



Smithsonian Institution Archives

Ira Michael Heyman Oral History  
Interviews, 1999, 2001, 2004

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Smithsonian Institution Archives  
Washington, D.C.  
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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., <a href="mailto:osiaref@si.edu">osiaref@si.edu</a>
<b>Title:</b>	Ira Michael Heyman Oral History Interviews
<b>Identifier:</b>	Record Unit 9607
<b>Date:</b>	1999, 2001, 2004
<b>Extent:</b>	4 audiotapes (Reference copies).
<b>Creator::</b>	Heyman, Ira Michael, 1930-2011 interviewee
<b>Language:</b>	English

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## Administrative Information

### Preferred Citation

Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 9607, Ira Michael Heyman Oral History Interviews

### Use Restriction

Restricted. Contact [SIHistory@si.edu](mailto:SIHistory@si.edu) to request permission.

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## Historical Note

Ira Michael Heyman (1930-2011), law professor and tenth Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, received his A.B. in government from Dartmouth College in 1951, and his J.D. from Yale Law School in 1956. Heyman was a professor of Law at the University of California at Berkeley from 1959 to 1990 and also served as Vice Chancellor (1974-1980) and Chancellor (1980-1990). He served on the Smithsonian Institution Board of Regents from 1990 to 1994 and as the tenth Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution from 1994 to 1999. These interviews of Heyman complement a set of interviews at the Regional Oral History Office, University of California at Berkeley, which document his youth, education, and career at the University of California. Conducted by Smithsonian historian Pamela M. Henson, the Smithsonian interviews cover his role as a member of the Smithsonian Board of Regents, 1990-1994, especially his work on the Commission on the Future of the Smithsonian, and his tenure as Secretary from 1994 to 1999, especially the *Enola Gay* controversy. It also includes an interview of Heyman by Marc Pachter in 1999.

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## Introduction

The Oral History Program is part of the Smithsonian Institution Archives. The purpose of the program is to conduct interviews with current and retired members of the Smithsonian staff who have made significant contributions, administrative and scholarly, to the Institution. The project's goal is to supplement the

published record and manuscript collections in the Archives, focusing on the history of the Institution and contributions to the increase and diffusion of knowledge made by its scholars.

The Ira Michael Heyman interviews were conducted as part of the Smithsonian Institution Archives Oral History Program because of his role as a member of the Smithsonian Board of Regents and then as Secretary of the Smithsonian from 1994 to 1999.

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## Descriptive Entry

The Ira Michael Heyman Interviews were conducted in 1999, 2001, 2004 and 2007 by Smithsonian Archives Historian Pamela M. Henson. The first interview in 1999 was conducted by historian Marc Pachter. This collection consists of six interview sessions, totaling approximately 10 hours of recordings and 331 pages of transcript.

Additional documentation pertaining to Heyman can be found in the Records of the Office of the Secretary.

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## Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Interviews
- Museum exhibits
- Oral history

Types of Materials:

- Audiotapes
- Transcripts

Names:

- Adams, Robert McC. (Robert McCormick), 1926-  
Commission on the Future of the Smithsonian (meeting) (1995: Washington, D.C.)
- Enola Gay (Exhibition) (1995-1998: Washington, D.C.)
- Henson, Pamela M., interviewer
- Heyman, Ira Michael, 1930-2011
- Pachter, Marc, interviewer
- Smithsonian Institution -- Administration
- Smithsonian Institution. Board of Regents
- Smithsonian Institution. Office of the Secretary
- University of California, Berkeley
- Yale Law School

