



Smithsonian Institution Archives

Records, 1956-1967

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu
Title:	Records
Identifier:	Record Unit 259
Date:	1956-1967
Extent:	12.5 cu. ft. (25 document boxes)
Creator::	Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory. Assistant Director (Management)
Language:	English

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 259, Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, Assistant Director (Management), Records

Historical Note

Prior to 1959 the duties of this office were performed by the executive officer, Vaughan Harmon. For an administrative history of the office of the assistant director (Management), see Record Unit 256.

Descriptive Entry

This record unit consists primarily of records maintained by Assistant Director Carlton W. Tillinghast, 1961-1969, with smaller amounts created by his predecessor Kenneth H. Drummond, 1959-1961, and the executive officer, Vaughan Harmon. Also included is correspondence and memoranda addressed to Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory (SAO) Director Fred L. Whipple. This material was usually referred to the assistant director for action. Records include general correspondence, 1957-1964, concerning SAO administration and scientific projects including Project Celescope; the Harvard Radio Meteor Project; SAO-International Year of the Quiet Sun Comet Project; the Prairie Network; and the Satellite Tracking Program. Of special interest is correspondence regarding the closing of SAO's Table Mountain, California, station in 1961. The record unit also includes administrative files, 1956-1966; Satellite Tracking Program records, 1957-1964, including administrative and tracking station files; and a buildings file, 1957-1966.

Around 1964, a numerical-subject records management system was instituted at SAO. Records were assigned a number code based on subject classification and filed numerically. Often records prior to 1964 were refiled using the numerical-subject system. Retrieval of records using the system is difficult. For a detailed explanation of the SAO numerical-subject filing system, see appendix 1 (off-line, in Archives).

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Astrophysical observatories
Astrophysics
Research

Types of Materials:

Manuscripts

Names:

Drummond, Kenneth H.
Harmon, Vaughan
Radio Meteor Project (Harvard College Observatory)
Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory. International Year of the Quiet Sun Comet Project
Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory. Meteorite Photography and Recovery Project (Prairie Network)
Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory. Project Celescope
Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory. Satellite Tracking Program
Table Mountain Station (California)
Tillinghast, Carlton W.
Whipple, Fred L. (Fred Lawrence), 1906-2004

Container Listing

Series 1: GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE FILES, 1957-1964. ARRANGED ALPHABETICALLY.

This series consists of incoming and outgoing correspondence and administrative files maintained by Assistant Directors Kenneth H. Drummond, 1959-1961, and Carlton W. Tillinghast, 1961-1969. Records prior to 1959 were created mostly by the executive officer, Vaughan Harmon. Correspondents include astronomers and scientists, SAO and Smithsonian staff, scientific societies, corporations, and government agencies. The records primarily concern SAO administration and scientific projects, including the Telescope Project; Harvard Radio Meteor Project; SAO-International Year of the Quiet Sun Comet Project; Prairie Network; and the Satellite Tracking Program. Of special interest is correspondence regarding the closing of the Table Mountain (California) station in 1961.

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Telescope Project, 1963-1966.

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- Box 11 of 25 Folder 2 Soloman, Leonard, 1962-1963
- Box 11 of 25 Folder 3 Spark-Chamber Experiment, 1963
- Box 11 of 25 Folder 4 Sputnik IV, 1962. Concerns recovery of a fragment of the satellite in Wisconsin.
- Box 11 of 25 Folder 5 Star Catalogue, 1961-1963
- Box 11 of 25 Folder 6 T, general, 1961-1964
- Box 11 of 25 Folder 7 Table Mountain Station, 1956-1962. Mostly concerns closing of the station, 1961.
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Series 2: ADMINISTRATIVE FILES, 1956-1966.

This series consists of records concerning public relations, fiscal matters, SAO personnel, equipment and procurement, and special projects of SAO. Also included are publications and reports. The records are arranged in the numerical-subject records management system instituted at SAO (see appendix 1, off-line, in Archives). For other administrative files see series 1.

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Series 3: SATELLITE TRACKING PROGRAM, ADMINISTRATIVE FILES, 1959-1967.

This series consists of records concerning the administration of SAO's Satellite Tracking Program (STP). The records deal with public relations, fiscal matters, STP personnel, procurement, and special projects of STP. Also included are publications and reports. Of special interest are files concerning United States Air Force support of STP and the STP's geodetic camera project. The records are arranged in the SAO numerical-subject records management system (see appendix 1, off-line, in Archives). For other records concerning STP, see series 1 and 4.

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Series 4: SATELLITE TRACKING PROGRAM, STATION FILES, 1957-1964. ARRANGED ALPHABETICALLY.

This series consists of correspondence, memoranda, reports, photographs, and related records concerning the operation of the Satellite Tracking Program's (STP) twelve satellite tracking stations. Also included are files on the United States Air Force tracking station at Oslo, Norway, and the Meteor Simulation Project station at Wallops Island, Virginia. Much of the material is routine and consists of copies of correspondence sent to the assistant director (management) by the Station Operations Division, which administered the tracking stations. Subjects included in the records include the tracking of satellites, operation of the Baker-Nunn tracking camera, construction and maintenance of the stations, and relations between SAO and foreign countries where stations were located. For other records concerning STP, see series 1 and 3.

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Series 5: BUILDINGS FILE, 1957-1966. ARRANGED ALPHABETICALLY.

This series consists of correspondence, memoranda, blueprints, floor plans, and related records concerning SAO buildings and facilities. Included are records regarding space leased by SAO, particularly from Harvard University. Records concerning office furniture and equipment, parking, safety programs, public transportation to SAO, and utilities are also included in the material.

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- Box 23 of 25 Folder 6 Floor Plans, 1959-1966
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- Box 24 of 25 Folders 1-3 Harvard College Observatory, Building B, Floor Plans and Specifications, 1959-1960
- Box 24 of 25 Folders 4-5 Harvard University, 1957-1966. Mostly regarding buildings leased by SAO from Harvard
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