



# Smithsonian Institution Archives

## Records, 1918-1964

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# Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	1
Administrative Information .....	1
Historical Note.....	1
Descriptive Entry.....	1
Names and Subjects .....	2
Container Listing .....	3
Series 1: Executive Committee Correspondence, 1920-1930.....	3
Series 2: Administrative Records, 1918-1964.....	4
Series 3: Scientific Research and Reports, 1925-1953, and undated.....	7
Series 4: James Zetek Papers, 1919-1953.....	9
Series 5: Publications.....	11
Series 6: Photographs and Maps, c. 1930-1960.....	12

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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>	Records
<b>Identifier:</b>	Record Unit 134
<b>Date:</b>	1918-1964
<b>Extent:</b>	6.5 cu. ft. (13 document boxes) (oversize materials)
<b>Creator::</b>	United States. Canal Zone Biological Area, Barro Colorado Island
<b>Language:</b>	English

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## Administrative Information

### Preferred Citation

Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 134, United States. Canal Zone Biological Area, Barro Colorado Island, Records

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## Historical Note

In 1923 the Institute for Research in Tropical America, a group of private foundations and universities under the auspices of the National Research Council, first established a research laboratory on Barro Colorado Island, Panama Canal Zone, in order to investigate the flora and fauna of tropical America. This arrangement continued until 1940, when the facility was renamed the Canal Zone Biological Area (CZBA) and, by act of Congress, placed under control of a board composed of the heads of certain executive departments and prominent scientists. In 1946 the operation was transferred to the Smithsonian Institution, a sponsor from 1923, and has been known as the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI) since 1966. In recent years the Institute has expanded its interests to include marine biology.

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## Descriptive Entry

These records document the creation and development of the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, from preliminary discussions in 1918 to the selection of a site on, and reservation of, Barro Colorado Island in 1923, and its subsequent development as a center for research into the ecology of the American tropics. The records include correspondence of Thomas Barbour, David Fairchild, Alexander Grant Ruthven, James Zetek, and others. Records of the planning stage, 1918-1923 are particularly interesting, though not so full as might be wished. Correspondence, research reports, administrative records, publications, photographs, and maps are included, in English and in Spanish. Researchers should also consult Record Unit 135 and records of the Secretary's Office, Smithsonian Institution, which contain related material, c. 1926-1964.

## Names and Subject Terms

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

### Subjects:

- Entomologists
- Entomology
- Rain forest ecology

### Types of Materials:

- Black-and-white negatives
- Black-and-white photographs
- Black-and-white transparencies
- Color transparencies
- Manuscripts
- Maps
- Serials (publications)

### Names:

- Institute for Research in Tropical America
- National Research Council (U.S.)
- Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute
- United States. Canal Zone Biological Area, Barro Colorado Island
- United States. Department of Agriculture
- Zetek, James, 1886-1959

### Geographic Names:

- Barro Colorado Island (Panama)

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Executive Committee Correspondence, 1920-1930

Correspondence, incoming and outgoing, 1920-1930, of the executive committee of the Institute for Research in Tropical America; documents relations with National Research Council, search for a laboratory site, choice of Barro Colorado Island, Gatun Lake, Panama Canal Zone, and subsequent development and operation to 1930, primarily through the records of Alexander Grant Ruthven, sometime secretary of the Institute, who corresponded with Thomas Barbour, Albert Spear Hitchcock, and other members of the executive committee, as well as James Zetek, resident custodian.

#### Box 1

Box 1 of 13	Folder 1 Institute for Research in Tropical America Executive Committee Correspondence, 1920-1921
Box 1 of 13	Folder 2 Institute for Research in Tropical America Executive Committee Correspondence, 1922
Box 1 of 13	Folder 3 Institute for Research in Tropical America Executive Committee Correspondence, 1923
Box 1 of 13	Folder 4 Institute for Research in Tropical America Executive Committee Correspondence, 1924
Box 1 of 13	Folder 5 Institute for Research in Tropical America Executive Committee Correspondence, 1925
Box 1 of 13	Folder 6 Institute for Research in Tropical America Executive Committee Correspondence, 1926
Box 1 of 13	Folder 7 Institute for Research in Tropical America Executive Committee Correspondence, 1927-1930
Box 1 of 13	Folder 8 Institute for Research in Tropical America Executive Committee Correspondence, undated

*[Return to Table of Contents](#)*

## Series 2: Administrative Records, 1918-1964

Correspondence, incoming and outgoing, 1918-1939, between James Zetek, resident custodian, staff members, professional colleagues, and government officials; documents operation and activities of the facility; correspondents include Ralph Buschbaum, Arthur Merton Chickering, William James Clench, David Grandison Fairchild, Ludlow Griscom, Burton Edward Livingston, Altus Lacy Quaintance, Franz Schrader, William Seifriz, Thomas Elliot Snyder, Paul Carpenter Standley, Alexander Wetmore, William M. Wheeler.

