Record Unit 9587
Oral History Interviews

with

Helena M. Weiss, Registrar
United States National Museum

January-May 1987
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INTRODUCTION

The Oral History Program is part of the Smithsonian Institution Archives. The purpose of the project is to conduct and collect interviews with current and retired members of the Smithsonian staff who have made significant contributions, administrative and scholarly, to the Institution. The project's goal is to supplement the published record and manuscript collections in the Archives, focusing on the history of the Institution and contributions to the increase and diffusion of knowledge made by its scholars.

The Helena M. Weiss Interviews [RU 9587] were conducted by Historian of the Smithsonian Institution, Pamela M. Henson from January to May 1987. They consist of eight hours of original audio, 7” reel-to-reel tapes, preservation .wav files, reference .mp3 files, and 291 pages of transcript, and occupy 0.20 linear meters of shelf space. This interview is restricted.

Helena M. Weiss was interviewed for the Oral History Project because of her long and distinguished career at the Smithsonian and her role as one of the Institution’s first female managers.

These interviews are held in the Smithsonian Institution Archives, located in the Capital Gallery building of the Smithsonian, 600 Maryland Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C., 20024. The Archives is open to researchers from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except for federal holidays. Written, telephone (202-633-5910), and email (SIHistory@si.edu) inquiries are also welcome.

Finding aids to other collections of Smithsonian oral histories, records and personal papers are available in the Archives, through our archives database at collections.si.edu.

Tammy L. Peters
Acting Director
Smithsonian Institution Archives
August 2018
Smithsonian Institution Archives

ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION

TRANSCRIPT PREFACE
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION ARCHIVES

This manuscript is the result of one or more tape recorded interviews. The reader should bear in mind that he is reading a transcript of the spoken rather than written word.

It is my understanding that the Smithsonian Institution Archives will allow scholars to read and utilize this transcript in accordance with the Archives' general procedures. This transcript may be reproduced, published, and made available via the Internet.

See Archives for original.

See Archives for original.

(SIA director)

See Archives for original.

(date)

(date)

(date)
Helena M. Weiss (1909-2004) was born on February 6, 1909 in Shipman, Illinois. She received her clerical degree in 1930 from Wheeler Business College and began her career as a stenographer for the Veterans Administration in Washington, D.C. that same year. In 1931, she was appointed Junior Clerk-Stenographer in the Office of Correspondence and Documents (renamed the Office of Correspondence and Records in 1947) of the United States National Museum at the Smithsonian. Weiss transferred to the Department of Geology in 1935. In 1948, she returned to the Office of Correspondence and Records as Administrative Assistant. Upon Herbert S. Bryant’s retirement later that year, she was promoted to Chief. In 1956, Weiss’ title was changed to Registrar, which was the position she held until her retirement in 1971.

One of the first women in the Smithsonian to advance to a management position, Weiss was responsible for the central filing system of the USNM, all public inquiries and correspondence, mail service, accession reports, loans and exchanges, shipping, foreign travel, customs regulations, insurance, and workman’s compensation. She was involved in the acquisition of some of the Smithsonian’s most famous specimens, including the Wright brothers’ *Kitty Hawk* airplane, the Hope Diamond, and the Fénykövi elephant.

In 1971, Weiss was awarded the Secretary’s Gold Medal for Exceptional Service for her many years of outstanding service to the Smithsonian Institution.
DESCRIPTIVE ENTRY

Helena M. Weiss was interviewed in eight sessions between January and May 1987 by Pamela M. Henson, Historian of the Smithsonian Institution. The interview discusses her work at the Veterans Administration and career at the Smithsonian, including her employment as a stenographer for the Office of Correspondence and Documents, secretary for the Department of Geology, and Registrar for the USNM. Also included are reminiscences of many colleagues, notably Ray S. Bassler, Herbert S. Bryant, Louise M. Pearson, and Alexander Wetmore, and stories about some of the Smithsonian’s most important artifacts and specimens.

