



Smithsonian Institution Archives

Robert P. Multhauf Papers, circa 1957-1987

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu
Title:	Robert P. Multhauf Papers
Identifier:	Record Unit 7467
Date:	circa 1957-1987
Extent:	7 cu. ft. (7 record storage boxes)
Creator::	Multhauf, Robert P.
Language:	English

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 7467, Robert P. Multhauf Papers

Historical Note

Robert P. Multhauf (1919-2004), historian of science, was born in Sioux City, South Dakota. He graduated from Iowa State University, B.S., 1941, and received his M.A., 1950, and Ph.D., 1953, from the University of California at Berkeley. Multhauf was employed by the Smithsonian Institution as Associate Curator for the Division of Engineering, United States National Museum (USNM), in 1954. The following year he became Curator of the Division and in 1957 was appointed Head Curator of the Department of Engineering and Industries at USNM. When USNM was reorganized and the Museum of History and Technology (MHT) was established in 1957, Multhauf became Head Curator for the Department of Science and Technology under MHT. He also served as Acting Curator of the Division of Physical Sciences within the Department.

In 1966, Multhauf was appointed Director of MHT and served in this capacity until 1969, the year MHT was renamed the National Museum of History and Technology (NMHT). Afterwards he became Senior Scientific Scholar of the Department of Science and Technology, 1970-1977, and for the Department of the History of Science, 1978-1979, at NMHT. Multhauf joined the staff of the Office of Senior Historians in 1980, when NMHT was renamed the National Museum of American History, and retired from the Smithsonian Institution in 1987.

Descriptive Entry

These papers consist largely of correspondence documenting Multhauf's participation in various national and international organizations, most notably the American Council of Learned Societies, History of Science Society, International Union of the History and Philosophy of Science, National Air and Space Administration Historical Committee, Society for the History of Technology, and American Federation of

Information Processing Societies. In addition there are manuscripts of published and unpublished articles; copies of major publications including *The Origins of Chemistry* and *A History of Common Salt*; research notes; photographs of Multhauf at symposiums; and records pertaining to *Isis*, for which Multhauf was Editor.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Chemistry
Science -- History

Types of Materials:

Black-and-white photographs
Manuscripts

Names:

American Council of Learned Societies
American Federation of Information Processing Societies
History of Science Society
International Union of the History and Philosophy of Science
Iowa State University
Multhauf, Robert P.
National Air and Space Administration Historical Committee
National Museum of History and Technology (U.S.). Department of Science and Technology
National Museum of History and Technology (U.S.). Department of the History of Science
National Museum of History and Technology (U.S.). Division of Physical Sciences
National Museum of History and Technology (U.S.). Office of the Director
Society for the History of Technology
United States National Museum. Dept. of Engineering and Industries
United States National Museum. Division of Engineering
University of California, Berkeley

Preferred Titles:

Isis (Serial)

Container Listing

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Box 1 of 7 Berkeley Campus, 1985
Box 1 of 7 Charles Babbage Foundation, University of Minnesota, May 1986
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Box 2 of 7 Book Reviews, 1981-1982
Box 2 of 7 Meeting Agendas, 1985-1986
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Box 2 of 7 Chemistry, Center for History of, 1982-1983, 1985
Box 2 of 7 Copernicus Symposium, 1973: Invited Speakers
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Box 3 of 7 Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), Newsletter, 1982

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Box 5 of 7 Smithsonian Institution, Budget, 1971-1979

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Box 5 of 7	Smithsonian Institution, Curators Association
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Box 5 of 7	Smithsonian Institution, Wilton Dillon: Symposia and Seminars Advisory Committee
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Box 5 of 7 Smithsonian Historical Seminar: "Wood in American Culture"

Box 5 of 7 Stockholm Meeting, Traveler's File, August 1977

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Box 6 of 7 UIHPS, Edinburgh Congress, 1977

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Box 6 of 7	Watson, Neale
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Box 6 of 7	Wilson, Leonard
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Box 6 of 7	"Some Observations on the State of the History of Technology"
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Box 6 of 7	"Copernicus and Bacon as Renovators of Science"
Box 6 of 7	"The Discovery of Borax"
Box 6 of 7	"Geology, Chemistry and the Production of Salt"
Box 6 of 7	"History of Chemistry"
Box 6 of 7	"The Science of Matter," Chapter 11 in David C. Lindberg and Michael S. Mahoney, eds., <i>The Scientific World of the Middle Ages</i>
Box 6 of 7	"Saltpeter: Its Constitution, According to Becher and Stahl"
Box 6 of 7	"The French Crash-Program for Saltpeter Production, 1776-1794"
Box 6 of 7	"Sal Ammoniac: A Case History in Industrialization"
Box 6 of 7	"Essays on Alchemy," Essay Review, <i>Isis</i>
Box 6 of 7	"Immigrants and Minerals: Four Episodes"
Box 6 of 7	"America's Wooden Age"
Box 6 of 7	"What the Chemists Found in Pandora's Box"
Box 6 of 7	"A History of Magnesia Alba"
Box 6 of 7	"Science and Technology"
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- Box 6 of 7 "The Prehistory of Boron"
- Box 6 of 7 "Technology and Society: The Factor of Scale, As Illustrated by the Alkali Industry"
- Box 6 of 7 "The History of Science, 1924-1974: As Reported in *Isis*"
- Box 6 of 7 "Jacob Mathias Schleiden"
- Box 6 of 7 "How the United States Became a Technological Culture...and How it is Reflected in Museums"
- Box 6 of 7 "Docufacts: Or What is the Use of Museum Specimens? 0517f," Berkeley, August 1985
- Box 6 of 7 "A Foggyish Look at Technology: Technology and the Museum, 0517f," November 1985
- Box 6 of 7 "Some Observations on the History of Chemistry, 0541f," Chicago, 1985
- Box 7
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- Box 7 of 7 "The State of the World in 400, 1300, and 1700"
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- Box 7 of 7 "The Ancient Origin of the New Physics"
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- Box 7 of 7 "Apianus"
- Box 7 of 7 "Popular and Recondite Science in Tudor and Stuart England"
- Box 7 of 7 "Daniel Sennert, 1572-1637"
- Box 7 of 7 "Salt and Environmental Pollution: An Historical View," (Research Notes) New York Academy of Sciences, May 24, 1984
- Box 7 of 7 "Lana Terza" (Including black and white photographs)
- Box 7 of 7 "Science in American History," Read at George Washington University, 1964
- Box 7 of 7 "Earth Boring: Diffusion of Independent Discovery?"
- Box 7 of 7 "Balances" and "...Oxygen and Hydrogen, and the Ratio of their Atomic Weights," Smithsonian Institution, 1895

- Box 7 of 7 "Some Observations on the Historiography of the Industrial Revolution;" "Literary Background of the Industrial Revolution;" "Technology and Classification;" and "Francis Bacon and the Rise of British Technology"
- Box 7 of 7 "The Origins of Chemistry," Manuscript by Robert P. Multhauf (2 folders)
- Box 7 of 7 "The History of Common Salt," Manuscript by Robert P. Multhauf (3 folders)