



Smithsonian Institution Archives

National Museum of Natural History
100th Anniversary Interviews, 2009-2011

Finding aid prepared by Smithsonian Institution Archives

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

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Collection Overview

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| Repository: | Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu |
| Title: | National Museum of Natural History 100th Anniversary Interviews |
| Identifier: | Record Unit 9622 |
| Date: | 2009-2011 |
| Extent: | 15 digital audio files; 42 digital video files |
| Language: | Language of Materials: English |

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 9622, National Museum of Natural History 100th Anniversary Interviews

Historical Note

National Museum of Natural History interviewees include Andre R. Bell, Protection Services, NMNH; Audrey Butler, Food Services; Alan H. Cheetham, Curator of Paleobiology; R. "Chip" Clark, museum photographer; Roy S. Clarke, Jr., Curator of Meteorites; Donald Davis, Curator of Entomology; Elizabeth Dietrich, Supervisory Museum Specialist, Museum Support Center; Nathan Erwin, manager, Insect Zoo; Frank M. Greenwell, taxidermist; Kristofer M. Helgen, Curator of Mammals; Gary F. Hevel, Museum Specialist, Department of Entomology; David Hunt, Museum Specialist, Department of Anthropology; James J. Krakker, Museum Specialist, Department of Anthropology; Storrs L. Olson, Curator of Birds; David L. Pawson, Curator of Invertebrate Zoology; Paul W. Pohwat, Museum Specialist, Department of Mineral Sciences; Paul D. Rhymer, exhibits specialist; Mary E. Rice, director Emeritus, Smithsonian Marine Station at Fort Pierce; Martha Rosen, Natural History Branch Librarian for Smithsonian Institution Libraries; George F. "Rusty" Russell, Supervisory Museum Specialist, Department of Botany; and George Venable, scientific illustrator, Department of Entomology.

Interviewers included Inci Bowman, Mignon Davis, and Mark White from NMNH, Lauren Dare and Pamela M. Henson from Smithsonian Institution Archives, Emma Lang, John Minks, James Nelson, Cigdem Pakel, William Stapleton, and Bridget Sullivan from American University, and Courtney Shaw and Mary A. Thomas from Smithsonian Institution Libraries.

Introduction

The Smithsonian Institution Archives (SIA) 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 reminiscences and interviews recorded by researchers or students on topics related to the history of the Smithsonian or the holdings of the Smithsonian Institution Archives.

As part of the celebration of the Centennial of the National Museum of Natural History (NMNH), oral history interviews were conducted with museum staff members from an array of professions and subject areas, by SIA Institutional History Division staff, American University students, and volunteers from 2009 to 2011. Interviewees were nominated by NMNH staff and the project was coordinated by Heather P. Ewing. Interviews were recorded in digital audio and digital video, and deposited in the Smithsonian Institution Archives Oral History Collection.

Descriptive Entry

These interviews discuss their careers at the NMNH, work with collections, research, scientific illustration, exhibits, taxidermy, museum security, interaction with the public and staff.

The NMNH Centennial Interviews consist of c. 38.75 hours of interview with 21.25 hours of digital audio recordings, 17.5 hours of digital video recordings, and c. 500 pages of transcript.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Anniversaries
- Exhibitions
- Museum curators
- Museums -- Collection management
- Natural history museums
- Taxidermists

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Oral history
- Sound recordings

Names:

- American University (Washington, D.C.)
- Bell, Andre R., interviewee
- Bowman, Inci, interviewer
- Butler, Audrey., interviewee
- Cheetham, Alan H., interviewee
- Clark, Roy, interviewee
- Clarke, Roy S., Jr., interviewee
- Dare, Lauren, interviewer
- Davis, Donald, interviewee
- Dietrich, Elizabeth, interviewee
- Erwin, Nathan, interviewee

Greenwell, Francis M., interviewee
Helgen, K. M. (Kristofer M.), interviewee
Henson, Pamela M., interviewer
Hevel, Gary F., interviewee
Krakker, James J., interviewee
Lang, Emma, interviewer
Minks, John, interviewer
National Museum of Natural History (U.S.)
Nelson, James, interviewer
Olson, Storrs L., interviewee
Pakel, Cigdem, interviewer
Pawson, David L. (David Leo), 1938-, interviewee
Powhat, Paul W., interviewee
Rhymer, Paul D., interviewee
Rice, Mary E., interviewee
Russell, G. F. (George F.), interviewee
Shaw, Courtney, interviewer
Smithsonian Institution. Office of Protection Services
Stapleton, William, interviewer
Sullivan, Bridget, interviewer
Thomas, Mary Augusta, interviewer
Venable, George, interviewee
White, Mark, interviewer

Container Listing

Box 1

Transcripts of Interviews

| | |
|------------|-------------------------------|
| Box 1 of 3 | Interview 1: 6 October 2009 |
| Box 1 of 3 | Interview 2: 15 October 2009 |
| Box 1 of 3 | Interview 3: 21 October 2009 |
| Box 1 of 3 | Interview 4: 22 October 2009 |
| Box 1 of 3 | Interview 5: 3 November 2009 |
| Box 1 of 3 | Interview 6: 5 November 2009 |
| Box 1 of 3 | Interview 7: 15 December 2009 |
| Box 1 of 3 | Interview 8: 22 March 2010 |
| Box 1 of 3 | Interview 9: 22 March 2010 |
| Box 1 of 3 | Interview 10: 23 March 2010 |
| Box 1 of 3 | Interview 11: 25 March 2010 |
| Box 1 of 3 | Interview 12: 31 March 2010 |

Box 2

| | |
|------------|--------------------------------|
| Box 2 of 3 | Interview 13: 6 April 2010 |
| Box 2 of 3 | Interview 14: 8 April 2010 |
| Box 2 of 3 | Interview 15: 14 May 2010 |
| Box 2 of 3 | Interview 16: 21 May 2010 |
| Box 2 of 3 | Interview 17: 27 May 2010 |
| Box 2 of 3 | Interview 18: 14 August 2010 |
| Box 2 of 3 | Interview 19: 18 August 2011 |
| Box 2 of 3 | Interview 20: 17 August 2010 |
| Box 2 of 3 | Interview 21: 7 September 2010 |

Box 2 of 3 Interview 22: 12 October 2010
Box 2 of 3 Interview 23: 22 November 2010
Box 2 of 3 Interview 24: 16 March 2011
Box 2 of 3 Interview 25: 29 June 2010
Box 2 of 3 Interview 26: 29 June 2010
Box 2 of 3 Interview 27: 19 July 2011
Box 2 of 3 Interview 28: 28 July 2011
Box 2 of 3 Interview 29: 27 September 2011
Box 2 of 3 Interview 30: 28 September 2011

Box 3

Audio and Video Recordings of Interviews

Box 3 of 3 Interview 1: 6 October 2009
Box 3 of 3 Copies: 2 digital audio .mp3 files
Box 3 of 3 Interview 2: 15 October 2009
Box 3 of 3 Interview 3: 21 October 2009
Box 3 of 3 Interview 4: 22 October 2009
Box 3 of 3 Interview 5: 3 November 2009
Box 3 of 3 Interview 6: 5 November 2009
Box 3 of 3 Interview 7: 15 December 2009
Box 3 of 3 Interview 8: 22 March 2010
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Box 3 of 3 Interview 14: 8 April 2010

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