



Smithsonian Institution Archives

James Smithson Collection, 1796-1951, circa 1974, 1981-1983

Finding aid prepared by Smithsonian Institution Archives

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu
Title:	James Smithson Collection
Identifier:	Record Unit 7000
Date:	1796-1951, circa 1974, 1981-1983
Extent:	5.37 cu. ft. (8 document boxes) (2 half document boxes) (1 16x20 box) (3 oversize folders)
Creator::	Smithson, James, 1765-1829
Language:	English

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 7000, James Smithson Collection

Historical Note

The birth of James Smithson, founder of the Smithsonian Institution, is thought to be during the year 1765. Born in France, he became a naturalized British citizen around the age of ten. The illegitimate son of Elizabeth Hungerford Keate Macie and Hugh Smithson, 1st Duke of Northumberland, he changed his name as well as his citizenship. After his parents' death, he became known as James Smithson rather than James Macie. On May 7, 1782, he enrolled in Pembroke College, Oxford, and graduated four years later. The natural sciences sparked his interest, and he established a solid reputation as a chemist and mineralogist, despite the lack of quality information available on these topics in the late 1700s. He realized this and worked diligently to collect mineral and ore samples from European countries. Excerpts from his notes show that his excursions often forced him to brave the elements and do without the monetary comforts of his parents. Smithson, although a wealthy man, determined to make a name for himself among scientists without depending upon his heritage. He kept accurate accounts of his experiments and collections and earned the respect of his peers. When the Royal Society of London recognized his scientific abilities and accepted his membership on April 26, 1787, only a year after he graduated from college, he knew his quest and respect for knowledge would yield even greater things. The Society became an outlet for publishing many of his papers, which covered a diverse range of scientific topics, as well as a meeting place for fellow intellectuals like Cavendish, Lavoisier, Arago, Banks, and Fabroni.

James Smithson wrote his Last Will and Testament with the same exactness found in his research notes. He drafted it in 1826 in London, only three years before he died. He died on June 27, 1829, in Genoa, Italy, where he was buried in a British Cemetery. The will entailed his estate to his nephew, Henry James Hungerford, and stated that if his nephew died without an heir the money would go "to the United States of America, to found at Washington, under the name of the Smithsonian Institution, an establishment for the increase and diffusion of knowledge . . ."

In 1835 when Henry James Hungerford died without an heir, his mother, Mary Ann de la Batut, claimed her right to the Smithson estate, due to her previous marriage to Colonel Henry Louis Dickinson, half-brother of James Smithson and father of Henry James Hungerford. The British Courts allotted her an annual allowance until her death in 1861. Marie de la Batut's children from her second marriage had no blood or legal relationship to James Smithson; however, they joined with their spouses and children and persisted over the next few decades to claim various rights to the Smithson estate. George Henry, Emma Kirby, Marie, Charles, and Maurice all contacted the Smithsonian Institution with stories, genealogies, and bargains attempting to convince the Smithsonian administration of their need for and right to the money.

Aaron Vail, charges d'affaires of the United States at London, informed the United States of its right to the Smithson bequest after Hungerford's death. President Andrew Jackson brought the situation before Congress on December 17, 1835, and the government reacted with skepticism. The hesitancy lasted for ten years as Congress contemplated Smithson's motivation for willing such a large sum to a country he never visited. Some considered the bequest "a cheap way of conferring immortality," while others were reluctant to accept such a gift from a foreigner. (Rhees, 1880)

John Quincy Adams liked the idea of a Smithsonian Institution, however, and gathered congressional support for it during the spring of 1836. July 1, 1836, President Jackson commissioned Richard Rush to represent the United State's claim to Smithson's bequest in England. Rush acquired the money, converted it to gold (over \$500,000), and brought it to America. Debates ensued and the U. S. Treasury invested the money in Arkansas State Bonds. This investment disturbed John Quincy Adams. Despite their low interest rate, he realized the bonds were untouchable until 1860. Adams spent the last nine months of 1841 trying to access the money. Upon hearing Adams' complaint President John Tyler took action and forced the Treasury to provide the original amount of the bequest plus the appropriate interest on the bonds. In 1846 a final bill passed for the establishment of the Smithsonian Institution.

Another issue began to surface in 1891 when Samuel P. Langley invested in Italian rentes (bonds) for the care of Smithson's grave site in Genoa, Italy. On November 24, 1900, a member of the Committee of the British Burial Ground Association of Genoa informed Langley of a possible need to remove Smithson's remains from the cemetery due to quarrying in the area. William Henry Bishop, U. S. Consul at Genoa, confirmed the impending destruction of the cemetery and offered his assistance along with cost estimates for the transfer of Smithson's remains to the United States. Dr. Alexander Graham Bell, a Regent of the Smithsonian, agreed to accompany the remains from Italy to America as long as the act coincided with Italian and British Law. Dr. Bell and his wife arrived with the remains in Hoboken, New Jersey, on the "Princess Irene" on January 19, 1904. The U. S. S. "Dolphin" then carried the remains to Washington, D.C., where a ceremony in the Main Hall of the Smithsonian Institution Building saluted the founder. Smithson's original tomb was transferred to America later that same year, and the Smithson Mortuary Chapel was constructed in the Smithsonian Institution Building.

