HIGHLIGHTS OF
SMITHSONIAN COLLECTIONS
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About This Publication

The objects and specimens in our stewardship present an incredible challenge to describe, both for ourselves and for those who come to study them or to be inspired by them. This publication attempts to capture in one place the richness of the entire range of our collections for the many different audiences that might find such a reference tool valuable.

Inside the reader will find the following:

• Descriptions of the holdings by the collecting units of the Smithsonian arranged in alphabetical order

• Information about the number of collection items in each unit, images of selected collection items, and introductory statements and details about specific areas of the collections

• Pocket inserts highlighting recent acquisitions at each museum, archives, and library.

Enjoy the adventure.

National Collections Program, Smithsonian Institution Archives
Smithsonian Collections at a Glance

The Smithsonian develops, preserves, researches, interprets, and, in the case of living plants and animals, propagates, collections of art, artifacts, and natural specimens. Assembled over more than 150 years, the national collections are central to many of the core activities and to the vitality and significance of the Smithsonian. Collections serve as an intellectual base for exhibition, education, scholarship, and discovery.

Each Smithsonian collecting unit maintains its own unique collection, purpose, character, and role in achieving the Smithsonian's mission of "the increase and diffusion of knowledge." Among the vast collections are irreplaceable icons of the nation, examples of common life, and scientific material vital to the study of the world's natural and cultural heritage. Smithsonian collections represent a diverse range of materials and disciplines, including works of art, historical artifacts, natural and physical science specimens, living animals and plants, images, archives, libraries, audio and visual media, and their associated information. Together, they preserve the past, increase our understanding of society and the natural world in which we live, and support the research that expands human knowledge in the arts, humanities, and sciences.

Items come to the Smithsonian through a variety of ways, including gift, bequest, purchase, exchange, transfer, field collecting, and at the National Zoo, by birth. The total number of artifacts, works of art, and specimens of nature in Smithsonian museum collections is currently estimated at 142 million. When the holdings of the Smithsonian archives and libraries are added, the estimate increases to approximately 281 million. The bulk of the collections, more than 124 million specimens and artifacts, represent the encyclopedic holdings of the National Museum of Natural History.

The Smithsonian, according to statute, serves as the national repository for collections previously held by the U.S. government. Beginning with specimens collected from the South Seas by the government-sponsored Wilkes Expedition in 1842, the Smithsonian has acquired and continues to obtain collections from numerous federal agencies. Some of these agencies include the U.S. Postal Service, National Aeronautics and Space
Lending collection items for exhibition, education, and research is an integral part of the Smithsonian's mission. Annually, Smithsonian collecting units initiate the loan of more than 200,000 objects and specimens for exhibition and study purposes to nearly every state and to more than 70 countries around the globe. Some Smithsonian collecting units have collaborative relationships with other museums and educational institutions that involve the long-term storage, curation, display, and study of Smithsonian collections. For instance, the Department of Entomology, National Museum of Natural History, has loaned its tick, scarab beetle, bee fly, and fungus collections to universities and government laboratories for management and study. The National Air and Space Museum lends aircraft and space vehicles for display at numerous U.S. Air Force and NASA facilities around the country.

Another form of partnership is through Smithsonian Affiliations. This initiative, begun in 1997 by the Smithsonian Board of Regents, embodies one of the most comprehensive forms of national outreach in Smithsonian history. Affiliations have become the framework through which long-term, vital relationships develop with cultural institutions large and small throughout the country. This network of affiliates enables broader sharing of Smithsonian collections, educational programming, and expertise, and also provides a forum for showcasing affiliates nationally.

As stewards of the national collections, the Smithsonian has a unique responsibility to manage and preserve the collections held in trust for current and future generations to behold, enjoy, and study. This responsibility of preserving and making collections accessible is a historic and sacred tradition at the Smithsonian.
HIGHLIGHTS OF SMITHSONIAN COLLECTIONS
Anacostia Museum and Center for African American History and Culture

7,500 objects

http://www.si.edu/anacostia/

The Anacostia Museum and Center for African American History and Culture are dedicated to increasing public understanding of the experiences and creative expressions of people of African descent living in the United States and the Americas. The museum offers exhibitions, educational programs, publications, and special events to serve local, national, and international constituencies.

Fine Arts

The museum’s small fine arts section contains mostly paintings and prints. Washington artists James Wells, John Robinson, Nelson Stevens, Elena Bland, and Lou Stovall are represented. Recent acquisitions include *Altar for Four* by Atlanta artist Radcliffe Bailey, works by folk artist Leslie Payne, and a contemporary quilt collection. Exhibition-related collections include objects documenting the contemporary immigrant experience, including a handmade raft, a grocery store bulletin board, and objects relating to Afro-Latin music in Washington. The African American church is docu-
mented through contemporary video recordings of the Atlanta Interfaith Broadcasting Network and through archival collections.

**Manuscript and Oral History Collections**
The museum’s manuscript and oral history collections provide significant documentation of the African American community in Washington, including the personal experiences of new immigrants and the history of the contemporary African American church. Through correspondence, broadsides, land records, and personal papers, the manuscript collection records the contributions of distinguished and representative citizens of the District of Columbia, including educator Anna J. Cooper, Judge Robert Terrell, cab driver Percy Bryan, and printer and publisher West Hamilton.

**Address:**
1901 Fort Place, SE, Washington, DC 20560
900 Jefferson Drive, SW, Washington, DC 20560
The Archives of American Art is a national research repository with reference centers and associated research facilities available at several locations around the United States. The Archives is the world’s largest single source of archival materials on the history of the visual arts in the United States. The Archives actively collects, preserves, and microfilms original source materials for study and encourages research in American art and cultural history through publications, symposia, lectures, and other public programs.

The Archives of American Art was founded in 1954 as a private organization in Detroit, Michigan. At that time there was no institution for the study of American artists, no full-time professor of American art history, few adequate studies of even our finest painters, and even less attention paid to our sculptors and crafts people. The Archives was established to enable and encourage research in American art history. The Archives has been a part of the Smithsonian Institution since 1970.

The Archives collections consist of manuscript and printed material documenting the lives and careers of artists, crafts people, designers, scholars, dealers, critics, museum personnel, and collectors, as well as records of art organizations and galleries. These collections include letters, diaries,
writings, legal documents, business records, films of artists, exhibition catalogues, and clippings. Also included are 3,000 oral and video histories with art-world figures, 84,000 works of art on paper, and approximately 560,000 photographs. Collections are acquired by gift, through loan for microfilming, and by means of collectors working in specific regions of the country. The Archives’ holdings grow by several hundred collections annually, and span the eighteenth century to the present.

Researchers have access to original papers at the Washington, D.C., headquarters of the Archives. Selected holdings are available on microfilm worldwide through interlibrary loan or at Archives centers in Washington, New York, and San Marino, California; and unrestricted microfilm is available at associated research facilities at the Boston Public Library and the M.H. deYoung Museum in San Francisco. As a member of Research Libraries Group, the Archives has collection-level descriptions of all its collections on Research Libraries Information Network. The Archives also provides Internet access to its resources and services through its Web site and its online catalog (www.siris.si.edu).

Address:
750 9th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20560

1285 Avenue of the Americas (between 51st and 52nd Streets)
Lobby Level, New York, NY 10019

Huntington Library, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA 91108
Arthur M. Sackler Gallery / Freer Gallery of Art

3,800 artworks (Sackler) / 28,300 artworks (Freer)

http://www.asia.si.edu

Waves of Matashima by Tawaraya Sotatsu (active 1614-1639), Japan, Edo period. Pair of six-fold screens; ink, color, and gold on paper. Arthur M. Sackler Gallery.

The Freer Gallery of Art and the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery study and celebrate the artistic traditions of the peoples of Asia. Administered by a single staff, the two museums form an internationally important center dedicated to maintaining the highest standards for the collection, preservation, study, and exhibition of Asian art, as well as for educational programs that advance public understanding of the meanings and values embodied in the artistic traditions of Asia.
Freer Gallery of Art

Inaugural Gift
The Freer Gallery of Art, which opened in 1923 as the first art museum of the Smithsonian, was founded with Charles Lang Freer’s (1854–1919) gift to the nation of Asian and American art. According to the founder’s wishes, only works in the permanent collection may be shown at the Freer. No additions may be made to the American collection, but gifts and purchases continue to augment the Asian collection.

American Art
The Freer holds the world’s preeminent collection of works by James McNeill Whistler (1834–1903), including 66 paintings, 66 watercolors, 151 drawings and pastels, 946 prints, 38 copper plates, 17 painted wall panels, and the Peacock Room.

American Frames
Most of the gallery’s picture frames are original; others were made from designs by Whistler, Stanford White, and H.D. Murphy.

Biblical Manuscripts
Of the Freer’s biblical manuscripts, “Four Gospels—The Codex Washingtonensis,” with late-fourth-to-fifth-century Greek text on parchment, is the most famous.

Chinese Jades
Four hundred Chinese jades, including 100 Neolithic examples, form one of the largest collections in the United States and date from the Neolithic Period through the Han dynasty (3500 B.C.– A.D. 220).

Chinese Painting
Approximately 1,300 Chinese paintings span the chronological development of China’s rich pictorial tradition and represent one of the finest collections outside Asia, with examples ranging from the Song through the Ming dynasties (960–1644).
Chinese Ritual Bronzes
Ancient and superb Chinese bronzes include about 130 ritual vessels dating from 1600 B.C. to A.D. 200. Approximately 200 more bronzes comprise an outstanding collection of ornamental belt hooks, mirrors, weapons, and chariot equipment, reflecting China’s war-related rituals in the Bronze Age.

Ceramics
The rich and diverse ceramics collection spans the Neolithic Period through the nineteenth century and includes Chinese and Japanese teawares, Jian ware from China and Seto, Mino wares from Japan, and Ming dynasty (1368–1644) blue-and-white porcelain. Other highlights include Chinese and Korean celadon wares, Vietnamese and Thai ceramics, and Islamic ceramics with superior examples from the Abbasid, Samanid, Fatimid, Ayyubid, Seljuk, Safavid, and Ottoman traditions.

Egyptian Glass
The Egyptian glass collection includes 22 superb eighteenth- and nineteenth-dynasty glass vessels, four Greek glass vessels, about 24 mosaic inlays, plain figural inlays, numerous amulets, ear-plugs, game counters, and about 750 beads. Most striking are the New Kingdom (c.1450–1250 B.C.) glass vessels in the core-forming technique.

Japanese Narrative Paintings
The Japanese art collection includes eight highly distinguished Buddhist narrative scroll paintings produced between the mid-thirteenth and the late fifteenth centuries.

Japanese Screens
Extraordinary Japanese folding screens represent early works by Rimpa School artists, including five screens by Sotatsu (c.1600–1639). The approximately 180 screens are among the gallery’s 3,400 examples of Japanese painting, calligraphy, sculpture, ceramics, metalwork, and lacquerware dating from the second millennium B.C. through the twentieth century.