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## Container Listing

### Interviews

- Interviews **Interview 1: October 21, 1999**
- Interviews The first interview of Heyman was recorded by Marc Pachter, who served as Counselor to the Secretary during Heyman's tenure. Heyman discusses Smithsonian exhibits of particular interest to him, including the *Enola Gay* and the *Star-Spangled Banner*; creation of the Smithsonian Affiliations Program; and his role as an agent of change; c. 1994-1999.
- Interviews Transcript, pp. 1-8 of audiocassette recording, 1.0 hour.
- Interviews Audio Recordings of Interviews: Total Recording Time: 1.0 hour  
Note:
- Original Masters: 1 analog audiocassette
  - Preservation Masters: 1 digital .wav file
  - Reference Copies: 1 audiotape cassette; 1 digital .mp3 file
- Interviews **Interview 2: April 20, 2001**
- Interviews The remaining interviews were conducted by SI Historian Pamela Henson. The series begins with an overview of Heyman's education; tenure as a clerk to Chief Justice Earl Warren, reminiscences of the Smithsonian in the 1950s; his teaching career at the University of California; and service of the Smithsonian Board of Regents; c. 1940s-1990s.
- Interviews Transcript 1-88, of audiotape recording, 2.0 hours.
- Interviews Audio Recordings of Interviews: Total Recording Time: 2.0 hours  
Note:
- Original Masters: 4 7" reel-to-reel analog audiotapes
  - Preservation Masters: 4 digital .wav files
  - Reference Copies: 2 audiotape cassettes; 4 digital .mp3 files
- Interviews **Interview 3: October 15, 2004**
- Interviews Discusses his work on fund-raising, especially with the Smithsonian National Board and its chairman Lloyd Schermer; and management of museums, including the *Enola Gay* controversy; c. 1990s.
- Interviews Transcript, pp. 1-34, of audiotape recording, 1.0 hour.

- Interviews Audio Recordings of Interviews: Total Recording Time: 1.0 hour  
Note:
- Original Masters: 2 7" reel-to-reel analog audiotapes
  - Preservation Masters: 2 digital .wav files
  - Reference Copies: 1 audiotape cassettes; 3 digital .mp3 files
- Interviews **Interview 4: October 25, 2007**
- Interviews Discusses the creation of the National Museum of the American Indian and work with director Rick West, disputes with architect, and concerns of planning boards; and preparation of the *Willful Neglect* report on the role of Latinos at the Smithsonian; c. 1990s.
- Interviews Transcript, pp. 1-78, of audio recording, 1:44 hours.
- Interviews Audio Recordings of Interviews: Total Recording Time: 1:44 hour  
Note:
- Original Masters: 3 digital .wav files
  - Preservation Masters: 3 digital .wav files
  - Reference Copies: 3 digital .mp3 files
- Interviews **Interview 5: October 26, 2007**
- Interviews Addresses challenges of maintaining historic, special-purpose buildings, especially federal vs. private funding, and use of bonds for special projects; development of new telescope in Hawaii; renovations of art museum buildings including the Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum and the American Art and Portrait Galleries, acquisition of the Victor Building to provide additional office space; management of the National Air and Space Museum under director Martin Harwit and development of the Udvar Hazy Center near Dulles Airport; coordination of fundraising efforts across the Smithsonian; and the Institution's move onto the Internet in 1995; c. 1990s.
- Interviews Transcript, pp. 1-42, of audio recording, 1.36 hours.
- Interviews Audio Recordings of Interviews: Total Recording Time: 1:36 hours  
Note:
- Original Masters: 2 digital .wav files
  - Preservation Masters: 2 digital .wav files
  - Reference Copies: 2 digital .mp3 files
- Interviews **Interview 6: October 29, 2007**
- Interviews Focuses on the Sesquicentennial of the Smithsonian Institution in 1996, including the *America's Smithsonian* traveling exhibit and its reception in various cities, funding raising, and the Festival of American Folklife focus on the Smithsonian and the August 10-11 Sesquicentennial Birthday Party on the National Mall; effects of the 1995-1996 extended government shut-

down; changes to the Smithsonian's organizational structure with a provost, without damaging the organization; and reflections on the major challenges of his tenure, notably the *Enola Gay* controversy and efforts to more actively engage the Board of Regents in the Institution; c. 1990s.

Interviews

Transcript, pp. 1-78, of audio recording, 1:41 hours.

Interviews

Audio Recordings of Interviews: Total Recording Time: 1:41 hours

Note:

- Original Masters: 1 digital .wav file
- Preservation Masters: 1 digital .wav file1
- Reference Copies: 1 digital .mp3 file