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John Varden Papers, 1829-1863

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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Historical Note.....	1
Descriptive Entry.....	1
Names and Subjects	1
Container Listing	3

Collection Overview

Repository:	Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu
Title:	John Varden Papers
Date:	1829-1863
Identifier:	Record Unit 7063
Creator::	Varden, John
Extent:	0.5 cu. ft. (1 document box)
Language:	English

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 7063, John Varden Papers

Historical Note

John Varden (c. 1790-1865) directed the Washington City Museum from 1829 until 1841. He then affiliated himself with the National Institute in some tenuous fashion. As the collections of the United States Exploring Expedition slipped away from the Institute's control during 1842, Varden also began to work under the direction of Captain Charles Wilkes. To these two jobs, he added an assignment in the National Gallery of the Patent Office. When the collections housed in the Patent Office were transferred to the Smithsonian in 1858, Varden accompanied them, working on museum specimens until his death in 1865.

Descriptive Entry

These papers consist of a few pieces of incoming and outgoing correspondence, a daybook of the Washington City Museum from 1829 to 1841, a journal containing a listing of artifacts collected by the Museum, 1837-1841, a catalog of collections housed in the National Gallery of the Patent Office as of 1852, and Varden's diary, 1857-1863.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Mineralogy
Museum directors

Types of Materials:

Diaries
Journals (accounts)
Manuscripts

Names:

National Institute
United States Exploring Expedition (1838-1842)
United States. Patent Office
Varden, John
Washington City Museum
Wilkes, Charles, 1798-1877

Container Listing

Box 1	
Box 1 of 1	Folder 1 Correspondence
Box 1 of 1	Folder 2 Day Book of Washington City Museum, 1829-1841
Box 1 of 1	Folder 3 Things Belonging to the Patent Office in State Department National Gallery, 1852; and Sundrie Articles Collected for the Washington City Museum, 1837-1841
Box 1 of 1	Folder 4 Varden's Washington Museum
Box 1 of 1	Folder 5 Varden's Diary, 1857-1863