



Smithsonian Institution Archives

Records, 1944-1975

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu
Title:	Records
Identifier:	Record Unit 276
Date:	1944-1975
Extent:	51 cu. ft. (102 document boxes)
Creator::	National Museum of History and Technology. Office of the Director
Language:	English

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 276, National Museum of History and Technology. Office of the Director, Records

Descriptive Entry

These records partially cover the administration of Alexander Wetmore and A. Remington Kellogg as directors of the United States National Museum; more fully the tenures of Frank A. Taylor, John C. Ewers and Robert P. Multhauf, as directors of the Museum of History and Technology (MHT); and Daniel J. Boorstin and Brooke Hindle, as directors of the National Museum of History and Technology (NMHT). Most of the records relate to activities of the Office of the Director and the internal daily administration of the NMHT but also include a few records concerning general Smithsonian issues.

Records concern special events such as the Doubleday Lecture Series; the proposed establishment of subject-oriented study centers; public affairs programs; cooperative programs with educational and historical institutions in American social and national history and history of science and technology; exhibits; museum security; facilities maintenance; publication of curators' research; acquisition of objects for the national collections; fund raising programs and NMHT and Smithsonian committees.

Included is correspondence with other museums, professional museum associations, governmental agencies, educational institutions, historians and scholars of American history, and to a lesser extent, the general public; blueprints, floor plans, and photographs of NMHT facilities; correspondence and memoranda with NMHT and Smithsonian administrators and curators; and exhibit files including photographs, blueprints, floor plans, and drawings.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Historical museums
Museum buildings
Museum directors
Museum exhibits
Museum finance
Museums -- Acquisitions
Museums -- Administration
Museums -- Public relations
Science museums

Types of Materials:

Architectural drawings
Black-and-white photographs
Clippings
Exhibition catalogs
Floor plans
Manuscripts

Names:

Boorstin, Daniel J. (Daniel Joseph), 1914-2004
Ewers, John Canfield
Hindle, Brooke
Kellogg, Remington, 1892-1969
Multhauf, Robert P.
Museum of History and Technology (U.S.)
Taylor, Frank A. (Frank Augustus), 1903-2007
United States National Museum
Wetmore, Alexander, 1886-1978

Container Listing

Series 1: GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1954-1975.

This series includes correspondence and memoranda with educational institutions; government agencies; professional associations; prominent individuals in the field of the history of science and technology; and Museum service divisions concerning cooperative programs, activities and special events of the Museum, Museum policies, the organization and planning of the Museum, general regulations, policies, and procedures. Also included are blueprints, floor plans, and photographs of Museum facilities.

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- Box 12 of 102 Folder 5 Doubleday Lectures: Sargent and Bell Dinners, 1972
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Box 27 of 102 Folder 1 Steinberg, Prof. Arthur, 1975. Proposal for Center for the Study of Archaeological Materials.

Box 27 of 102 Folder 2 Survey of Higher Education Activities, 1975

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Box 27 of 102 Folders 10-11 Visitor Information & Education (VIE) - Docent Materials, 1960-1975

Box 27 of 102 Folder 12 Virginia, University of, 1969

Box 27 of 102 Folder 13 Visitors - Foreign, 1959-1965. Includes photographs of the wife of the President of the Philippines visiting the Smithsonian in 1964.

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Series 2: SECURITY FILES, 1963-1975.

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Box 33 of 102 Folder 9 Security - Silver Hill, Md. (Suitland), 1969-1975

Box 33 of 102 Folder 10 Security - Third Floor Fire, 1970-1973. Includes blueprints of third floor

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Series 3: COMMITTEES, 1953-1975.

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Box 37 of 102 Folder 4 Scholarly Activities Committee, 1970-1975

Box 37 of 102 Folder 5 Search Committee - MHT Director, 1965-1966

Box 37 of 102 Folder 6 Steering Committee: American Studies, History of Science and
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Series 4: EXHIBITS, 1950-1975.

This series includes records documenting general museum exhibit activities for specific exhibits and exhibit halls. Generally, exhibit scripts are not included in this series but some photographs, blueprints, and floor plans can be found here. Exhibit titles are arranged by department. Also included are files on proposed exhibits that were cancelled or disapproved. Exhibit material can also be found in Series 8 below.

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Box 38 of 102	Folder 3 Fourth and Fifth Floor Corridor Exhibits, 1975
Box 38 of 102	Folder 4 Ideas: "Play It Again, Sam," 1970-1971
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Box 38 of 102	Folders 6-7 Ideas, 1967-1971
Box 38 of 102	Folder 8 Modules of Time, 1971, 1974