Correspondence, incoming and outgoing, loose, 1940-1964, and undated, between James Zetek and Martin Humphrey Moynihan, resident directors of the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, and scientists, government officials, and employees; concerned largely with maintenance of facilities and fiscal matters; some material on conversion to Canal Zone Biological Area; correspondents include John Enos Graf, William Henry Weston, and Alexander Wetmore.

Visitors' registers, freight invoices, electrical power need survey, grant applications, 1920-1956; records dealing with supply and finance of STRI.

### Box 1

- Box 1 of 13 Folder 9 Administrative Records - Correspondence, 1918-1921
- Box 1 of 13 Folder 10 Administrative Records - Correspondence, 1922
- Box 1 of 13 Folder 11 Administrative Records - Correspondence, 1923-1925
- Box 1 of 13 Folder 12 Administrative Records - Correspondence, 1926-1927

### Box 2

- Box 2 of 13 Folder 1 Administrative Records - Correspondence, 1928-1929
- Box 2 of 13 Folder 2 Administrative Records - Correspondence, 1930
- Box 2 of 13 Folder 3 Administrative Records - Correspondence, 1931
- Box 2 of 13 Folder 4 Administrative Records - Correspondence, 1932
- Box 2 of 13 Folder 5 Administrative Records - Correspondence, 1933-1935
- Box 2 of 13 Folder 6 Administrative Records - Correspondence, 1936-1938
- Box 2 of 13 Folder 7 Administrative Records - Correspondence, 1939

### Box 3

- Box 3 of 13 Folder 1 Administrative Records - Correspondence, 1940
- Box 3 of 13 Folder 2 Administrative Records - Correspondence, 1941
- Box 3 of 13 Folder 3 Administrative Records - Correspondence, 1942
- Box 3 of 13 Folder 4 Administrative Records - Correspondence, 1943-1945

- Box 3 of 13 Folder 5 Administrative Records - Correspondence, 1946
- Box 3 of 13 Folder 6 Administrative Records - Correspondence, 1947-1949
- Box 3 of 13 Folder 7 Administrative Records - Correspondence, 1950
- Box 3 of 13 Folder 8 Administrative Records - Correspondence, 1951
- Box 3 of 13 Folder 9 Administrative Records - Correspondence, 1952
- Box 3 of 13 Folder 10 Administrative Records - Correspondence, 1953
- Box 3 of 13 Folder 11 Administrative Records - Correspondence, 1954-1964
- Box 3 of 13 Folder 12 Administrative Records - Correspondence, undated
- Box 4
- Box 4 of 13 Folder 1 Administrative Records, 1920-1956
- Box 4 of 13 Folder 2 Administrative Records, undated
- Box 4 of 13 Folder 3 Administrative Records - A. S. Hitchcock, 1923
- Box 4 of 13 Folder 4 Information for Scientists - Island Copy, by James Zetek. Annotated with the note, "To be read by all scientists on day of arrival."
- Box 4 of 13 Folder 5 Information for Scientists by James Zetek, June 1951
- Box 4 of 13 Folder 6 Barro Colorado Island Laboratory, Panama Canal Zone, Visitors' Register, 1928-1940
- Box 4 of 13 Folder 7 Barro Colorado Island Laboratory, Panama Canal Zone, Visitors' Register, 1924-1928
- Box 4 of 13 Folder 8 Barro Colorado Island Laboratory, Panama Canal Zone, Visitor Register Cards, 1924-1933
- Box 5
- Box 5 of 13 Folder 1 Cashbook, 1924-1929, showing resident custodian's cash receipts and disbursements while operating facility.
- Box 5 of 13 Folder 2 Cashbook, 1929-1934, showing resident custodian's cash receipts and disbursements while operating facility.
- Box 5 of 13 Folder 3 Cashbook, 1934-1938, showing resident custodian's cash receipts and disbursements while operating facility.
- Box 6

- Box 6 of 13 Folder 1 Cashbook, 1938-1941, showing resident custodian's cash receipts and disbursements while operating facility.
- Box 6 of 13 Folder 2 Cashbook, 1941-1947, showing resident custodian's cash receipts and disbursements while operating facility.
- Box 6 of 13 Folder 3 Cashbook, 1947-1953, showing resident custodian's cash receipts and disbursements while operating facility.
- Box 6 of 13 Folder 4 Cashbook, 1953-1958, showing resident custodian's cash receipts and disbursements while operating facility.

