# Table of Contents

Collection Overview ........................................................................................................ 1  
Administrative Information .............................................................................................. 1  
Historical Note.................................................................................................................. 1  
Introduction....................................................................................................................... 1  
Descriptive Entry............................................................................................................... 2  
Names and Subjects .......................................................................................................... 2  
Container Listing ............................................................................................................. 4  

Collection Overview

Repository: Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu
Title: Oral history interviews with David Challinor
Identifier: Record Unit 9599
Date: 1999
Extent: 27 audiotapes (reference copies).
Creator: Challinor, David, 1920-2008, interviewee
Language: Language of Materials: English

Administrative Information

Prefered Citation
Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 9599, Challinor, David, 1920-2008, interviewee, Oral history interviews with David Challinor

Historical Note
David Challinor (1920-2008), a science administrator, received his B.A. from Harvard University in 1943 and his masters and Ph.D. in forest ecology from Yale University in 1959 and 1966. He served as deputy director of the Peabody Museum at Yale from 1960 to 1966, while S. Dillon Ripley served as director there. He followed Ripley, eighth Smithsonian Secretary, to the Smithsonian, serving as special assistant for tropical biology from 1966 to 1967, deputy director from 1967 to 1969 and then director from 1969 to 1971 of the Office of International Activities, as Assistant Secretary for Science from 1971 to 1987, and in 1988 began his service as special advisor to the Secretary. He was then named senior scientist at the National Zoological Park. At the Smithsonian, he oversaw all of the science bureau activities, including the National Museum of Natural History (NMNH), National Zoological Park (NZP) and its Conservation and Research Center, Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, Smithsonian Center for Materials Research and Education, Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI), as well as special projects in conservation and museum administration.

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.
David Challinor was interviewed for the Oral History Collection to document his career as a Smithsonian science administrator especially as Assistant Secretary for Science where he coordinated Smithsonian scientific research priorities.

Descriptive Entry

Challinor was interviewed sixteen times in 1998 and 1999 by Smithsonian Institution Archives Historian Pamela M. Henson. The interviews cover his childhood, education, research career, and administrative career at the Peabody Museum at Yale University and the Smithsonian Institution. The collection consists of 24.0 hours of audiotape recording and circa 720 pages of transcript, and occupies 1.0 linear meters of shelf space. There are two generations of tape for each session: original tapes and reference tapes. In total, this collection is comprised of 47 original 7" reel-to-reel tapes and 48 preservation master digital files, 48 reference digital mp3 files, and 29 reference copy audiotape cassettes. Box 1 contains transcripts of the interviews and Box 2 contains transcripts of the interviews and cassette copies of the original reel to reel recordings, which are in security storage.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:
- Astrophysics
- Biological stations
- Biology -- Field work
- Conservation biology
- Ecology
- Endangered species
- Forests and forestry
- Museums -- Administration
- Museums -- Management
- Natural history
- Nature conservation
- Zoos

Types of Materials:
- Audiotapes
- Interviews
- Oral history
- Transcripts

Names:
- Challinor, David, 1920-2008
- Conservation and Research Center (National Zoological Park)
- Harvard University
- Henson, Pamela M. interviewer
- Joys of Research, The (Symposium)
- National Museum of Natural History (U.S.)
Container Listing

Box 1

Transcripts of Interviews

Box 1 of 1
Interview 1: 27 August 1998

Box 1 of 1
Interview 2: 11 September 1998
Digital Content: David Challinor, Hope Cooke, and her husband, the King of Sikkim, at a Sikkimese fashion show in the Great Hall of the Castle or Smithsonian Institution Building, c. 1971. [Image no. 71-2731.3]

Box 1 of 1
Interview 3: 30 September 1998

Box 1 of 1
Interview 4: 19 October 1998

Box 1 of 1
Interview 5: 3 November 1998

Box 1 of 1
Interview 6: 17 March 1999

Box 1 of 1
Interview 7: 23 March 1999

Box 1 of 1
Interview 8: 15 April 1999

Box 1 of 1
Interview 9: 26 April 1999

Box 1 of 1
Interview 10: 5 May 1999
Digital Content: Chief Justice Warren E. Burger, Assistant Secretary for Science David Challinor, and Joan Ridder Challinor at the Smithsonian Board of Regents Dinner held at the Supreme Court, c. 1978. Burger also served as Chancellor of the Board of Regents. [Image no. 78-15672-22]
Digital Content: Assistant Secretary David Challinor and Chief Justice Warren E. Burger at a dinner at the National Air and Space Museum, c. 1978. [Image no. 78-3929-13]

Box 1 of 1
Interview 11: 26 May 1999

Box 1 of 1
Interview 12: 8 June 1999

Box 1 of 1
Interview 13: 20 October 1999

Box 1 of 1
Interview 14: 25 October 1999

Box 1 of 1
Interview 15: 2 November 1999