Chronology

1765	James Macie was born in France
1775	Naturalized British Citizen
1782	Enrolled in Pembroke College, Oxford
1786	Graduated from Pembroke College, Oxford
1787	Member Royal Society
1794	Dorothy Percy willed 3,000 pounds to James Macie (believed to be her half bother)

- 1808 Smithson was a prisoner of war in Hamburg and wrote to Sir Joseph Banks for help
- 1818 "A Few Facts Relative to the Colouring Matters of some Vegetables," Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London
- 1825 "A Method of Fixing Crayon Colors," Annals of Philosophy
- 1826 "On a Balance for Weighing Globules of Metals," The Technical Repository
- 1826 Original draft of Smithson's will
- 1829 Smithson's death in Genoa, Italy
- 1835 Death of Henry James Hungerford (Smithson's nephew)
- 1835 U. S. notified of Smithson's bequest
- 1835 Mary Ann de la Batut (Henry James Hungerford's mother) claimed her right to Smithson's estate
- 1836 Act of Congress accepted Smithson bequest
- 1838 British Chancery Court award Smithson Estate to the United States
- 1836-1842 Congressional debates over what to do with Smithson's bequest
- 1844 "A Memoir on the Scientific Character and Researches of James Smithson," by Walter R. Johnson
- 1844-1846 Congressional Bills and Amendments introduced establishing and defining divisions within the Smithsonian
- 1845 Samuel S. Cox's article for "Brothers" literary society addressed the issue of Smithson's bequest establishing a library or a university
- 1846 Act of Congress established Smithsonian Institution
- 1859 "An Account of the Smithsonian Institution," by William J. Rhees
- 1865 Fire at Smithsonian destroyed most of Smithson's papers
- 1877-1879 George Henry de la Batut claimed his right to the Smithson estate
- 1878 "On the Works and Character of James Smithson," by J. R. McD. Irby
- 1879 "The Scientific Writings of James Smithson," by William J. Rhees
- 1880 "James Smithson and His Bequest," by William J. Rhees
- 1881 "Visitor's Guide to the Smithsonian Institution," by William J. Rhees
- 1881 Emma Kirby de la Batut claimed her right to the Smithson estate
- 1891 Samuel P. Langley allotted money for the care of Smithson's tomb in Genoa, Italy
- 1892 Marie (Mary Ann) de la Batut claimed her right to the Smithson estate (wife of George Henry)
- 1893 Charles and Maurice de la Batut claimed their rights to the Smithson estate
- 1895 Langley placed bronze tablets on Smithson's tomb in Genoa, recognizing him as founder of the Smithsonian Institution
- 1901 "Life of Smithson," by Samuel P. Langley

1903	Gilbert H. Grosvenor published newspaper articles advocating the transfer of Smithson's remains to America, due to destruction of cemetery in Genoa
1904	Alexander Graham Bell accompanied Smithson's remains to U.S. on the "Princess Irene"
1904	"The Removal of the Remains of James Smithson," by Samuel P. Langley
1904	Smithson Tomb moved from Italy to U. S.
1905	Erection of Smithson Mortuary Chapel on SI grounds

Descriptive Entry

The James Smithson Collection lacks a great deal of his original papers. Richard Rush brought Smithson's personal effects to the United States in 1838, along with the proceeds from his estate. A fire in the Smithsonian building in 1865 destroyed many of the manuscripts originally acquired by the Institution. Correspondence among individuals seeking information on his life constitutes the majority of the collection, but some personal documents remain. These include some of his scientific papers and research notes, correspondence with friends and fellow scholars, and a handwritten draft of his will, all found in Series 1. Photographic copies of images of Smithson, Henry James Hungerford, documents, places, and people involved with some aspect of the Smithsonian are included as well. These appear in all of the six series.

Series 2 contains documents related to securing the Smithson bequest, establishing the Smithsonian Institution, and claims on the estate by would-be heirs. Series 3 consists of research materials on Smithson's life and lineage. Congress debated the purpose for the Smithsonian Institution for over a decade. Debates, bills, amendments, and letters show the questions and opinions surrounding what Smithson meant by "the increase and diffusion of knowledge . . ." Series 2-3 include correspondence, illustrations, charts, books, and letters concerning Smithson's maternal and paternal genealogies which help piece together his family history. Controversy surrounded one particular branch of Smithson's family, the de la Batuts, after the establishment of the Smithsonian Institution.