Box 7

- Box 7 of 13 Folder 1 CZBA Annual Report, FY 1943
- Box 7 of 13 Folder 2 CZBA Annual Report, FY 1946
- Box 7 of 13 Folder 3 CZBA Annual Report, FY 1947
- Box 7 of 13 Folder 4 CZBA Annual Report, FY 1948
- Box 7 of 13 Folder 5 CZBA Annual Report, FY 1950
- Box 7 of 13 Folder 6 CZBA Annual Report, FY 1951
- Box 7 of 13 Folder 7 CZBA Annual Report, FY 1952
- Box 7 of 13 Folder 8 CZBA Annual Report, FY 1953
- Box 7 of 13 Folder 9 CZBA Annual Report, FY 1954-FY 1956
- Box 7 of 13 Folder 10 CZBA Annual Report, FY 1957-FY 1960

*[Return to Table of Contents](#)*



## Series 3: Scientific Research and Reports, 1925-1953, and undated

### Box 7

- Box 7 of 13 Folder 11 Scientific Research and Reports: CZBA Rainfall on Barro Colorado Island Totals by Year, 1925-1948
- Box 7 of 13 Folder 12 Scientific Research and Reports: CZBA Rainfall on Barro Colorado Island Records, 1925-1958
- Box 7 of 13 Folder 13 Scientific Research and Reports: CZBA Annual Rainfall on Barro Colorado Island Summaries, 1934-1944

### Box 8

- Box 8 of 13 Folder 1 Scientific Research and Reports: CZBA Rainfall on Barro Colorado Island, mostly summaries, 1945-1952
- Box 8 of 13 Folder 2 Scientific Research and Reports: CZBA Rainfall on Barro Colorado Island, 1953-1958
- Box 8 of 13 Folder 3 Scientific Research and Reports: CZBA Rainfall on Barro Colorado Island, 1958
- Box 8 of 13 Folder 4 Scientific Research and Reports: CZBA Rainfall on Barro Colorado Island, 1960
- Box 8 of 13 Folder 5 Scientific Research and Reports: Reports of Work Carried Out (scientific research conducted on Barro Colorado Island), 1925-1940
- Box 8 of 13 Folder 6 Scientific Research and Reports: Reports of Work Carried Out (scientific research conducted on Barro Colorado Island), 1946-1953
- Box 8 of 13 Folder 7 Scientific Research and Reports: Termite Research, 1929-1952 and undated
- Box 8 of 13 Folder 8 Scientific Research and Reports: Undated Research

### Box 9

- Research conducted on Barro Colorado Island which, due to its fragmentary state, can be ascribed to no author.
- Box 9 of 13 Folder 1 Scientific Research and Reports: Research Fragments
  - Box 9 of 13 Folder 2 Scientific Research and Reports: Research Fragments
  - Box 9 of 13 Folder 3 Scientific Research and Reports: Research Fragments
  - Box 9 of 13 Folder 4 Scientific Research and Reports: Research Fragments - Coleoptera

- Box 9 of 13                      Folder 5 Scientific Research and Reports: Research Fragments - Hymenoptera
- Box 9 of 13                      Folder 6 Scientific Research and Reports: Research Fragments - Diptera
- Box 9 of 13                      Folder 7 Scientific Research and Reports: Research Fragments - Thysanoptera
- Box 9 of 13                      Folder 8 Scientific Research and Reports: Research Fragments - Systematic Insects, Duplicates
- Box 9 of 13                      Folder 9 Scientific Research and Reports: Research Fragments - Amphibia
- Box 9 of 13                      Folder 10 Scientific Research and Reports: Research Fragments - Reptiles
- Box 9 of 13                      Folder 11 Scientific Research and Reports: Research Fragments- Data on Snakes of Barro Colorado Island

*[Return to Table of Contents](#)*

## Series 4: James Zetek Papers, 1919-1953

Records, largely scientific research, created by James Zetek, in his capacity as an entomologist for the U. S. Department of Agriculture in the Canal Zone; includes reports on termite control tests prepared for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

