



Media only: Catherine Shteynberg 202-633-2932

June 20, 2011

Media Web site: <http://siarchives.si.edu/press>

Smithsonian Institution Archives Receives Major Grants to Support Collections Access and Care

The Smithsonian Institution Archives has received over three quarters of a million dollars in grants over the past year to make major improvements to digitize and improve accessibility to important Smithsonian collections, and to improve collections care across the Institution. Director, Anne Van Camp, says “We have been extremely fortunate to attract major funding to help us increase access to some of our most highly valued collections. This support is critical in helping us to meet one of the Institution’s strategic goals of making our collections stronger and more broadly accessible to the public.”

Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) Grant-

The Archives and the National Museum of Natural History are collaborating on a three-year, \$498,239 Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) grant, to improve access to biodiversity field books. Field books are significant sources of information related to scientific discovery, and are the source for collections catalog entries and specimen labels. In addition to collector-assigned identifications for specimens, field books also often contain journaling, maps, photos, and other rich contextual information on the species distribution, habitats, and weather in a give location at a specific point in time. Thus, the information in these field books can provide a historical contrast to what biodiversity researchers are finding today in a given area.

The Field Book Project, which will provide one online location for field book content related to biodiversity research, is funded through December 2012. The project will begin as a Smithsonian-wide initiative and lay the foundation for an online Field Book Registry comprised of content contributed by museums and research institutions from around the world. Additionally, the Field Book Project is a partner on the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) funded project, *Connecting Content*, which intends to create universal linkages between field book entries, specimens, and published citations. Led by the California Academy of Sciences, the partners on *Connecting Content* include Missouri Botanical Garden, Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, Harvard University Botany Libraries, Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology Library, the New York Botanical Garden, and the Smithsonian Institution.

Historic Preservation Fund for Save America’s Treasures Grant-

The Archives also received \$96,783 from the Historic Preservation Fund for Save America’s Treasures, administered by the National Park Service, to conserve Biodiversity Field Books and Original Expedition Journals at the Smithsonian Institution. This complements the CLIR grant to identify and catalogue field books at National Museum of Natural History and the Archives. The grant will be matched and supports a part-time book conservator, special conservation interns, and supplies.

Lounsbury Foundation Grant-

In the area of collections access and the support of historical research, the Archives has received a \$100,000 grant from the Lounsbury Foundation to support the development of a website on the Smithsonian's First Secretary, Joseph Henry, and his influence on the development of the Smithsonian Institution and early American science. The Lounsbury Foundation recently supported the production of the scholarly series of documentary editions of the Joseph Henry Papers, which were completed in 2008. The grant-supported Joseph Henry website will bring together these papers with other pan-institutional multimedia from the arts, history, science, and culture divisions of the institution. The new site, which is planned to launch in 2011, will tell the essential story of the Smithsonian's origins and earliest years.

Collections Care and Preservation Fund (CCPF) Grant-

Finally, in the area of collections care, the Smithsonian Institution Archives was awarded Federal support of \$70,400 from the Collections Care and Preservation Fund (CCPF), administered by the National Collections Program and the Smithsonian Collections Advisory Committee for the project "Pre-Move Stabilization and Rehousing of Photographic Negatives." With these funds, the Archives will rehouse collections from National Museum of American History, the Smithsonian American Art Museum, as well as the Archives' own collections, that are moving to a new shared cold storage vault.

About the Archives

The Smithsonian Institution Archives captures, preserves, and makes available to the public the history of Smithsonian. From its inception in 1846 to the present, the records of the history of the Institution—its people, its programs, its research, and its stories—have been gathered, organized, and disseminated so that everyone can learn about the Smithsonian. The history of the Smithsonian is a vital part of American history, of scientific exploration, and of international cultural understanding. Learn more about the Archives at siarchives.si.edu.

Related Content:

- [The Field Book Project](#)
- [The Joseph Henry Papers Project](#)
- [Smithsonian Institution Archives, Collections Care](#)