Series 4 includes information on the steps taken to move Smithson's remains to America. Newspaper clippings about the transfer of Smithson's remains and tomb to America mark a final chapter in the collection. Photographs, letters, and telegrams follow the story from start to finish, and involve men like Samuel P. Langley, Alexander Graham Bell, Richard Rathbun, William Henry Bishop, and Gilbert H. Grosvenor. Series 5 consists of photographs and likenesses of James Smithson, his relatives, and places and objects related to him. It includes a plaster cast and steel plate engravings of Smithson.

William J. Rhees, Joseph Henry, Spencer F. Baird, Samuel P. Langley, S. Dillon Ripley, and others involved with the Smithsonian Institution fervently sought information on Smithson's life for a variety of books, pamphlets, and articles. Circulars and letters from the 1870s and 1880s show the caliber of their search, but unfortunately very few facts surfaced on the founder of the Institution. This correspondence is scattered throughout the collection, but the actual publications which emerged on Smithson and the Smithsonian's beginnings are included in Series 6.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Wills

Types of Materials:

Art objects
Black-and-white photographs
Books
Clippings
Drawings
Illustrations
Manuscripts
Maps
Plates (illustrations)
Serials (publications)

Names:

Bell, Alexander Graham, 1847-1922
Langley, S. P. (Samuel Pierpont), 1834-1906
Macie, Elizabeth Hungerford Keate, 1728-1800
Northumberland, Hugh Percy, Duke of, 1712-1786
Pembroke College (University of Cambridge)
Rhees, William Jones, 1830-1907
Smithson, James, 1765-1829
Smithsonian Institution

Container Listing

Series 1: ORIGINAL SMITHSON MANUSCRIPTS AND COPIES, 1782-1878, 1974, 1981-1983, AND UNDATED.

This series consists of originals or copies of Smithson's professional and friendly correspondence, his research notes, his scientific and original papers, and original family documents.

Box 1

- Box 1 of 11 Folder 1 Photograph of Smithson's (Macie) signature in Pembroke College, Oxford University register, 1782; letter from Peggy Cordy, Assistant Librarian of Pembroke College, to Mr. James Goode explaining a photograph of Smithson's signature in his college register, 1974
[Digital Content: Pembroke College Matriculation Register, 1782 \[Image no. 2005-33523\]](#)
- Box 1 of 11 Folder 2 Smithson's letter to Miss Eccles sent with information on the Royal Society, undated
- Box 1 of 11 Folder 3 Smithson's letter to Mr. Fabroni sent with loan of minerals, undated
- Box 1 of 11 Folders 4-7 Photographic copy of letter and notes from Smithson to Fabroni in English and French (mentions dinner invitations, returning minerals, and Fabroni's place in Cabinet de Physique), undated
- Box 1 of 11 Folder 8 Photographic copy of Smithson's correspondence with Fabroni on minerals and crystals, December 23, 1793, original in American Philosophical Society
- Box 1 of 11 Folder 9 Photographic copy of letter from Eandi Vassalli to Fabroni (in Italian and mentions Smithson), March 27, 1797, original in American Philosophical Society
- Box 1 of 11 Folder 10 Photocopies of Smithson correspondence, 1792-1806; Jean C. Smith's correspondence with S. Dillon Ripley concerning Smithson's past, 1981-1983
- Box 1 of 11 Folder 11 Two copies of letters from Smithson to Sir Joseph Banks: May 14, 1796 discusses a plant for Banks to analyze; September 18, 1808 - Smithson, a prisoner of war in Hamburg, requests aid from Banks (analysis of letter included in "James Smithson in Durance")
- Box 1 of 11 Folder 12 Handwritten catalogue of Smithson's wardrobe, silverware, and other valuables, undated

- Box 1 of 11 Folder 13 Photocopy of document admitting Smithson to membership in the Royal Society in 1787
- Box 1 of 11 Folder 14 Fragments of letters to James Smithson (dinner invitations, etc.), 1817-1823, and undated
- Box 1 of 11 Folder 15 Handwritten copies of dinner invitations to and from James Smithson (in French and English), 1817-1823
- Box 1 of 11 Folders 16-17 Handwritten list of minerals (in German, possibly written by Smithson), undated
[Image\(s\): Handwritten list of minerals \(in German, possibly written by Smithson\), undated \[Image nos. SIA2013-07890 to SIA2013-07933\]](#)
[Image\(s\): Handwritten list of minerals \(in German, possibly written by Smithson\), undated \[Image nos. SIA2013-07934 to SIA2013-07980\]](#)
- Box 1 of 11 Folder 18 Handwritten transcription by James Smithson of Admiral Swiney's account of shipwrecks in the Scilly Islands, undated

