



Smithsonian Institution Archives

William Henry Holmes Papers, 1870-1931

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu
Title:	William Henry Holmes Papers
Identifier:	Record Unit 7084
Date:	1870-1931
Extent:	2.16 cu. ft. (4 document boxes) (1 folder oversize material) (8 microfilm reels)
Creator::	Holmes, William Henry, 1846-1933
Language:	English

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 7084, William Henry Holmes Papers

Historical Note

William Henry Holmes (1846-1933) was an anthropologist, archeologist, artist, and geologist. Born near Cadiz, Ohio, Holmes graduated in 1870 from McNeely Normal School in Hopedale. After teaching for a brief period, Holmes left Ohio for Washington, D.C., where he studied art under Theodore Kauffman. In Washington, Holmes became acquainted with the Smithsonian and soon began sketching natural history specimens for staff members of the National Museum.

In 1872, Holmes was appointed artist-topographer to the United States survey of the territories under Ferdinand V. Hayden, and in 1874 was appointed assistant geologist. Holmes' survey in New Mexico and Arizona eventually led to his career in archeology and his interest in the cliff-dwellings of the southwest.

Holmes joined the United States Geological Survey (USGS) in 1880 and remained with the survey until 1889 when he transferred to the Bureau of American Ethnology (BAE). Between 1882 and 1889, Holmes was also honorary curator of aboriginal ceramics, United States National Museum (USNM).

Holmes left the BAE to serve as head curator of anthropology at the Field Columbian Museum in Chicago, 1894-1897, and subsequently held positions as head curator of the Department of Anthropology, USNM, 1897-1902, and chief of the BAE, 1902-1909. Holmes served as curator of the National Gallery of Art from 1907 to 1920, and as head curator of the Department of Anthropology from 1910 to 1920. When the National Gallery of Art (now known as the National Collection of Fine Arts) became a separate bureau of the Smithsonian, Holmes severed his ties with the USNM and served as director of the National Gallery from 1920 until his retirement in 1932.

