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Records, circa 1952-1978

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Collection Overview

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Repository: | Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu |
| Title: | Records |
| Identifier: | Record Unit 381 |
| Date: | circa 1952-1978 |
| Extent: | 9.58 cu. ft. (9 record storage boxes) (1 tall document box) |
| Creator:: | National Museum of History and Technology. Division of Historic Archeology |
| Language: | English |

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 381, National Museum of History and Technology. Division of Historic Archeology, Records

Historical Note

Specialization within the field of underwater historic archeology was established by Mendel L. Peterson, who served as Head Curator of the Division of Military and Naval History, United States National Museum, 1948-1957; Head Curator and Chairman of the Department of Armed Forces History, National Museum of History and Technology (NMHT), 1958-1968; and Curator of the Division of Historic Archeology, NMHT, 1969-1973.

Peterson began taking an interest in underwater historic archeology in 1952, and thereafter conducted extensive research as well as headed expeditions to underwater shipwreck sites in the Florida Straits, Bahamas, and West Indies. Grants from the Explorers Research Company and National Geographic Society enabled Peterson to engineer his Proton Processing Magnetometer, an electronic searching device used for locating underwater artifacts and tested in the waters of Bermuda. When the Division of Historic Archeology was organized in 1969, emphasis on underwater historic archeology had more focus. Peterson supervised the Division's Underwater Exploration Project which, until his retirement in 1973, involved further exploration of the Caribbean and thorough research of previously discovered underwater sites.

In 1965 Peterson published *History Under the Sea: A Handbook for Underwater Exploration*, which remains a standard reference source on surveying underwater archeological sites and on laboratory techniques for preserving artifacts from underwater excavations.

Descriptive Entry

Records include correspondence and memoranda between Peterson and George R. Wallace, President and Treasurer of the Explorers Research Corporation; Bertrand Committee; Caribbean Research Institute; professional contacts participating in the Underwater Exploration Project; individuals interested in the *History Under the Sea: A Handbook for Underwater Exploration* handbook and underwater exploration; and staff of the Department of Armed Forces History.

This collection also includes Bertrand Committee reports and blueprints for the raising of the steamboat *Bertrand* in 1969; photographs of Peterson, alongside explorer Waldemar A. Ayres, experimenting with the Proton Processing Magnetometer; additional photographs and illustrations of underwater shipwreck sites, artifacts, and preservation methods; original manuscripts and bibliographical information for the publication *History Under the Sea: A Handbook for Underwater Exploration*; subject files concerning preservation of artifacts and use of electrolytic reduction on metallic objects; information pertaining to cannon markings and their identification; budgetary records; and proposals for the Hall of Underwater Exploration, NMHT.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Archaeology and history
- Museum curators
- Museum exhibits
- Museum publications
- Underwater archeology

Types of Materials:

- Black-and-white negatives
- Black-and-white photographs
- Black-and-white transparencies
- Clippings
- Color photographs
- Color transparencies
- Drawings
- Manuscripts
- Maps
- Picture postcards
- Plates (illustrations)

Names:

- Ayres, Waldemar A.
- Bertrand (Steamboat)
- Caribbean Research Institute
- Explorers Research Corporation
- National Geographic Society (U.S.)
- National Museum of History and Technology (U.S.). Department of Armed Forces History
- National Museum of History and Technology (U.S.). Division of Historic Archeology
- National Museum of History and Technology (U.S.). Hall of Underwater Exploration

National Museum of History and Technology (U.S.). Underwater Exploration Project
Peterson, Mendel

Preferred Titles:

History Under the Sea: A Handbook for Underwater Exploration (Monograph : 1965)

Container Listing

Box 1

| | |
|-------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Box 1 of 10 | A, General |
| Box 1 of 10 | Albright, Arthur A. |
| Box 1 of 10 | Arundel, Arthur |
| Box 1 of 10 | B, General |
| Box 1 of 10 | Bartelt, Calvin |
| Box 1 of 10 | Beeyley, William M. |
| Box 1 of 10 | Bonet, Carlos |
| Box 1 of 10 | Bullis, Harvey |
| Box 1 of 10 | Blaisdell, W. C. |
| Box 1 of 10 | Burgess, Robert H. |
| Box 1 of 10 | Burton, Curtis A. |
| Box 1 of 10 | Ben-Eli, A. |
| Box 1 of 10 | Bertrand Advisory Committee |
| Box 1 of 10 | Bracamontes A., Jesus |
| Box 1 of 10 | C, General |
| Box 1 of 10 | Cayford, John E. |
| Box 1 of 10 | Campbell, Robert |
| Box 1 of 10 | Campbell, John |
| Box 1 of 10 | Clearwater Federal Savings and Loan Association |