Box 2

- Box 2 of 11 Folder 1 James Smithson's "Receipt Book" for medicinal and dietary uses, acquired by the Smithsonian in 1914, preservation copy, original is in Box 3
- Box 2 of 11 Folder 2 Scraps of Smithson's notes and list of minerals sent to Smithson, 1796-1810
- Box 2 of 11 Folder 3 Copies of Smithson's papers on chemical analysis and Clarke's review of Smithson's scientific achievements, 1787, 1791, 1802, 1806 and undated
[Digital Content: Page one of James Smithson's first scientific paper, "An Account of some chemical Experiments on Tabasheer," read to the Royal Society of London on 7 July 1791. \[Image no. SIA2011-1374\]](#)
- Box 2 of 11 Folder 4 J. R. McD. Irby's arrangement of James Smithson's "Notes on Minerals and Rocks," 1878
- Box 2 of 11 Folder 5 Smithson's copy of M. Hauey's Memoire sur la Theorie d'Une Nouvelle Espece de Decroissement Intermediaire, January 1809 (in French with diagrams of crystals)
- Box 2 of 11 Folder 6 "A Few Facts Relative to the Colouring Matters of Some Vegetables," in Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London, 1818
- Box 2 of 11 Folder 7 "A Method of Fixing Crayon Colours," in The Annals of Philosophy, August 23, 1806

- Box 2 of 11 Folder 8 "On a Balance for Weighing Globules of Metals," in The Technical Repository, p. 78, 1826
- Box 2 of 11 Folder 9 "Plain Advice to the Public to Facilitate the Making of Their Own Wills," by W. R. Goodluck, 1826, used by Smithson to draft his will
- Box 2 of 11 Folder 10 Travel journal of Henry Louis Dickinson (Smithson's half-brother), 1796-1802
- Box 2 of 11 Folder 11 Henry James Hungerford's passport for travel in France and Italy, 1829 (Smithson's nephew) [Removed to Box 11, Folder 1]
- Box 2 of 11 Folder 12 Hand-drafted copy of James Smithson's Will, 1826 (original removed to security storage)
- Box 2 of 11 Folder 13 Handwritten copy of Smithson's will (not in his hand), and Congressional debates over the Smithson bequest, 1836-1838
- Box 3
- Box 3 of 11 Folder 1 James Smithson's "Receipt Book" for medicinal and dietary uses, acquired by the Smithsonian in 1914, original

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Series 2: DOCUMENTS RELATED TO SECURING THE SMITHSON BEQUEST AND CLAIMS BY WOULD-BE HEIRS, 1764, 1782, 1794, 1829-1895, 1908.

This series documents the Batut family's claim to the Smithson estate and their correspondence with the Smithsonian Institution, the transfer of Smithson's estate to the United States, Smithson's genealogy, and a compilation of his biography.

Box 4

- Box 4 of 11 Folder 1 Photographs of legal documents related to Smithson and the settlement of his estate; copy of the will as admitted to probate, 1829
- Box 4 of 11 Folder 2 Letters from Daniel Brent, American Consul Paris, to Thomas Aspinwall, American Consul London, concerning Smithson's bequest, 1835
- Box 4 of 11 Folder 3 Congressional Bills and Amendments establishing and defining the Smithsonian Institution, 1836-46 [1840 Letter from the Treasury Department Removed to Box 11, Folder 3]; copies of Levi Woodbury's efforts to obtain Smithson's bequest, 1836-40; Andrew Jackson's letter turning information on bequest over to Congress, 1835; John F. H. Claiborne seeking appointment as Secretary of State to work with Smithson bequest, 1912; and Robert Dale Owen's support for SI, 1844 [Removed to Box 11, Folder 2] and 1856; copy of will, 1826; photocopy of letters from Aaron Vail to Forsyth over what to do with Smithson's estate [Removed to Box 11, Folder 4]
[Digital Content: President Andrew Jackson's Letter to Congress Regarding the Smithson Bequest, December 17, 1835 \[Image no. 2005-33527\]](#)
- Box 4 of 11 Folder 4 Miscellaneous Congressional Reports c. 1838-1847; House Document Number 256, information relative to the prosecution of the claim to the Smithson bequest, March 1838; House Report Number 587, Report from the Select Committee on the Smithsonian Fund, April 1842; Smithsonian Institution Report of Committee on Organization, 1847
- Box 4 of 11 Folder 5 Letters from Richard Rush to Thomas Aspinwall concerning British Stock Market and converting Smithson's estate to gold for transfer to U.S., 1838-1839
- Box 4 of 11 Folder 6 Marie de la Batut's (George Henry's wife) claim to the Smithson estate, 1892; Abraham Lincoln's Proclamation, after the death of Madame de la Batut (mother of Henry James Hungerford) supporting the Smithsonian's right to do what it wished with her former allowance from the Smithson estate, 1863
- Box 4 of 11 Folder 7 Maurice de la Batut's claim to the Smithson bequest and correspondence between Samuel P. Langley and Thomas Donaldson over the claim, 1863
- Box 4 of 11 Folder 8 George Henry de la Batut's claim to the Smithson estate, 1877-79; information on Thomas Donaldson's meeting with George Henry, 1879;

letters from Spencer F. Baird to George Henry exchanging Smithson relics,
1878-79; Samuel P. Langley's refusal to destroy any Smithson relics, 1887

