



Smithsonian Institution Archives

Oral history interview with
Meredith Leam Jones, 1990

Finding aid prepared by Smithsonian Institution Archives

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu
Title:	Oral history interview with Meredith Leam Jones
Identifier:	Record Unit 9573
Date:	1990
Extent:	6 audiotapes (Reference copies).
Creator::	Jones, Meredith L. interviewee
Language:	English

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 9573, Jones, Meredith L. interviewee, Oral history interview with Meredith Leam Jones

Use Restriction

Restricted.

Historical Note

Meredith Leam Jones (1926-1996), invertebrate zoologist, received the B.A. in 1948, M.S. in 1952, and Ph.D. in 1956 from the University of California at Berkeley. From 1957 to 1960, he was an Assistant Professor at Florida State University. From 1960 to 1964, he was Assistant Curator in the Department of Living Invertebrates at the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) in New York City. In 1964, he accepted a position as Associate Curator in the Department of Invertebrate Zoology of the National Museum of Natural History (NMNH). In 1970, he advanced to Curator in the Division of Worms, Department of Invertebrate Zoology, a position he held until his retirement in 1989. Jones' research focused on systematics of polychaete worms, especially those found at the hydrothermal vents in the eastern Pacific.

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.

Jones was interviewed for the Oral History Collection because of his long association with the NMNH and outstanding research career in invertebrate zoology.

Descriptive Entry

Jones was interviewed by Pamela M. Henson on 23 October 1990 at his home in Washington State. This interview discusses his education, his years at Florida State University and AMNH, his career at the NMNH, research on polychaete worms, especially the eastern Pacific hydrothermal rift fauna of giant tube worms, field work, and reminiscences of colleagues. The collection consists of 5.5 hours of audiotape recording, 186 pages of transcript, and occupied 0.5 linear meters.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Hydrothermal vents
Invertebrate zoology
Museum curators -- United States -- Interviews
Oceanography

Types of Materials:

Audiotapes
Interviews
Oral history

Names:

American Museum of Natural History
Florida State University
Henson, Pamela M. interviewer
Hyman, Libby Henrietta
Jones, Meredith L.
National Museum of Natural History (U.S.). Department of Invertebrate Zoology
National Museum of Natural History (U.S.). Department of Zoology
National Museum of Natural History (U.S.). Division of Worms
Smith, Ralph
Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute
Squires, Donald Fleming

Container Listing

Box 1

Transcripts of Interview

Box 1 of 1

Interview 1: 23 October 1990

Note:

- Covers Jones' youth and education, career at Florida State University and the American Museum of Natural History, career at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History, Department of Invertebrate Zoology, Division of Worms, his research on polychaete worms, especially research on the recently discovered eastern Pacific hydrothermal rift fauna of giant tube worms, extensive field work in the Caribbean and Pacific, research at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, and reminiscences of colleagues, especially Libby Henrietta Hyman, Ralph Smith, and Donald F. Squires; c. 1926-1989.
- Transcript, pp. 1-168, of audiotape recording, 5.5 hours.

Audio Recordings of Interview

Box 1 of 1

Interview 1: 23 October 1990

Note:

- Total Recording Time: 5.5 hours
- Original Masters: 11 7" reel-to-reel analog audiotapes
- Preservation Masters: 11 digital .wav files
- Reference Copies: 6 cassette audiotapes; 11 digital .mp3 files