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], Tonga, 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

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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