Box 4 of 11 Folder 9 Copies of Emma Kirby de la Batut's letters to the Ministers of France
and the U. S. claiming her right to the Smithson estate, 1881

Box 4 of 11 Folder 10 Copies of reference to Smithson from the records of John D.
Enys's grandfather, Davies Gilbert, President of the Royal Society, 1829 or
1830, and college friend of Smithson, 1884

Box 4 of 11 Folders 11-13 Research of William J. Rhees, Spencer F. Baird, and Joseph
Henry into the life of Smithson; "James Smithson and His Bequest," by
Rhees; critique of article and research by Joseph Lemuel Chester in The
Academy, 1878-1894

Box 4 of 11 Folder 14 Photographs of research done by Samuel P. Langley and Cyrus
Adler in England on the life of Smithson, 1894; letter from Adler to Harry W.
Dorsey about the research, 1908

Box 5

Box 5 of 11 Folder 1 Copy of Hugh Smithson's will, 1782, and Dorothy Percy's will, 1794

Box 5 of 11 Folder 2 B. F. Stevens's genealogy of Smithson's lineage, 1895; excerpt
from John Goldworth Alger's, "Napoleon's British Visitors and Captives,
1801-1815"; Samuel P. Langley's organization of Smithson's lineage,
undated; Penelope Keate's will, 1764

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Series 3: RESEARCH MATERIALS AND CORRESPONDENCE ABOUT SMITHSON'S LIFE AND LINEAGE, 1807-1824, 1853, 1880-1951 AND UNDATED.

This series consists of genealogical charts and information on various branches of Smithson's family, correspondence relating to "Life of Smithson" by Secretary Langley; a map of Genoa, Italy; and several drawings of the SI building, James Smithson, Hugh Smithson, Henry James Hungerford, and places James Smithson traveled during his lifetime.

Box 5

- Box 5 of 11 Folder 3 B. F. Stevens, Spencer F. Baird, Samuel P. Langley, and Cyrus Adler's research correspondence and research into Smithson's life, 1880-1898; "James Smithson," in Putnam's Monthly Magazine, 1853; topographical map of Genoa, Italy, 1885 [Removed to Oversize, Folder 1]
- Box 5 of 11 Folder 4 W. J. Kirkpatrick's research on Colonel Henry Louis Dickinson, 1880; pedigrees of Smithson's family (oversized), 1894 and undated [Removed to Box 11, Folder 5]; "My Doctors," 1892, and related notes, 1895-1907
- Box 5 of 11 Folder 5 Copies of reminiscences of a friend of the Northumberland family, author and date unknown
- Box 5 of 11 Folder 6 Frederick Webb Hodge and William J. Rhees's correspondence concerning research, and a list of possible illustrations for Samuel P. Langley's, "Life of Smithson," 1901; illustrations of Hugh Smithson, James Smithson, city of Bath (1786), Fingal's Cave, Ireland, and Smithson's tomb in Italy, undated; title pages from important scholarly journals which published Smithson's papers, 1807-1824; Smithson's genealogy and list of Henry James Hungerford's aliases, undated
- [Digital Content: Hugh Percy, Second Duke of Northumberland, May 18, 1791 \[Image no. 82-3156\]](#)
- [Digital Content: View of the City of Bath in 1768 with the River Avon pictured in the foreground and rolling hills of farm land in the distance, 1768 \[Image no. 2005-33524\]](#)
- [Digital Content: A view of Laura Place and Johnston Street, Bath, England, 1768 \[Image no. 2005-33531\]](#)
- [Digital Content: View of the building called the Royal Crescent, Bath in 1768 \[Image no. 2005-33528\]](#)
- [Digital Content: A street scene in Bath, England, includes buildings with signs for the Library Reading Room and Haward, 1768 \[Image no 2005-33530\]](#)
- [Digital Content: A close-up view of the City of Bath from a hilltop in 1768 \[Image no. 2005-33529\]](#)
- [Digital Content: Lithograph of Fingal's Cave in Ireland, c. 1850s. The lithograph was published for Hermann J. Meyer of 164 William Street in New York. \[Image no. 2005-15070\]](#)
- [Digital Content: James Smithson, Student at Pembroke College, Oxford University, 1881 \[Image no. SIA2008-2447\]](#)