Descriptive Entry

These papers include Holmes' personal and professional correspondence, including correspondence between other scientists, which was collected by Holmes in connection with his research. The correspondence mainly documents Holmes' research in American ethnology and archeology but also includes material dealing with international scientific meetings and professional conflicts. Also included are photographs; tracings and sketches; field notes; notes; biographical information; catalogues; published materials; book reviews; a list of Holmes' published works; and memorabilia. A microfilm copy of Holmes' "Random Records of a Lifetime," Volumes 1-16, is also available. Other material pertaining to Holmes may be found in the National Anthropological Archives and the National Collection of Fine Arts Archives. Correspondents in this collection include Cyrus Adler, Alexander Agassiz; American Academy of Arts and Sciences; Hector Alliot; Juan B. Ambrosetti; Allison V. Armour; Louis H. Ayme; William H. Babcock; Spencer F. Baird; Frank C. Baker; Marcus Baker; Charles C. Baldwin; Henry Balfour; Adolph Francis Alphonse Bandelier; Edwin Atlee Barber; Robert Barclay; W. C. Barnard; Adolph Bastian; Ward Batchelor; Albert Smith Bickmore; Hiram Bingham; Eugene Boban; Charles Pershing Bowditch; David Boyle; Adela C. Breton; Daniel Garrison Brinton; Charles E. Brown; P. A. Calhoun; J. McKeen Cattell; Thomas Chrowder Chamberlain; George B. Chittenden; Mrs. Calvin Coolidge (Ref.); Elliot Coues; John Merle Coulter; W. S. Cox; James Edward Cree; C. (?) Cresson; Rudolph Cronau; Steuart Culin; Frank Hamilton Cushing; Charles C. Darwin; Watson Davies; William Morris Davies; John William Dawson; Frederick Samuel Dellenbaugh; A. E. Douglass; William B. Douglass; Alexander Wilson Drake; Sylvia H. Farabee; C. Walter Fewkes; Field Colombian Museum (Ref.); Field Museum of National History (Ref.); Alice Cunningham Fletcher; Robert Fletcher; A. D. Foote; Gerard Fowke; Andrew S. Fuller; Grove Karl Gilbert; George Brown Goode; Adolphus Washington Greeley; Stanberry Hagar; Horatio Emmons Hale; Lorenzo J. Hatch; Frederick Vandever Hayden; Edgar L. Hewett; George G. Heye; F. F. Hilden; Robert T. Hill; Romyne Hitchcock; Frederick Webb Hodge; William Jacob Holland; William Henry Holmes; William Temple Hornaday; Walter Hough; Illinois State Laboratory of Natural History; International Congress of Americanists; William Henry Jackson (Ref.); Morris Ketchum Jesup; Charles Colcock Jones, Jr.; T. A. Joyce; George Kennan; Alfred L. Kroeber; Henry B. Kummel; Samuel P. Langley; Nicolas Leon; Augustus Le Plongeon; Francis Leupp; Frederic B. Loomis; Edward Lovett; Carl Lumholz; Charles Fletcher Lummis; Theobert Maler; Otis Tufton Mason; Alfred P. Maudslayi; H. R. McCalmont; Joseph Deakins McGuire; W. J. Merlin (?); Henry Chapman Mercer; Clinton Hart Merriam; John Campbell Merriam; George P. Merrill; Victor Mindeleff; Clarence Bloomfield Moore; Warren King Moorehead; M. Moreno; Edward Sylvester Morse; Charles Edward Munroe; Nadaillac; N. C. Nelson; Simon Newcomb; R. L. Packard; William N. Page; Pan American Union (Ref.); Francis H. Parsons; Robert Singleton Peabody (Ref.); Edmond N. Pease; Phillip Academy Department of Archeology; W. Hallett Phillips; F. Plancarte; John Wesley Powell; W. H. Pratt; Frederick Ward Putnam; Frederick Leslie Ransome; Richard Rathbun; Charles Rau; William Woodville Rockhill; Kermit Roosevelt (Ref.); Theodore Roosevelt (Ref.); Theodore Roosevelt, Jr. (Ref.); Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt (Ref.); Leo S. Rowe; H. N. Rust; F. W. Sardeson; Marshall Howard Saville; Elias Howard Sellards; George B. Shields; Allen Shoenfield; Stephen Chapman Simms; Frederic James Volney Skiff; Harlan I. Smith; Rene Ravenel Snowden; Javier Vial Solac; Southwest Museum (Los Angeles) (Ref.); Robert Edwards Carter Stearns (Ref.); Matilda Cox Stevenson; James Terry; Cyrus Thomas; Gates P. Thurston; Frederick William True; Ross Turner; Charles Richard Van Hise; Charles D. Walcott; David White; Charles C. Willoughby; John Wilson; Thomas Wilson; John H. Winser; S. G. Worth; T. J. Worthington; George Frederick Wright; Henry Crecy Yarrow; Albert S. Yatsches; Yellowstone National Park (Ref.); George Frederick Zimmer.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Anthropologists
Anthropology
Archaeologists
Archaeology
Art
Artists
Geologists
Geology

Types of Materials:

Diaries
Field notes
Illustrations
Photographs

Names:

Field Columbian Museum
Geological Survey (U.S.)
Geological and Geographical Survey of the Territories (U.S.)
Hayden, F. V. (Ferdinand Vandever), 1829-1887
Holmes, William Henry, 1846-1933
Kauffman, Theodore
National Collection of Fine Arts (U.S.)
National Gallery of Art (U.S.)
National Museum of American Art (U.S.)
Smithsonian Institution. Bureau of American Ethnology
Smithsonian Institution. Bureau of American Ethnology
United States National Museum
United States National Museum. Dept. of Anthropology

Container Listing

Series 1: CORRESPONDENCE. ARRANGED ALPHABETICALLY. 1882-1931.

