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Collection Overview

Repository: Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu
Title: Records
Identifier: Record Unit 275
Date: 1969-1979 and undated
Extent: 12.5 cu. ft. (25 document boxes)
Creator: Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. Office of the Director
Language: Language of Materials: English

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation
Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 275, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. Office of the Director, Records

Historical Note

The Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars (WWICS) was established by Act of Congress on 24 October 1968 to be a “living memorial expressing the ideals and concerns of Woodrow Wilson ... symbolizing and strengthening the fruitful relations between the world of learning and the world of public affairs.” The Center was placed within the Smithsonian Institution under the independent administration of a fifteen member Board of Trustees appointed by the President, eight chosen from private life and seven from public positions. Chairmen of the Board of Trustees have included Hubert H. Humphrey, 1969-1972; William J. Baroody, Sr., 1972-1979; and Max M. Kampelman, 1980-. Funding of the Center was derived from both private support and public appropriation. The Center began operations on 19 October 1970, with the opening of its fellowship and guest scholar programs.

Benjamin H. Read was appointed Acting Director of WWICS in March 1969. His title was changed to Director in September 1969, a position which he retained until February 1973. Albert Meisel (Deputy Director of WWICS since 1970) served as Acting Director from February until September 1973, when James H. Billington was appointed Director.

Descriptive Entry

This record unit consists mostly of files maintained by Benjamin H. Read and James H. Billington during their service as directors of WWICS. A small amount of records were created by Albert Meisel as Acting Director of WWICS. The records document the early history of WWICS and concern fund raising; recruitment of fellows and scholars; the development of WWICS programs; conferences and
symposia sponsored by WWICS; and national and international affairs. The record unit includes general correspondence, 1969-1975; outgoing correspondence, 1970-1979; program files, including records dealing with WWICS programs in International Affairs, Environmental Studies, Ocean Studies, and State and Local Government; and voluminous files regarding the WWICS Sustainable Growth Program.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:
- Fund raising
- International education
- Special events

Types of Materials:
- Manuscripts

Names:
- Billington, James H.
- Meisel, Albert
- Read, Benjamin H. (Benjamin Huger), 1925-
- Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. Sustainable Growth Program
Series 1: GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1969-1975. ARRANGED ALPHABETICALLY.

This series consists of incoming and outgoing correspondence maintained primarily by directors Benjamin H. Read, 1969-1973, and James H. Billington, 1973-. A small amount of correspondence was created by Albert Meisel during his tenure as Acting Director, February-September 1973. The correspondence concerns the initial operations of WWICS and documents fund raising activities; the recruitment of fellows and scholars; the development of WWICS programs; conferences and symposia presented at WWICS; and national and international affairs. Correspondents include Board of Trustees members, scholars, government officials, diplomats, and business leaders.

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This series consists of a chronologic file of outgoing correspondence maintained by the Office of the Director, WWICS, 1970-1979. Also included are copies of outgoing letters written by Hubert H. Humphrey in his capacity as Chairman of the Board of Trustees. Some of the correspondence duplicates outgoing letters found in Series 1.

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Box 10
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This series consists of materials documenting programs of study conducted at WWICS. They include the Federalism 1976 Program; the International Affairs Advisory Group; the Ocean Studies Program; the Resources, Environment, and Interdependence Division; and the State and Local Government Program. Also included are files concerning the WWICS environmental bibliography, *The Human Environment*.

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Series 4: SUSTAINABLE GROWTH PROGRAM FILES, 1972-1976. ARRANGED ALPHABETICALLY.

The Sustainable Growth Program was initiated in May 1972 when the WWICS Board of Trustees approved a plan to sponsor selective studies of certain aspects of achieving sustainable growth in key areas of human activities, both national and international. On April 1, 1972, Chester L. Cooper assumed a fellowship appointment at WWICS to coordinate the program. Lincoln Gordon, a Program fellow since 1972, succeeded Cooper as Coordinator in January 1974. In May 1974 the Board of Trustees determined that future growth studies would be part of the newly established Resources, Environment, and Interdependence Division (see series 3).

This series documents the operation and activities of the Sustainable Growth Program and consists of files maintained by directors Read and Billington, as well as records kept by Chester L. Cooper and Lincoln Gordon in their service as Program Coordinator. The records include correspondence and memoranda, proposals, reports, manuscripts and related materials concerning program funding; seminars and conferences; Growth in America, a volume of essays produced by WWICS; the Ditchley Growth Conferences, 1974-1975; the Wingspread Conferences, 1973-1974; and Program fellows.

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