[Digital Content: James Smithson, Engraving from Medallion, 1879 \[Image no. SIA2008-2446\]](#)

[Digital Content: "Everyman is a valuable member of society who by his observations, researches and experiments procures knowledge for men."
Written by James Smithson, founding donor of the Smithsonian Institution, c. 1820 \[Image no. 96-1650\]](#)

Box 6

Box 6 of 11

Folder 1 Excerpt from "James Smithson in Durance," in *The Pacific Historical Review*, 1943; public inquiries into Smithson's past and his alleged involvement in the U. S. oil industry, 1932-1951; oil reservoir map supposedly made by Smithson in 1862; correspondence concerning Samuel S. Cox's 1845 speech on the intent of Smithson's bequest, 1915-1916; Willard C. Gompf's claim to the Smithson estate, 1896

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Series 4: REMOVAL OF SMITHSON'S REMAINS TO AMERICA, 1903-1905, AND RELATED RECORDS FROM 1879-1900, 1919, c.1974.

This series documents the Smithsonian's care of Smithson's tomb in Genoa, Italy, the destruction of the cemetery holding Smithson's remains, the legal dilemmas which faced those who wanted to move the remains to America, the Batut family's claim to the Smithson estate, Alexander Graham Bell's actual transfer of Smithson's remains to the United States on the "Princess Irene," and the ceremony following the arrival of the remains in Washington, D. C., on the U. S. S. "Dolphin." In addition this section concerns the media's involvement with the shipment of the remains and the Smithsonian's efforts to create a monument honoring its founder.

Box 6

- Box 6 of 11 Folder 2 Drawings of Smithson's tomb in Genoa, undated [1 Item Removed to Oversize, Folder 2]; correspondence concerning Samuel P. Langley's appropriation of SI funds for the care of Smithson's grave site in Italy, 1891; letter (in French) emphasizing the moral ramifications of moving Smithson's tomb to America, 1879
- Box 6 of 11 Folder 3 SI Annual Report noting the Institution's responsibility for the care of Smithson's tomb in Italy, 1880; Emma Kirby de la Batut's claim to the Smithson estate, 1881; Samuel P. Langley's correspondence with the bankers, Grant, Brown, and Company, over the bonds purchased for the care of Smithson's tomb, 1891; Marie de la Batut's claim to the Smithson estate (George Henry's wife), and Rhees's "Memorandum in Relation to Letter from Marie de la Batut," 1892; Maurice de la Batut's claim to Smithson's estate (George Henry's son); correspondence on Thomas Donaldson's meeting with George Henry de la Batut, and Charles de la Batut's claim to the Smithson estate, 1893; information on bronze tablets the Smithsonian purchased for Smithson's tomb in Italy, 1895-1900; correspondence over the legal aspects of transferring Smithson's remains to U. S., involves William Henry Bishop, Samuel P. Langley, Richard Rathbun, Frank W. Hackett, J. B. Henderson, and Alexander Graham Bell; and copy of "The Removal of the Remains of James Smithson," by Samuel P. Langley (full account of the transfer and ceremony which honored Smithson), 1904
- Box 6 of 11 Folder 4 Correspondence between Samuel P. Langley, William Henry Bishop, Richard Rathbun, and Alexander Graham Bell concerning the Batut's disapproval of transferring Smithson's remains to America, the destruction of the cemetery in Genoa, and arrangements for the actual transfer of Smithson's remains, 1903
- Box 6 of 11 Folder 5 Correspondence relating to Alexander Graham Bell's arrival in U. S. on the "Princess Irene" with Smithson's remains, transport of the remains to the "Dolphin," and the ceremony which followed their arrival in Washington, D. C., 1904