Box 1

Box 1 of 4	Folder 1 A
Box 1 of 4	Folder 2 Bab - Barb
Box 1 of 4	Folder 3 P. Bryant Baker, 1923 (Accession 03-069)
Box 1 of 4	Folder 4 Robert Barclay, 1884 Digital Content: Inscription from te Maya Site of Palenque, 1884. [Image #SIA2011-2772]
Box 1 of 4	Folder 5 W. C. Barnard, 1905
Box 1 of 4	Folder 6 Ward Batchelor, 1886-1887
Box 1 of 4	Folder 7 A. H. Blackiston, 1905
Box 1 of 4	Folder 8 Eugene Boban, 1887
Box 1 of 4	Folder 9 Bow - Bre
Box 1 of 4	Folder 10 Daniel Garrison Brinton, 1893-1897
Box 1 of 4	Folder 11 Bro - Cox
Box 1 of 4	Folder 12 James Edward Cree, 1905
Box 1 of 4	Folder 13 Cres - Cus
Box 1 of 4	Folder 14 D
Box 1 of 4	Folder 15 F
Box 1 of 4	Folder 16 Goo - Ham
Box 1 of 4	Folder 17 Edgar L. Hewett, 1907-1925
Box 1 of 4	Folder 18 Hil - Hol
Box 1 of 4	Folder 19 J
Box 1 of 4	Folder 20 K
Box 1 of 4	Folder 21 Augustus Le Plongeon, 1882-1904

Box 1 of 4 Folder 22 Loo - Lot
Box 1 of 4 Folder 23 Edward Lovett, 1907-1909
Box 1 of 4 Folder 24 Carl Lumholz, 1894-1897
Box 1 of 4 Folder 25 Charles Fletcher Lummis, 1909-1928
Box 1 of 4 Folder 26 F. H. Luthe, 1890-1891
Box 1 of 4 Folder 27 Theobert Maler, 1904
Box 1 of 4 Folder 28 Mar - Mas
Box 1 of 4 Folder 29 Mau - Min
Box 1 of 4 Folder 30 Charles C. Moore, 1912-1913
Box 1 of 4 Folder 31 Clarence Bloomfield Moore, 1898-1914
Box 1 of 4 Folder 32 Warren King Moorehead, 1906-1919
Box 1 of 4 Folder 33 Mor - Nad
Box 1 of 4 Folder 34 N. C. Nelson, 1917

Box 2

Box 2 of 4 Folder 1 Nes - Phi
Box 2 of 4 Folder 2 F. Plancarte, 1889
Box 2 of 4 Folder 3 Pow - Put
Box 2 of 4 Folder 4 R - San
Box 2 of 4 Folder 5 Marshall Howard Saville, 1896-1917
Box 2 of 4 Folder 6 Sco - Str
Box 2 of 4 Folder 7 T
Box 2 of 4 Folder 8 United States Department of Interior, 1905-1927
Box 2 of 4 Folder 9 Ur - Z
Box 2 of 4 Folder 10 Correspondence Miscellaneous

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Series 2: CORRESPONDENCE. ARRANGED NUMERICALLY BY WILLIAM HENRY HOLMES. 1870-1931.

Box 2

Box 2 of 4	Folder 11 1 - 32
Box 2 of 4	Folder 12 33 - 66

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Series 3: CORRESPONDENCE. ARRANGED BY SUBJECT.

Box 2

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| Box 2 of 4 | Folder 13 Acknowledgments for Published Works Sent by Holmes, 1896-1897, A - J |
| Box 2 of 4 | Folder 14 Acknowledgments for Published Works Sent by Holmes, 1896-1897, L - Y |
| Box 2 of 4 | Folder 15 Ancient Copper Mines, 1882-1902 |
| Box 2 of 4 | Folder 16 Andover Committee, 1913 |
| Box 2 of 4 | Folder 17 Balcony House, 1909 |
| Box 2 of 4 | Folder 18 International Congress of Americanists, 1910-1915 |
| Box 2 of 4 | Folder 19 Second Pan-American Scientific Congress, 1913-1915 |

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Series 4: MEMORABILIA.