Box 1 contains transcripts of the interviews and digital .mp3 reference copies of the original reel-to-reel recordings, which are in security storage. There are three generations of recordings: original reel-to-reel tapes, preservation .wav files, reference .mp3 files.

Restrictions: Audio is restricted. Transcripts are available for research.

Box 1 Transcripts of Interviews

Interview 1: 21 January 1987: covers her reminiscences of arriving in Washington, D.C. as a young adult and commencing work as a stenographer at the U.S. National Museum (USNM), including:
- A brief family history
- Experience earning a degree from Wheeler Business College
- Life in Washington, D.C. in the 1930s
- First job working as a stenographer at the Veterans Administration
- Arriving at the Smithsonian and beginning work in the Office of Correspondence and Documents
- Washington, D.C. and the Smithsonian during the Great Depression
- Nature of work in the Department of Geology as private secretary to Dr. Ray S. Bassler
- Recollections of the Department of Geology, and the Divisions of Mineralogy and Invertebrate Paleontology
- Operating the Correspondence and Documents routing system
- Memories of Dr. Alexander Wetmore, Herbert S. Bryant, Dr. Walter Hough, Lester Commerford, Lewis Perry, and Louise Pearson

Transcript pages 1-34, Audio Recording 1 hour.
Interview 2: 3 February 1987: covers her reminiscences of employment in the Department of Geology (1935-1948) during the Great Depression and World War II, including:
- Reflections on wartime at the Smithsonian
- Memories of streetcars, the housing shortage, and city growth in the 1930s and 1940s
- Operational protocol at the Smithsonian with regard to the Works Progress Administration, scheduling, management, and budgeting
- The content of the radio program, *The World Is Yours*
- The nature of the many inquiries sent to Smithsonian curators
- Working for Dr. Bassler
- Facilitating the Hope Diamond’s transport to the Smithsonian
- The death of Dr. Charles E. Resser
- The growth and expansion of the Geology Department

Transcript pages 35-67, Audio Recording 1 hour.

Interview 3: 11 February 1987: covers her reminiscences of the myriad tasks involved with handling correspondence, specimen intake, institutional loans, and accession records for Smithsonian museums, including:
- Her promotion to the Office of Correspondence and Records
- First aid protocol prior to the establishment of a formal health unit
- Processing mail sent to the Smithsonian
- Responding to inquiries from the American public, as well as assessing objects mailed to the Smithsonian for examination
- Receiving and processing shipments for collections
- Organizing and maintaining accession records for the Museum of History (MHT) and the Museum of Natural History (MNH)
- Tracking loans to and from the Smithsonian
- Memories of Dr. Wetmore, Mr. Bryant, Mr. Commerford, Ms. Pearson, and Virginia Beets

Transcript pages 68-104, Audio Recording 1 hour.

Interview 4: 10 March 1987: covers her reminiscences of arranging for the shipment of delicate, dangerous, valuable, and oversized items in her role as Registrar, including details about:
- Loan policies at the Smithsonian museums
- Making use of duplicate collections materials
- Support for schoolchildren, especially those attending rural schools
- Challenges of shipping delicate objects, such as a collection of glass from the John Frederick Amelung manufactory
- Receiving the Wright brothers’ plane, *Kitty Hawk*
- The delivery of the Fénykövi elephant
- The arrival of Netherhall Swanky Dan prize bull and his
preparation for exhibition
- Collecting freeze-dried snakes at the airport
- Shipping methods for various items, including Dr. G. Arthur Cooper’s blocks
Transcript pages 105-131, Audio Recording 1 hour.