Near Eastern Metalware
This rare collection includes gold, silver, and bronze objects made in the ancient (pre-Islamic) Near East, and also Islamic metalware from the seventh through the eighteenth centuries.
Islamic Arts of the Book
The collection of Islamic arts of the book is one of the finest in the West and consists of more than 400 works: Koran folios, illustrated manuscripts, detached manuscript paintings, and independent paintings and calligraphies, covering works produced in Egypt, Syria, Iran, Afghanistan, Transoxiana (present-day Uzbekistan), and Turkey, from the eighth through the eighteenth centuries.

Mughal Painting
The collection of Mughal works includes a number of masterpieces such as manuscripts produced during the reign of Akbar (r. 1556–1605), portraits of Jahangir (r. 1605–1627), and pages from the Jahangiri and St. Petersburg albums.

Painting and calligraphy by Zhu Da (Bada Shanren) and paintings by Qi Baishi.
The holdings include 33 paintings and works of calligraphy by the seventeenth-century-monk-painter Zhu Da (1626–1705) and 15 paintings by Qi Baishi (1864–1957).

Later Chinese Calligraphy
Robert H. Ellsworth donated to the museum some 260 works of eighteenth-nineteenth-and twentieth-century Chinese calligraphy, along with 19 attached paintings (on the reverse sides of fans or album pages).

Seals and Calligraphy of Xie Zhiliu
The family of Shanghai scholar and artist Xie Zhiliu (1910–1997) donated to the museum this group of 113 seals personally used by the artist.

Address:
Jefferson Drive at 12th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20560
Inaugural Gift
The Arthur M. Sackler Gallery opened in 1987 to house a gift of some 1,000 works of Asian art from Dr. Arthur M. Sackler (1913–1987), a research physician and medical publisher from New York City. Highlights include early Chinese bronzes, jades, Chinese paintings and lacquerware, ancient Near Eastern ceramics and metalware, as well as sculpture from South and Southeast Asia. The gallery’s collections have expanded and now include the Vever Collection; nineteenth- and twentieth-century Japanese prints and contemporary porcelain; Indian, Chinese, Japanese, and Korean painting; arts of rural India; contemporary Chinese ceramics; and photography.

Vever Collection
This collection includes 500 works of art that date from the eleventh to the nineteenth centuries, such as classical Persian texts, important Arabic works, and hitherto unknown manuscripts and paintings from the Near East and India under the Mughal Empire (1526–1857).

Yokohama Prints
These color woodblock prints from the collection of Ambassador and Mrs. William Leonhart vividly illustrate the first Japanese encounters with the United States, Britain, France, the Netherlands, and Russia, and also the rapid introduction of foreign technology to Japan in the 1860s and 1870s.

Hauge Gift of Asian Ceramics
Gifts from Osborne and Gratia Hauge and Victor and Takako Hauge have established or augmented major groups of ceramics in the gallery, including 80 Khmer ceramics, 80 ancient Iranian earthenware vessels (burnished, painted, or glazed) ranging in date from about 4500 B.C. to the second century A.D., and 33 Islamic ceramic vessels and tiles dating from the late ninth to the early twentieth centuries.
Dr. Paul Singer Collection of Chinese Art
The Paul Singer (1904–1997) gift of more than 5,000 objects represents the museum’s largest acquisition of ancient Chinese art. A joint gift by the Arthur M. Sackler Foundation; Paul Singer; the AMS Foundation for Arts, Sciences and Humanities; and the children of Arthur M. Sackler, the gift includes a 3,000-year-old bronze bell; a 4,000-year-old jade disk; a marble sculpture of a bear; wine containers in animal shapes; and ceramic burial jars.

Address:
1050 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20560
The Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage and the Ralph Rinzler Folklife Archives and Collections focuses on the expressive traditions of communities in the United States and worldwide. The Center organizes, preserves, and provides access to the Rinzler Archives by preparing catalogues and assisting with onsite consultation. The archives also collaborates with diverse communities and institutions in the development of strategies and practices for the collection, preservation, and dissemination of their own cultural traditions or those entrusted to their care.

The Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage includes materials on occupational folklore, family folklore, American musical traditions, and African American, Native American and other ethnic performance traditions. Its Folkways collection contains material related to almost 2,700 published
recordings, including world music, historical and spoken-word recordings, and sounds of science and nature. The collection includes 62,000 audio tapes, 12,000 commercial discs, 4,000 acetate discs, 1,000 compact discs, 2,000 videotapes, 1 million still images, and 500,000 feet of motion picture film.

The archives consists of two major collections: the written, audio, and visual records of projects and exhibits sponsored by the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, most notably the Festival of American Folklife; and the Moses and Frances Asch Collection of original material related to Folkways Records. The archive also houses materials from the Cook, Dyer-Bennet, Fast Folk, Monitor, and Paredon record companies, fieldwork of Frederic Ramsey, Jr., the Lee Hays papers, the Diana Davies photograph collection, and materials generated by the Smithsonian Folklife Studies Series and other internal research projects.

**Moses and Frances Asch (Folkways) Collection**

Founded in 1948, Folkways Records released nearly 2,200 recordings of traditional and contemporary music from around the world, spoken word in many languages, and documentary recordings of individuals, communities, and current events. It became one of the largest and most influential record companies in the world. The Smithsonian acquired Folkways Records along with its business papers and files in 1987. The Asch Collection, named for the company’s founder, also includes a manuscript collection of correspondence, song texts, and pen-and-ink drawings of American poet and songwriter Woody Guthrie (1912–67).

**Diana Davies Photograph Collection**

Diana Davies is a well-known photographer of folk performers and festivals, who photographed the Smithsonian Folklife Festival in its earlier years. The Davies photographs already held by the Rinzler Archives have been supplemented by the 1999 donation of additional photographs, contact sheets, prints, and slides of the Newport Folk Festival, the Philadelphia Folk Festival, the Poor People’s March, and miscellaneous personalities of the American folk revival.
**Festival of American Folklife Documentation Collection**
Documentation of the annual Folklife Festival (1967 to the present) includes materials about music, handicrafts, foodways, occupational folklore, and vernacular architecture. The archive includes the recordings, photographs, and paper records of the festival, as well as field research.

**Cook Records**
This collection contains the master tapes, patents, and papers of the company founded by Emory Cook, which recorded, manufactured, and distributed high-quality audio recordings. The 140 titles include European and American concert music, American and Caribbean popular and traditional music, and mechanical and natural sounds.

**Dyer-Bennet Records**
Richard Dyer-Bennet (1913–91), a major figure in the folk music revival of the 1940s through the 1970s, performed English ballads and European and American folk songs. With Harvey Cort, he founded his own record company in 1955. The archive acquired the 15 albums in the collection of Dyer-Bennet Records for pressing and distribution in 1995. The archive also contains the master tapes and photographs of the recording company.

**Fast Folk Musical Magazine Collection**
The Fast Folk Musical Magazine, formed in New York in 1982 as a songwriter/performer cooperative, was an outlet for singer/songwriters to release their first recordings. Alumni who recorded first for Fast Folk include Grammy Award–winners Lyle Lovett, Suzanne Vega, Julie Gold, Tracy Chapman, and Shawn Colvin, as well as John Gorka, Suzy Bogus, Richard Shindell, Lucy Kaplansky of Cry Cry Cry, and hundreds of others here and abroad. The collection includes the master recording tapes, magazines, and paper records of the organization.

**Monitor Records**
In 1956, Michael Stillman and his business partner Rose Rubin started Monitor Records in New York City to fill a gap they perceived in the music available to the American public—music from the Soviet Union, the Eastern Bloc, and other parts of Europe. Monitor has more than 250 folk and classical music recordings in its catalogue. The collection includes the original master tapes, graphics, and business records of the company.
Lee Hays Papers
Another important figure in the folk music revival, Lee Hays (1914–81) was a member of the Almanac Singers, the People’s Songs, and the Weavers. The archive has Hays’s personal papers, including correspondence, writings, and audiotapes.

Paredon Records
Founded in 1969 by Barbara Dane and Irwin Silber, Paredon Records was part of a wave of cultural expression that accompanied the worldwide struggle for economic, racial, and social justice and national liberation of the mid-twentieth century. Dane and Silber donated Paredon Records to the Smithsonian Institution in 1991.

Frederic Ramsey, Jr. Collection
Jazz scholar and author Frederic Ramsey, Jr. (1915–95) worked with musicians in the South and the New York–New Jersey area, notably Lead Belly. He also produced recordings for the Folkways label in the 1950s and 1960s. The archive contains his field tapes.

Ralph Rinzler Collection
Ralph Rinzler (1934–94) was an important twentieth-century folklorist who was co-founder of the Smithsonian’s Festival of American Folklife. His field recordings include work with Doc Watson, Clarence Ashley, Bill Monroe, and Charlie Sayles. The archive includes Rinzler’s personal papers, correspondence, and records and tapes. His field tapes have been used to create CD releases on the Smithsonian Folkways label.

Address:
750 9th Street, NW, Suite 4100, Washington, DC 20560
The Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum seeks to enrich the lives of all people by exploring the creation and consequences of the designed environment. Through its activities, the museum stimulates creative thinking and promotes openness to new ideas; makes information about design physically, intellectually, and culturally accessible to a broad public; provides a global forum for experimentation and discourse on design issues; serves new audiences; and inspires others to value human achievements in design.

The Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum is the only museum in the United States devoted exclusively to historical and contemporary design. Through challenging exhibitions and publications, innovative educational programs for children and adults, and a world-renowned collection, the museum explores the impact of design on every aspect of daily life.
Applied Arts and Industrial Design
The Department of Applied Arts and Industrial Design is home to more than 30,000 three-dimensional objects that date from antiquity to the present. The furniture collection features more than 400 chairs, representing a variety of styles, materials, and techniques, from the sixteenth to the twentieth centuries. The collection of historic and contemporary lighting fixtures is also one of rare depth. The Decloux Collection of carved wooden wall panels, dating from the Renaissance to the nineteenth century, is an outstanding resource for historic interior styles and ornament. Silver tablewares, wrought iron gates and architectural elements, and a large selection of French eighteenth-century gilt-bronze furniture mounts can be found among the metalwork holdings. The museum’s comprehensive ceramics collection ranges from ancient Greek vessels and pre-Columbian pottery to twentieth-century tablewares. Notable in the glass collection are ancient Syrian and Roman pieces and Irish cut-glass tablewares from the early nineteenth century. Other highlights of the Applied Arts Department are the Metzenberg Collection of historic cutlery, the Shapiro Collection of twentieth-century Soviet porcelains, the Brener Collection of match-safes, Japanese tsuba (sword fittings), jewelry, buttons and fasteners, precious small boxes and cases, bird cages, lacquer and leather work, enamels, plastics, models and prototypes for cars and other products, and machines and tools made for home and office.