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|-------------|------------------------------|
| Box 1 of 10 | Crooke, C. F. |
| Box 1 of 10 | D, General |
| Box 1 of 10 | Dudley, John C. |
| Box 1 of 10 | E, General |
| Box 1 of 10 | Emery, John V. |
| Box 1 of 10 | F, General |
| Box 1 of 10 | Faure, Mrs. Gill |
| Box 1 of 10 | Feder, F. Paul |
| Box 1 of 10 | Fernandez, Guardia |
| Box 1 of 10 | Franklin, Margaret |
| Box 1 of 10 | Frick, Henry Clay, II |
| Box 1 of 10 | Faulds, Delmar V. |
| Box 1 of 10 | Miscellaneous Correspondence |
| Box 1 of 10 | G, General |
| Box 1 of 10 | Garret, John |
| Box 1 of 10 | Geddes, Donald |
| Box 1 of 10 | Gimbel, Peter |
| Box 1 of 10 | Gerstle, Ralph |
| Box 1 of 10 | Geller, Roman F. |
| Box 1 of 10 | Goggin, John M. |
| Box 1 of 10 | H, General |
| Box 1 of 10 | Hagglund, L. F. |

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| Box 1 of 10 | Hazlett, James C. |
| Box 1 of 10 | Humphry, H. W. |
| Box 1 of 10 | Hudson, George I. |
| Box 1 of 10 | Huston, John |
| Box 1 of 10 | Hunter, William D. |
| Box 1 of 10 | Hagen, John W. |
| Box 1 of 10 | Hume, I. Noel |
| Box 1 of 10 | Hunt, Donald |
| Box 1 of 10 | I, General |
| Box 1 of 10 | Ingham, Travis |
| Box 1 of 10 | J, General |
| Box 1 of 10 | Johnson, Robert |
| Box 1 of 10 | K, General |
| Box 1 of 10 | Klein, Marvin "Bob" |
| Box 1 of 10 | Kivett, Marvin F. |
| Box 1 of 10 | L, General |
| Box 1 of 10 | Lankford, F. R. |
| Box 1 of 10 | Lewis, B. R. |
| Box 1 of 10 | Luther, F. G. |
| Box 1 of 10 | Latham, Henry |
| Box 1 of 10 | M, General |

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|-------------|-------------------------|
| Box 1 of 10 | Mc, General |
| Box 1 of 10 | Murchison, A. E. |
| Box 1 of 10 | McKeown, John F. |
| Box 1 of 10 | MacBean, J. I. |
| Box 1 of 10 | N, General |
| Box 1 of 10 | Noguera L., Edgardo |
| Box 1 of 10 | Noyes, John and Charles |
| Box 1 of 10 | Naish, S. Gordon |
| Box 1 of 10 | Nixon, Paul K. |
| Box 1 of 10 | O, General |
| Box 1 of 10 | P, General |
| Box 1 of 10 | Piccard, Jacques |
| Box 1 of 10 | Pease, Carl |
| Box 1 of 10 | Pfeiffer, J. E. |
| Box 1 of 10 | Peroni, George |
| Box 1 of 10 | Q, General |
| Box 1 of 10 | R, General |

Box 2

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|-------------|-------------------|
| Box 2 of 10 | Rennie, Robert G. |
| Box 2 of 10 | Rich, Edward N. |
| Box 2 of 10 | S, General |
| Box 2 of 10 | Sayre, William |

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|-------------|--------------------|
| Box 2 of 10 | Schmey, Peter |
| Box 2 of 10 | Schmit, F. P. |
| Box 2 of 10 | Shaefer, Robert |
| Box 2 of 10 | Stark, Jack |
| Box 2 of 10 | Shinn, Eugene |
| Box 2 of 10 | Slocum, Jermain |
| Box 2 of 10 | Stout, Wesley W. |
| Box 2 of 10 | Shaheen, John M. |
| Box 2 of 10 | Smith, Richard T. |
| Box 2 of 10 | T, General |
| Box 2 of 10 | Taylor, Robert R. |
| Box 2 of 10 | True, David O. |
| Box 2 of 10 | Tishler, Leland G. |
| Box 2 of 10 | Thompson, William |
| Box 2 of 10 | U, General |
| Box 2 of 10 | V, General |
| Box 2 of 10 | W, General |
| Box 2 of 10 | Wolper, Ruth |
| Box 2 of 10 | Walsh, Donald |
| Box 2 of 10 | Wright, Dr. |
| Box 2 of 10 | Wolfe, N. E. |

Box 2 of 10 Ware, Phillip

Box 2 of 10 Weller

Box 2 of 10 Winer, Richard A.