Interview 5: 16 March 1987: covers her reminiscences of her role managing Smithsonian scientific expeditions, including:
- Receiving the moon rock and Lunar Module
- Acquiring passports and travel visas for Smithsonian scientists
- Arranging scientific expeditions around the world
- Obtaining permits for travel with special equipment
- Details of the travel preparations for Dr. Wetmore and Dr. S. Dillon Ripley
- Memories of Watson M. Perrygo and Gorman M. Bond
- Processing specimens collected on expeditions
- Shipping Yap money to the Smithsonian
- John Frederick Gates Clarke’s harrowing travels in the Pacific
- Facilitating travel vaccinations for Smithsonian scientists
- The nature of various scientific expeditions around the world, including the Arnhem Land Expedition
- Her trip to Panama with Dr. Wetmore and his wife, Anna Beatrice Theilen Wetmore
Transcript pages 132-171, Audio Recording 1 hour.

Interview 6: 27 March 1987: covers her reminiscences of the expanding Smithsonian Institution and the responsibilities of the Office of the Registrar, including:
- Obtaining visas from the Russian Embassy during the Cold War
- The Smithsonian Satellite Tracking Program
- The Moonwatch Program
- The Smithson Bicentennial celebration
- The proliferation of Smithsonian departments and museums
- Maintaining accession records for multiple museums
- Addressing rising levels of correspondence
Transcript pages 172-208, Audio Recording 1 hour.

Interview 7: 20 April 1987: covers her reminiscences of overseeing the ever-expanding tasks of the Office of the Registrar, including:
- New Smithsonian publications
- Handling complex accessions
- Involvement with Marjorie Merriweather Post’s donations
- Serving as a notary
- Addressing legal quandaries
- Managing the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service
- Opportunities to instruct and consult on registrar work
- Orchestrating the daily demands of the Smithsonian mail room
- Memories of Dr. Leonard Carmichael and John E. Anglim
  Transcript pages 209-246, Audio Recording 1 hour.

Interview 8: 12 May 1987: covers her reminiscences of the responsibilities of the Smithsonian to the general public and the end of her career, including:
  - Radio Smithsonian and other Smithsonian programming
  - Public interest in meteorites, as reflected in correspondence
  - Increasing numbers of letters from the public
  - The donation of the Arthur M. Greenwood house to NMNH
  - Arranging the transport of the West Virginia post office to MHT
  - Serving in the Public Information Working Group
  - Memories of Mr. Perrygo
  - Establishing the Smithsonian Institution Archives
  - Happening upon undiscovered Mathew Brady negatives
  - Deciding to retire
  - Receiving the Secretary’s Gold Medal for Exceptional Service
  Transcript pages 247-291, Audio Recording 1 hour.

Audio Recordings of Interview

Interview 1: 21 January 1987: Total Recording Time: 1:04:08
Original Masters: 2 7” reel-to-reel analog audiotapes
Preservation Masters: 2 digital audio .wav files
Reference Copies: 2 digital audio .mp3 files

Interview 2: 3 February 1987: Total Recording Time: 1:04:29
Original Masters: 2 7” reel-to-reel analog audiotapes
Preservation Masters: 2 digital audio .wav files
Reference Copies: 2 digital audio .mp3 files

Interview 3: 11 February 1987: Total Recording Time: 1:04:31
Original Masters: 2 7” reel-to-reel analog audiotapes
Preservation Masters: 2 digital audio .wav files
Reference Copies: 2 digital audio .mp3 files

Interview 4: 10 March 1987: Total Recording Time: 0:50:48
Original Masters: 2 7” reel-to-reel analog audiotapes
Preservation Masters: 2 digital audio .wav files
Reference Copies: 2 digital audio .mp3 files
Interview 5: 16 March 1987: Total Recording Time: 1:04:56
Original Masters: 2 7” reel-to-reel analog audiotapes
Preservation Masters: 2 digital audio .wav files
Reference Copies: 2 digital audio .mp3 files

Original Masters: 2 7” reel-to-reel analog audiotapes
Preservation Masters: 2 digital audio .wav files
Reference Copies: 2 digital audio .mp3 files

Interview 7: 20 April 1987: Total Recording Time: 1:04:57
Original Masters: 2 7” reel-to-reel analog audiotapes
Preservation Masters: 2 digital audio .wav files
Reference Copies: 2 digital audio .mp3 files

Interview 8: 12 May 1987: Total Recording Time: 1:05:45
Original Masters: 2 7” reel-to-reel analog audiotapes
Preservation Masters: 2 digital audio .wav files
Reference Copies: 2 digital audio .mp3 files

Emily L. Bierman
August 2018
LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS


Page 12: Photograph of Helena M. Weiss at work, acquired from her personal scrapbook, c. 1930s. Smithsonian Institution Archives, RU 12-184, Box 1. Image Number SIA2018-109866E.

