



Smithsonian Institution Archives

Records, circa 1968-1981

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu
Title:	Records
Identifier:	Record Unit 396
Date:	circa 1968-1981
Extent:	5 cu. ft. (5 record storage boxes)
Creator::	National Museum of American History. Division of Military History
Language:	English

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 396, National Museum of American History.
Division of Military History, Records

Historical Note

Beginning in the 1880s, military collections were curated by the Section of Historical Relics, United States National Museum, and its various successors through to the Division of History. In 1935, the Division established the Military and Naval Collection, and, in 1947, it formed a Section of Military History. The Section was given Division status in 1948 and was placed under the direction of Mendel L. Peterson. Additional details on the history of the Division are located in Record Unit 383, and in the introduction to the Department of Social and Cultural History, *Guide to the Smithsonian Archives*, 1996.

The Division of Military History was responsible for tracing the historical development of the United States Army from its inception as a colonial militia to its current role in the missile age. Research focused on United States Army firearms, artillery, ammunition, edged weapons, uniforms, medals, and flags. In addition to collecting military and foreign artifacts the Division published military histories and conducted studies of arms collections in other museums.

Staff members of the Division included Craddock R. Goins, Jr., Curator, 1959- , and Donald E. Kloster, Associate Curator, 1973- .

Descriptive Entry

These records consist of public inquiries from museums, universities, historical societies, and private collectors regarding gun models, saber types, military heraldry, uniform insignia, history of the United States Army, the preservation of artifacts, and paintings illustrating scenes from American military history. Also included are copies of responses to public inquiries by the two curators; photographs, scripts, and

correspondence concerning the exhibitions *By Sea and By Land: Independence with the Help of France*, *Steuben: Secret Aid for the Americans*, and *Belgian Gunmaking and American History*; and memoranda from administrative offices, some of which pertain to planning for the Bicentennial of the American Revolution.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

American Revolution Bicentennial, 1776-1976
Military history
Museum exhibits

Types of Materials:

Black-and-white photographs
Manuscripts

Names:

Belgian Gunmaking and American History (Exhibition) (1977: Washington, D.C.)
By Sea and By Land: Independence with the Help of France (Exhibition) (1981: Washington, D.C.)
Goins, Craddock R., Jr.
Kloster, Donald E.
National Museum of American History (U.S.). Department of Social and Cultural History
Peterson, Mendel
Steuben: Secret Aid for the Americans (Exhibition) (1981-1982: Washington, D.C.)
United States National Museum. Division of History
United States National Museum. Section of Historical Relics
United States. Army

Container Listing

Box 1

Box 1 of 5 Correspondence: A-Mc, 1976-1978

Box 2

Box 2 of 5 Correspondence: Mi-Y, 1976-1978

Box 3

Box 3 of 5 Correspondence: A-Z, 1979

Box 3 of 5 Proposed Center for History of Science and Technology, 1977

Box 3 of 5 Ault, Richard L.

Box 3 of 5 Bedini, Silvio A.

Box 3 of 5 Collins, Michael

Box 3 of 5 Klapthor, Margaret

Box 3 of 5 Middleton, Jean

Box 3 of 5 Memoranda, 1979

Box 4

Box 4 of 5 Correspondence: A-Q, 1980

Box 4 of 5 Reilly, R.M.

Box 5

Box 5 of 5 Correspondence: R-Z, 1980

Box 5 of 5 Summer Grants, 1980

Box 5 of 5 Yorktown Exhibition, 1980-1981 (3 folders; includes photographs)

Box 5 of 5 American Revolution Bicentennial Planning: Memoranda 1 1968-1973

Box 5 of 5 Exhibition: *Belgian Gunmaking and American History*, 1975-1976 (2 folders)