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Collection Overview

Repository: Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu

Creator: Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, Radio and Geoastronomy Division

Title: Records

Dates: 1978-1983

Quantity: 1.2 linear meters.

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 517, Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, Radio and Geoastronomy Division, Records

Historical Note

The Radio and Geoastronomy Division was formed in fiscal year 1979 by the combination of two existing divisions: Radio Astronomy and Geoastronomy. The first of these two was formed in 1973 under the reorganization of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory (SAO) conducted by new director George B. Field. Arthur Edward Lilley (b. 1928), professor of radio astronomy at Harvard University, was appointed associate director of the observatory in charge of this division, a position he retained through the merger until the end of calendar year 1986. The Division of Geoastronomy was formed in 1970 under the direction of George Charles Weiffenbach (b. 1921), who joined the staff in 1969. At the time this was one of the few divisions into which the observatory was divided, and it retained its identity under Field's 1973 reorganization. Weiffenbach retained the directorship until 1976, when John C. Gregory took over as acting associate director until the merger of the two divisions.

Descriptive Entry

These records were created primarily by Arthur Edward Lilley as head of the division. Basic administrative files include information on the Northeast Radio Observatory Corporation (NEROC) and its Haystack Observatory in Westfield, Massachusetts; international astronomical organizations; and projects of two investigators of the division, Mario Grossi and Giuseppe Colombo. A second series of files concerns the Satellite Tracking Program, chiefly including material in support of SAO’s NASA contract for FY 1980; a proposal to support the Goddard Space Flight Center in its Laser Tracking Network, including the proposal to take over the network completely; information about foreign tracking stations; and information about relocating a tracking station to India through agreement with the India Space Research Corporation (ISRO).
Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:
Astrophysical observatories.

Names:
Colombo, Giuseppe, 1920-1984
Goddard Laser Tracking Network.
Goddard Space Flight Center
Grossi, Mario D.
Haystack Observatory
India Space Research Organization.
Lilley, Arthur Edward
Northeast Radio Observatory Corporation
Radio and Geoastronomy Division (SAO). Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory
Satellite Tracking Program (SAO). Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory
Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory. Radio and Geoastronomy Division.
Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory. Satellite Tracking Program
United States. National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Container Listing


Box 1

Associate Directors, January 1981-June 1982
Associate Directors, December 1978-December 1980
ADM Masers
Agassiz Review Committee
Archives
Atmospheric Working Group
CFA (Center for Astrophysics) Memos
CFA Social and Recreational Club
Centerline (CFA Newsletter)
Colombo, G. (Principal Investigator under Lilley)
Computer memos
Consultants
Copying Information
Digital Equipment
EEO/AA (Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action)
Einstein Observatory
ESSCO (Electronic Space Systems Corporation)
Federal Communications Commission
Federal Employees
Funding Status Reports
General Charges
General Information
General International
GLTN (Goddard Laser Tracking Network)
GMC (General Motors Corporation "Jimmy" truck)
Grossi, M. (SAO employee; Correspondence re: weather modification proposal)

Haystack Observatory (Westford, Massachusetts) - General

Haystack Observatory - Notes/Newsletters

Haystack Observatory - Schedules

IAA (International Academy of Astronautics)

IAF (International Astronautical Federation)

IAG (International Association of Geodesy)

IAU (International Astronomical Union)

Interagency Committee on Astronomy

Library

McDonald Observatory (Ft. Davis, Texas)

Miscellaneous letters and memos; untitled folder

Miscellaneous Papers

NEROC - 1980 (Northeast Radio Observatory Corporation)

New Building Task Force

Box 2

Recommendations

Request for Positions

Research - General

Research - Orientation

Resumes - General

Safety - R. O. Dumas

SAO Memos

Smithsonian Institution Announcements

Smithsonian Institution Memos

TDAR (Time Distribution and/or Attendance Report)

Box 2

Satellite Tracking Program. 1979 files, including brief overviews of optical tracking program prior to laser tracking.

SAO Laser Ranging System. This file concerns using lasers to get accurate distances to the moon and to satellites, for purposes of geodesy.

The following files contain material, 1979-1983, pursuant to renewal of existing National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) contracts to continue tracking of satellites by laser, as well as a proposal to provide mission support to Goddard Space Flight Center for their satellite tracking program, including the proposal to take over the tracking network completely.

Network - Laser

Laser Network Reports

Laser Network, FY 1980, Proposal to NASA (2 folders)

Laser Network, FY 1980, SAO Material

SAO Laser Stations - General

LTN (Laser Tracking Network) Mission Contract

GLTN-Goddard Laser Tracking (Network) (2 folders)

Box 3

Laser Network, NASA, Full Network, Presentation

Laser Network Integration-NASA Material (GSFC (Goddard Space Flight Center)/SAO)

The following files concern establishing a laser tracking station in India.

General Correspondence Re Laser Move - India

Agreement between ISRO (India Space Research Organization)/SAO

Implementation Plan for Relocation - India

India Task Force - Minutes

India Travel Proposal (Excess Currency)

Kavalur Site - India

Memorandum of Understanding - ISRO/SAO

Miscellaneous Information - India
Positions Available - India

Resumes (India)

Status Reports (India)

Summary Memos with Plans of Action - India

Trip Report - India

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