Page 27: View from the office of Helena M. Weiss, probably at the Department of Geology, c. 1930s. RU 12-184, Box 1. Image Number SIA2018-109830C.

Page 42: Helena M. Weiss with her friends on a winter day in 1937, probably in Washington, D.C. Smithsonian Institution Archives, RU 12-184, Box 1. Image Number SIA2018-109845A.

Page 48: Helena M. Weiss standing on the steps outside the U.S. National Museum, c. late 1930s. Smithsonian Institution Archives, RU 12-184, Box 1. Image Number SIA2018-109861B.

Page 70: Helena M. Weiss with Dr. Ray Bassler in the Natural History Building Office, c. 1930s or 1940s, RU 05-112, Box 2. Image Number SIA2013-02862.

Page 82: Hand-drawn birthday card for Helena M. Weiss showing the range of her responsibilities from curators Edward A. Chapin, Ray S. Bassler, J.F. Gates Clarke, Clyde E. Bauman, and David H. Dunkle, date unknown, RU 05-112, Box 2. Image Number SIA2013-02862.

Page 114: Wright Flyer in the A & I Building, December 1948. Smithsonian Institution Archives, RU 95, Box 43, Folder 40. Image Number 2002-10643.

Page 117: Preparing the Fénykövi Elephant for Exhibit, 1958. Smithsonian Institution Archives, RU 82, Box 1, Folder 2. Image Number SIA2010-0608.

Page 150: Jack & Thelma Miesen Clarke, 1967. Smithsonian Institution Archives, RU 9555, Box 1. Image Number 91-14038.

Page 169: Bea Wetmore and Helena Weiss in Panama La Vieja, Panama, February 18, 1962. Smithsonian Institution Archives, RU 7006, Box 193, Album 1. Image Number SIA2016-008218B.

Page 189: George B. Griffenhagen, Helena Weiss, and a man identified only as “Bane,” August 24, 1956, RU 95, Box 57, Folder 4. Image Number SIA2009-4253.

Page 196: Smithsonian staff at the opening of First Ladies' Hall in the Arts & Industries Building. Smithsonian Institution Archives, RU 05-112, Box 1. Image Number SIA2018-108351.


Page 290: Helena Weiss with Dr. Charles G. Abbot and Dr. Alexander Wetmore at her retirement party, December 29, 1971, RU 05-112, Box 1. Image Number 71-3364-7.
NAME AND TERM LIST

Personal Names
Abbot, Charles Greeley
Abbott, R. Tucker
Adams, E. James
Ahlborn, Richard E. “Dick”
Alexander, Georgia
Ali, Sâlim
Allen, Dorothy Tonic
Anglim, John E. “Jack”
Baez, Anselmo
Baker, J.
Baker, James G.
Bassler, Ray Smith
Battison, Edwin A.
Bauman, Clyde E.
Beach, Jessie G.
Beets, M. Virginia
Beggs, Thomas M.
Belote, Theodore T.
Benn, James H.
Block, Huntington T.
Blumenthal, Theresa
Bond, Gorman N.
Boss, Norman
Bowsher, Arthur Leroy Sr.
Boyle, Ann
Boyle, William E.
Brady, Mathew
Bradley, James C.
Bridge, Josiah
Brown, Roland Wilbur
Brueggemann, Marie (mother)
Bryant, Herbert S.
Campbell, Ann S.
Canu, Ferdinand
Carmichael, Mrs. Pearl Kidston
Carmichael, Leonard
Carwithen, Bertha T.
Case, Mary E.
Cavanaugh, Eileen C.
Chace, Fenner A. Jr.
Chapin, Edward Albert
Clark, Austin Hobart

