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Correspondence, 1932-1963

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu
Title:	Correspondence
Identifier:	Record Unit 268
Date:	1932-1963
Extent:	5 cu. ft. (10 document boxes)
Creator::	United States National Museum. Division of Mineralogy and Petrology
Language:	Language of Materials: English

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 268, United States National Museum. Division of Mineralogy and Petrology, Correspondence

Historical Note

The Division of Mineralogy and Petrology of the Department of Geology was established in 1911. Prior to that date it was known as the Division of Mineralogy. In 1942, the Division of Mineralogy and Petrology was combined with the Division of Physical and Chemical Geology (systematic and applied) under the former name. The Department of Geology was abolished in 1963 as part of a reorganization in the National Museum of Natural History. At that time, the Division of Mineralogy and Petrology became the newly created Department of Mineral Sciences.

Edward P. Henderson joined the staff of the United States National Museum (USNM) in 1929 as assistant curator in the Division of Physical and Chemical Geology (systematic and applied). In 1942, he became associate curator in the Division of Mineralogy and Petrology. He remained in that position until 1963, when he was named associate curator in charge of the newly created Division of Meteorites of the Department of Mineral Sciences. He was made curator in 1965 and on his retirement in 1966 was appointed research associate. For records of Henderson's years as curator and research associate in the Division of Meteorites, see Record Unit 269.

Descriptive Entry

This record unit consists primarily of Edward P. Henderson's official correspondence files as associate curator of the Division of Mineralogy and Petrology. A smaller amount of files were created by Roy S. Clarke, Jr., who was appointed chemist in the Division of Mineralogy and Petrology in 1957. Correspondence before 1942 was carried out by Henderson in his capacity as assistant curator of the Division of Physical and Chemical Geology (systematic and applied). The correspondence is both

incoming and outgoing and deals exclusively with the national collection of meteorites under the care of the Division of Mineralogy and Petrology. Of special interest is correspondence concerning efforts to acquire the Harvey Harlow Nininger Meteorite Collection, 1957-1963. Correspondents include geologists and mineralogists, meteorite collectors and dealers, Smithsonian and USNM staff and administrators, government agencies, research foundations, and the general public. The correspondence is arranged alphabetically by correspondent.

For other records of the Division of Mineralogy and Petrology see Record Unit 266. For records of the Division of Meteorites see Record Unit 269.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Chemistry
- Geology
- Mineralogy
- Petrology

Types of Materials:

- Manuscripts

Names:

- Clarke, Roy S.
- Harvey Harlow Nininger Meteorite Collection
- Henderson, Edward P. (Edward Porter), 1898-
- National Museum of Natural History (U.S.). Department of Mineral Sciences
- National Museum of Natural History (U.S.). Division of Meteorites
- United States National Museum. Department of Geology
- United States National Museum. Division of Physical and Chemical Geology (Systematic and Applied)

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