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Collection Overview

Repository: Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu
Title: Records
Identifier: Record Unit 517
Date: 1978-1983
Extent: 3 cu. ft. (3 record storage boxes)
Creator: Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory. Radio and Geoastronomy Division
Language: English

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:
Astrogeology
Astrophysical observatories

Types of Materials:
Manuscripts

Names:
Colombo, Giuseppe, 1920-1984
Field, George B., 1929-
Goddard Laser Tracking Network
Goddard Space Flight Center
Gregory, John G.
Grossi, Mario D.
Haystack Observatory
India Space Research Organization
Lilley, Arthur Edward
Northeast Radio Observatory Corporation
Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, Satellite Tracking Program
United States. National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Weiffenbach, George Charles
## Container Listing


#### Box 1 of 3
- **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**
| Box 1 of 3 | Federal Employees |
| Box 1 of 3 | Funding Status Reports |
| Box 1 of 3 | General Charges |
| Box 1 of 3 | General Information |
| Box 1 of 3 | General International |
| Box 1 of 3 | GLTN (Goddard Laser Tracking Network) |
| Box 1 of 3 | GMC (General Motors Corporation "Jimmy" truck) |
| Box 1 of 3 | Grossi, M. (SAO employee; Correspondence re: weather modification proposal) |
| Box 1 of 3 | Haystack Observatory (Westford, Massachusetts) - General |
| Box 1 of 3 | Haystack Observatory - Notes/Newsletters |
| Box 1 of 3 | Haystack Observatory - Schedules |
| Box 1 of 3 | IAA (International Academy of Astronautics) |
| Box 1 of 3 | IAF (International Astronautical Federation) |
| Box 1 of 3 | IAG (International Association of Geodesy) |
| Box 1 of 3 | IAU (International Astronomical Union) |
| Box 1 of 3 | Interagency Committee on Astronomy |
| Box 1 of 3 | Library |
| Box 1 of 3 | McDonald Observatory (Ft. Davis, Texas) |
| Box 1 of 3 | Miscellaneous letters and memos; untitled folder |
| Box 1 of 3 | Miscellaneous Papers |
| Box 1 of 3 | NEROC - 1980 (Northeast Radio Observatory Corporation) |
Box 1 of 3  New Building Task Force

Box 2

Box 2 of 3  Recommendations
Box 2 of 3  Request for Positions
Box 2 of 3  Research - General
Box 2 of 3  Research - Orientation
Box 2 of 3  Resumes - General
Box 2 of 3  Safety - R. O. Dumas
Box 2 of 3  SAO Memos
Box 2 of 3  Smithsonian Institution Announcements
Box 2 of 3  Smithsonian Institution Memos
Box 2 of 3  TDAR (Time Distribution and/or Attendance Report)

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Box 2 of 3

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

Box 2 of 3

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.

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Network - Laser

Note:

• Goddard Space Flight Center (STP-Satellite Tracking Program)
• Laser Network General/Correspondence
• Laser Network Review, February 1980
• Lasso Experiment

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Laser Network Reports

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

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Laser Network, FY 1980, SAO Material

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SAO Laser Stations - General

Note:

• Brazil (STP)
• Canada (STP)
• Ethiopia (STP)
• Peru (SIP)
• Spain (STP)

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LTN (Laser Tracking Network) Mission Contract

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

Box 3 of 3

Laser Network, NASA, Full Network, Presentation
The following files concern establishing a laser tracking station in India:

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