Box 2 of 10 XYZ, General

Box 2 of 10 Zint, Eugene J.

Box 2 of 10 Correspondence, 1959, 1963-1976 (17 folders)

Box 2 of 10 Bertrand Committee, 1969-1970 (2 folders)

Box 2 of 10 Correspondence, A-Bn (3 folders)

Box 3

Box 3 of 10 Correspondence, Bo-M (17 folders)

Box 4

Box 4 of 10 Correspondence, M-N (3 folders)

Box 4 of 10 Correspondence, National Geographic Society

Box 4 of 10 Correspondence, O-T (8 folders)

Box 4 of 10 Correspondence, True, David O.

Box 4 of 10 Correspondence U-XYZ (4 folders)

Box 4 of 10 Plan of Operations, 1969

Box 4 of 10 Budget, FY 1956

Box 4 of 10 Plan of Operation, FY 1957

Box 5

Box 5 of 10 Budget, FY 1957

Box 5 of 10 Budget, FY 1958 (2 folders)

- Box 5 of 10 Outside Requisitions, 1957-1965 (2 folders)
- Box 5 of 10 Annual Report, 1968
- Box 5 of 10 Annual Report, FY 1969
- Box 5 of 10 Budget Projections, 1971
- Box 5 of 10 *History Under the Sea: A Handbook for Underwater Exploration* - Handbook:
Study Materials and Guides - Checklist for sites furnishing material for
illustration in underwater handbook
- Box 5 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Introduction (2 folders)
- Box 5 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Chapter I - The History of Diving (3 folders)
- Box 5 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Chapter I - The History of Diving: Illustrations
- Box 5 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Chapter I - The History of Diving: DESCO (Diving
Equipment & Supply Co., Inc.)
- Box 5 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Chapter I - The Art of Living Under Water
- Box 5 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Chapter II - The Development of Underwater
Exploration (3 folders)
- Box 5 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Chapter II - Port Royal Expeditions, 1956, 1959,
1960
- Box 5 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Chapter II - "Port Royal, City Under the Sea," by
Marion Clyton Link, 1959
- Box 5 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Chapter II - Plates
- Box 5 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Chapter III - The Location of Underwater Sites
- Box 5 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Chapter IV - Search Techniques
- Box 5 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Chapter V - Underwater Surveying: Magnetometers
- Box 5 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Chapter V - Search Methods

Box 6

- Box 6 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Chapter V - Surveying and Measuring Under Water
- Box 6 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Chapter V - Underwater Photography
- Box 6 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Chapter V - Measuring Under Water (VII)
- Box 6 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Chapter V - Drawing Under Water
- Box 6 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Chapter V - Preliminary Surveys of Sites
- Box 6 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Chapter VI - Condition of Underwater Sites
- Box 6 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Chapter VI - Worms
- Box 6 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Chapter VII - Recovery Techniques
- Box 6 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Chapter VII - Salvage
- Box 6 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Chapter VII - Excavation
- Box 6 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Chapter VII - Systematic Digging and Recovery Techniques
- Box 6 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Chapter VIII - Preservation: Preservation of Objects
- Box 6 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Chapter VIII - Preservation: Field Preparation
- Box 6 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Chapter VIII - The Preservation of Materials Recovered from Water: Consolidation of Fragile Objects
- Box 6 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Chapter VIII - The Preservation of Materials Recovered from Water: General
- Box 6 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Chapter VIII - The Preservation of Materials Recovered from Water: Plastic Embedding
- Box 6 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Chapter VIII - The Preservation of Materials Recovered from Water: Wood Preservation
- Box 6 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Chapter VIII - Glass
- Box 6 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Chapter VIII - Brick

- Box 6 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Chapter VIII - Wood
- Box 6 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Photographs - Electrolytic Reduction
- Box 6 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Photographs - Casting Reproductions
- Box 6 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Photographs - Ceramics Preservation
- Box 6 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Photographs - Glass Preservation
- Box 6 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Photographs - Plastic Embedding
- Box 6 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Photographs - Metal Preservation
- Box 6 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Photographs - Stone and Minerals
- Box 6 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Photographs - Stone Condition and Preservation
- Box 6 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Photographs - Wood Preservation and Preservation
of Organic Materials
- Box 6 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Photographs - X Ray
- Box 6 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Photographs - Field Preparation
- Box 6 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Preservation: Notes
- Box 6 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Preservation: Metals
- Box 6 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Chapter IX - The Identification of Wreck Sites:
General
- Box 6 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Chapter IX - Identification: General
- Box 6 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Chapter XI - Small Arms and Armor
- Box 6 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Muller on Naval Guns
- Box 6 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Chapter XI - Heavy Guns and Projectiles
- Box 6 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Chapter XI - Identification: Small Arms, Illustrations

