



Smithsonian Institution Archives

Correspondence and Memoranda, 1879-1907

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu
Title:	Correspondence and Memoranda
Identifier:	Record Unit 112
Date:	1879-1907
Extent:	42.64 cu. ft. (76 document boxes) (232 microfilm reels)
Creator::	Smithsonian Institution. Assistant Secretary in charge of the United States National Museum
Language:	English

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 112, Smithsonian Institutio, Assistant Secretary in charge of the United States National Museum, Correspondence and Memoranda

Access Restriction

Record unit available on microfilm.

Descriptive Entry

These records comprise the primary outgoing correspondence of the officer in immediate charge of the United States National Museum from the appointment of George Brown Goode as Assistant Director in 1880. Volumes are numbered sequentially with the prefix "L." Records from the years 1879-1881 mostly pertain to the United States Fish Commission, and Commission business is included through the year of Spencer Fullerton Baird's death in 1887. In 1888, Goode was made Assistant Secretary in Charge of the United States National Museum. After Goode's death in 1896, the business of this office was administered for a time by the Executive Curator, Frederick W. True. Richard Rathbun became Assistant Secretary in 1898, but most correspondence in this series in the period 1896-1902 is signed by the Executive Curator; after that, most is signed by the Assistant Secretary.

Several peculiarities of this record series should be noted. Predominance of Fish Commission correspondence in the pre-1881 years has been described. Although volumes are numbered sequentially, dates do not always follow in strict chronological order; sometimes special books were designated for an official to use when out of the city or when discharging special duties. Many letters are signed by subordinates and quite a few are signed by the Secretary or by the Assistant Secretary as Acting Secretary. Apparently, the sequential numbering was imposed at a later date than the earliest volumes, although the exact time of numbering is not known. These records were in the custody of the Registrar for many years.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Museums -- Administration
Museums -- Collection management

Types of Materials:

Letterpress copybooks
Manuscripts
Microfilms

Names:

Goode, G. Brown (George Brown), 1851-1896
Rathbun, Richard, 1852-1918
True, Frederick William, 1858-1914
United States Fish Commission
United States National Museum
United States National Museum. Executive Curator
United States National Museum. Office of the Registrar
Walcott, Charles D. (Charles Doolittle), 1850-1927

Container Listing

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- Box 1 of 76 L3 August 1880-January 1881

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