- Box 38 of 102 Folder 9 Murals Project, 1971
- Box 38 of 102 Folder 10 National Treasures Exhibit, 1973
- Box 38 of 102 Folder 11 Object of the Month and Holiday Exhibits, 1969-1973
- Box 38 of 102 Folders 12-13 Office of Exhibits - General, 1967-1975
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- Box 39 of 102 Folder 1 Request from Outside Asking SI & MHT Help, 1960-1969
- Box 39 of 102 Folder 2 Request from Outside Asking SI & MHT Help: Australian Prints Today Exhibit (July-September 1966), floor 3, 1966
- Box 39 of 102 Folder 3 Request from Outside Asking SI & MHT Help: German Glass Exhibit (January-February 1966), floor 3, 1964-1966.
- Box 39 of 102 Folder 4 Request from Outside Asking SI & MHT Help: GSA Exhibit (December 1964-January 1965), floor 3, 1964.
- Box 39 of 102 Folder 5 Request from Outside Asking SI & MHT Help: Meeting of Military Historians, April 1967--Proposed Exhibit, 1966-1967.
- Box 39 of 102 Folder 6 Request from Outside Asking SI & MHT Help: Railroad Flat Slum Exhibit, 1967.
- Box 39 of 102 Folder 7 Reviews of Exhibition Halls, 1965-1968.
- Exhibits - Department of Applied Arts
- Division of Graphic Arts
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- Box 39 of 102 Folder 10 Graphic Arts - Benjamin Franklin Exhibit, 1971-1974
- Box 39 of 102 Folder 11 Printing - History, 1956, 1974. Includes "A Guide to Print Survival," by James E. Spears; "The Decline of the Common Press," by Philip Gaskell;

and copies of documents regarding the loan of the Joseph Saxton engraving machine to the Smithsonian and its transfer to the Franklin Institute, 1935.

Division of Photographic History

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Box 39 of 102 Folder 13 Hall of Photography, 1956-1961

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Box 40 of 102 Folder 1 Hall of Photography, 1962-1969, 1973. Includes blueprint.

Box 40 of 102 Folder 2 Photography - Audio Visual in Light, Chemicals, and Cameras, 1969

Box 40 of 102 Folder 3 Photography - Russell Lee Photographic Exhibit, 1963-1965

Division of Textiles

Box 40 of 102 Folders 4-5 Textiles, 1955-1975. Includes floor drawing and photographs

Box 40 of 102 Folder 6 Hall of Textiles, 1956-1975. Includes floor plans.

Exhibits - Department of Cultural History

General

Box 40 of 102 Folders 7-8 Everyday Life in the American Past, 1965-1975

Box 40 of 102 Folder 9 Growth of the United States, 1965-1974. Includes floor plans.

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Division of Costume and Furnishings

Box 41 of 102 Folder 1 Costume and Furnishings, 1965-1973

Box 41 of 102 Folder 2 "Suiting Everyone," 1973. Includes floor plan.

Division of Ethnic and Western Culture

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- Box 57 of 102 Folder 1 National Portrait Gallery, 1953-1975. Includes copy of H.R. 5220 amending a joint resolution to provide for the construction and maintenance of a National Collection of Fine Arts Museum and a letter, 1938, from Frederic A. Delano, National Capital Park and Planning Commission, to Charles G. Abbot concerning the development of museum buildings on the Mall.
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Series 7: NON-SMITHSONIAN MUSEUMS, 1950-1975

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Series 8: DEPARTMENTAL FILES, 1954-1975.

These records document the relationship between the Office of the Director and the curatorial departments and concern activities such as the acquisition of major collections, special programs, exhibits, and other projects including external fund raising. Included are correspondence; memoranda; and photographs, blueprints, and floor plans for exhibits. Related exhibit records are in Series 4 above. The bulk of the records in Series 8 was created between 1961 and 1975 and are arranged according to the five departments that existed between 1969 and 1975. Most pre-1969 material was apparently pulled and filed with the appropriate files to fit in the 1969 to 1975 administrative hierarchy. Thereunder, files are arranged by curatorial divisions. There is, however, some overlap with records in Series 9 below. In addition, there are records from the former Department of Civil History, which functioned from 1958 to 1968 and includes files that might be expected to be located elsewhere in this Series or in Series 9. The Civil History records concern curatorial divisions within the Department as well as activities outside the department, particularly relating to museum exhibit halls. These records are arranged alphabetically.

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Box 74 of 102 Folder 12 Swann Collection, 1964, 1970-1972. Includes exhibit catalog.

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Box 75 of 102 Folder 8 Numismatics: Franklin Mint, 1970-1971

Box 75 of 102 Folder 9 Numismatics: Lilly Collection, 1965-1969. Includes floor plans

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- Box 76 of 102 Folder 1 Numismatics: Secretary's Exceptional Service Gold Medal, 1972-1973. Includes photograph of Mrs. Elvira Clain-Stefanelli.
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- Box 76 of 102 Folder 2 Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, 1972
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- Box 76 of 102 Folder 5 Vice-President Humphrey's Interest in Photography Museum Programs, 1966-1968
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- Box 78 of 102 Folder 6 Ethnic and Western Cultural History - Afro-American Experience, 1968-1970
- Box 78 of 102 Folder 7 Ethnic and Western Cultural History - Exhibits on Negro History and Afro-American Projects, 1968-1969. Includes floor plans.
- Box 78 of 102 Folder 8 Ethnic and Western Cultural History: "Further" (Kelsey Bus), 1974-1975
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- Box 80 of 102 Folders 1-6 Musical Instruments, 1972-1975. Includes floor plans.
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