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Clarke, John Frederick Gates “Jack”
Clarke, Roy S., Jr.
Clarke, Thelma Miesen
Cochran, Doris Mable
Collins, Henry Bascom, Jr.
Collins, Michael
Commerford, Lester E.
Connors, [James] Leo
Cooper, Grace Rogers
Cooper, Gustav Arthur “Gus”
Cooper, Josephine P. Wells
Copeland, Patricia
Davis, Donald Ray “Don”
Davis, Wayne
Dawson, E. Yale
Deignan, Herbert Girton “Bert”
deSilva, P.H.D.H.
Dixon, Nathaniel M.
Dorsey, Harry W.
Dorsey, Nicholas W.
Douglas, Clarence
Dudley, Dorothy H.
Dunkle, David Hosbrook
Dunston, Alice
Etheridge, Dorothy P.
Evans, Clifford Jr.
Fehlmann, H. Adair
Fénykövi, Joseph J.
Foerste, August Frederick
Ford, James Alfred
Foshag, Merle Crisler (remarried: Merle Crisler Foshag Woodring)
Foshag, William Frederick
Foster, George McClelland Jr.
Friedmann, Herbert
Fyfe, Howard
Gant, Lorenzo
Garber, Paul E.
Gardner, Paul V.
Gazin, C. [Charles] Lewis
Gilmore, C. W. [“Charles”]
Girard, Thomas J.
Gomez, Adela A.
Gonzalez R., Jenaro
Greenwell, Francis M. “Frank”
Greenwood, Arthur M.
Greenwood, Edna
Hampton, Barry
Handley, Charles O. “Charlie” Jr.
Haskin, Frederic Jennings
Hawkins, Tilghman A.
Henderson, Edward Porter
Henry, Thomas R. “Tom”
Hoemann, Maria M.
Holland, Amy
Hollister, Mabel P.
Hough, Walter
Humphrey, Philip Strong
Jackson, Thurman T.
Jameson, John F.
Jefferson, Leroy
Johnson, David H.
Johnson, Lady Bird
Johnson, President Lyndon Baines
Johnson, Roscoe C.
Johnston, S. Paul
Kadarsan, Sampurno
Keddy, John Lewis
Kellett, Betty
Kellogg, A. [Arthur] Remington
Kennedy, President John Fitzgerald
Killip, Ellsworth P.
Kincaid
Kirk, Edwin
Kirk, Robert E.
Klapthor, Margaret Brown
Krieger, Herbert William
Kushan, George P.
Laughlin, Robert M.
Leonard, E.C.
Lerner, Abram
Leyto, Steven
Lewton, Frederick L.
Lato, Stephen Edward
Lodge, Ambassador John Davis
Loeblich, Alfred Richard Jr.
Love, J.J.
Lytle, Richard H. “Dick”
Mann, William M.
Mason, Brian H.
Maxon, William Ralph
May, Herbert A.
McCain, Lucile
McCoy, George D.
McCoy, M. Garnett
McGrory, Mary
Mellon, Andrew W.
Menon, A.G.K.
Mesler, Rector Duvall
Miller, Robert R.
Miser, Hugh Dinsmore
Mitman, Carl Weaver
Moodey, Margaret W.
Morgan, Betty J.
Morrison, Joseph Paul Eldred
Moynihan, Martin H.
Murphy, Martin
Neal, Arminta
Nunn, Joseph
Nylin, Ruth E.
Oehser, Paul H.
Oldfather, Mary
Oliver, Lawrence L.
Organ, R.M.
Paine, Richard G.
Pearson, Louise M.
Perry, Lewis E.
Perrygo, Watson M.
Philips, Frederic M.
Pope, Annemarie Henle
Post, Marjorie Merriweather
Pouliot, Leonard B. “Len”
Reberholt, Bertel O.
Reed, Theodore H.
Reeside, John Bernard Jr.
Rehder, Harald A.
Reingold, Nathan “Nate”
Resser, Charles Elmer
Rice, Mary E.
Richter, Anders
Riesenber, Saul Herbert
Rinzler, Ralph C.
Ripley, S. Dillon
Ritterbush, Philip C.
Robinson, Betty J.
Robinson, Michael H.
Roosevelt, President Franklin Delano
Ross, Marvin Chauncey
Roy, Edgar L. “Ed”
Rubinoff, Ira
Santiago, Margaret A.
Scheele, Carl H.
Schmitt, Waldo LaSalle
Schultz, Leonard Peter
Setzler, Frank M.
Shannon, Earl V.
Sherwood, John
Shuman, Mary B. C.
Singer, Milo
Smith, Helena
Smithson, James
Sohn, I. G. [Israel Gregory “Greg”]
Solecki, Ralph S.
Stanton, Timothy William
Stejneger, Leonhard Hess
Stem, Charles W.
Stewart, T. Dale
Stirling, Matthew Williams
Strong, William Duncan
Suratt, Samuel T.
Switzer, George S.
Taylor, Frank A.
Thompson, Edward K.
Tolman, Ruel P.
Traylor, James G.
True, Webster P. “Web”
Ulrich, Edward Oscar
Uphoff, Enna B.
Van Arsdale, Dorothy T.
Van Beek, Gus Willard
Vanderbilt, George
Wade, Erwin M.
Wadsworth, Margaret B.
Walker, Charlotte
Wallen, I. Eugene “Gene”
Ward, Herbert
Warner, William W.
Watkins, C. Malcolm
Watkins, William M.N.
Watson, George E. III
Watson, George H.
Weiss, Anna Leila (sister)
Weiss, Eugene Herbert (brother)
Weiss, Gerald Bisset (father)
Weiss, Geraldine Marie (sister)
Weiss, Freda (stepmother)
Wetmore, Alexander
Wetmore, Annie Beatrice Thielen “Bea”
Whipple, Fred L.
White, David
Wiley, Grace Olive
Wilkinson, Irma Bezold
Willoughby, Marion F.
Winston, Harry
Wisner, Phillip N.
Woolfenden, William E.
Yochelson, Ellis Leon
Zapruder, Marjorie S.
Zetek, James