Drawings and Prints
Housing more than 160,000 works of art on paper, the Drue Heinz Study Center for Drawings and Prints is among the leading repositories of European and American designs for architecture, decorative arts, gardens, interiors, ornament, theater, textiles, and graphic and industrial design. Its encyclopedic holdings range from a fourteenth-century Northern Italian textile design and a late-fifteenth-century German drawing for a Gothic steeple to the work of contemporary American and European designers. No other collection in this country matches its strength in seventeenth-to-nineteenth-century Italian and French drawings and prints pertaining to ornament, decorative arts, and architecture. Other treasures include the rare group of early-nineteenth-century drawings by Frederick Crace for the exotic interiors of the Royal Pavilion at Brighton, more than 400 Japanese kata-gami (stencil) patterns for textiles, and drawings by American artists.
Frederic E. Church, Winslow Homer, and Thomas Moran. Twentieth-century American designs for architecture and industrial design are also represented in considerable depth, along with twentieth-century graphic design.

**Library and Archives**
The Doris and Henry Dreyfuss Memorial Study Center, a branch of the Smithsonian Institution Libraries, contains 55,000 volumes, including 5,000 rare books about ornament, architecture, and decorative arts. The library’s collections focus on interior, graphic, and industrial design. The library has significant holdings of swatch books, trade catalogues, world’s fair literature, children’s books, pattern books, and more than 600 pop-up and moveable books. The archives contain the papers, promotional materials, clippings, and photographs of noted designers and design firms. They also contain special resource files on African American and Latino Hispanic designers.

**Textiles**
A wide range of textile techniques is represented in the 30,000 pieces of the museum’s textile collection: embroidery, knitting, crochet, braiding, knotting, quilting, needle-made and bobbin-made lace, and various forms of printing, resist dyeing, and weaving. The earliest pieces are from Han dynasty China (206 B.C—A.D. 221) and pre-Columbian South America, while the latest pieces were made in the 1990s. Special strengths of the department are woven European silks from the thirteenth through the eighteenth centuries, French and English printed fabric from the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, the collection of nearly 1,000 embroidered samplers, and classic European laces from the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

**Wallcoverings**
The museum has the largest and most comprehensive survey of wallcoverings in the country with more than 10,000 examples. Collected for their historic associations, for design inspiration, or as examples of printed material, the holdings are especially rich in examples of exuberant French floral compositions from the nineteenth century, William Morris–inspired patterns, and early American block-printed papers. Wallcoverings made for the most fashionable homes and the simplest of cottages are represented, as are panoramic and scenic papers, seventeenth century Dutch gilded leather wallcoverings, and eighteenth century French block-printed arabesques.
Address:
2 East 91st Street, New York, NY 10128
The Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden seeks to develop a public understanding and appreciation of modern and contemporary art through the collection, preservation, study, exhibition, and interpretation of modern and contemporary works of fine art.

The museum’s founding donor, Joseph H. Hirshhorn (1899–1981), a Latvian-born businessman, financier, and mining magnate from New York, amassed an exceptional collection of modern and contemporary sculpture and painting. The Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden opened to the public in 1974 and initially housed some 6,000 works in Hirshhorn’s inaugural gift. Additional gifts in 1972, 1974, 1979, and 1980 and his bequest in 1981 enlarged the collection, which continues to grow through gift and purchase, with major emphasis on contemporary artworks.

Modern Sculpture
The museum’s renowned collection of modern sculpture begins in the mid-nineteenth century with sculptures by French artists that range from caricature and animal subjects to examples of the Academic style. These works are presented alongside the dancers of Edgar Degas and the works of Aristide Maillol, Auguste Rodin, and Medardo Rosso. Twentieth-century sculpture features major works by Constantin Brancusi, Henri Matisse, Pablo Picasso, and Isamu Noguchi, along with sculptures in early modern styles such as cubism, constructivism, organic abstraction, and German expressionism. The mid-twentieth-century sculptors Alberto Giacometti, Barbara Hepworth, and Alexander Calder are represented in depth.

Henry Moore Collection
The Henry Moore holdings are among the finest in any museum, covering most of the sculptor’s career from early wood pieces such as the rare *Stringed Figure No. 1, 1937*, to the monumental bronze *Two-Piece Reclining Figure: Points, 1969–70*.

David Smith Collection
The holdings show the breadth of this important artist’s career, from early welded metal sculptures of the 1930s to the wartime *Medals of Dishonor*, 1939–40, expressionist welded works of the 1940s and 1950s, and examples from the major late Voltri and Cubi series.

Modern Painting
Modern paintings are represented by twentieth century European and American art. The museum has extensive examples of American modernism, including artists of the Ashcan School, Arthur Dove, Marsden Hartley, Georgia O’Keeffe, Stuart Davis, and Edward Hopper. European pioneers are also represented by significant works of Piet Mondrian, Fernand Léger, Joan Mirò, Ben Nicholson, and Josef Albers. Mid-century developments include from Bay Area figurative styles; abstract expressionist works by Arshile Gorky, Franz Kline, Jackson Pollock, and Clyfford Still; color field painting; and European paintings by Francis Bacon, Balthus, and Jean Dubuffet.
Thomas Eakins Collection
The museum has the second largest collection of works by the nineteenth-century realist Thomas Eakins and related collections of photographs, scrapbooks, studio memorabilia, and papers.

Willem de Kooning Collection
The de Kooning holdings are the largest public collection of its kind in the world and include several major works. The paintings range from his early figurative works, such as *Seated Man*, c.1939, to his breakthrough abstract figurative *Woman*, 1948, *Two Women in the Country*, 1954, and the *Door* paintings of 1964. Landscape-inspired late works and several important bronze sculptures are also in the collection.

Modern Works on Paper
The collection includes 4,500 works on paper, ranging from pastels and watercolors to drawings and prints. Most of the major painters and sculptors in the collection are represented by works in graphic media. Although the museum does not have a photography collection, significant holdings in the medium by Thomas Eakins, Ralston Crawford, and Arnold Newman are part of Joseph Hirshhorn’s inaugural gift.

Contemporary Art
Contemporary works encompass American and European artists and movements, with strong examples of current American, British, and German art. Pop, minimalism, neo-expressionism, and other recent movements are represented. The museum continues to acquire works from international artists of many ages and backgrounds. Recent emphasis has been given to art of the past 25 years from established artists such as Chuck Close, Mark di Suvero, Bruce Nauman, Georg Baselitz, Elizabeth Murray, Ana Mendieta, and Nam June Paik and to work by emerging artists such as Glen Ligon, Julie Roberts, and Caio Fonseca.

Collection Archive
The curatorial department maintains a research file on the permanent collection. These records include photographs, documents, correspondence, and reference material assembled by the staff.
Special Collections of Papers and Miscellaneous Manuscript Collections

The Joseph H. Hirshhorn Art Collection Papers, 1948–1966, and the Olga Hirshhorn Art Papers, 1945–1981 provide material related to Hirshhorn as patron and collector. The Elmer MacRae Papers, 1875–1955, contain records of the Armory Show of 1913 (available on microfilm through the Archives of American Art). In 1997, Olga Hirshhorn donated 400 documentary photographs of artists and art-world notables to the museum. Many of the images are inscribed and provide a visual history of the Hirshhorns and their art-world circle.

Address:
7th Street & Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20560
The Horticulture Services Division is dedicated to increasing the public’s awareness, understanding, and appreciation of horticulture and gardening. This mission is accomplished through the display gardens, interior plant landscaping, and greenhouse nursery operation, and through its collections of living plants, floricultural memorabilia, and garden furnishings and images. Educational tours and programs based on the gardens and collections are presented throughout the year by staff, interns, and fellows.

The Archives of American Gardens (AAG) is a collection of approximately 80,000 photographic images and records documenting historic and contemporary American gardens. The nucleus of the archives is a collection of nearly 3,000 hand-colored glass lantern slides dating from the 1920s and
about 30,000 35mm slides of gardens from colonial times to the present. These images were donated to the Smithsonian in 1992 by the Garden Club of America (GCA). The GCA documents gardens on a continuing basis for addition to the Archives. Although the bulk of the Archives consists of glass and 35mm slides, it also includes negatives, stereographs, postcards, architectural drawings, plans, and business and personal papers.

Other collections in the Archives include the work of landscape architects Thomas Sears and Perry Wheeler; author, publisher, and horticulturist Dr. J. Horace McFarland; the Lewis and Valentine Nursery of Long Island, New York; postcard collector Richard Marchand; records of Katharine Lane Weems’s estate, The Chimneys; as well as the history of the Horticulture Services Division’s own work.

The artifact collection includes antique and contemporary garden furniture and ornament, seed boxes and packets, advertising cards, posy holders, stereoscopes and stereographs, postcards, floral frames, and other items related to the florist trade. Many of the objects are on display in the gardens and interior exhibition spaces of the Smithsonian.

**Address:**

*900 Jefferson Drive, SW, Room 2282, Washington, DC 20560*
National Air and Space Museum

45,000 artifacts

http://www.nasm.si.edu/

1903 Wright Flyer. On December 17, 1903, at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, the 1903 Wright Flyer became the first powered, heavier-than-air machine to achieve controlled, sustained flight with a pilot aboard. With Orville Wright as pilot, the airplane took off from a launching rail and flew for 12 seconds and a distance of 37 meters (120 feet). The airplane was flown three more times that day, with Orville and his brother Wilbur alternating as pilot. The longest flight, with Wilbur at the controls, was 260 meters (852 feet) and lasted 59 seconds. The 1903 Wright Flyer is on display in the National Air and Space Museum's Milestones of Flight gallery. Photo by Eric Long, National Air and Space Museum.

The National Air and Space Museum memorializes the national development of aviation and space flight. It serves as a repository for aeronautical and space flight artifacts and data of historical or technological interest or significance to the progress of aviation and space flight. It preserves and displays these items, provides educational material, and performs research in the areas of aviation and space flight and their related technologies and results.
The collections of the National Air and Space Museum are the largest and most diverse of their kind in the world and document the history of civilian and military aviation, ranging from the Wright brothers’ flyer to the SR-71 Blackbird and the gondola from the Breitling Orbiter, which made the first successful nonstop balloon flight around the world in March 1999.

Similarly, the space collection consists of models, engineering test units, and objects that have returned to Earth. Notable parts of the space collection are the Apollo command modules, the Saturn V rocket (now at the Kennedy Space Center), prototypes and backups for the Viking Mars Landers and Voyager spacecraft, and the space shuttle Enterprise.

**National Aeronautical Collection**

This collection originated in 1876, when the Chinese Imperial Commission presented the Smithsonian Institution with a gift of kites at the close of the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition. The collection expanded significantly after World Wars I and II, particularly through the efforts of Paul Garber, who collected some of the most important aircrafts in history. Among them are the world’s first powered aircraft, the 1903 Wright flyer; Charles Lindbergh’s historic transatlantic airplane, the *Spirit of St. Louis*; and the first supersonic aircraft, the Bell X-1 *Glamorous Glennis*. During this time the Smithsonian and later the National Air and Space Museum (formerly the National Air Museum) collected numerous objects related to the history and technology of flight, including engines, instruments, uniforms, models, and memorabilia.

