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Smithsonian Museum & Research Centers Information

Close  Browse records and papers documenting the history and research of major Smithsonian divisions. Pre-set filters help narrow searches by museum or research center.

- Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (5554)
- United States National Museum (4102)
- National Museum of Natural History (3856)
- National Zoological Park (3151)
- All (4889)

Smithsonian Records Information

Close  Browse official records created at the Smithsonian Institution's museums, research centers, libraries, and archives, now in the Smithsonian Institution Archives' collections. Pre-set filters help narrow searches by major topics or disciplines.

- All (4889)
- Museum Studies (3122)
- Art (966)
- Exhibitions (509)
- Natural History (348)
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Smithsonian Secretaries Information

Close Browse records and papers of the Smithsonian Secretaries, from 1846 until today. Pre-set filters help narrow searches by individuals who have held that office.

- All (2659)
- Joseph Henry (955)
- Alexander Wetmore (460)
- Sidney Dillon Ripley (365)
- Spencer Fullerton Baird (356)
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Personal Papers Information

Close Browse papers and special collections created by institutions and persons who have contributed to and collaborated with the Smithsonian. Pre-set filters help narrow searches by major topics and disciplines.

- All (1806)
- Aeronautics (228)
- Entomology (163)
- Mammalogy (157)
- Paleontology (125)
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Expeditions Information

Close Browse records and papers documenting scientific and collecting expeditions either affiliated with the Smithsonian, or with which Smithsonian researchers participated. Pre-set filters help narrow searches by geographic regions predominantly represented in expedition records.

- All (1229)
- United States (893)
- Central America (119)
- Asia (94)
- Australia/New Zealand (62)
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Professional Societies Information

Close Browse records of professional societies closely associated with the Smithsonian, that focus on areas of scientific research and museum studies. Pre-set filters help narrow searches by major topics and disciplines.

- All (455)
- History (47)
- Biology (38)
- Science (35)
- Natural History (33)
Summary

- This volume is an important documentary record of a turning point in the history of American anthropology which mandated the development of a new set of guiding principles and federal laws regarding repatriation of human remains and mortuary artifacts. The editors have formatted 18 authoritative articles into a very readable explanation of the background and issues involved to present their four-part case study of a repatriation request made in 1987 to the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History. The various authors discuss developments ensuing over the next several years which ultimately led to Smithsonian Secretary Robert McC. Adams granting the request, thus allowing reburial of the skeletal and mortuary collection in October 1991.

- The case involves the human remains of almost 1,000 individuals, along with mortuary artifacts, brought to the Smithsonian in the 1930's from Larsen Bay, on Alaska's Kodiak Island, by Alěs Hrdlička, curator of the U. S. Museum of Natural History from 1910 to 1941. A Czech native, Hrdlička traveled widely to collect skeletal remains and established the Smithsonian's world-renowned physical anthropology collections. Seen as a tireless worker but peculiar figure in his own time, Hrdlička was viewed after his 1943 death in a more controversial light, partly due to his failure to use proper archaeological techniques, but more so because of his callous disregard for the human remains found and for their living Larsen Bay ancestors. The "Chronology of Events" at the beginning of the book is especially useful.

Co-editor

- Bray, Tamara L
- Killion, Thomas W

Subject

- Hrdlička, Alěš
- Adams, Robert McCormick 1926-2018
- National Museum of Natural History (U.S.)
- United States National Museum

Category

Smithsonian Institution History Bibliography
Notes

Paperback

Contact information

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Date

1994

Topic

- Secretaries
- Physical anthropology
- Anthropology
- Moral and ethical aspects
- Personnel management
- Acquisitions
- Employees
- Museums
- Koniagmiut Eskimos
- Funeral rites and ceremonies
- Civil Rights
- Collectors and collecting
- National Collections
- Federal Government, Relations with SI
- Human remains (Archaeology)
- Antiquities
- Freedom of religion
- Repatriation
- Archaeology
- Collection and preservation
- Smithsonian Institution
- Koniagmiut Eskimos--Funeral customs and rites
- Koniagmiut Eskimos--Civil rights
- Koniagmiut Eskimos--Antiquities--Collection and preservation
- Archaeology--Moral and ethical aspects
Killion, Thomas W. Format. Book and Print. Publication Info. Washington : Smithsonian Institution Press, ©1994. Description. xiv, 194 pages : illustrations, maps ; 28 cm. Subject(s). Smithsonian Institution--History. Koniagmiut Eskimos--Antiquities --Collection and preservation. Freedom of religion--United States. Reckoning with the dead: the Larsen Bay repatriation and the Smithsonian institution. T.L. Bray and T.W. Killion (Editors). 1994. Washington and London: Smithsonian Institution Press, xiv + 194 p, illustrated, soft cover. During the early 1930s, the native cemetery at Larsen Bay was excavated by Dr Ales Hrdlicka, curator at the Smithsonian Institution. In 1987, the Larsen Bay Tribal Council made a formal request for the return of all materials excavated by Hrdlicka and deposited in the Smithsonian Museum. At that time, Smithsonian policy only acknowledged rights of lineal descendants to burial remains (Donald J. Ortner’s contribution to the volume traces the history of this policy), yet many of the Larsen Bay burials were more than 1000 years old. Reckoning with the Dead: The Larsen Bay Repatriation and the Smithsonian Institution [Tamara L. Bray, Thomas W. Killion] on Amazon.com. *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. Juxtaposing the divergent views of Native Americans, archaeologists, and museum and legal experts, this book presents the Larsen Bay. Juxtaposing the divergent views of Native Americans, archaeologists, and museum and legal experts, this book presents the Larsen Bay, Alaska, repatriation request of the Smithsonian as a watershed event illustrating the full complexity of the repatriation issue. Read more. Product details. Paperback: 325 pages. Publisher: Smithsonian (September 17, 1994).