Corporate Names
Band-Aid
Butler Buildings
Curtiss Candy Company (corrected for Peter Chocolate Company)
De Beers Diamond Jewelers
Eastern Airlines
Huntington T. Block Insurance Agency, Inc.
Kruger’s Diamond Jewelers
McLaughlin Company of Washington, D.C.
National Broadcasting Company (NBC)
Pullman Standard Company of Bessemer, Alabama
United Engineers and Constructors of Philadelphia

Geographic Names
Adirondack Mountains
Africa
Aleutian Islands
Alton, Illinois
Angola, Republic of
Argentina
Australia
Barro Colorado Island
Belfast, Northern Ireland
Belgian Congo
Beltville, Maryland
Bessemer, Alabama
Bhutan
Bikini Atoll, Marshall Islands
Birmingham, Alabama
Blacksburg, Virginia
Brazil
Butler, Pennsylvania
Calcutta, India
California
Canada
Cambridge, Massachusetts
Ceylon
Chicago, Illinois
China
Colombo
Curaçao
Darien, Connecticut
Detroit, Michigan
Dominica
Egypt
England
Europe
Fiji
Florida
Fort Pierce
French Polynesia
France
Germany
Glass Mountains, Texas
Hawaiian Islands
Illinois
India
Indian Ocean
Indonesia
Iran
Iraq
Japan
Kosrae, Federated States of Micronesia
Kusaie; now Kosrae
Long Island, New York
Los Angeles, California
Marshall Islands
Maryland
Massachusetts
Maui Island
Mexico
Michigan
Micronesia, Federated States of
Middle East
Minnesota
Nepal
New Guinea, Indonesia
New Mexico
New York, New York
Nile River
North Carolina
Northern Ireland
Oklahoma
Pacific Islands Trust Territory
Pacific Ocean
Palau, Republic of
Panama
Papeete, French Polynesia
Ponape; now Pohnpei
Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia
Paricutin Volcano, Mexico
Park Ridge, Illinois
Peru
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Point Barrow, Alaska
Polynesia
Rapa
Red Sea
Russia
San Francisco, California
Shipman, Illinois
South America
Spain
St. Louis, Missouri
Silver Hill, Maryland
South Africa
South America
Suitland, Maryland
Tahiti
Texas
Thailand
Virginia
Washington, D.C.
West Virginia
Yap Islands, Federated States of Micronesia