### Box 10

- Box 10 of 13 Folder 1 Letters Transmitting Specimens to USDA for Identification, 1932-1940
- Box 10 of 13 Folder 2 Letters Transmitting Specimens to USDA for Identification, 1941-1942
- Box 10 of 13 Folder 3 Letters Transmitting Specimens to USDA for Identification, 1943-1952
- Box 10 of 13 Folder 4 Insect Determinations, USDA, 1919-1937
- Box 10 of 13 Folder 5 Insect Determinations, USDA, 1938-1939
- Box 10 of 13 Folder 6 Insect Determinations, USDA, 1940
- Box 10 of 13 Folder 7 Determination of Insect Specimens, USDA, 1941

### Box 11

- Box 11 of 13 Folder 1 Insect Determinations, USDA, 1942
- Box 11 of 13 Folder 2 Letters of Determination of Insect Specimens from USDA, 1943
- Box 11 of 13 Folder 3 Insect Determinations, USDA, 1944-1949
- Box 11 of 13 Folder 4 Insect Determinations, USDA, 1950-1952
- Box 11 of 13 Folder 5 Termite Resistance Tests, BCI, CZBA, October 1931
- Box 11 of 13 Folder 6 Termite Resistance Tests, Panama Canal Zone, April 1932
- Box 11 of 13 Folder 7 A Soil Poisoning Test on BCI, Canal Zone, to Measure the Insulating Value of Chemicals for Subterranean Termite Control, May 1943
- Box 11 of 13 Folder 8 Special Report on the Species of Anastrepha, February 1947
- Box 11 of 13 Folder 9 Termite Resistance Tests, BCI, Panama Canal Zone, September 1949
- Box 11 of 13 Folder 10 Termite Resistance Tests, BCI, Panama Canal Zone, 1950
- Box 11 of 13 Folder 11 Termite Resistance Tests, BCI, Panama Canal Zone, February 1951

Box 11 of 13

Folder 12 Termite Resistance Tests, BCI, Panama Canal Zone, September  
1951

*[Return to Table of Contents](#)*

## Series 5: Publications

### Box 12

#### Box 12 of 13

Folder 1 Publications relating to STRI, consisting of: James Zetek, "Influencia del Canal de Panama en el Desarrollo de America desde el Punto de Vista Cientifico," 1928; James Zetek, "The Barro Colorado Island Biological Laboratory," Panama, August 1931; Blair Courson, "Jungle Laboratory: A Visit to Barro Colorado Island," Turtox News, August 1956.

*[Return to Table of Contents](#)*

## Series 6: Photographs and Maps, c. 1930-1960

### Box 12

- Box 12 of 13                      Folder 2 Photographs - Miscellaneous
- Box 12 of 13                      Folder 3 Photographs - Buildings, Grounds, Facilities, Equipment, Personnel
- Box 12 of 13                      Folder 4 Photographs - Buildings, Grounds, Facilities, Equipment, Personnel
- Box 12 of 13                      Folder 5 Photographs - Buildings, Grounds, Facilities, Equipment, Personnel
- Box 12 of 13                      Folder 6 Photographs - Buildings, Grounds, Facilities, Equipment, Personnel
- Box 12 of 13                      Folder 7 Photographs - Buildings, Grounds, Facilities, Equipment, Personnel
- Box 12 of 13                      Folder 8 Photographs - Animals and Reptiles
- Box 12 of 13                      Folder 9 Photographs - STRI Marine Laboratory
- Box 12 of 13                      Folder 10 Photographs - CZBA Naval Reserve Tract

### Box 13

- Box 13 of 13                      Folder 1 Photographs and negatives, c. 1930-1960, of the Panama Canal Zone and of Barro Colorado Island
- Box 13 of 13                      Folder 2 Photographs and negatives, c. 1930-1960, of the Panama Canal Zone and of Barro Colorado Island
- Box 13 of 13                      Folder 3 Photographs and slides, c. 1930-1960, of the Panama Canal Zone and of Barro Colorado Island
- Box 13 of 13                      Folder 4 Maps - Barro Colorado Island and Canal Zone
- Box 13 of 13                      Folder 5 Maps - Barro Colorado Island and Canal Zone

### Oversize

- Oversize                          Maps - Barro Colorado Island and Canal Zone

*[Return to Table of Contents](#)*