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Collection Overview

Repository: Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu
Title: Nathan Reingold Oral History Interviews
Identifier: Record Unit 9503
Date: 1973, 1995-1996
Extent: 5 audiotapes (Reference copies). 9 digital .mp3 files (Reference copies).
Creator:: Reingold, Nathan, 1927- , interviewee
Language: English

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 9503, Nathan Reingold Oral History Interviews

Historical Note


Introduction

The Smithsonian Institution Archives began its Oral History Program in 1973. The purpose of the program is to supplement the written documentation of the Archives' record and manuscript collections with an Oral History Collection, focusing on the history of the Institution, research by its scholars, and contributions of its staff. Program staff conduct interviews with current and retired Smithsonian staff and others who have made significant contributions to the Institution. There are also interviews conducted by researchers or students on topics related to the history of the Smithsonian or the holdings of the Smithsonian Institution Archives.
Dr. Reingold was interviewed for the Oral History Program for his knowledge of the history of the Institution and because he made significant scholarly and administrative contributions to the Smithsonian during 27 years of service.

Descriptive Entry

Reingold was interviewed on December 19, 1973, by Miriam S. Freilicher and William A. Deiss to obtain background information on the history of the Smithsonian and to discuss potential issues and interviewees for the Smithsonian Institution Archives Oral History Program. On October 5, 1995, Pamela M. Henson recorded Reingold’s autobiographical lecture, "Life Begins at Forty: On Becoming a Historian," presented at the Smithsonian Institution Archives Research in Progress Lecture Series. On May 28 and 31, 1996, Henson conducted two additional interviews with Reingold that cover his family history and career as a historian of American science and documentary editor, and because of his significant scholarly contributions to the Smithsonian during 27 years of service. The interviews provide an overview of the lives and careers of Nathan and his first wife Ida from a survey of their memorabilia, awards, medals, personal records, manuscripts and photographs, now part of Reingold's personal papers at the Smithsonian Institution Archives. Reingold discusses his work at the National Archives, the Library of Congress, and the Smithsonian, reminiscences of colleagues, particularly S. Dillon Ripley and Frederick Seitz, the early development of the Joseph Henry Papers Project and the role of research at the Smithsonian.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:
Interviews
Oral history
Science -- History
Technology -- History

Types of Materials:
Audiotapes
Compact discs
Electronic records
Transcripts

Names:
Deiss, William A., interviewer
Freilicher, Miriam S., interviewer
Henson, Pamela M., interviewer
Joseph Henry Papers Project
Library of Congress
National Archives (U.S.)
National Museum of American History (U.S.)
Reingold, Nathan, 1927-
Ripley, S. Dillon (Sidney Dillon), 1913-2001
Seitz, Frederick
Smithsonian Institution
Container Listing

Interviews

Interview 1: December 19, 1973
Transcript, pp. 1-34, of audio recording, 1 hour.
Recording of Interview: Total Recording Time: 1 hour
Note:
- Original Masters: 1 5" reel-to-reel analog audiotape
- Preservation Masters: 2 7" reel-to-reel analog audiotapes; 2 digital .wav files
- Reference Copies: 1 cassette audiotape; 2 digital .mp3 files.

Interview 2: October 5, 1995
Transcript, pp. 35-70, of audio recording, 1 hour.
Recording of Interview: Total Recording Time: 1 hour
Note:
- Original Masters: 2 7" reel-to-reel analog audiotapes
- Preservation Masters: 2 digital .wav files
- Reference Copies: 1 cassette audiotape; 2 digital .mp3 files.

Interview 3: May 28, 1996
Includes Dr. Reingold's reminiscences about growing up in Brooklyn, New York, attending DeWitt Clinton High School, his college and post-graduate education, and his first wife, Ida H. Reingold, c. 1927-1988.
Transcript, pp. 71-166, of audio recording, 1.5 hours.
Recording of Interview: Total Recording Time: 1.5 hours
Note:

- Original Masters: 3 7" reel-to-reel analog audiotapes
- Preservation Masters: 3 digital .wav files
- Reference Copies: 2 cassette audiotapes; 3 digital .mp3 files.

Interviews

Interview 4: May 31, 1996

Continues Dr. Reingold's reminiscences about his life, focusing on stories from photographs in the Nathan Reingold Papers in Smithsonian Institution Archives, reminiscences of colleagues, particularly S. Dillon Ripley and Frederick Seitz, the early development of the Joseph Henry Papers Project and the role of research at the Smithsonian, c. 1927-1996.

Transcript, pp. 167-192, of audio recording, 1 hour.

Recording of Interview: Total Recording Time: 1 hour

Note:

- Original Masters: 2 7" reel-to-reel analog audiotapes
- Preservation Masters: 2 digital .wav files
- Reference Copies: 1 cassette audiotape; 2 digital .mp3 files.