



Smithsonian Institution Archives

Canal Zone Biological Area Records, 1912-1965

Finding aid prepared by Smithsonian Institution Archives

Smithsonian Institution Archives
Washington, D.C.
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu
Title:	Canal Zone Biological Area Records
Identifier:	Record Unit 135
Date:	1912-1965
Extent:	14.15 cu. ft. (1 record storage box) (26 document boxes) (1 oversize folder)
Creator::	Smithsonian Institution. Office of the Secretary
Language:	English

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 135, Smithsonian Institution, Office of the Secretary, Canal Zone Biological Area Records

Historical Note

From 1918 to 1923 various groups interested in tropical American research discussed the desirability of creating a research institute in Central or South America. Finally, in 1923, the Institute for Research in Tropical America was formed by a number of private foundations and universities, under the aegis of the National Research Council. The Smithsonian Institution was one of these early sponsors, and its ties with the Institute grew stronger still when the federal government took over the IRTA in 1940, calling it the Canal Zone Biological Area and placing the Smithsonian's Secretary on its governing board. In 1946 entire control of CZBA was vested in the Smithsonian, which renamed it the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in 1966.

Descriptive Entry

Because the Smithsonian's relations to STRI have been both longstanding and various, STRI files are scattered through the records of the Secretary's office. The earliest STRI files in this unit have been interfiled with newer records or pulled forward, where they dealt with ongoing problems at the facility, so that no original order remains. The unit also includes office files of Thomas Barbour, long IRTA's strongest supporter, which were given to the Smithsonian on Barbour's death in 1946, likewise interfiled, and dating from IRTA's earliest days. Thus, the researcher will find three general types of records in this unit: (1) the official records of IRTA and CZBA before 1946, some of which were created by the Smithsonian in its role as a sponsor of the organization and some because they were interfiled at a later date; (2) office files of Thomas Barbour, which often duplicate or complement other records; and (3) official records generated by the Smithsonian in its operation of CZBA/STRI since 1946.

These records document the creation and development of the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, chiefly from 1923 to 1965, and cover all phases of its operations as a private and a federal facility during that period. Correspondents include Thomas Barbour, John Enos Graf, Frank A. Taylor, Alexander Wetmore, James Zetek, and others. Records include correspondence, administrative records, and publications. Researchers should also consult record unit 134 for related material, 1918-1960.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Rain forest ecology
Research

Types of Materials:

Black-and-white photographs
Manuscripts
Serials (publications)

Names:

Barbour, Thomas, 1884-1946
Institute for Research in Tropical America
National Research Council (U.S.)
Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute
United States. Canal Zone Biological Area, Barro Colorado Island

Geographic Names:

Barro Colorado Island (Panama)

Container Listing

Series 1: Office Files, 1912-1965. By subject.

This series consists of office files arranged alphabetically by subject, 1912-1965, and includes records from all phases of STRI's organizational history interfiled together.

Box 1

- Box 1 of 27 Buildings and Grounds: General (2 folders) [some items moved to oversized storage]
- Box 1 of 27 Buildings and Grounds: Termite Control
- Box 1 of 27 Buildings and Grounds: Docks and Channels

Box 2

- Box 2 of 27 Report on a Long-Range Program for Isthmian Canal Transits, 1960
- Box 2 of 27 CZBA: Miscellaneous (2 folders)
- Box 2 of 27 Financial Affairs: Budget, 1950-1962
- Box 2 of 27 Financial Affairs: Contributions, Colleges and Universities

Box 3

- Box 3 of 27 Financial Affairs: Contributions, Eastman Kodak, 1947-1963
- Box 3 of 27 Financial Affairs: Contributions, Individuals
- Box 3 of 27 Financial Affairs: Contributions, Museums and Scientific Societies
- Box 3 of 27 Financial Affairs: General, 1941-1962 (2 folders)

Box 4

- Box 4 of 27 Financial Affairs: Grants, AEC, Army, ONR, NIH [some items moved to oversized storage]
- Box 4 of 27 Financial Affairs: Grants, Research Corporation

Box 4 of 27 Financial Affairs: Grants, NSF G (Travel and Madagascar)

Box 4 of 27 Financial Affairs: Grants, NSF G5520, Lepidoptera (Blut)

Box 4 of 27 Financial Affairs: Grants, NSF G1169, General Support

Box 4 of 27 Financial Affairs: Grants, NSF G5523, Neotropical Birds

Box 5

Box 5 of 27 Financial Affairs: Grants, NSF G10944, Mammals (Kaufman)

Box 5 of 27 Financial Affairs: Grants, NSF GB-745, Power Line

Box 5 of 27 Financial Affairs: Grants, NSF GB1519, Andean Birds

Box 5 of 27 Financial Affairs: Grants, NSF GB1601, Orchidaceae

Box 5 of 27 Financial Affairs: Increases, Transfers, etc., 1943-1963

Box 5 of 27 Financial Affairs: Private Foundations Miscellaneous, 1929-1958

Box 5 of 27 Financial Affairs: Surveys, 1961

Box 5 of 27 Financial Affairs: Trust Account, 1945-1964

Box 6

Box 6 of 27 Financial Affairs: Trust Account, Collections and Room and Board Figures, 1959-1961

Box 6 of 27 Financial Affairs: Withholding Tax, Canal Zone

Box 6 of 27 History: Board of Directors [CZBA] 1940-1964

Box 6 of 27 History: Establishment of CZBA

Box 6 of 27 History: Legislation

Box 6 of 27 History: Meeting of 1953 (folder 1 of 2)

Box 7

Box 7 of 27 History: Meeting of 1953 (folder 2 of 2)

Box 7 of 27 History: Reorganization, Advisory Committee

Box 7 of 27 Personnel: Comments on CZBA personalities - confidential

Box 7 of 27 Personnel: Cook and Cleaning Woman

Box 7 of 27 Personnel: Dressler, Robert L.