Box 2

Box 2 of 4

Folder 20 Menu for a banquet in honor of Holmes' Seventieth Birthday,
December 1, 1916

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Series 5: FIELD NOTES, SKETCHES, AND PHOTOGRAPHS.

Box 3

- Box 3 of 4 Folder 1 Cenotes at Chichen Itza, Mexico, 1895
Digital Content: Cenotes at Chichen Itza, Mexico, 1895. [Item #SIA_007084_B03_F01, also Field Book Registry modsi9020]
- Box 3 of 4 Folders 2-3 Chichen Itza, Mexico, 1895
Digital Content: Chichen Itza, Mexico, 1895. [Item #SIA_007084_B03_F02, also Field Book Registry modsi9021]
Digital Content: Chichen Itza, Mexico, 1895 (2). [Item #SIA_007084_B03_F03, also Field Book Registry modsi9022]
- Box 3 of 4 Folder 4 Cholula, Mexico, 1884
Digital Content: Cholula, Mexico, 1884. [Item #SIA_007084_B03_F04, also Field Book Registry modsi9023]
- Box 3 of 4 Folder 5 Copan, Honduras, 1916
Digital Content: Copan, Honduras, 1916. [Item #SIA_007084_B03_F05, also Field Book Registry modsi9024]
Digital Content: Topographic Sketch of Copan, Honduras, 1916. [Image #SIA2011-0104]
- Box 3 of 4 Folder 6 Cozumel, Mexico, 1895
Digital Content: Cozumel, Mexico, 1895. [Item #SIA_007084_B03_F06, also Field Book Registry modsi9025]
- Box 3 of 4 Folder 7 Guatemala City, Guatemala, 1895
Digital Content: Guatemala City, Guatemala, 1895. [Item #SIA_007084_B03_F07, also Field Book Registry modsi9026]
- Box 3 of 4 Folder 8 Izamal, Mexico, 1895
Digital Content: Izamal, Mexico, 1895. [Item #SIA_007084_B03_F08, also Field Book Registry modsi9027]
- Box 3 of 4 Folder 9 Mitla, Mexico, 1895
Digital Content: Mitla, Mexico, 1895. [Item #SIA_007084_B03_F09, also Field Book Registry modsi9028]
- Box 3 of 4 Folder 10 Monte Alban (Oaxaca), Mexico, 1895
Digital Content: Monte Alban (Oaxaca), Mexico, 1895. [Item #SIA_007084_B03_F10, also Field Book Registry modsi9029]
- Box 3 of 4 Folder 11 Monte Alban (Oaxaca), Mexico, 1908
Digital Content: Monte Alban (Oaxaca), Mexico, 1908. [Item #SIA_007084_B03_F11, also Field Book Registry modsi9030]
Digital Content: Children with Carved Tablet in Mexico, June 1907. [Image #96-555]
- Box 3 of 4 Folder 12 Palenque, Mexico, 1895

	Digital Content: Palenque, Mexico, 1895. [Item #SIA_007084_B03_F12, also Field Book Registry modsi9032]
Box 3 of 4	Folder 13 Quirigua, Guatemala, 1895 Digital Content: Quirigua, Guatemala, 1895. [Item #SIA_007084_B03_F13, also Field Book Registry modsi9031]
Box 3 of 4	Folder 14 South America: Itinerary and Expense Record, 1908-1909 Digital Content: South America, itinerary, and expense record, 1908-1909. [Item #SIA_007084_B03_F14, also Field Book Registry modsi9033]
Box 3 of 4	Folder 15 Teotihuacan, Mexico, 1884 Digital Content: Teotihuacan, Mexico, 1884. [Item #SIA_007084_B03_F15, also Field Book Registry modsi9034]
Box 3 of 4	Folder 16 Tiahuanaco, Bolivia, 1909 Digital Content: Tiahuanaco, Bolivia, 1909. [Item #SIA_007084_B03_F16, also Field Book Registry modsi9035]
Box 3 of 4	Folder 17 Trenton Glacial Gravel, New Jersey, 1892 Digital Content: Trenton Gravels, New Jersey, 1892. [Item #SIA_007084_B03_F17, also Field Book Registry modsi9036]
Box 3 of 4	Folder 18 Tuloom, Mexico, 1895 [removed to oversize] Digital Content: Tuloom, Mexico, 1895. [Item #SIA_007084_B03_F18, also Field Book Registry modsi9037]
Box 3 of 4	Folder 19 Xochimalco, Mexico, 1895 Digital Content: Xochimalco, Mexico, 1895. [Item #SIA_007084_B03_F19, also Field Book Registry modsi9038]
Box 3 of 4	Folder 20 Yucatan, Mexico: Notebook and Diary, 1895 Digital Content: Yucatan, Mexico, notebook and diary, 1895. [Item #SIA_007084_B03_F20, also Field Book Registry modsi9039]
Box 3 of 4	Folder 21 Miscellaneous
	Oversize
Oversize	Tuloom, Mexico, 1895