The collections of the Aeronautics Division hold more than 34,000 objects, including 356 aircraft. The major aircraft collections represent early flight, World War I, commercial aviation, military aircraft (including interwar, World War II, and post–World War II aircraft), general aviation, special-purpose and experimental aircraft, vertical flight, and gliders, ultralights and homebuilt aircraft. The extensive non-aircraft collections include lighter-than-air flight (balloons, airships, and associated items); aerial photography (cameras and related equipment); models (including aircraft, wind tunnels, and engine models); engines and propellers; aircraft armament (including guns and bombs); art (including space art); flight management systems (instruments, cockpit controls, and related devices); flight materiel (uniforms, helmets, flight suits, and badges); posters; and memorabilia and cultural history.
Space Artifacts
The Division of Space History cares for a collection of approximately 11,300 artifacts. Some 600 are on exhibit in the museum; 9,100 are at the Paul E. Garber Preservation, Restoration, and Storage Facility; 1,300 are on loan; and the rest are stored elsewhere. Artifacts range in size from the massive 363-foot-tall Saturn V moon rocket to a fingernail-sized silicon chip used in the search for extraterrestrial life. Some artifacts, like the Apollo 11 command module, are icons of American culture and history; others are small, relatively anonymous, but vital pieces of support hardware. The collection includes objects that have flown in space, flight-qualified backup vehicles, prototypes, test articles, and full-size and scale models.

The Division of Space History has the museum’s largest artifact lending program, which lends objects to museums and educational institutions throughout the United States and the world.

The Division’s Oral History Project documents through interviews the recollections of leading scientists, engineers, managers, and political figures involved in the nation’s space program. Oral histories in the collection deal with space astronomy, the Hubble Space Telescope, and the RAND Corporation. A guide to transcripts in the Oral History Project was published in 1993.

Scientific Collections
The Center for Earth and Planetary Studies is a repository for more than one million photographs and digital images of the planets and their satellites. This collection includes thousands of cartographic products generated from these images and other data. The collection is maintained in part through support from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration as a regional planetary image facility (RPIF), to provide for the scientific use of images and other data returned by planetary missions. This collection serves the research and educational needs of the museum and the Smithsonian Institution, and it ensures that images and other planetary mission data are accessible to the larger community of investigators and interested public in the mid-Atlantic and southeastern United States.

The collection includes images from Earth-based and space-based telescopes; Ranger 7 through 9; Surveyor 1, 3, 5, 6, and 7; Lunar Orbiter
through 5; Apollo 8 through 17; Mariner 4, 6, 7, 9, and 10; Viking Orbiter 1 and 2; Viking Lander 1 and 2; and Pioneer Venus, Magellan, Clementine, Galileo, and Mars Pathfinder. Included in the collections are more than 100,000 Gemini, Apollo, Skylab, and Apollo-Soyuz photographs of Earth, as well as a complete set of space shuttle photographs of Earth. The collection also includes selected Landsat images and other digital data for Earth’s desert regions, the metropolitan Washington-Baltimore area, and other locations of research interest.

**Archives**
The Archives Division holds approximately 300 collections, including personal and professional papers, corporate and organizational records, and reference files of topical materials. A major attribute of these collections is their photographs and technical drawings of aircraft and spacecraft. The drawings range from three-view drawings to detailed engineering plans, many of which are on microfilm. The archives also holds many technical manuals that document the design, construction, and performance of aircraft and spacecraft and the engines that powered them. These documents assist aircraft restorers and modelers as well as historians of technology. The museum’s technical files contain more than 1,300 cubic feet of aviation and space-related materials, organized by subject in 22 series including photographs, press releases, clippings, correspondence, reports, brochures, and other materials on individuals, organizations, events, and objects. The archival film and videotape collection includes approximately 20,000 titles.

**Address:**
601 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20560
National Museum of African Art

8,400 artworks

http://www.nmafa.si.edu/

As a leading center for the visual arts of Africa, the National Museum of African Art fosters and sustains through exhibitions, collections, research, and public programs an interest in and understanding of the diverse cultures in Africa as embodied in aesthetic achievements in the visual arts. The museum accepts into its collections and exhibits the art of all African areas, including the ancient and contemporary arts for the entire continent.

The National Museum of African Art is the only museum in America dedicated to collecting and exhibiting the rich visual traditions of all African peoples. The collection, which consists of 7,400 objects dating from antiquity to the present, includes traditional masks and figures, textiles, costumes and jewelry, furniture and household objects, and architectural elements, as well as modern sculpture, paintings, prints, and ceramics.
Utilitarian Objects
This collection of 202 objects made to be used in daily activities includes stools, headrests, baskets, vessels, pipes, and combs. Materials include wood, fiber, terra cotta, and ivory. Most of the objects in the collection originated in East and southern Africa in the late nineteenth to the mid-twentieth centuries. The collection shows how African artists combine function and form to create objects that are both usable and aesthetically pleasing.

African Pottery
The pottery collection consists of hand-built vessels of various types and sizes. The 188 objects include pottery from throughout the continent but primarily from central Africa. The magnificent forms and surfaces of the vessels made by women potters provide compelling proof of female artistry in Africa.

Royal Benin Art
The collection is made up of 23 works of art from the kingdom of Benin, once a city-state in what is now Nigeria. Most of the objects, including cast copper-alloy heads, figures, pendants, plaques, a musical instrument, and a vessel, were brought out of Benin in 1897 with a British military expedition. The works of art reflect the dynamic kingdom of Benin as it existed before colonial rule.

Eliot Elisofon Photographic Archives
Named in honor of the internationally known photographer and filmmaker, the Eliot Elisofon Photographic Archives includes more than 300,000 photographic prints and transparencies of African art and field photographs depicting life and art in Africa, 100,000 feet of unedited film footage, and videos and documentary films on African art.

Lamb Collection of African Textiles
This extraordinary collection of 1,600 textiles and related weaving equipment was made by Alastair and Venice Lamb from a geographical area ranging from the Cape Verde Islands eastward to central Cameroon and including the Sahel, coastal, and intermediate areas. It includes nearly all traditions of men’s weaving in sub-Saharan Africa.
Address:
950 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20560
National Museum of American History

3.2 million artifacts

http://americanhistory.si.edu/

This compass was used by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark on their expedition in 1804 to explore the new Louisiana Purchase. President Thomas Jefferson’s purchase of land from France doubled the size of the United States. National Museum of American History.

The National Museum of American History dedicates its collections and scholarship to inspiring a broader understanding of our nation and its many peoples. The museum creates learning opportunities, stimulates imaginations, and presents challenging ideas about our country’s past.

Archives Center

The more than 700 collections in the Archives Center include personal papers, business records, motion picture and video collections, and photographs documenting the history of American technology, marketing and advertising, American music, and other aspects of cultural and social history. These materials support the artifact collections and scholarship. They occupy more than 10,000 shelf feet. Brief, indexed descriptions are found in an online catalog shared with other Smithsonian library, archival, and research units (www.siris.si.edu).
Collections in the history of technology include the Western Union Telegraph Company records, the Allen B. Du Mont Collection (television), the George H. Clark Radioana Collection, and the Computer Oral History Collection. Advertising and commercial visual ephemera are found in the Warshaw Collection of Business Americana, proof sheets from the N.W. Ayer advertising agency, the Hills Bros. coffee company records, and large collections of greeting, postal, and sports cards. Oral histories document major television advertising campaigns. The history of invention and entrepreneurship is documented in the Earl S. Tupper and Brownie Wise papers (both related to Tupperware) and in oral and video histories supported by the museum’s Jerome and Dorothy Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation.

Music materials include the Duke Ellington and Ella Fitzgerald collections, the Sam DeVincent collection of illustrated American sheet music, and the Ernie Smith jazz film collection. Among the historical photograph collections are the Underwood & Underwood glass stereographs, the Donald H. Sultner-Welles color transparencies, the Scurlock Studio collection, and the Arthur d’Arazien industrial and advertising photographs.

**Division of Cultural History**

**Ethnic and Religious Communities**
This area includes artifacts from American ethnic groups, generally identified with their occupational, domestic, and religious activities. The better-represented groups are Europeans, Hispanics, Arabs, Asians, Gypsies, Jews, and Christians. A recent addition is Teodoro Vidal’s collection of more than 3,200 cultural artifacts and art objects from Puerto Rico, the largest donation of artifacts by a single collector in the museum’s history.

**Sports, Recreation, and Leisure**
Artifacts used in competitive sports and recreation include baseballs autographed by Babe Ruth, many objects from the early Negro leagues, and clothing worn by notable athletes such as Billie Jean King, Muhammad Ali, Pele, and Michael Jordan.
Popular Entertainment and Mass Media
Among the many nineteenth-and twentieth-century artifacts are movie posters and publicity stills, popular music promotionals, puppets, programs, and 50,000 sound recordings from 1903 to the present. Among the most popular objects in this collection are the ruby slippers worn by Judy Garland in *The Wizard of Oz*. Other artifacts include the Muppet character Kermit the Frog, Harrison Ford’s jacket and hat from *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*, and items from popular television series such as *M*A*S*H* and *All in the Family*. The Bernholm collection contains 20,000 rhythm and blues disc recordings. An extensive collection contains materials from world’s fairs.

Business and Consumer Culture
A highlight of this area is the early-twentieth-century merchandise from the Headsville, West Virginia, post office and general store. Other artifacts include Hills Bros. coffee cans, Walter Landor package designs, advertisements, menus, shopping carts, and signage. A Horn & Hardart Automat from Philadelphia and Stohlman’s Confectionery from Washington, D.C., are also part of this collection.

Musical Instruments, Archival Materials, and Memorabilia
The collection is rich in Euro-American instruments from the 1600s to the present, representing elite, popular, and some ethnic folk culture. The best-represented instruments are keyboards, including the Dulcken harpsichord of 1745 and the first Hammond organ of 1934. Among 175 stringed instruments are five Stradivari. There are also outstanding examples of harmonicas, Appalachian dulcimers, banjos, and guitars. Sound recordings, sheet music, and jazz artifacts (especially material related to Duke Ellington) are also in the collection.

Hand Tools
The collection contains more than 5,000 traditional American tools, chests, and simple machines, largely from the 1800s and early 1900s, collected primarily to represent skilled hand labor in the woodworking trades. The tools of other trades include those for stone carvers, shoe shiners, barbers, diamond cutters, and gold beaters.
Educational, Civic, and Voluntary Organizations
Artifacts associated with teaching, scouting, youth and fraternal groups, police service, and firefighting include two complete schoolrooms, lunch boxes, teaching equipment, school desk patent models, textbooks, uniforms, and insignia.

Division of the History of Technology
The Division of the History of Technology collects the material culture of American technology and the American armed forces and interprets it in relation to the country’s social and cultural history. Originally focused on technological innovations, the collections of the Division of the History of Technology are proving increasingly useful for documenting, understanding, and interpreting social and cultural history, as well as the history of machines.

Agriculture and Natural Resources
These collections include some 200,000 objects covering agriculture, food technology, forestry and wood products, fisheries, mining, and petroleum. Collected mostly to document the technologies of resource use, they have also proven remarkably useful in understanding work culture and everyday life.

Armed Forces History
These collections document the history of the men and women of the armed forces of the United States through superb collections of firearms, swords, and uniforms. The story of national history is told through the flag collection. Key individual objects include the Star Spangled Banner, the flag that inspired the national anthem, and the “Gunboat Philadelphia,” sunk during the Revolutionary War. In addition to illuminating battle strategies, tactics, and military leaders, these collections are a rich source for the study of soldiers’ lives.