Box 7

- Box 7 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Cannon (3 folders)
- Box 7 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Cannon Marks
- Box 7 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Chapter VII - The Guns (3 folders)
- Box 7 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Chapter XI - Identification: Cannon, Illustrations (3 folders)
- Box 7 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Hulls
- Box 7 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Anchors
- Box 7 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Bells
- Box 7 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Chapter XII - Hulls and Fittings
- Box 7 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Chapter XIV - Identification: Utensils, Objects of Personal Use, and Miscellaneous (2 folders)

Box 8

- Box 8 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Chapter XII - Identification: Ships, Hulls and Fittings (3 folders)
- Box 8 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Chapter XV - Identification: Ceramics
- Box 8 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Chapter XIV - Objects of Personal Use
- Box 8 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Navigating Instruments
- Box 8 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Chapter XV - Ceramics and Glass
- Box 8 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Glass (14)
- Box 8 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Photographs - Trade Goods
- Box 8 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Identification (19) - Goods/Cargo/Ships Stores
- Box 8 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Chapter XVI - Treasure
- Box 8 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Forgeries

- Box 8 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Forgeries of Treasure
- Box 8 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Chapter XVI - Identification: Treasure (2 folders)
- Box 8 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Assaying
- Box 8 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Identification (20) - Documentary Evidence
- Box 8 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Appraising
- Box 8 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Laws

Box 9

- Box 9 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Appendix II - Lists of Cargo and Equipment
- Box 9 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Naval Vessels, U.S.
- Box 9 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Appendix III - Lists of Manufacturers of Underwater Equipment
- Box 9 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Appendix - Weights and Measurements
- Box 9 of 10 *History Under the Sea* - Hazards
- Box 9 of 10 Association of Underwater Archaeology
- Box 9 of 10 Caribbean Research Institute
- Box 9 of 10 CEDAM (Conservation, Exploration, Diving, Archeology, Museums) International
- Box 9 of 10 Exhibit Guidelines
- Box 9 of 10 Explorers Research Corporation
- Box 9 of 10 Society for Historical Archaeology
- Box 9 of 10 School of Nautical Archaeology Plymouth (SNAP), England
- Box 9 of 10 Training and Research Organizations
- Box 9 of 10 Smithsonian Project - Historical Archaeology

Box 9 of 10 "Will Man Breathe Like Fish?" - Waldemar A. Ayres Project

Box 9 of 10 Buckles from Shipwrecks

Box 9 of 10 Manuscripts and Notes - Ordnance Materials from L'Herminie (1838)

Box 9 of 10 Philadelphia Maritime Museum

Box 9 of 10 Underwater Cartoons, etc.

Box 9 of 10 Underwater Hall, Additional Units

Box 9 of 10 Underwater Hall, Miscellaneous Papers

Box 9 of 10 Fur Trade Sites in North American Streams

Box 9 of 10 Ayres, Waldemar A.

Box 9 of 10 Mediterranean and the Far East

Box 9 of 10 Deep Diving Watch

Box 9 of 10 Sixteenth Century Sword and Musket

Box 9 of 10 Vailati, Bruno

Box 9 of 10 George Wallace - Bermuda Project, 1967 (2 folders)

Box 9 of 10 Bermuda Expedition

Box 9 of 10 Miscellaneous Publications

Box 9 of 10 National Association for Marine Archaeology

Box 9 of 10 Explorers Research Corporation Grant, 1967

Box 9 of 10 Correspondence, 1957-1961

Box 9 of 10 Florida Project, 1968

Box 9 of 10 Hall of Underwater Exploration - Unit 21

- Box 9 of 10 Underwater Materials (2 folders)
- Box 9 of 10 *History Under the Sea*, 3rd Edition - Notes
- Box 9 of 10 Ansel Gibbs Project
- Box 9 of 10 Highborn Guns
- Box 9 of 10 Ordnance Projectiles
- Box 9 of 10 Underwater Swimming, Bulletin No. 1, May 1957

Box 10

- Box 10 of 10 Correspondence (2 folders)
- Box 10 of 10 Bibliography - Underwater Exploration
- Box 10 of 10 Bibliographies
- Box 10 of 10 A Progress Report: Deep Submersibles, National Oceanographic Data Center, March 1965
- Box 10 of 10 Photographs and Notes
- Box 10 of 10 Photographs