



Smithsonian Institution Archives

## Administrative Records, 1835, 1838, 1846-1865

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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>	Administrative Records
<b>Identifier:</b>	Record Unit 43
<b>Date:</b>	1835, 1838, 1846-1865
<b>Extent:</b>	0.5 cu. ft. (1 document box)
<b>Creator::</b>	Smithsonian Institution. Office of the Secretary
<b>Language:</b>	English

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## Administrative Information

### Preferred Citation

Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 43, Smithsonian Institution, Office of the Secretary, Administrative Records

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### Historical Note

When the Smithsonian Institution Building burned in 1865 nearly all its records up to that time were destroyed. A very few were saved, however, and are assembled here. It is impossible to say how all the fragments came to be preserved.

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### Descriptive Entry

These records document aspects of Smithsonian history, most notably the 1854-1855 debate over allocation of the Smithsonian's endowment income. The materials document the tenure of Joseph Henry.

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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:

Museums -- Administration

Types of Materials:

Manuscripts

Names:

Henry, Joseph, 1797-1878  
Smithsonian Institution -- Administration

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: CORRESPONDENCE, 1835-1865.

#### Box 1

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| Box 1 of 1 | Folder 1 Photocopy of a letter from [Aaron Vail], American charge d'affaires in London, to Secretary of State John Forsythe, July 28, 1835, announcing the Smithson bequest. Presented by Solon J. Buck, 1955 |
| Box 1 of 1 | Folder 2 Secretary of State Forsythe to President Van Buren, December 6, 1838, on the Smithson bequest. Gift of James Waldo Fawcett, 1952   |
| Box 1 of 1 | Folder 3 Charles C. Jewett to Mons. Poore, July 13, 1844.   |
| Box 1 of 1 | Folder 4 Letters, 1865, from the Smithsonian's records. One is a gift of Edna S. Harrington, 1944. Provenance of the others is not known  |
| Box 1 of 1 | Folder 5 Notes by John Haviland on his proposed plan for the Smithsonian Building, 1846   |
| Box 1 of 1 | Folder 6 Draft of a bill to create the Smithsonian, 1846  |
| Box 1 of 1 | Folder 7 Specifications for construction of the Smithsonian Building, 1846  |
| Box 1 of 1 | Folder 8 Programme of organization, 1847  |
| Box 1 of 1 | Folder 9 Record of magnetic declinations, 1852, saved from the 1865 fire  |
| Box 1 of 1 | Folder 10 Debate on the uses of Smithsonian income, 1853-1854   |

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