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Harry Stephen Ladd Papers,
circa 1915-1982 and undated

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu
Title:	Harry Stephen Ladd Papers
Identifier:	Record Unit 7396
Date:	circa 1915-1982 and undated
Extent:	2.58 cu. ft. (2 record storage boxes) (1 tall document box)
Creator::	Ladd, Harry Stephen, 1899-
Language:	English

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 7396, Harry Stephen Ladd Papers

Historical Note

Harry Stephen Ladd (1899-1982) received his Ph.D. in geology from the University of Iowa in 1925. The initial part of his professional career was spent in faculty positions at his alma mater and the University of Virginia, as a geologist with the Gulf Oil Company in Venezuela, and studying fossils under Edward Oscar Ulrich at the United States National Museum. Ladd began his career with the United States Department of Interior in 1936 when he was appointed Geologist with the National Park Service. In 1940, he joined the United States Geological Survey (USGS) as a Geologist. He remained with the USGS until his retirement in 1969. Ladd was a Research Associate in the Department of Paleobiology, National Museum of Natural History from 1969 until his death.

Ladd was an authority on the geology of the islands of the Pacific Ocean. He conducted extensive field work in the Pacific Basin and supervised deep sea drilling on Eniwetok, Midway and other atolls. He was also a major contributor to Project Mohole, a plan for drilling deep into the earth's inner crust on the Pacific Ocean floor near Hawaii. During 1946-1947, Ladd was in charge of geological work on Crossroads Operation which conducted the scientific survey and resurvey of Bikini Atoll, the site of atomic bomb tests. Ladd was active professionally and was a vice president of the Geological Society of America, 1955, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1965, and President of the Paleontological Society, 1954.

Descriptive Entry

These papers document Ladd's career with the USGS and his research on the geology of Pacific Islands. They include incoming and outgoing correspondence documenting field work, USGS matters, research and the publication of papers, and professional activities; diaries and field notes, mostly documenting his

investigations in the Pacific; scrapbooks documenting personal and professional affairs, but which are particularly strong in documenting his role in the Crossroads Operation and Project Mohole; photographs, slides, and motion pictures, mostly from his field work in the Pacific; an oral history interview of Ladd conducted in 1977; and various manuscripts, notes, and lists from his research.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Geologists
Geology
Operation Crossroads, 1946
Paleontologists
Paleontology

Types of Materials:

Black-and-white photographs
Diaries
Field notes
Scrapbooks

Names:

American Association for the Advancement of Science
Geological Society of America
Geological Survey (U.S.)
Gulf Oil Company-U.S.
Ladd, Harry Stephen, 1899-
National Museum of Natural History (U.S.). Department of Paleobiology
Paleontological Society
Project Mohole
Ulrich, E. O. (Edward Oscar), 1857-1944
United States. Department of the Interior
United States. National Park Service
University of Iowa
University of Virginia

Container Listing

Box 1

- Box 1 of 3 Personal (2 folders)
- Box 1 of 3 Correspondence, c. 1925-1982 (2 folders)
- Box 1 of 3 Correspondence, 1924-1966
- Box 1 of 3 Personal
- Box 1 of 3 Correspondence, 1925-1973
- Box 1 of 3 Early Geological History of Eua, Tonga by H. S. Ladd and Frank I. Coulson
- Box 1 of 3 Correspondence, 1946-1982
- Box 1 of 3 Correspondence, 1958-1972
- Box 1 of 3 Eua, Tonga Correspondence on Minor Contributions
[Digital Content: Correspondence between Harry S. Ladd and Yoshio Kondo regarding fossiliferous rock collected by Kondo on Eua \['Eua'\], Tongo, in 1967.](#)
- Box 1 of 3 Correspondence and Photographs, 1968-1982
- Box 1 of 3 Correspondence, c. 1978-1980, includes photographs (2 folders)
- Box 1 of 3 Correspondence, c. 1979-1980
- Box 1 of 3 Correspondence, 1980
- Box 1 of 3 Chronological Correspondence, 1973-1974
- Box 1 of 3 Chronological Correspondence, 1975-1976
- Box 1 of 3 Chronological Correspondence, 1977-1979

Box 2

- Box 2 of 3 Oral History Interview with H. S. Ladd conducted by Clifford M. Nelson, 1977 (transcript)
- Box 2 of 3 Scrapbook, 1918-1969
- Box 2 of 3 Scrapbook, 1957-1969
- Box 2 of 3 Photographs, 1947-1961

Box 3

- Box 3 of 3 Diaries and Field Notes, 1915-1973 (3 folders)
[Digital Content: Notebook - South Pacific trip, 1925-1926, expenses and equipment](#)
[Digital Content: Notebook - Suva, Fiji, 1964](#)
[Digital Content: Field Notes from Fiji from June 28 to July 18, 1934 \(Volume 1 of 2\)](#)
[Digital Content: Field Notes from Fiji from June 28 to July 18, 1934 \(Volume 2 of 2\)](#)
[Digital Content: Loose sheets - Field work in the islands of Palau, March 15-April 2, 1958](#)
- Box 3 of 3 Photographic Slides, 1971
- Box 3 of 3 Midway
- Box 3 of 3 Book Reviews
- Box 3 of 3 Field Notes and Miscellaneous Papers
[Digital Content](#)
- Box 3 of 3 Treatise Reviews
- Box 3 of 3 Maps and Localities
- Box 3 of 3 Mohole Clippings
- Box 3 of 3 Joshua I. Tracey
- Box 3 of 3 Prince of Tonga, 16mm film