Engineering and Industry
This collection focuses on machines and structures: engines; civil engineering works; machines for working metal and wood, and the business, labor and industrial context that makes sense of those machines; watches and clocks (European and American); typewriters; mechanical phonographs and
The collection includes extensive archival, model, and photographic collections documenting American industry.

**Transportation**
This collection includes automobiles, trucks, and motorcycles; bicycles and animal-drawn vehicles; automobile accessories and other road transportation objects; rigged and half-hull ship models; more than 7,000 ship design plans; large collections of photographs, scrimshaw, and marine paintings; locomotive models and a small number of full-scale railroad cars and locomotives; and archival materials relating to rail transportation. The railroad collections include the John Bull, built in England in 1841 for use in the United States and today the oldest operable locomotive anywhere.

**Division of Information Technology and Society**

**Computers**
The evolution of computers and their pervasive effects on modern American society are documented with electronic computers and related devices, software, records, and ephemera. The collection includes precursors to computers such as an original Hollerith punched-card machine and prototype computers such as the Harvard Mark I. Computers in the collection range from the ENIAC, the first modern digital computer, to such landmark devices as John von Neumann's IAS machine, an IBM 650, a Bendix G-15, and a Digital Equipment Corporation PDP-8. The personal computer collection includes early models by Altair, Radio Shack, and Osborne and an original IBM PC. Recent additions include several supercomputers and landmark advances in high-speed microprocessors.

**Mathematics**
Highlights of the mathematics collection are astrolabes, mathematical models used in teaching, cryptographic instruments, mechanical calculating machines, slide rules, mathematical paintings, and other seventeenth-to-twentieth century objects that perform mathematical tasks.

**Electricity**
Scientific artifacts range from electrostatic machines associated with Ben Franklin, to electromagnets used by Joseph Henry and a laser devised by Theodore Maiman. Electric power is especially strong in nineteenth-
century objects, but with a lamp collection that enhances the period from Edison’s first demonstration up through the end of the twentieth century. Extensive communication collections include a large number of telegraph items from Western Union. Also featured is a unique set of vacuum tubes, transistors, and integrated circuits.

**Modern Physics**
Documenting twentieth-century physics and its applications, the collection, comprising roughly 500 objects, is particularly strong in early cryogenic apparatus, accelerators and detectors of subatomic particles, apparatus producing and employing atomic beams, and atom-trapping and other techniques related to atomic clocks. Also held are important objects related to the theory of relativity, experiments at high pressures, and the Manhattan Project.

**Graphic Arts**
The graphic arts collections document the technological and social history of printing and printmaking and allied trades such as papermaking, bookbinding, and printing for the blind. There are about 100 printing presses and a dozen typesetting machines, along with significant specimens and drawings of foundry type, wood type, and foundry and Linotype matrices. The printmaking collection includes more than 45,000 prints, plus plates, blocks, and tools—both commercial and artistic—from fifteenth-century Europe to modern computer graphics, acquired to show how prints are made. A highlight is the J.W. Osborne collection, representing the international development of photomechanical processes from the 1850s to the 1880s. There also are outstanding collections of European chiaroscuro woodblock prints, nineteenth century French and American etchings, and American wood engravings. Some 350 nineteenth-century patent models cover printing, type founding, bookbinding, block making, and other related trades.

**Photographic History**
The photographic history collection is the most comprehensive collection of photographic images and apparatus in the Smithsonian. There are 150,000 images representing international developments in photography from the earliest daguerreotypes and talbotypes to new digital formats.
Among the 10,000 pieces of apparatus are 1,500 cameras, nearly 1,000 pieces of moving-image apparatus—including some early and unique cameras and projectors—and some 300 patent models dating from 1840 to 1905. The collection includes equipment important for technical and artistic advances, as well as through association with great photographers such as William Henry Fox Talbot, John Draper, Henry Fitz, Samuel F.B. Morse, Frederic Ives, and Edward Weston.

**Numismatics**
The numismatics collection is a world-class collection including more than 1.6 million objects. It is the finest collection of U.S. rarities in the world, as well as the finest collection of Russian coins and medals outside of the Hermitage Museum. The strongest areas are U.S. coins and currency from the colonial era to the present. Included are outstanding examples of silver and gold coins, including those documenting the Western gold rush; certified proofs of U.S. notes (almost 300,000 items); nineteenth-century state bank notes; a strong sample of Confederate currency; and a broad range of medals and commemorative. The collection also includes very fine and rare examples of coins and numismatic objects from all over the world from the beginning of coinage to the present day.

**Division of Science, Medicine, and Society**

**Biology**
The focus of these collections is molecular biology and biotechnology instrumentation, research and educational apparatus and instrumentation, artifacts documenting the social and political history of biology, artifacts relating to the roles of women and minorities in science, and associated trade literature. Highlights include apparatus from the laboratory of Barbara McClintock, winner of the 1983 Nobel Prize in physiology and medicine for her work on the genetic regulation of inheritance in corn, and the prototype thermal cycler, an instrument used to copy DNA by Kary Mullis, winner of the 1993 Nobel Prize in chemistry for his development of the polymerase chain reaction.

**Medical Sciences**
The medical sciences collection is one of the largest and most comprehensive of its kind. It includes large holdings of pharmaceuticals, pharmaceutical manufacturing equipment and containers, laboratory apparatus,
medical and dental instruments, public health artifacts, alternative medicine and disability objects, trade catalogues, posters, advertising literature, business records, and audiovisual materials. Highlights are the first artificial heart to be implanted in a human, a very early Roentgen X-ray tube, the first whole-body CT scanner, materials related to David (the “Bubble Boy”) and the first gene therapy patients, Jonas Salk’s original polio vaccine and syringe, Robert Koch’s tuberculin, the earliest sample of diphtheria antitoxin in the United States, and the earliest genetically engineered drugs.

Physical Sciences
This collection includes apparatus of astronomy, classical physics, chemistry, meteorology, navigation, and surveying dating from the eighteenth century to the present. Highlights include the Vassar telescope used by Maria Mitchell at Vassar and the shop in which Henry Fitz made telescopes in New York in the 1850s.

Chemistry
This collection of apparatus and instrumentation for inorganic, organic, and biochemistry is rich in early synthetic polymers such as celluloid, nylon, and especially Bakelite. A highlight is the Bakelizer, the steam pressure vessel in which Leo Baekeland produced the first batch of totally synthetic plastic in 1907. Biochemical highlights include the amino acid analyzer on which Stanford Moore and William H. Stein did the work that earned them the 1972 Nobel Prize in chemistry. Early chemistry is represented by the apparatus of Joseph Priestley, who discovered oxygen in the eighteenth century.

Division of Social History

Ceramics and Glass
This collection houses about 40,000 objects, primarily those made, used, and marketed in America. Particularly outstanding are the Larsen and McCauley Collections of British ceramics, the Remensnyder collection of mid-Atlantic and Northeastern stoneware, and the Lura Woodside Collection of New England pottery. The glass collections are strong in nineteenth-century press-molded wares, but also include a small group of Favrile Art and examples of rare eighteenth-century Amelung glass.
Costume
This collection contains about 30,000 items. Of particular interest is the Copp Collection of everyday clothing from the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Other strengths are twentieth-century American ready-to-wear and American designer clothing.

Domestic Life
Approximately 40,000 objects document American home life from the time of European settlement to the recent past. The collection contains houses and outbuildings, as well as furnishings and objects of daily life. Of special note are patent models, eighteenth-and-nineteenth century lighting devices, and the Harry T. Peters “America on Stone” Lithography Collection.

Political History
These collections contain more than 100,000 objects. Notable examples are the microphones used by Franklin Roosevelt for his fireside chats, a compass used by William Clark and Meriwether Lewis on their famous expedition, the desk on which Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence, a major holding on political reform movements, and the nation’s largest collection of political campaign material. The First Ladies/White House Collection documents First Ladies’ contributions to political and social life.

Textiles
Fibers, fabrics, machines, tools, and implements related to the history of textile technology, particularly in the United States, form this collection. Important historical machinery includes the Eli Whitney cotton gin; a Slater spinning frame and a Slater carding machine, both c.1790; and 4,000 nineteenth century patent models, including Elias Howe’s sewing machine patent. The National Quilt collection has about 370 quilts, including the Harriet Powers Bible quilt.

Address:
14th Street & Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20560
National Museum of the American Indian

779,000 specimens and artifacts

http://www.nmai.si.edu

The National Museum of the American Indian recognizes and affirms to Native communities and the non-Native public the historical and contemporary cultures and cultural achievements of Native peoples of the Western Hemisphere. In consultation, collaboration, and cooperation with Native peoples, the museum advances knowledge and understanding of Native cultures, including art, history, and language, and recognizes the museum’s special responsibility, through innovative public programming, research, and collections, to protect, support, and enhance the development, maintenance, and perpetuation of Native cultures and communities. The collections of the National Museum of the American Indian were amassed beginning at the turn of the century by George Gustav Heye (1874–1957), who later founded the Museum of the American Indian, which became the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian in 1989. The collections encompass a vast range of archeological and ethnographic objects—approximately 800,000 works of extraordinary aesthetic, religious, and historical significance, as well as articles produced for everyday utilitarian use spanning the Western Hemisphere from the Arctic to Tierra del Fuego. The museum’s holdings also

Charles Burton, Qinugan Nayusian, and Barbara Elizabeth, children of Nora and Delbert Rexford of Barrow, Alaska, 1984. NMAI Photographic Archives.
include film and audiovisual collections, paper archives, and a photography collection of approximately 90,000 images depicting both historic and contemporary Native American life.

**North American Ethnology**
The large Northeast and Great Lakes collections include New England splint basketry, Ojibwa birchbark and beadwork, Huron moosehair embroidery, and significant turn-of-the-century Iroquois material, including Niagara Falls whimseys. The Foster collection from Forts Michilimackinac and Miami dates to the 1790s.

Collections from the Southeast include Seminole material, Choctaw and Creek ballgame objects, and Chitimacha basketry. The Plains collection contains more than 100 painted hides and objects related to known individuals, including Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse. Among the collectors listed are Nelson Miles and John Bourke.

Collections from the Southwest include an exceptionally large and comprehensive Navajo wearing blanket collection, more than 700 Hopi katsina dolls, ceramics from the Pueblos, and a large, varied Apache collection. The California collections include Pomo baskets, Yurok, Karok, and Hupa featherwork, and Kumeyaay (Diegueño) and Luiseño ethnobotany.

The Northwest Coast collections represent a wide geographic range. Collections of objects from Tlingit, Haida, and Kwakiutl culture groups are especially large and comprehensive. Important collectors include George Thornton Emmons (Tsimshian, Tlingit, and Tlingt), Thomas Crosby (Tsimshian), Leo Frachtenberg (Makah), Thomas Waterman (Puget Sound Salish), and D.F. Tozier (monumental sculpture, particularly Kwakiutl).

