SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION CHRONOLOGY

August 10, 1846          Smithsonian Act of Organization Passed
1846                   Joseph Henry Elected First Smithsonian Secretary
1855                   Smithsonian Building Completed
1858                   Smithsonian Is Designated as the National Museum
1876                   Centennial Exposition Collections Donated to Smithsonian
1878                   Spencer Baird Elected Second Secretary
1879                   Bureau of Ethnology Established at Smithsonian by Congress
1881                   Arts and Industries Building Opened
1887                   Samuel Langley Elected Third Secretary
1890                   Astrophysical Observatory Established
1891                   National Zoological Park Opened in the Valley of Rock Creek
1907                   Charles D. Walcott Appointed Fourth Secretary
1910                   Natural History Building Opened
1912                   Helen Herron Taft Donated First of the “First Ladies Gowns”
1923                   Freer Gallery of Art Opened
1928                   Charles G. Abbot Appointed Fifth Secretary
1928                   Spirit of St. Louis Donated to SI by Charles Lindbergh
1945                   Alexander Wetmore Elected Sixth Secretary
1946                   Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute Made Part of SI
1946                   National Air Museum Established
1950                   Smokey Bear Arrived at National Zoo
1952                   Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service Established
1953                   Leonard Carmichael Elected Seventh Secretary
1958                   Hope Diamond Donated to SI by Harry Winston
1959                   Fenykovi Elephant Placed on Display in NMNH
1964                   National Museum of American History Opened
1964                   S. Dillon Ripley Became Eighth Secretary
1965                   The Smithsonian Associates Founded
1965                   Smithsonian Environmental Research Center Established
1967     First Festival of American Folklife Held on the National Mall
1967     Anacostia Museum Opened
1968     National Portrait Gallery Opened in Old Patent Office Building
1969     Conservation Analytical Laboratory Established
1970     "Smithsonian" Magazine Began Publication
1970     Archives of American Art Became Part of Smithsonian
1971     Smithsonian Marine Station at Link Port Established
1972     Renwick Gallery Opened
1972     Giant Pandas Arrived at National Zoo
1974     Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden Opened
1975     Conservation & Research Center Established
1976     National Air & Space Museum Opened
1976     Cooper-Hewitt: The National Design Museum Reopened
1978     National Museum of African Art Established
1984     Robert McC. Adams Became Ninth Secretary
1987     Arthur M. Sackler Gallery Opened
1987     S. Dillon Ripley International Center Opened
1989     National Museum of the American Indian Established
1990     National Postal Museum Established
1994     I. Michael Heyman Became Tenth Secretary
2000     Lawrence M. Small Became Eleventh Secretary
2003     Udvar-Hazy Center of NASM Opened
2003     National Museum of African American History and Culture Established
2004     National Museum of the American Indian Opened
2007     Cristián Samper Appointed Acting Secretary
2008     G. Wayne Clough Became Twelfth Secretary