Box 7

- Box 7 of 11 Folder 1 Letters, opinions, and estimates to and from architects for the construction of a Smithson monument in Washington, D. C.; information on exhuming Smithson's remains; details on expenses and difficulties Alexander Graham Bell encountered while accompanying Smithson's remains to the U. S., 1904
- Box 7 of 11 Folder 2 Correspondence between Noel Lees, Richard Rathbun, and Samuel P. Langley on the shipment of Smithson's tomb to America; Smithsonian's correspondence with architects on the construction of a monument honoring Smithson in Washington, D. C., 1904
- Box 7 of 11 Folder 3 Correspondence between Richard Rathbun, Frank W. Hackett, William Henry Bishop, and Alexander Graham Bell addressing legal questions on Italian law and the transfer of Smithson's remains to America and the Hungerford family's possible right to the Smithson tomb in Genoa; correspondence over the shipment of Smithson's tomb to U. S., 1904
- Box 7 of 11 Folder 4 Correspondence concerning the shipment of Smithson's tomb to the U. S. (letters, invoices and receipts for insurance, inspections, and delivery), 1904
- Box 7 of 11 Folder 5 Correspondence regarding all aspects of constructing the Smithson Mortuary Chapel (which contained his remains and original tomb) in the SI Building; "Examination of the Exhumed Remains of James Smithson," by Z. T. Sower, M. D., 1905
- Box 7 of 11 Folder 6 Drawings of proposed Smithson Mortuary Chapel, 1903 and 1905 [1905 Drawing Removed to Oversize, Folder 3]
- Box 7 of 11 Folder 7 Newspaper articles from across U. S. on the destruction of cemetery in Genoa and supporting possible transfer of Smithson's remains to America, 1903; article from newspapers, "Shall the Tomb of James Smithson be Brought to America?" by Gilbert H. Grosvenor (explains the situation surrounding the need to move Smithson's remains to the U. S.); newspaper article, "James Smithson's Ashes," author unknown, (details on destruction of cemetery in Genoa and outlines history of SI), 1903; illustrations of Smithson's tomb in Genoa, undated - Photocopies of articles, originals removed to Box 10, Folder 1
- Box 7 of 11 Folder 8 Photos of the arrival of Smithson's remains in America in Harper's Weekly, 1904; newspaper article, "Smithson to Repose in Land He Benefitted," with photo of Alexander Graham Bell, 1904; newspaper photos of Smithson's tomb in Genoa and Alexander Graham Bell, 1904; Washington Times photo of Smithson Mortuary Chapel, 1905 - Photocopies of articles, originals removed to Box 10, Folder 2
- Box 7 of 11 Folder 9 Newspaper photos of SI and bust of Smithson, 1904 - Photocopies of articles, originals removed to Box 10, Folder 3

Box 7 of 11 Folder 10 Newspaper article on sealing Smithson's tomb in America, 1905 -
Photocopies of articles, originals removed to Box 10, Folder 4

Box 7 of 11 Folder 11 Labels used for previous exhibit on James Smithson, 1896; invoice
for labels for former Smithson exhibit, 1919; catalogue of Smithson's library,
undated; "List of contents of case in Regents room containing relics of James
Smithson" (pictures, paintings, documents, etc.), 1899; handwritten list (and
copy) of Smithson relics, 1898

Box 7 of 11 Folder 12 Smithson Crypt Gate Proposal, Albert Paley, c. 1974

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Series 5: PHOTOGRAPHS AND LIKENESSES, 1782-1919.

This series consists of illustrations, photographs, and engravings of James Smithson, Hugh Smithson, and Henry James Hungerford. Images of James Smithson's college, personal library, relics, tomb, and the transfer of his remains to America are also included.

Box 7

- Box 7 of 11 Folder 13 Photograph of Smithson's room at Pembroke College, Oxford, and the Chapel at Pembroke College, 1894
[Digital Content: A view of the Quad at Pembroke College, Oxford University, c. 1894 \[Image no. 2005-15064\]](#)
[Digital Content: Exterior of Great Hall at Pembroke College, Oxford University, c. 1894 \[Image no. 2005-15065\]](#)
[Digital Content: Quad and Porter's Lodge, Pembroke College, Oxford University, c. 1894 \[Image no. 2005-15067\]](#)
[Digital Content: A view of Pembroke College, Oxford University, looking down at the Quad with senior common room at left with Broadgates Hall to its right, 1894 \[Image no. 2005-15062\]](#)
[Digital Content: A view of the quad with Broadgates to the left and the chapel on the right at Pembroke College, Oxford University, 1894 \[Image no. 2005-15066\]](#)
[Digital Content: A long view of the Quad at Pembroke College, Oxford University, 1894 \[Image no. 2005-15063\]](#)
[Digital Content: A view of the interior of the Chapel at Pembroke College, Oxford University., 1894 \[Image no. 2005-15069\]](#)
[Digital Content: James Smithson's room at Pembroke College, Oxford College, 1894 \[Image no. 2005-15061\]](#)
[Digital Content: Unidentified view of the grounds at Pembroke College, Oxford University, 1894 \[Image no. 2005-15068\]](#)
- Box 7 of 11 Folder 14 Illustration of bust of Smithson, undated; water color of Smithson as a college student, 1816

Box 8

- Box 8 of 11 Folder 1 Photograph of Smithson's tomb in Genoa, Italy, undated
- Box 8 of 11 Folder 2 Photograph of Smithson's personal library, 1900; photograph of Smithson's relics on a wall, undated
- Box 8 of 11 Folder 3 Smithson quote, "Everyman's a valuable member of society who by his observations researches and experiments procures knowledge for men," undated; photographs of the Smithson Memorial Tablet, 1896; steel plate engravings of profile bust of Smithson, undated