**Mesoamerican Ethnology**
The Highland Maya collection, primarily from Guatemala, is outstanding for its more than 1,000 well-documented textiles. The Lowland Maya collection consists primarily of Lacandon material, including hunting equipment, tools, textiles, and ceramics. The extraordinary Kuna collection from Panama includes hundreds of fabric molas, both old and new.
**South American Ethnology**
The extensive collection from the Guianas consists of many objects identified by village of origin. From the Amazon, there are large collections of featherwork, hunting and fishing tools, and a rare collection of Yanomama ceramics. The small collections from Colombia represent a variety of geographic regions. The small Guahibo (Cuiva) collection is one of the older collections in existence. From Ecuador, the Chachi (Cayapas) collection is remarkable in terms of size and documentation. The Shuar-Achuar collection is second largest in size but not as well balanced, consisting largely of feathered ornaments.

From the highlands of Peru, there is a large collection of Quechua objects, primarily from the colonial period. From the tropical forest zone, there are comprehensive collections from the Ashaninka (Campa), Shipibo, Conibo, Yagua, and others.

**North American Archeology**
Collections from the Northeast include important and well-documented material from New York and from the Burr’s Hill site in Rhode Island. The Southeast archeology collection has great depth and considerable anthropological and artistic significance. Of particular note is the large, well-documented C.B. Moore collection. Many major sites are represented, including Moundville and Nacoochee, as well as Spiro Mound. The Florida Gulf Coast is also strong, as is the Harrington collection from Caddoan Arkansas. The most important Southwest archeology collections are the Hendricks-Hodge Hawikku material (protohistoric and early historic material from the Zuni region) and the comprehensive collection from Grand Gulch in southeastern Utah. Material from the Great Basin includes extensive and well-documented collections from Lovelace Cave (including perishables and foodstuffs from cave sites as well as reed-and-feather duck decoys).
Mesoamerican Archeology
The collections from western Mexico include a number of fine ceramics from Colima, Nayarit, and Jalisco, as well as a good collection of Casas Grandes pottery. There is a good study collection of sherds and restored vessels from Tlapacoya in the Valley of Mexico. From central Mexico there is an assemblage of more than 1,000 hand- and mold-made ceramic figurines. The stone sculpture collection from Mexico contains close to 1,000 objects. There is a large collection of Classic-period ceramic urns from Oaxaca, some of which are fakes. In addition, there is a small but significant collection of Jaina figurines, and a spectacular collection of Mixtec turquoise mosaics and gold ornaments. The collections from Mesoamerica include two outstanding assemblages from Costa Rica: elaborately modeled and incised vessels from Linea Vieja, and polychrome vessels from Nicoya Peninsula.

The Caribbean collections are well balanced and well documented, and include more than 500 ceramic vessels. The Taino collection in particular consists of some rare and spectacular pieces, including types that exist in no other collection.

South American Collections
The Peruvian collections include several thousand decorated whole ceramic vessels, and approximately 1,000 well-preserved fabrics exemplifying every technique of manufacture known in the central Andes. The important collections from northern Chile include several thousand specimens collected and documented by S.K. Lothrop, many of which are wood and fabric. The Ecuadorian collection from Manabi on the coast is outstanding. Collected by Marshall Saville and documented in his comprehensive two-volume work, it consists of thousands of whole ceramic vessels, a great number of monumental stone seats, and gold and other metal objects.

Photographic and Audiovisual Collections
The museum’s photographic archive houses significant photographic collections of late nineteenth and early twentieth century Native American cultures from the Northern and Southern Hemispheres. These collections range from daguerreotypes to contemporary Cibachrome prints and include the works of noted photographers, such as Horace Poolaw, Timothy O’Sullivan, and Edward S. Curtis, as well as ethnographers, archeologists,
and collectors, such as Mark Harrington, George Pepper, Frank Speck, and A.H. Verrill.

The Film and Video Center collection includes films, video, radio, and electronic media by and about indigenous peoples of North, Central, and South America, and Hawai‘i. The collection consists of approximately 1,500 titles, including works produced specifically for the museum in the early twentieth century, and focuses on works made by independent media makers since 1975.

Address:
George Gustav Heye Center
1 Bowling Green, New York, NY 10004

Cultural Resources Center
4220 Silver Hill Road, Suitland, MD 20746
National Museum of Natural History

125.8 million specimens and artifacts

http://www.mnh.si.edu/

The Star of Asia Sapphire, part of the National Gem and Mineral Collection, is currently on display in the Janet Annenberg Hooker Hall of Geology, Gems, and Minerals. Photo by Chip Clark, National Museum of Natural History.

The National Museum of Natural History seeks to foster understanding of the natural world and humanity’s place in it. The museum’s research programs study natural and cultural diversity by collecting and identifying things that exist in the natural world, establishing the relationships between them, and explaining the underlying processes that generate, shape and sustain their diversity. The museum’s public outreach shares this scientific understanding through exhibitions and education programs.

The national collections are the heart of this museum. The collections document the natural and cultural diversity of the earth and provide a foundation for understanding the earth and its ecosystems. The museum maintains the collections—specimens and artifacts and the information about them—and makes them available to scholars and institutions worldwide for use in biological, geological, and cultural research and educational activities.
The museum is working to increase electronic accessibility to collection data and to allow decision makers to use the collections as a global resource to solve current and future problems of mankind.

**Anthropology**
The 2 million objects in the archeology collection derive primarily from Smithsonian-sponsored excavations. Much of this work has focused on North America, from the mid-nineteenth century survey of Mississippian mound sites to the massive mid-twentieth century River Basin Survey to the current Paleo-Indian research program. However, significant collections also exist from early excavations in Central and South America and from Old World Paleolithic and Mesolithic sites.

The ethnology collection consists of a quarter of a million objects representing cultures around the globe. Artifacts from exploring expeditions document periods of early contact, while the Bureau of Ethnology materials represent the results of large-scale, systematic collecting as part of in-depth research in Native American communities. The collection contains much North American material, including many examples of lost craft forms and artifact types. In addition to supporting scholarly research about the past, these objects are a source of information and inspiration for Native communities reviving cultural practices and craft traditions.

The physical anthropology collection holds a diverse series of human anatomical specimens, primarily osteological, that are used for studies in biological anthropology. The nearly 33,000 specimens represent populations throughout the world. Most of the material was recovered during archeological investigations and represents more than a millennium of human experience. The collection assembled by Robert J. Terry between 1921 and 1946 is one of the premier anatomical research collections and consists of more than 1,700 known individuals. Because of the completeness of its information and its excellent preservation, this collection is a fundamental resource for research on bone pathology, skeletal biology, and forensic anthropology.
The National Anthropological Archives holds more than 7,000 shelf feet of documentary materials consisting of original field notes, unpublished manuscripts, maps, drawings, and photographs. Text materials range from the notes of the earliest generation of American anthropologists based at the Smithsonian to the papers of today’s leading scholars. The photographic collection of 400,000 items includes many of the earliest and most complete visual representations of cultures around the world. The artwork collection includes the world’s largest and best documented collection of drawings by Native American artists of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

The Human Studies Film Archives, the only anthropological film archive in the country, contains over 8 million feet of film and video. The earliest footage dates to 1908, while recent material is constantly being reviewed for acquisition. Collections vary from a single roll of silent footage to extensive anthropological film projects produced with field sound and documentation. The work of noted documentary film makers is supplemented with early expeditionary and travelogue footage of historical and anthropological interest.

**Botany**

The National Herbarium was founded in 1848 when the first plant collections were accessioned from the U.S. Exploring Expedition. Since then, as a result of energetic exploration of the world’s flora, holdings have increased to 4.6 million algae, bryophytes, lichen-forming algae, pteridophytes, gymnosperms, and flowering plants. The critically important Type Collection, which provides a virtual “bureau of standards” for plant names, contains more than 90,000 specimens and is supported by the largest verified database of types in the world. The National Herbarium includes numerous collections of historical importance dating to before its founding, as well as specimens that document endangered and threatened species. The herbarium also houses voucher collections for a wide range of applied studies involving plant species.

Supporting collections include the world’s second largest wood collection, a liquid-preserved collection of seeds and fruits, frozen tissue collections for use in molecular research, anatomical and palynological microslide collections, and a greenhouse research collection comprising almost 10,000
square feet. The department also maintains a collection of image resources including original artwork, illustrations, 35mm photographs and slides, and scanning electronic microscope Polaroids.

**Entomology**
The National Entomological Collection includes more than 30 million specimens from all regions of the world and is one of the three largest insect collections in existence. Material from the Western Hemisphere is especially well represented. There are nearly 100,000 primary types (the basis of scientific names) and many historically important collections. In the insects, Coleoptera (beets), Diptera (true flies), Hymenoptera (wasps, bees, and ants), and Lepidoptera (butterflies and moths) are prominent. Apart from insects, extensive holdings of spiders, mites, centipedes, millipedes, and similar invertebrates are maintained. Besides basic taxonomic research, the entomological collections support agricultural and public health efforts, both domestic and foreign.

**Invertebrate Zoology**
The invertebrate zoology collections focus largely on marine and freshwater animals, such as sponges, sea stars, corals, worms, mollusks, and crustaceans. While all parts of the world are represented, most of the collection is from U.S. coastal waters. It is among the top five marine invertebrate collections in the world. Holdings include organisms collected during explorations of U.S. waters in the nineteenth century. Combined with the results of more recent large-scale investigations, this collection enables the study of faunal change over the last 150 years.

**Mineral Sciences**
The collections of meteorites, minerals, gems, rocks, and ores are among the largest and most complete in the world. These collections are invaluable scientific research resources that are in constant demand by the global community of scientists. The National Gem and Mineral Collection has more than 380,000 individual specimens, including such famous pieces as the Hope diamond and the Star of Asia sapphire. The National Meteorite Collection has some 9,250 meteorites, 7,600 of them from the Antarctic. The National Rock and Ore Collection contains more than 235,000 specimens and includes reference collections such as mantle nodules, ocean floor basalts, sea floor manganese nodules, famous ore deposits, and the products of active volcanoes.
Paleobiology
Fossils that span the entire history of life on earth form the core of the museum’s paleobiology collections. In excess of 40 million fossil specimens of vertebrates, invertebrates, and plants representing over 3.5 billion years of earth history are housed in more than 470 separate collections. Many of the paleobiology collections were made on international expeditions and domestic surveys, and much of this material is considered to be the best in the world. Ranging in size from microscopic grains of fossil pollen up to very large dinosaurs, all the specimens have scientific and historic importance, and many have exceptional aesthetic value as well. The collections also contain large samples of sediments from the United States and abroad, and cores of the sea floor from the world oceans.

Vertebrate Zoology
The fish collections include more than 8 million specimens and contain the largest holdings of Indo-Pacific marine shore fishes, one of the largest collections of South American freshwater fishes. The type collection, over 16,700 lots, is also one of the largest worldwide. The collection contains important nineteenth-and twentieth-century collections of North American fishes. Extensive scientific illustration and photographic collections supplement the specimen collections.

The collections of amphibians and reptiles include more than 500,000 specimens, among which are historically important exploring expedition specimens, the Mexican–United States boundary collections, the Wever collection of histological specimens, and the Highton collection, the largest salamander collection in the world. The major geographic strengths are in the Neotropics and the Pacific. The division also maintains a premier amphibian sound archive.