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Series 6: HANDWRITTEN AND PRINTED DRAFTS.

Box 4

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| Box 4 of 4 | Folder 1 Lecture: Development of Aboriginal Architecture in Mexico, 1895 |
| Box 4 of 4 | Folders 2-3 Notes on Ancient Mexican Architecture |
| Box 4 of 4 | Folder 4 Notes, miscellaneous |

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Series 7: BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION.

Box 4

Box 4 of 4	Folder 5 Juan B. Anbrosetti
Box 4 of 4	Folder 6 Adolph Francis Alphonse Bandelier
Box 4 of 4	Folder 7 Edwin Atlee Barber
Box 4 of 4	Folder 8 Charles Pickering Bowditch
Box 4 of 4	Folder 9 Daniel Garrison Brinton
Box 4 of 4	Folder 10 Frank Hamilton Cushing
Box 4 of 4	Folder 11 Alice Cunningham Fletcher
Box 4 of 4	Folder 12 Grove Karl Gilbert
Box 4 of 4	Folder 13 Charles Colcock Jones, Jr.
Box 4 of 4	Folder 14 Richard Rathbun
Box 4 of 4	Folder 15 Matilda Coxe Stevenson

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Series 8: PRINTED MATERIALS.

Box 4

- Box 4 of 4 Folder 16 A Method Which May Have Been Used by the Mayas in Calculating Time, by Charles P. Bowditch, 1901.
- Box 4 of 4 Folder 17 A Recent Discovery of Ancient Human Remains in Los Angeles, California, by Chester Stock, 1924.
- Box 4 of 4 Folder 18 A Suggestive Maya Inscription, by Charles P. Bowditch, 1903.
- Box 4 of 4 Folder 19 American and Latin American, by William R. Shepard, 1915.
- Box 4 of 4 Folder 20 Analytical Catalogue of Works and Scientific Articles, by Daniel G. Brinton, 1891.
- Box 4 of 4 Folder 21 Bolivar and the United States, by William R. Shepard, 1918.
- Box 4 of 4 Folder 22 Book Reviews.
- Box 4 of 4 Folder 23 Catalogues - Eugene Boban Collection, 1886-1887
- Box 4 of 4 Folder 24 List of Papers Published by William H. Holmes, 1874-1896.
- Box 4 of 4 Folder 25 Memoranda on the Maya Calendars Used in the Books of Chilam Balam, by Charles P. Bowditch, 1901.
- Box 4 of 4 Folder 26 Nagualism, by Daniel G. Brinton, 1894.
- Box 4 of 4 Folder 27 Our South American Trade, by William R. Shepard, 1909.
- Box 4 of 4 Folder 28 Quarter Notes of the Brooklyn Music School Settlement, December 1922.
- Box 4 of 4 Folder 29 Report Upon the Collection Exhibited at the Columbian Historical Exposition, by Daniel G. Brinton, 1895.
- Box 4 of 4 Folder 30 The Stone Idols of New Mexico, 1896.
- Box 4 of 4 Folder 31 Was the Beginning Day of the Mayan Month Numbered Zero (or Twenty) or One?, by Charles P. Bowditch, 1901.

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