



Smithsonian Institution Archives

Franco Rasetti Papers, 1944-1965 and undated

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu
Title:	Franco Rasetti Papers
Identifier:	Record Unit 7240
Date:	1944-1965 and undated
Extent:	0.75 cu. ft. (1 document box) (1 half document box)
Creator::	Rasetti, Franco, 1901-2001
Language:	English

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 7240, Franco Rasetti Papers

Historical Note

Franco Dino Rasetti (1901-2001) was born in Castiglione del Lago, Italy. He received his doctorate in physics from the University of Pisa, 1923, and honorary degrees from Laval University, Ph.D., 1948, and the University of Glasgow, LL.D., 1957. He came to the United States in 1947 and became a naturalized citizen in 1952. In the early 1970s he returned to Italy.

Rasetti was an Assistant Professor of Physics at the University of Florence, 1923-1926, and the University of Rome, 1927-1930. He then became Professor of Physics at Rome, 1931-1938; Laval University, 1939-1947; and Johns Hopkins University, 1947-1970.

In addition to his academic appointments, Rasetti was a Rockefeller Foundation Fellow at the California Institute of Technology, 1928-1929; a fellow at Berlin's Kaiser Wilhelm Institute, 1931-1932; a Research Associate at Columbia University, 1936; a Visiting Professor at the University of Miami, 1958-1959; a Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellow, 1959; and a Consultant for the National Committee on Nuclear Research at Rome, 1959.

Although Rasetti was a nuclear physicist, his avocation was paleobiology with an emphasis on Cambrian Rockies. From 1964 to 1967, Rasetti was an Honorary Research Associate in Invertebrate Paleontology at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History. He was a Fellow of the Geological Society of America and the Paleontological Society and received the National Academy of Science's Walcott Medal in 1952.

Descriptive Entry

These papers consist of field notebooks and notes; a draft of a publication; and photographs of geologic formations.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Geology
- Paleontologists
- Paleontology

Types of Materials:

- Black-and-white photographs
- Field notes
- Manuscripts

Names:

- California Institute of Technology
- Columbia University
- Geological Society of America
- John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation
- Johns Hopkins University
- Kaiser Wilhelm Institute
- Laval University (Quebec, Canada)
- National Academy of Sciences (U.S.)
- National Committee on Nuclear Research at Rome
- National Museum of Natural History (U.S.). Department of Paleobiology
- Paleontological Society
- Rasetti, Franco, 1901-2001
- Rockefeller Foundation
- University of Florence
- University of Glasgow
- University of Miami
- University of Pisa
- University of Rome

Container Listing

Series 1: Notebooks and Notes, 1947-1965 and undated. Arranged Chronologically.

This series consists of notes and field notebooks concerning species descriptions and fossil localities in the Canadian and American Rockies and the central and southern Appalachians. Also included is a notebook containing Russian-English vocabulary words.

Box 1

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|------------|--|
| Box 1 of 2 | Folder 1 Field Notes, Canadian Rockies, 1947-1948. Includes an itinerary, 1947, for a trip to British Columbia. |
| Box 1 of 2 | Folder 2 Field Notes, Canadian Rockies, 1948 |
| Box 1 of 2 | Folder 3 Notes on United States National Museum Specimens, 1950-1951 |
| Box 1 of 2 | Folder 4 Field Notes on Fossil Localities, 1950-1959. Includes notes on fossils in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Virginia; field photographs; and maps. |
| Box 1 of 2 | Folder 5 Notes on the Section Above Ball Pass, Alberta, on Ridge of Isabelle Mountain, 1955 |
| Box 1 of 2 | Folder 6 Field Notes, American and Canadian Rockies, 1955 |
| Box 1 of 2 | Folder 7 Field Notes on Fossil Localities, 1957-1958. Includes locality information on fossils of Maryland, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Virginia. |
| Box 1 of 2 | Folder 8 Notes on Upper Cambrian Fossils in Tennessee and Virginia, 1957-1958, 1960-1962. Includes photographs; list of Cambrian and some Ordovician locality collections made by Rasetti, 1940-1960; and Rasetti's bibliography of geological and paleontological publications. |
| Box 1 of 2 | Folder 9 Field Notes on Fossil Localities and Species Descriptions, 1960-1961. Includes data on fossils from Tennessee and Virginia.
Digital Content: Field Notes on Fossil Localities and Species Descriptions, 1960-1961 |
| Box 1 of 2 | Folder 10 Field Notes on Fossil Localities, 1960-1962. Notes on fossils from Tennessee and Virginia. |

[Digital Content: Field Notes on Fossil Localities, 1960-1962](#)

Box 1 of 2 Folder 11 Field Notes on Species Descriptions, 1964-1965. Notes on species from Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Virginia.

Box 1 of 2 Folder 12 Field Notes, Canadian Rockies, undated. Includes notes on Cambrian localities and photographs of geologic formations.

[Digital Content: Field Notes, Canadian Rockies, undated](#)

[Digital Content: Field Notes, Canadian Rockies, undated](#)

Box 1 of 2 Folders 13-14 Field Notes, Canadian Rockies, undated

[Digital Content: Field Notes, Canadian Rockies, undated](#)

[Digital Content: Field Notes, Canadian Rockies, 1947-1948](#)

Box 2

Box 2 of 2 Folder 1 Field Notes, Canadian Rockies, undated

[Digital Content: Field Notes, Canadian Rockies, undated](#)

Box 2 of 2 Folder 2 Field Notes on Fossil Localities, undated. Includes notes on fossils from Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Quebec, Tennessee, Vermont, and Virginia.

Box 2 of 2 Folder 3 Russian Language Notebook, undated

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Series 2: Draft of Publication, 1961.

Box 2

Box 2 of 2

Folder 4 Typescript of "Dresbachian and Franconian Trilobites of the Conococheague and Frederick Limestones of the Central Appalachians," 1961. Includes annotations.

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Series 3: Photographs, 1944 and undated. Arranged Chronologically.

This series consists of photographs of geological formations in Quebec, the Canadian Rockies, New York, and Tennessee.

Box 2

- Box 2 of 2 Folder 5 Photographs, Geologic Formations, Quebec, 1944
[Image\(s\): Photographs, Geologic Formations, Quebec, 1944 \[Image nos. SIA2015-004175 to SIA2015-004188\]](#)
- Box 2 of 2 Folder 6 Photographs, Mt. Stephen and Mt. Whyte, Canadian Rockies, undated
[Digital Content: Photographs, Mt. Stephen and Mt. Whyte, Canadian Rockies, undated](#)
- Box 2 of 2 Folder 7 Photographs, Geologic Formations, Canadian Rockies, undated
[Image\(s\): Photographs, Geologic Formations, Canadian Rockies, undated \[Image nos. SIA2015-004189 to SIA2015-004236\]](#)
- Box 2 of 2 Folder 8 Photographs, Geologic Formations, Columbia County, New York, undated
[Digital Content: Photographs, Geologic Formations, Columbia County, New York, undated \[Image nos. SIA2015-004237 to SIA2015-004243\]](#)
- Box 2 of 2 Folder 9 Photographs, Geologic Formations, Tennessee, undated
[Digital Content: Photographs, Geologic Formations, Tennessee, undated](#)

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