The bird collections include more than 600,000 specimens representing 85 percent of known birds. The skeletal and alcohol collections are the largest in the world. North American species are well represented. The collections include study skins, skeletons, fluid-preserved specimens, eggs and nests, special collections, and tissue preserved in liquid nitrogen for future molecular studies. Scientists from around the world and from federal agencies make intense use of the collections.
The mammal collections are the world’s largest with more than 580,000 specimens. Among them are several significant historic collections series: the Teddy Roosevelt African collection (1900s), the Abbott collection (1900s), the Smithsonian Venezuelan Project (1960s), and the African Mammal Project (1960s). Other collections include the Panama collection and the marine mammal collection, the largest of its kind.

Address:
10th Street & Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20560
National Portrait Gallery

18,900 artworks

http://www.npg.si.edu/

The National Portrait Gallery is dedicated to the exhibition and study of the history, development, and culture of the people of the United States and of the artists who created such portraits.

Established by Congress in 1962, the National Portrait Gallery opened to the public in 1968. Its mission is unique among American museums. During the past three decades, the permanent collection has developed significantly through purchase, gift, and bequest, today numbering more than 19,000 portraits in a variety of media. The collections and exhibitions are interpreted to the public through lectures, dramatic and musical programs, films, and a World Wide Web site.

Painting and Sculpture
The collection includes more than 1,000 paintings and more than 300 sculptures. Among the most important paintings are Gilbert Stuart’s life portraits of George Washington, Martha Washington, and Thomas Jefferson; Joseph-Siffred Duplessis’s portrait of Benjamin Franklin; G.P.A. Healy’s image of John C. Calhoun; Mary Cassatt by Edgar Degas; Grant and His Generals by Ole Peter Hansen Balling; Henry James by Jacques-Émile Blanche, Absalom Jones by Raphaëlle Peale; Tallulah Bankhead by Augustus John; and Pocahontas by an unidentified British artist.

The sculpture collection includes William Rush’s portrait of Winfield Scott; a bronze relief of William Dean Howells and his daughter Mildred by Augustus Saint-Gaudens; Rhoda Sherbell’s polychromed bronze of Casey Stengel; and a marble by Isamu Noguchi of Ginger Rogers. Within this collection are several notable groups of portraits:

Hall of Presidents
From George Washington to William Jefferson Clinton, the range of types and sizes of portraits through more than two hundred years of American presidencies gives insight into the character of these leaders and reflects as well the aesthetic concerns of artists of their times.

Jo Davidson Portraits
This collection of 59 plasters and bronzes by twentieth-century sculptor Jo Davidson is the largest public collection of his work.

Harmon Foundation Collection
The gallery owns 43 portraits from this collection, commissioned in the 1940s and early 1950s by the Harmon Foundation to honor talent and achievement in the African American community and break down racial prejudice in the United States.

Prints
This collection of 3,750 works encompasses posters, illustrations, ephemera, and a wide variety of fine etchings, lithographs, woodcuts, and serigraphs. Works range from Simon Van de Passe’s 1616 engraving of Pocahontas to a 1987 folded paper sculpture of Willem de Kooning by Red Grooms. The gallery has one of the leading collections of engravings—more than 800 portraits—by early-nineteenth-century artist Charles B.J.F. de
Saint-Mémin. Other rarities include a unique copy of Bickerstaff’s Boston Almanack for 1787, containing the only known portrait of insurgent Daniel Shays, as well as the only extant copy of Charles Willson Peale’s 1778 mezzotint of George Washington. The print collection’s considerable holdings of nineteenth-century lithographic portraits chronicle the famous through the Civil War, while etched images document the revival of this intaglio technique. Posters, including some important European examples, advertise iconic American portrait images from the circus, films, and the theater. Twentieth-century fine arts are well represented in prints by such artists as Andy Warhol, Robert Rauschenberg, Antonio Frasconi, and Chuck Close.

**Drawings**
The drawing collection of nearly 2,300 pieces includes eighteenth- and nineteenth-century life portraits by John Vanderlyn, John Trumbull, James Sharples, Thomas Cole, and Eastman Johnson, as well as a group of 348 silhouettes by Auguste Edouart. The collection is especially strong in twentieth-century material. The gallery has acquired an unparalleled collection of celebrity caricature drawings from the 1920s and 1930s. Winold Reiss’s pastels depict leading Harlem Renaissance figures from the same era. Significant life portraits of such figures as Mary Cassatt, Henry James, Robert Kennedy, Igor Stravinsky, J. Robert Oppenheimer, and James Baldwin constitute little-known work by major artists—Stuart Davis, Ben Shahn, Thomas Hart Benton, Jamie Wyeth, Jacob Lawrence, Roy Lichtenstein, and Philip Pearlstein among them.

**Photography**
One of the nation’s leading photographic collections, the holdings comprise a virtual history of the medium from 1839 to the present day and includes prime images by many of the world’s most significant photographers. From the nineteenth century, there is a distinguished collection of daguerreotypes by many makers, as well as photographs by D.O. Hill and Robert Adamson, Julia Margaret Cameron, Mathew Brady, and Alexander Gardner. From the twentieth century, there is work by photographers such as Alfred Stieglitz, Paul Strand, Dorothea Lange, Edward Weston, Brassai, Robert Frank, Walker Evans, and Henri Cartier-Bresson.
During the past two decades, the museum has acquired substantial holdings of work by individual photographers, including the following:

Mathew Brady and the Meserve Collection
In 1981 the gallery acquired more than 5,000 original negatives, as well as significant vintage prints, collected by well-known Lincoln expert Frederick Hill Meserve. Meserve bought the negatives from commercial supplier E.H. Anthony, who received them directly from Brady, in exchange for the cameras, plates, and chemicals his staff used to document the Civil War. Through the Meserve Collection, the gallery has become one of the largest single repositories of Mathew Brady’s work, alongside the Library of Congress and the National Archives.

Carl Van Vechten
Work by this important sponsor of the Harlem Renaissance and photographer of the American artistic elite includes musicians, writers, artists, dancers, painters, and actors in 40 recent gravure prints from original negatives and in several hundred original prints that he used as postcards.

Richard Avedon
The portfolio *The Family*, published in October 1975 in *Rolling Stone* as Avedon’s answer to “new journalism,” is one of two known portfolios in a museum collection.

Hans Namuth
These 75 prints, including 23 color prints, were made from the 1950s through the early 1980s by one of the foremost photographers of the American art world. Namuth is perhaps best known for his documentary series of Jackson Pollock at work. These were a gift from the Namuth estate.

Arnold Newman
The noted magazine photographer’s 101 recent prints represent the full span of his work, in which he used a trademark “environment” style to communicate the essence of his subjects.
Irving Penn
Sixty vintage and new prints draw from the career of renowned magazine photographer Irving Penn, whose portraits appeared in *Vogue* from the 1940s through the 1980s. These were a gift of the artist.

George Tames
Ninety-nine photographs by the chief photographer of the *New York Times* Washington bureau cover the entire span of his career, from 1945 to 1985.

The Time Collection
In 1978 Time magazine presented the gallery with 863 pieces of original artwork created for the magazine’s covers. Today the collection includes some 1,900 objects, largely portrait images of leading world newsmakers of the twentieth century.

Address:
8th & F Steets, NW, Washington, DC 20560
National Postal Museum

13.3 million objects

http://www.si.edu/postal/

The National Postal Museum, through its collections and library, is dedicated to the preservation, study, and presentation of postal history and philately. The museum uses research, exhibitions, and educational and public programs to make this rich history available to a large and diverse audience.

The Smithsonian’s National Philatelic Collection was established in 1886 with the donation of a sheet of 10-cent Confederate postage stamps. Today it encompasses more than 13 million objects and includes one-of-a-kind philatelic material from the Bureau of Engraving and Printing and the U.S. Postal Service, such as the certified plate proof collection and stamp design files.

Archival Collection
The museum’s archives includes letters, broadsides, maps, posters, and engravings related to postal history and philately. Important archival collections include the 1847 correspondence documenting the creation of the first U.S. federal postage stamps and the Benjamin Lipsner collec-

John March’s watch, postal clerk of the R.M.S. Titanic, found on his body when recovered a sea. The gold time piece stopped tickign at 1:27 am on the morning of April 1, 1912. Photo by Eric Long, Smithsonian Institution. Photo by Siobhan Creem, National Postal Museum.
tion of early airmail documents.

**Certified Plate Proof Collection**
This unique and extremely important collection includes approximately 40,000 certified plate proofs printed by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. Researchers use the collection for plating studies to determine the original plate position of particular stamps.

**Covers**
This collection includes envelopes, wrappers, and other coverings used to send letters and other articles through the post. It contains approximately 500,000 U.S. and foreign covers, arranged by country, type, and stamp issue.

**Master Collection**
This collection includes the museum’s best examples of mint, used, and unused (without gum) postage stamps of the United States, 1847 through 1979.

**Panes and Multiples**
Pairs, strips, blocks, and panes of various U.S. and foreign stamps make up this collection.

**Reference Collection**
This collection contains up to four mint and seven used examples of single stamps and up to two mint examples of stamps in pair, strip, block, and pane form. The reference collection is used for research and exhibition purposes and includes both U.S. and foreign stamps, including those acquired through the Universal Postal Union’s exchange program.

**Revenue Stamp Collection**
Revenue, or fiscal, stamps are issued as a proof of payment for special taxes levied by the government. Adhesive revenue stamps were first issued in the United States in 1962. These revenue stamps comprise the largest single collection in the museum.
Specialized Collections
Specialized collections combine intensive research and collecting of a particular area of philately. Examples of outstanding specialized collections, arranged by country, include Afghanistan (early issues, with supporting literature, 1880–1924); France (postal history, French Revolution, and Napoleonic eras, 1767–1815); Israel and Palestine (stamps and covers, 1865–1961); Italy (cancellations, Roman states, 1812–70); Japan (1, 2, and 4 Sen stamps, 1872–74; Tazawa type, 1913–26; Chrysanthemum series, 1899).

Three-Dimensional Objects
The museum has examples of hand stamps, metering machines, patent models, vehicles, uniforms, badges, and other objects related to postal history and philately. Included is the “Dead Letter Office” collection of the Post Office Department Museum that opened in 1894. The entire museum was transferred to the Smithsonian in 1911–13.

Topical Collections
Topical, or thematic, collections are organized around a particular stamp design subject or theme. An example of an outstanding topical collection is the Alan Lee collection of maps on stamps.

Heritage Collection of Post Office Vehicles
The museum has assembled a representative collection of early and modern postal vehicles. The largest vehicle in this heritage collection is the nation’s first highway post office bus. This seven-ton vehicle was first used in 1941. Other significant postal vehicles in the collection include a 1970s postal Jeep, a 1922 Ford Model T with tank-treads and skis for winter service, a post-Depression Ford mail truck, and the nation’s first postal “long life vehicle.” Representative horse-drawn postal vehicles also are included in this impressive collection.