- Box 8 of 11 Folder 4 Silhouette of Henry James Hungerford, undated; Henry de la Batut's (Henry James Hungerford) visiting card, undated; bust of Henry Louis Dickenson, undated
[Digital Content: Silhouette portrait of Henry James Hungerford, 1830 \[Image no. 2002-12209\]](#)
- Box 8 of 11 Folder 5 Illustration of Hugh Smithson, undated
[Digital Content: Engraving of Hugh Smithson \(1714-1786\) after a pastel by Hugh Douglas Hamilton, c. 1780 \[Image no. 91-6951 or 59717A\]](#)
- Box 8 of 11 Folder 6 Plaster cast of bust of James Smithson, 1919; steel plate on wooden block of James Smithson used for engraving, undated

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Series 6: PUBLICATIONS, 1844-1930.

This series includes original publications on the life and work of James Smithson, and documentation of Joseph Henry's and Spencer F. Baird's efforts to obtain information on Smithson's past.

Box 9

- Box 9 of 11 Folder 1 "James Smithson and His Bequest," by William J. Rhees, 1886; letter from Charles G. Abbot to John Hix concerning a copy of Smithson's biography, 1930; "Notes on the Life and Character of Joseph Henry," by James C. Welling for the Philosophical Society of Washington, 1880; "The Scientific Writings of James Smithson," by William J. Rhees (2 copies), 1879; Reprint of "Shall the Remains of James Smithson Be Brought to America?" by Gilbert H. Grosvenor, 1903; "On the Works and Character of James Smithson," by J. R. McD. Irby, 1878; "A Memoir on the Scientific Character and Researches of James Smithson," by Walter R. Johnson, 1844
- Box 9 of 11 Folder 2 Spencer F. Baird's advertisement in Nature for information on Smithson's past, 1880; Spencer F. Baird's circular to William Wesley with questions pertaining to Smithson's past, undated
- Box 9 of 11 Folder 3 Book on the Percy family history, author and date unknown; photographs in Harper's Weekly of arrival of Smithson's remains in U. S., page 334, 1904

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Series 7: ITEMS REMOVED FROM PREVIOUS SERIES

Box 10

ORIGINAL NEWS CLIPPINGS (REMOVED FROM SERIES 4)

- Box 10 of 11 Folder 1 Original newspaper articles from across U. S. on the destruction of cemetery in Genoa and supporting possible transfer of Smithson's remains to America, 1903; article from newspapers, "Shall the Tomb of James Smithson Be Brought to America?" by Gilbert H. Grosvenor (explains the situation surrounding the need to move Smithson's remains to the U. S.); newspaper article, "James Smithson's Ashes," author unknown, (details on destruction of cemetery in Genoa and outlines history of SI), 1903; illustrations of Smithson's tomb in Genoa, undated - Preservation photocopies of these originals are in Box 7, Folder 7
- Box 10 of 11 Folder 2 Original photos of the arrival of Smithson's remains in America in Harper's Weekly, 1904; newspaper article, "Smithson to Repose in Land He Benefitted," with photo of Alexander Graham Bell, 1904; newspaper photos of Smithson's tomb in Genoa and Alexander Graham Bell, 1904; Washington Times photo of Smithson Mortuary Chapel, 1905 - Preservation photocopies of these originals are in Box 7, Folder 8
- Box 10 of 11 Folder 3 Original newspaper photos of SI and bust of Smithson, 1904 - Preservation photocopies of these originals are in Box 7, Folder 9
- Box 10 of 11 Folder 4 Original newspaper article on sealing Smithson's tomb in America, 1905 - Preservation photocopies of these originals are in Box 7, Folder 10

Box 11

ITEMS REMOVED FROM SERIES 1-3

- Box 11 of 11 Folder 1 Henry James Hungerford's passport for travel in France and Italy, 1829 (Smithson's nephew) [Removed from Box 2, Folder 11]
- Box 11 of 11 Folder 2 Robert Dale Owen's support for SI, 1844 [Removed from Box 4, Folder 3]
- Box 11 of 11 Folder 3 Letter from the Treasury Department, 1840 [Removed from Box 4, Folder 3]
- Box 11 of 11 Folder 4 Photocopy of letters from Aaron Vail to Forsyth over what to do with Smithson's estate [Removed from Box 4, Folder 3]
- Box 11 of 11 Folder 5 Pedigrees of Smithson's family, 1894 and undated [Removed from Box 5, Folder 4]

Oversize

Oversize Folder 1 Topographical map of Genoa, Italy, 1885 [Removed from Box 5, Folder 3]

Oversize Folder 2 Drawing of Smithson's tomb in Genoa, undated [1 Item Removed from Box 6, Folder 2]

Oversize Folder 3 Drawing of proposed Smithson Mortuary Chapel, 1905 [Removed from Box 7, Folder 6]

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