



# Smithsonian

*Institution Archives*

## Warren M. Robbins Papers, 1945-2016

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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>	Warren M. Robbins Papers
<b>Date:</b>	1945-2016
<b>Identifier:</b>	Accession 20-144
<b>Creator:::</b>	Robbins, Warren M.
<b>Extent:</b>	1.69 cu. ft. (1 record storage box) (1 16x20 box)
<b>Language:</b>	English

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## Administrative Information

### Preferred Citation

Smithsonian Institution Archives, Accession 20-144, Warren M. Robbins Papers

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## Descriptive Entry

This accession consists of materials created and maintained by Warren M. Robbins, founder and director of the National Museum of African Art (NMAfA). The materials cover a wide range of his life, including his time as an education officer at the American Embassy in Vienna, Austria; his work at the American Consulate General in Stuttgart, Germany; his work at the American Embassy in Bonn, Germany; the activities of the Center for Cross Cultural Communications (later the Robbins Center for Cross Cultural Communications); and the work of the Museum of African Art (precursor to NMAfA). Of note are the records related to the Frederick Douglass house and the materials related to Robbins' conflict with the Smithsonian after his termination. Some materials date to after the death of Robbins in 2008. For more biographical information on Robbins please see Accession 11-001: Warren M. Robbins Papers, circa 1927-2009. Materials include correspondence, memoranda, brochures, scrapbooks, picture postcards, journals, a book, invitations, meeting minutes, conference records, images, clippings, ephemera, and a locket.

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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:

- Art, African
- Communication
- Cultural relations
- Museum directors
- Museums -- Educational aspects
- Museums -- Management

Museums and community

Types of Materials:

- Art objects
- Black-and-white photographs
- Books
- Brochures
- Clippings
- Color photographs
- Manuscripts
- Picture postcards
- Scrapbooks
- Serials (publications)

Names:

- Center for Cross Cultural Communication
- Douglass, Frederick, 1817?-1895
- Museum of African Art (U.S.)
- National Museum of African Art (U.S.)
- Robbins Center for Cross Cultural Communication
- Robbins, Warren M.
- Smithsonian Institution
- United States. Foreign Service

Preferred Titles:

*Man for All Reasons: Letters of a Visionary (Monograph : 2014)*

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## Container Listing

Box 1	
Box 1 of 2	Correspondence - Civil Air Patrol, 1945
Box 1 of 2	Correspondence, 1948
Box 1 of 2	Correspondence, 1957
Box 1 of 2	Correspondence, 1961
Box 1 of 2	Correspondence, 1962
Box 1 of 2	Correspondence, 1963
Box 1 of 2	Correspondence, 1964
Box 1 of 2	Correspondence - John H. Johnson, Johnson Publishing Co., 1965, 1973
Box 1 of 2	Correspondence, 1967
Box 1 of 2	Correspondence, 1970
Box 1 of 2	Correspondence - Kenneth Berggren, 1971
Box 1 of 2	Correspondence, 1971
Box 1 of 2	Correspondence, 1972
Box 1 of 2	Correspondence - Peter Magrath, 1978-1993
Box 1 of 2	Correspondence, 1980
Box 1 of 2	Correspondence, 1981
Box 1 of 2	Correspondence, 1982
Box 1 of 2	Correspondence, 1983
Box 1 of 2	Correspondence, 1984
Box 1 of 2	Correspondence, 1985
Box 1 of 2	Correspondence - Cameroon, 1986-1987

Box 1 of 2	Correspondence and notes - Sale of the Frederick Douglass house, 1988-1989
Box 1 of 2	Correspondence - Belgium, 1990-1993
Box 1 of 2	Correspondence, 1990
Box 1 of 2	Correspondence, 1995
Box 1 of 2	Correspondence, 1997
Box 1 of 2	Correspondence - President Bill Clinton, 1998
Box 1 of 2	Correspondence, 2005
Box 1 of 2	Correspondence - Condolences on the passing of Warren M. Robbins, 2008
Box 1 of 2	Correspondence, undated
Box 1 of 2	Civilian Air Patrol card - Warren M. Robbins
Box 1 of 2	Journal - Erziehung, 1952-1953 (2 folders)
Box 1 of 2	Journal - Kontinente, 1953-1955
Box 1 of 2	Bienal de Sao Paulo - Austria, December 1953-January 1954
Box 1 of 2	Scrapbook - Gabriele Munter, 1960
Box 1 of 2	Chronology - Center for Cross-Cultural Communications/Douglas Institute/ Museum of African Art, 1962-1992
Box 1 of 2	List - Principle exhibitions organized by the Museum of African Art, 1962-1982
Box 1 of 2	Paintings, Prints, and Drawings by Twenty Modern European Artists, from the collection of Warren M. Robbins - Howard University, November 20-December 19, 1962 - Includes brochure and images
Box 1 of 2	Frederick Douglass house - A Street, 1962-1965
Box 1 of 2	Frederick Douglass - Biographical materials, 1963-1968, 1991
Box 1 of 2	Frederick Douglass stamp dedication, February 14, 1967
Box 1 of 2	Presidential Inauguration scrapbook, 1965
Box 1 of 2	Brochure - Ben Shahn on Human Rights, 1968

Box 1 of 2	European trip, 1972
Box 1 of 2	Museum of African Art - Board meeting minutes, 1978-1979
Box 1 of 2	Warren M. Robbins - Government investigation (30499.1), 1978-1953 (2 folders)
Box 1 of 2	Brandeis University Library - Learned Research Journal - Bookplate in honor of Warren M. Robbins, 1979
Box 1 of 2	Interview with Françoise Gilot, November 1980
Box 1 of 2	Conference program - "Museums and Social Responsibility," sponsored by the Cooperstown Graduate Association and the National Museum of American History, November 18-19, 1988
Box 1 of 2	Smithsonian Case - Gary Howard Simpson, 1992-1997
Box 1 of 2	Loan of exhibition to International Arts & Artists, Inc., 2005-2006, 2011
Box 1 of 2	Book - Man for All Reasons: Letters of a Visionary, compiled with commentary by Roulhac Toledano, 2014
Box 1 of 2	Objects deaccessioned - May 2013-June 2015
Box 1 of 2	Object - Locket
Box 1 of 2	Images - General
Box 1 of 2	Biography - Opening paragraphs
Box 1 of 2	Public addresses, speeches, and remarks, 1960, 1990, 1999
Box 1 of 2	Awards and honors, 1986
Box 1 of 2	Invitations, 1965
Box 1 of 2	Notes, 1988
Box 1 of 2	Clippings, 1982-2000
Box 2	
Box 2 of 2	R. Buckminster Fuller, 1951-1960 (2 folders)
Box 2 of 2	Certificate - Tree parent - Judiciary Square Lawn, November 18, 1980

Box 2 of 2

Thank you note from President Barack Obama to Lydia Robbins (formerly Lydia Puccinelli), widow of Warren M. Robbins, for a gift of a book by Warren M. Robbins, 2013; a Christmas card from the White House, 2013; and a certificate of appreciation from the Committee for the Preservation of the White House for a gift of four framed serigraph portraits of Frederick Douglass: Douglass I, Douglass II, Douglass III, and Douglas IV (1965; edition 1/250) by the Robbins Center for Cross Cultural Communications, 2016 (Accession 23-190)