



Smithsonian Institution Archives

Herbert Friedmann Oral History Interview, 1975

Finding aid prepared by Smithsonian Institution Archives

Smithsonian Institution Archives
Washington, D.C.
Contact us at osiaref@si.edu

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Historical Note.....	1
Introduction.....	1
Descriptive Entry.....	2
Names and Subjects	2
Container Listing	3

Collection Overview

Repository:	Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu
Title:	Herbert Friedmann Oral History Interview
Identifier:	Record Unit 9506
Date:	1975
Extent:	3 audiotapes (Reference copies). 5 digital .mp3 files (Reference copies).
Creator::	Friedmann, Herbert, 1900-1987, interviewee
Language:	English

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 9506, Herbert Friedmann Oral History Interview

Historical Note

Herbert Friedmann (1900-1987), ornithologist, received his Ph.D. from Cornell University in 1923. He taught biology and ornithology at Brown University and Amherst College for several years. In 1929 he was appointed Curator of the Division of Birds in the United States National Museum, a position held until 1957 when he was appointed Head Curator of the Department of Zoology. Friedmann left the Institution in 1961 to become Director of the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History until his retirement in 1970. Friedmann's research focused on the birds of Africa and South America, parasitic birds, and the symbolic use of birds in art.

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.

Friedmann was interviewed for the Oral History Program because he made significant scholarly and administrative contributions of the Smithsonian during 28 years of service at the National Museum of Natural History.

Descriptive Entry

Friedmann was interviewed by Pamela M. Henson on April 22, 1975. The interview includes his reminiscences of his education, research interests, career and colleagues in the Division of Birds, administration of the United States National Museum, and work in the exhibits modernization program.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Birds
- Interviews
- Museum curators -- United States -- Interviews
- Oral history
- Ornithology
- Symbolism in art

Types of Materials:

- Audiotapes
- Compact discs
- Electronic records
- Transcripts

Names:

- Friedmann, Herbert, 1900-1987
- Henson, Pamela M., interviewer
- National Museum of Natural History (U.S.). Department of Biology
- National Museum of Natural History (U.S.). Department of Zoology
- National Museum of Natural History (U.S.). Division of Birds
- United States National Museum. Exhibits Modernization Program

Container Listing

Interview

Interview

Interview 1: April 22, 1975

Interview

Interview includes Friedmann's reminiscences of his career in ornithology as United States National Museum Curator of Birds and Head Curator of Zoology, research interests, work in the exhibits modernization program, and role as Director of the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History, c. 1920-1975.

Interview

Transcript, pp. 1-81, of audio recording, 2.5 hours.

Interview

Recording of Interview: Total Recording Time: 2.5 hours

Note:

- Original Masters: 3 5" reel-to-reel analog audiotapes
- Preservation Masters: 5 7" reel-to-reel analog audiotapes; 5 digital .wav files
- Reference Copies: 3 cassette audiotapes; 5 digital .mp3 files.