Address:
2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE, Washington, DC  20560
The National Zoological Park (NZP) was established in 1889 “for the advancement of science and the instruction and recreation of the people.” The Zoo, as envisaged by its supporters was to be a refuge for vanishing North American species. But, funding complications combined with people’s desire to see exotic or performing animals, gave rise to a public collection that included non-native species such as Asian elephants, as well as bison captured on the American plains. The mix of animals continues in the present collection, which contains species from across the globe and down the street.

Exhibit Collection
The Zoo exhibits species from all six classes in the animal kingdom including almost all the 92 species covered by the American Zoo and Aquarium Association’s Species Survival Plans (SSPs)—cooperative population management and conservation programs that were developed to help
ensure the survival of selected wildlife species.

There are nearly 1,100 mammals in the exhibit collection, including approximately 450 bats. Some of the largest specimens in the collection are five great one-horned rhinoceros, including a male and female who were born here three years ago, and six orangutans, some of whom commute daily between the ape house and the Think Tank exhibit where they may choose to participate in an ongoing language project.

The collection includes varying numbers of golden lion tamarins (GLTs), the focus of one of the Zoo’s longest running conservation programs. The Golden Lion Tamarin Project was initiated in the early 1970s to learn how to propagate GLTs successfully in captivity and then reintroduce them to the wild. An especially nice by-product of this project is the free-ranging exhibit in the Zoo’s Beaver Valley where every summer since 1986 a pair of GLTs has been released to “learn the ropes” of foraging in the wild.

At last count, the exhibit collection included approximately 550 birds, 400 reptiles, 200 amphibians, 685 fish, and at least 225 invertebrates. Although some invertebrates may be difficult to count, evidence left by golden orb spiders, leaf cutter ants, and honey bees is fascinating to see.

Conservation and Research Center Collection

At the National Zoo’s Conservation and Research Center (CRC) on more than 3,000 acres in Front Royal, Virginia, threatened animals live and breed while NZP scientists work to preserve species through biomedical research, behavioral ecology, reproduction biology, restoration of wildlife populations, and other conservation strategies.

The CRC collection includes species that are the focus of conservation programs and contains 15 mammal species and 14 species of birds. Scientists working at CRC contribute to conservation efforts from the local to international level. NZP staff are working collaboratively with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as part of the black-footed ferret recovery program. At CRC black-footed ferrets reproduce through natural breeding and artificial insemination and some of the parents and offspring are then released into the wild. Hoofstock reproduction projects were among the earliest
studies undertaken at CRC. Staff are now using information gained from the long history of managing such species as Eld’s and Pere David’s deer, sable antelope, and Arabian and scimitar-horned oryx to work with wildlife officials worldwide on strategies for managing wild and reintroduced populations.

Since 1984 the Zoo has participated in the Guam rail rescue and reintroduction program. In a two-pronged approach, biologists at NZP and other cooperating institutions have been successfully breeding the bird in captivity and Zoo pathologists have been trying to discover a deterrent for the brown tree snake, a species non-native to Guam that decimated the bird population after it was accidentally introduced more than 50 years ago. Guam rails and brown tree snakes may both be seen as part of the exhibit collection at the Zoo.

Address:
3000 Block of Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20008
The Smithsonian American Art Museum, formerly the National Museum of American Art, is the nation’s museum dedicated to the arts and artists of the United States from colonial times to the present. The museum serves audiences throughout the nation, as well as those who visit its two historic landmark buildings in Washington, D.C. It presents for a broad public its collections, educational materials, and research resources, which reflect the diversity of the country’s citizens.

The collections originated in 1829 when the first objects were acquired for the future national collection. The extensive holdings now constitute an invaluable record of American creativity, hopes, and concerns.
American Landscape Painting
The collection includes landscape paintings by Thomas Cole and Frederic Edwin Church, monumental western vistas by Thomas Moran and Albert Bierstadt, and works from New Mexico and California.

George Catlin’s Indian Gallery
During the 1830s George Catlin painted hundreds of portraits of American Indians and scenes of their everyday life. The museum’s more than 450 paintings from Catlin’s original Indian Gallery are important records of Native American life before the changes brought about by westward expansion.

Neoclassical Sculpture
The museum owns the largest and finest collection of American neoclassical sculpture of any museum in the world. Highlights include an important group of marbles by Edmonia Lewis, the only African American woman sculptor working in Italy during the nineteenth century; in-depth holdings by Hiram Powers, whose series of American political figures are important depictions of these sitters in the years before photography; and major examples by William Wetmore Story, Vinnie Ream, Chauncey Ives, and William Rinehart.

Impressionist and Gilded Age Collection
The museum owns significant groups of paintings by Thomas Wilmer Dewing, Childe Hassam, Albert Pinkham Ryder, and John Twachtman. There are also masterworks by Mary Cassatt, Winslow Homer, John LaFarge, John Singer Sargent, Abbott H. Thayer, and James McNeill Whistler.

Art by African Americans
Extensive holdings by William H. Johnson are part of the museum’s notable collection of more than 2,000 artworks by African American artists. Works by Robert Scott Duncanson, Henry Ossawa Tanner, and Edward Mitchell Bannister, prize-winning painters of the 19th-century salons, join masterworks by twentieth century artists such as Romare Bearden, Jacob Lawrence, Lois Mailou Jones, and Sam Gilliam.
**New Deal Collection**
The museum has the nation’s largest collection of art produced for projects of the New Deal, including numerous studies for post office murals. Among the artists represented are Moses Soyer, Agnes Tait, Paul Cadmus, and Stuart Davis.

**Frost Collection**
This collection of abstract works from the 1930s and 1940s is an in-depth group of paintings, sculptures, and constructions that document an important chapter in the history of American modernism. Josef Albers, Stuart Davis, Jean Helion, and Ad Reinhardt are among the artists represented.

**Folk Art**
James Hampton’s unique *Throne of the Third Heaven*, a glittering construction of tinfoil, light bulbs, and other discarded materials, memorably represents the vision of America’s self-taught artists. This complex ensemble and the renowned group of more than 450 works assembled by Herbert Waide Hemphill, Jr. constitute one of the most significant collections of American folk art in the United States. Spanning the eighteenth century to the present, the collection features paintings, quilts, decoys, whirligigs, toys, and other nontraditional art objects.

**Sara Roby Foundation Collection**
This exceptional group of twentieth century representational paintings and sculptures includes works by such well-known artists as Charles Burchfield, Edward Hopper, Arthur Dove, Isabel Bishop, Yasuo Kuniyoshi, and Morris Graves.

**Latino Collection**
Works in this collection range from religious objects made more than 300 years ago to contemporary paintings and sculpture and Chicano prints and posters. The Puerto Rican colonial works donated by Teodor Vidal, including paintings by eighteenth century artist Jose Campeche, represent the most important collection of such works outside of Puerto Rico.

**American Photography**
The collection of photography spans the entire history of the medium. Outstanding nineteenth century examples are included in the collection.
assembled by Charles Isaacs (daguerreotypes, stereocards, and salt prints). The museum also has extensive holdings by twentieth century photographers such as Aaron Siskind and Irving Penn, as well as contemporary landscape images.

Postwar Painting and Sculpture

Graphic Arts
The museum has more than 20,000 works on paper, including drawings, watercolors, pastels, and prints. While the major holdings are from the twentieth century, the collection also contains an unusually rich group of works from the Gilded Age.

Renwick Gallery
The Renwick Gallery collection of American craft consists of baskets, quilts, furniture, and jewelry in traditional materials. Noted artists in the collection include Dale Chihuly (glass), Wendell Castle (wood), John Prip (metal), Claire Zeisler (fiber), and Peter Voulkos (clay).

Address:
Smithsonian American Art Museum
8th & G Streets, NW, Washington, DC 20560

Renwick Gallery
17th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20560
The Smithsonian Institution Archives is the official repository for significant records created by Smithsonian staff throughout the Institution’s history, and for special collections that supplement the official record. The holdings include files of senior administrative officers; records of Smithsonian museums, research bureaus, and program offices; documentation of expeditions, projects, and special programs supported by the Institution; and visual materials documenting all aspects of Smithsonian history.

SIA collections are a major resource for the study of the development of American science and culture. Areas of special interest include the development of the telegraph; early exploration of Alaska and the American West; initial research in aeronautics, astrophysics, and rocketry; the beginnings of the American museum and zoological park movement; the genesis of American federal science, especially the beginnings of the U.S. Fish
Commission and U.S. Geological Survey; early life zone field research of the U.S. Bureau of Biological Survey; Smithsonian and U.S. government participation in international expositions; and the international art programs of the federal government.

**Official Records**
From the minutes of the Board of Regents to the files of individual curators, the Archives documents the Smithsonian’s growth from a primarily science-oriented organization to a vast complex of museums, research institutes, and offices. Holdings are particularly strong for the Secretaries, Board of Regents, U.S. National Museum, and the National Museum of Natural History.

**Special Collections**
In addition to official records, the Archives contains personal papers of the Secretaries, scientists, and curators whose non-administrative work is best documented through their personal files. SIA also houses the records of several professional associations related to the work of the staff, such as the American Society of Zoologists, the American Ornithologists’ Union, and the American Association of Museums.

**Audiovisual Materials**
The Archives has an extensive collection of photographs, architectural drawings, and oral history interviews with current or retired Smithsonian staff. In addition, it houses the products of a video history project, 1987–1992, documenting research processes in such diverse areas as space history, watch manufacturing, and tropical biology.

**Address:**
900 Jefferson Drive, SW, Room 2135, Washington, DC 20560
The Smithsonian Institution Libraries make information in all forms available to Smithsonian scientists, historians, curators, staff, and others with research needs. The libraries accomplish this by building, organizing, managing, housing, and preserving collections; providing reference services; and employing appropriate technologies for finding and disseminating information. The libraries offer educational opportunities that include exhibitions, internships and professional residencies, publications, lectures, user instruction, and Web sites with specialized reference information. The catalog is at www.siris.si.edu.
The 22 branch libraries are located in the museums, research institutes, and offices of the Smithsonian. These are supported by centralized acquisitions, cataloging, automated systems, and preservation departments.

The collection has exceptionally strong holdings in natural history, American history (including postal history), anthropology, American art, biography, aviation history, African art, contemporary and modern art, design and decorative arts, Asian and Near Eastern art, museology, materials conservation, environmental management and ecology, horticulture, and the history of science and technology. Collections in Latino history and culture and African American history and culture are growing steadily. Special collections of 40,000 volumes and 2,000 manuscript units are especially notable in natural history and exploring expeditions. Other distinguished special collections are those pertaining to Native Americans, ballooning and early flight, and world’s fairs.

The 285,000-piece collection of manufacturers’ commercial catalogs (product promotions, parts lists, company histories) is a national resource on the history of American manufacturing and consumerism. Strengths in history of science and technology from the fifteenth to the eighteenth centuries are in the fields of mathematics, astronomy, natural philosophy, theoretical physics (pre-1900), experimental physics (electricity and magnetism), engineering technology (1550–1900), and scientific apparatus and instruments. Unusual items include pop-up artists’ books, early Bibles, and portraits and medals depicting famous scientists.

Address:
10th Street & Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20560