Box 8

Box 8 of 27 Personnel: General

Box 8 of 27 Personnel: Gomez, Adela

Box 8 of 27 Personnel: Grant Fund Employees

Box 8 of 27 Personnel: Koford, Carl

Box 8 of 27 Personnel: Laborers, Launch Operators, Animal Keeper

Box 8 of 27 Personnel: Leave, Holidays, Overtime

Box 8 of 27 Personnel: Moynihan, Martin H.

Box 9

Box 9 of 27 Personnel: Office Help

Box 9 of 27 Personnel: Recruiting

Box 9 of 27 Personnel: Retirement

Box 9 of 27 Personnel: Scientific Technicians

Box 9 of 27 Personnel: Smith, Neal G.

Box 9 of 27 Personnel: Tuition and Hospitalization

Box 9 of 27 Personnel: Vitola, Francisco

Box 10

- Box 10 of 27 Personnel: James Zetek (2 folders)
- Box 10 of 27 Photographs: Cut of Map, Barro Colorado Island
- Box 10 of 27 Photographs: Correspondence on Films, Photographs and slides
- Box 10 of 27 Publications: 1923-1962
- Box 10 of 27 Publications: 1926-1963

Box 11

- Box 11 of 27 Reports, General
- Box 11 of 27 Annual Reports, 1922-1932
- Box 11 of 27 Annual Reports, 1933-1939
- Box 11 of 27 Annual Reports, 1939-1942
- Box 11 of 27 Annual Reports, 1945-1947
- Box 11 of 27 Annual Reports, 1948-1962

Box 12

- Box 12 of 27 Supplies and Equipment: Army-Agriculture
- Box 12 of 27 Supplies and Equipment: Barro Colorado Island Maintenance
- Box 12 of 27 Supplies and Equipment: Communications
- Box 12 of 27 Supplies and Equipment: Diesel Generators, 1941-1952

Box 13

- Box 13 of 27 Supplies and Equipment: Diesel Generators, 1953-1954
- Box 13 of 27 Supplies and Equipment: Diesel Generators, 1955-1964
- Box 13 of 27 Supplies and Equipment: Electrical System and Cable

Box 14

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| Box 14 of 27 | Supplies and Equipment: Inventory |
| Box 14 of 27 | Supplies and Equipment: Laboratory, Library, Office |
| Box 14 of 27 | Supplies and Equipment: Water Supply |

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Series 2: General Correspondence, 1918-1965. By correspondent.

Correspondence, arranged alphabetically by correspondents, 1918-1965, incoming and outgoing, with many tissue copies; consists of correspondence interfiled from all phases of STRI development. Since correspondence is alphabetically arranged, no separate list of names has been entered here.

Box 15

Box 15 of 27 A-CI

Box 16

Box 16 of 27 CI-F

Box 17

Box 17 of 27 G-J

Box 18

Box 18 of 27 K-M

Box 19

Box 19 of 27 N-R

Box 20

Box 20 of 27 Sa-V

Box 21

Box 21 of 27 W-Z

Box 21 of 27 Bibliography of Papers Pertaining to the Natural History of BCI, Publications,
Miscellaneous

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Series 3: General Correspondence, 1923-1965. By subject.

Consists of correspondence, incoming and outgoing arranged alphabetically by subject; contains records from all periods of STRI history.

Box 22

- Box 22 of 27 Boats (2 folders)
- Box 22 of 27 CZBA, 1948-1951
- Box 22 of 27 CZBA, 1955
- Box 22 of 27 Eastman Kodak Co.
- Box 22 of 27 Fauna and Flora, Including Poaching (folder 1 of 2)

Box 23

- Box 23 of 27 Fauna and Flora, Including Poaching (folder 2 of 2)
- Box 23 of 27 Fellowships
- Box 23 of 27 Future and Purpose of STRI
- Box 23 of 27 Land Acquisition and Boundaries
- Box 23 of 27 Legislation
- Box 23 of 27 Library and Librarian (2 folders)
- Box 23 of 27 Marine Biological Station

Box 24

- Box 24 of 27 Non-SI Research Programs (2 folders)
- Box 24 of 27 Office
- Box 24 of 27 Panama Canal Legislation
- Box 24 of 27 Point IV Program
- Box 24 of 27 Rainfall

Box 24 of 27 Travel

Box 24 of 27 Visitors

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Series 4: Records of the Institute for Research in Tropical America, 1919-1940.

Box 25

Box 25 of 27

Minutes of the National Research Council Institute for Research in Tropical America, 1920-1940; correspondence, incoming and outgoing, 1919-1930, relating to creation and development of a research facility in Tropical America. Among the correspondents are Thomas Barbour, Albert Spear Hitchcock, and James Zetek. (5 folders)

Box 26

Box 26 of 27

Correspondence, incoming and outgoing, 1931-1939, loose, concerned with development and operation of a research facility on Barro Colorado Island, Canal Zone; also includes lectures about Barro Colorado station, circa 1935. Principal correspondents are Thomas Barbour and James Zetek. (5 folders)

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Series 5: Index Cards to Correspondence.

Box 27

Box 27 of 27

Index Cards to Correspondence

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Series 6: Large Format Materials.

Oversize

Oversize Buildings and Grounds: General

Oversize Financial Affairs: Grants, AEC, Army, ONR, NIH

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