U.S. Government Buildings, Bureaus, Departments, and Organizations
Bureau of Customs, now U.S. Customs and Border Protection
Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, now U.S. Department of Agriculture
Bureau of the Budget, now Office of Management and Budget
Commission on the Organization of the Executive Branch of the
Government (Hoover Commission)
Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)
General Services Administration (GSA)
National Archives
National Institutes of Health (NIH)
Patent Office Building
Peace Corps
Pension Building, now the National Building Museum
Plant Quarantine Service – see Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine
Thompson Committee Hearings, Committee on House Administration, 
U.S. House of Representatives, 1970
U.S. Air Force
U.S. Army
U.S. Capitol
U.S. Congress
U.S. Customs Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Defense
U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Department of State
U.S. Department of War
U.S. Despatch Agency, U.S. State Department
U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)
U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service
U.S. Navy
U.S. Navy Yard
U.S. Postal Service
U.S. Post Office Registry Department
U.S. Public Health Service
U.S. State Department
Veterans Administration, now U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
War, Department of
White House, The
Works Progress Administration (WPA)

Colleges and Universities
Butler Business College
George Washington University (G.W.)
Tufts University
University of British Columbia
University of New Mexico
Wheeler Business College
Yale University

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Smithsonian Museums, Buildings, Divisions, Departments, Offices, and Programs
Air Museum, now the National Air and Space Museum
Academic Programs, Office of
Anacostia Neighborhood Museum, now the Anacostia Community Museum
Anthropology, Department of
Archives of American Art
Arts and Industries Building (A & I Building)
Barney Studio House
Birds, Division of
Botany, Department of
Canal Zone Biological Area, now Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute
Ceramics and Glass, Division of
Community Life, Division of
Conservation Analytical Laboratory; now the Museum Conservation Institute
Cooper-Hewitt Museum of Decorative Arts and Design, now Cooper Hewitt National Design Museum (Cooper-Hewitt)
Correspondence and Documents, Division of
Correspondence and Records, Division of
Editorial and Publications Division
Engineering, Division of
Engineering and Industries, Department of
Entomology, Division of
Ethnogeographic Board
Ethnology, Division of
Exhibits, Office of
Facilities Services, Office of
General Counsel’s Office
Geology, Department of
Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden
History, Department of
Holt House, National Zoological Park
International Exchange Service
Invertebrate Paleontology and Paleobotany, Division of
Joseph Henry Papers
Mellon Gallery, now the National Gallery of Art
Mineralogy, Department of
Moonwatch Program
National Air and Space Museum
National Air Museum, now the National Air and Space Museum
Numismatics, Division of
National Collection of Fine Arts (NCFA), now the Smithsonian American Art Museum
National Museum of American Art, now Smithsonian American Art Museum
National Museum of American History
National Museum of History and Technology (MHT), now the National Museum of American History
National Museum of Natural History
National Portrait Gallery
National Zoological Park
Natural History Building, National Museum of Natural History
Office of Correspondence and Documents
Office of Correspondence and Records (C & R)
Office of the Registrar
Pacific Ocean Biological Survey Program
Paul E. Garber Preservation, Restoration, and Storage Facility
Performing Arts, Division of Personnel, Office of
Philately, Division of; now the Smithsonian National Postal Museum
Photographic Division
Physical Anthropology, Division of
Public Affairs, Office of
Public Information Working Group
Radio Smithsonian Registrar, Office of the
Renwick Gallery
Satellite Tracking Program, Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory
Secretary, Office of the Shipping Office
Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory
Smithsonian Institution Building (Castle Building)
Smithsonian Institution Press
Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service
Smithsonian Oceanographic Sorting Center
Smithsonian Resident Associates
Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute
Supplies, Office of
U.S. National Museum
Vertebrate Paleontology, Division of
Visitor Information and Associates Reception Center (VIARC), now the Office of Visitor Services
War Background Series
Wood Technology, Division of

