folder 41 Journal - Angola, 1954-1955
- Box 1 of 4 Folder 42 Journal - Belo Horizonte, Ascuncion, Rio, La Paz, 1958

Box 2

- Box 2 of 4 Folder 1 Journal/Account Book, 1965-1996. Mostly lists of expenses for various events, projects.
- Box 2 of 4 Folder 2 Journal/Notebook, 1968-1982
- Box 2 of 4 Folder 3 Journal - East Africa, 1977-1978
- Box 2 of 4 Folder 4 Journal - Ireland, 1977
- Box 2 of 4 Folder 5 Journal - Antarctica, 1978-1979
- Box 2 of 4 Folder 6 Journal - Galapagos, c. 1980
- Box 2 of 4 Folder 7 Journal - Morocco, 1981
- Box 2 of 4 Folder 8 Journal - Antarctica, 1981-1982
- Box 2 of 4 Folder 9 Journal - Polar Duke, 1985. The National Science Foundation chartered the Polar Duke for use in support of the United States Antarctic Program (USAP). The "Duke" transported supplies and personnel between Palmer Station, Antarctica, and the port of Punta Arenas, Chile, on the Strait of Magellan.
- Box 2 of 4 Folder 10 Journal - Newfoundland, 1987; Utah, 1988
- Box 2 of 4 Folder 11 Journal - Illiria Cruise, 1989
- Box 2 of 4 Folder 12 Journal - Australia, 1990
- Box 2 of 4 Folder 13 Journal - Japan, 1992
- Box 2 of 4 Folder 14 Journal - Trinidad, 2002
- Slides - Documenting Professional Travel, Lectures, and Other Work-Related Activities; and Personal Travel. Unarranged.
- Box 2 of 4 Folder 15 Slides - Arizona, California, Panama, Ohio, and Miscellaneous, c. 1974-1981
- Box 2 of 4 Folder 16 Slides - Australia, New Quebec, Germany, c. 1986-1994
- Box 2 of 4 Folder 17 Slides - South America, India, 1985
- Box 2 of 4 Folder 18 Slides - Morocco, 1981
- Box 2 of 4 Folders 19-20 Slides - France, 1980
- Box 2 of 4 Folder 21 Slides - Germany, New Mexico, and Unidentified, c. 1983-1984
- Box 2 of 4 Folder 22 Slides - Meteorite Discussion Group (MDG) and Various Lectures, undated

Box 2 of 4 Folder 23 Slides - Campo del Cielo (Argentina), undated

Box 3

Box 3 of 4 Folder 1 Slides - Impact Craters, K/T, Brookhaven, Chladni, Siena, South Africa

Box 3 of 4 Folder 2 Slides - Meteorites Labels

Box 3 of 4 Folder 3 Slides - Mason, Royal Society, Oklahoma - Uniformitarianism

Box 3 of 4 Folder 4 Slides - Miscellaneous Lectures and Articles, Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, Personal History, Impact Craters, etc.

Box 3 of 4 Folder 5 Slides - Continental Drift

Box 3 of 4 Folders 6-7 Slides - Yell Symposium, Ireland, Cambridge, 1977 and undated

Box 3 of 4 Folder 8 Slides - Angola, Brazil, c. 1966-1981

Box 3 of 4 Folder 9 Slides - Angola, c. 1954

Box 3 of 4 Folder 10 Slides - Angola, 1953-1954

Box 3 of 4 Folder 11 Slides - East Africa, c. 1977-1978 [slide pages 1-15]

Box 3 of 4 Folder 12 Slides - East Africa, c. 1977-1978; ; Germany, 1971; Czechoslovakia; Antigua-Martinique, 1967 [slide pages 16-29; continued from Folder 11]

Box 3 of 4 Folders 13-14 Slides - South America, 1950s [slide pages 1-26]

Box 3 of 4 Folders 15-16 Slides - U.S. West, c. 1949-1960s [slide pages 1-32]

Box 4

Box 4 of 4 Folder 1 Slides - Antarctica, 1978

Box 4 of 4 Folder 2 Slides - Antarctica, 1978, 1981. Includes some lecture slides and images of Ursula Marvin in lab.

Box 4 of 4 Folders 3-4 Slides - Antarctica, 1978-1982. Includes Scott Base and McMurdo Station images.

Box 4 of 4 Folder 5 Slides - Antarctica, Seymour Island, 1985

Photographs - Documenting personal and professional travel, research, friends and family. Unarranged.

Box 4 of 4 Folder 6 Photographs and Negatives - Antarctica, c. 1982

- Box 4 of 4 Folder 7 Photographs - Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory (SAO) and Other Professional Activities, c. 1985-1996
- Box 4 of 4 Folder 8 Photographs and Negatives - Professional Activities and Travel, 1940s-1990s
- Box 4 of 4 Folder 9 Ursula Marvin Portraits, 1945-1996. Mostly informal portraits. Note that similar images are also in other folders containing images.
- Box 4 of 4 Folder 10 Photographs - Meteor Crater, Grand Canyon
- Box 4 of 4 Folder 11 Photographs and Negatives - Llano Estacado, 1986
- Box 4 of 4 Folder 12 Photographs - Bradford, Vermont: Old Man of the Mountain, 2011
- Box 4 of 4 Folder 13 Photographs - Angola, 1950s
- Box 4 of 4 Folder 14 Photographs - Sugar Loaf (and a few other locations)
- Box 4 of 4 Folder 15 Photographs - Ursula Marvin Retirement Party, 1998
- Box 4 of 4 Folder 16 Photographs - Travel, mostly Germany
- Box 4 of 4 Folder 17 Photographs - K/T, Copenhagen, c. 1993
- Box 4 of 4 Folder 18 Photographs - International Commission on the History of Geological Sciences (INHIGEO), San Antonio, Australia, Scotland, c. 1989-1995
- Box 4 of 4 Folder 19 Photographs - Japan
- Box 4 of 4 Folder 20 Photographs - Family Photos, c. 1928-2001
- Box 4 of 4 Folder 21 Photographs - Primarily Images of Ursula and Tom Marvin, c. 1928-1960s
- Box 4 of 4 Folder 22 Photographs - Europe, Morocco, 1980s
- Box 4 of 4 Folder 23 Ensisheim Talks, 1992
- Box 4 of 4 Folder 24 Sue Tyler Friedman Medal. Awarded to Ursula Marvin by the Geological Society, 2005