



# Smithsonian Institution Archives

## Records, 1971-1987

Finding aid prepared by Smithsonian Institution Archives

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## Collection Overview

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| <b>Repository:</b> | Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., <a href="mailto:osiaref@si.edu">osiaref@si.edu</a> |
| <b>Title:</b>      | Records  |
| <b>Identifier:</b> | Record Unit 437  |
| <b>Date:</b>       | 1971-1987  |
| <b>Extent:</b>     | 30 cu. ft. (30 record storage boxes)   |
| <b>Creator::</b>   | Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory. Office of the Director  |
| <b>Language:</b>   | English  |

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## Administrative Information

### Preferred Citation

Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 437, Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, Office of the Director, Records

### Access Restriction

Materials in Box 1 are permanently restricted; see finding aid. Contact reference staff for details.

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## Historical Note

Fred Lawrence Whipple retired as director of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory (SAO) in 1973. He was succeeded by George B. Field, who served in the position until 1983. Irwin I. Shapiro was appointed director in January 1983.

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## Descriptive Entry

These records document the administration and scientific programs of SAO under the leadership of Field, 1973-1983, and Shapiro, 1983-1987. A small amount of material was created during Whipple's tenure as director. The records consist of correspondence, memoranda, proposals, reports, budgets, publications, and related materials documenting the research activities of SAO divisions of Atomic and Molecular Physics, High Energy Astrophysics, Optical and Infrared Astronomy, Planetary Sciences, Radio and Geoastronomy, Solar and Stellar Physics, and Theoretical Astrophysics; the development and operation of the multiple-mirror telescope; the research program of the Fred Lawrence Whipple Observatory (before 1981, the Mount Hopkins Observatory); the Satellite Tracking Program, including its evolution from Baker-Nunn cameras to laser-ranging systems, and its termination in 1983; SAO research programs in hydrogen masers, submillimeter wavelength interferometers, and infrared telescopes; the development of the Langley-Abbot Solar Research Program; relations with Harvard University, and SAO's

role as a member of the Center for Astrophysics; the establishment of the SAO visiting scientist and post-doctoral fellowship programs; SAO involvement in site testing for an observatory on Mt. Graham, Arizona; a proposed Institute for X-Ray Astronomy at SAO; and budgets, facilities, information management, publication programs, and other administrative matters.

Also included is incoming and outgoing correspondence of Field and Shapiro with professional colleagues, staff of SAO and the Harvard College Observatory, students, and the general public concerning scientific research, professional affairs, administrative issues, and requests for information.

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## Names and Subject Terms

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

### Subjects:

- Astronomical observatories
- Astrophysical observatories
- Baker-Nunn camera
- Research

### Types of Materials:

- Manuscripts
- Serials (publications)

### Names:

- Field, George B., 1929-
- Fred Lawrence Whipple Observatory
- Harvard College Observatory
- Harvard University
- Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics
- Mt. Hopkins Observatory
- Multiple Mirror Telescope Observatory
- Shapiro, Irwin I.
- Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory. Atomic and Molecular Physics Division
- Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory. High Energy Astrophysics Division
- Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory. Langley-Abbot Solar Research Program
- Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory. Optical and Infrared Astronomy Division
- Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory. Planetary Sciences Division
- Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory. Radio and Geoastronomy Division
- Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory. Satellite Tracking Program
- Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory. Solar and Stellar Physics Division
- Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory. Theoretical Astrophysics Division
- Whipple, Fred L. (Fred Lawrence), 1906-2004

## Container Listing

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Box 25 of 30 Thorp, John

Box 25 of 30 Turner, Jean

Box 25 of 30 Wirth, Allan

Box 25 of 30 Yellin, John

Box 26

Director's Office Chronological Memoranda Books

Box 26 of 30 "Back and Forth Memos," 9/17/1984-10/31/1984 (3 folders)

Box 26 of 30 "Back and Forth Memos," 11/1/1984-2/5/1985 (3 folders)

Box 26 of 30 "Back and Forth Memos," 2/7/1985-4/26/1985 (3 folders)

Box 26 of 30 "Back and Forth Memos," 4/29/1985-7/2/1985 (3 folders)

Box 26 of 30 "Back and Forth Memos," 7/3/1985-9/12/1985 (3 folders)

Box 26 of 30 "Back and Forth Memos," 9/9/1985-11/22/1985 (2 folders)

Box 27

Box 27 of 30 "Back and Forth Memos," 9/9/1985-11/22/1985

Box 27 of 30 "Back and Forth Memos," 11/22/1985-1/31/1986 (3 folders)

Box 27 of 30 "Back and Forth Memos," 1/16/1986-4/18/1986 (3 folders)

Box 27 of 30 "Back and Forth Memos," 4/18/1986-6/6/1986 (3 folders)

Box 27 of 30 "Back and Forth Memos," 6/9/1986-8/15/1986 (3 folders)

Box 27 of 30 "Back and Forth Memos," 8/18/1986-10/6/1986 (3 folders)

Box 28

|              |  |
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| Box 28 of 30 | "Back and Forth Memos," 10/6/1986-12/2/1986                |
| Box 28 of 30 | "Regular Outgoing Memos," 1/1983-5/31/1983                 |
| Box 28 of 30 | "Regular Outgoing Memos," 6/1/1983-8/31/1983               |
| Box 28 of 30 | "Regular Outgoing Memos," 9/1983-12/1983                   |
| Box 28 of 30 | "Regular Outgoing Memos," 1/1984-4/1984 (2 folders)        |
| Box 28 of 30 | "Regular Outgoing Memos," 5/1984-8/1984 (2 folders)        |
| Box 29       |  |
| Box 29 of 30 | "Regular Outgoing Memos," 5/1984-8/1984                    |
| Box 29 of 30 | "Regular Outgoing Memos," 9/1984-12/10/1984 (3 folders)    |
| Box 29 of 30 | "Regular Outgoing Memos," 12/11/1984-3/10/1985 (3 folders) |
| Box 29 of 30 | "Regular Outgoing Memos," 3/10/1985-6/25/1985 (3 folders)  |
| Box 29 of 30 | "Regular Outgoing Memos," 6/26/1985-10/31/1985 (3 folders) |
| Box 29 of 30 | "Regular Outgoing Memos," 11/1/1985-1/31/1986 (2 folders)  |
| Box 30       |  |
| Box 30 of 30 | "Regular Outgoing Memos," 1/31/1986-5/9/1986 (3 folders)   |
| Box 30 of 30 | "Regular Outgoing Memos," 5/12/1986-7/29/1986 (3 folders)  |
| Box 30 of 30 | "Regular Outgoing Memos," 8/4/1986-11/14/1986 (3 folders)  |