**Smithsonian Awards, Events, and Expeditions**
Festival of American Folklife
Secretary’s Gold Medal for Exceptional Service
Smithson Bicentennial
Smithsonian-Bredin Caribbean Expeditions
Yale-Smithsonian-National Geographic Society Expedition to Nepal

**Smithsonian Exhibits and Specimens**
Bryozoans
Crinoids
Dead Sea Scrolls
Dermestid beetles
Devonian Brachiopids
*Europa* statue
Fénykővi Elephant
Hope Diamond
John Frederick Amelung glass
*Kitty Hawk* airplane - see Wright Flyer
Lunar Module (LM)
*Microlepidoptera*
Moon rock
National Science Fair Exhibit
Neanderthals
Netherhall Swanky Dan prize bull
Stradivarius Violin
Ward Collection
Wright Flyer (Wright Brothers’ airplane)
Yap stone money; also called Rai stones
Zuni hall; now Indian Cultures Hall

**Non-Personal Terms**
Aborigines
Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia
All States Hotel for Women Government Employees – Washington, D.C.
American Association of Museums, now American Alliance of Museums
American-Australian Scientific Expedition to Arnhem Land (Arnhem Land Expedition)
American Museum of Natural History
Antiquities Act, The
Baker-Nunn Satellite Tracking Cameras
Blickensderfer Typewriter
Bogor Museum
Bombay Natural History Society
Boy Scouts of America
British Museum of Natural History, now the Natural History Museum, London
British Royal Navy
Cambrian Period
Camp Topridge
Capitol Hill, Washington, DC
Customs inspector
Dermestid [“Beetle”] Pit (SI)
Dysentery
Eskimos
Examinations and Reports; also referred to as “E & Rs” (USNM)
Great Depression, The
Hepatitis
Hillwood Estate, Museum and Gardens
International Biological Program (1964 to 1974)
International Geophysical Year (July 1957 to December 1958)
Iron Curtain
Joy Boys Radio Program, The
“Just Before the Battle, Mother”
Los Angeles County Museum of Science, History, and Art
National Gallery of Art
National Geographic Society
National Mall, The
National Museums in Colombo
National Trust for Historic Preservation
O'Hare Air Reserve Station, formerly located at O'Hare International Airport
O'Hare International Airport
Operation Crossroads
Presidential Cruise of 1938
Quonset huts
Russian Embassy
Sputnik
World War I
World War II
Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA)

Publications
Annual Report of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution
(Washington: Smithsonian Institution)
“Just Before the Battle, Mother”
Materials for Word-study; A Manual for Roots, Prefixes, Suffixes and Derivatives in the English Language by Roland Wilbur Brown
(New Haven: Van Dyck & Co., 1927)
Life Magazine
Museum Registration Methods by Dorothy H. Dudley and Irma Bezold
(Washington: American Association of Museums, 1958)
National Geographic Magazine
“Paintings of Sir Winston Churchill” Exhibit, Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition Service, 1958
Smithsonian Institution War Background Studies Series
Smithsonian Magazine

Smithsonian Year
Survival on Land and Sea by the Ethnogeographic Board (Washington: U.S. Navy, 1943)

The Torch
War Background Studies (Washington: Smithsonian Institution, 1941-1945)

The Washington Star