

Central Policy Files

1863-1913

The Central Policy Files of the National Academies Archives contain the administrative records of the National Academy of Sciences and its operating arm, the National Research Council, as well as administrative records of the National Academy of Engineering and the National Academy of Medicine. The records in the Central Policy Files encompass operational and program papers documenting the operations and organization of the Academy complex and its study committees. The Academies' activities with international non-governmental scientific unions and organizations are particularly well-represented in the collection.

The documents that make up the Central Policy Files were created and/or received by the institution's Executive Offices while conducting institutional business. The collection therefore only includes institutional, and not personal, papers. The records contained in the Central Policy Files are considered privileged records and are closed to the public for a period of twenty-five years. Records in the Central Policy Files that are twenty-five years old and older are open to qualified researchers.

The records in the Central Policy Files are organized according to the NAS Records System, the structure of which follows the organization of the institution at the time the records in question were created. Under this system, the placement of an activity within the collection may change over a period of years, corresponding to changes in the organization of the institution. Beginning with the arrangement of records created in 2000, a modified and streamlined version of the NAS Records System has been in place.

For ease of use, the Central Policy Files are divided into discrete date banks, each of which encompasses a given number of years. Outline finding aids to the Central Policy Files correspond to date banks as they exist in the Archives. Because the Academies' activities are so numerous and varied, it is not possible to give capsule descriptions of each. However, the individual entries in the outlines to the collection should provide a general idea of the scope and subject matter of the activities documented.

This collection is approximately 9 linear feet in size.

ADMINISTRATION

INSTITUTIONS-ASSOCIATIONS & INDIVIDUALS

- National Institution for Promotion of Science: Proceedings – 1840: 1841
- Princeton University: Invitation: Sesquicentennial: Oversized: 1876
- Research Corporation: Experiment in Public Administration of Patent Rights: Cottrell F G: 1912

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

- International Congresses
 - International Astronomical Convention: NAS Delegate: 1887-1889
- International Organizations
 - International Association of Academies: 1899-1913
 - Wisebaden Conference: 1899
 - International Bureau of Weights & Measures: 1875

LEGAL MATTERS

- Payment Procedure for Work Done by NAS for US Government: Comptroller of Treasury's Response to Department of Interior: 1896
- Hudson & Manhattan Railroad Co vs Charles H Bohde and Others: 1906

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCE (NAS)

- Attempts to Secure Permanent Quarters: 1893-1913
- Committees
 - Artificial Coloring of Sugars: 1876-1877
 - Astronomical Day, Eclipse of 1886, & New (Naval) Observatory: 1885-1886
 - Care & Disposal of Publications: 1899-1900
 - Cent Coinage: 1864
 - Coastal Survey Triangulation to Connect Atlantic & Pacific Coasts: 1887
 - Conduct of Scientific Work of US Government: 1909
 - Conventional Standard of Color: Proposed: 1893
 - Cooperate with National Board of Health: 1880
 - Cooperative Research in Chemistry: 1907
 - Customs Duty on Philosophical & Scientific Apparatus: 1884
 - Demerara Sugars: 1877
 - Distinguishing Calf's Hair Goods from Woolen Goods: 1870-1876
 - Division of Committees on Anthropology & Biology: 1910-1911
 - Examine Present Condition of Declaration of Independence: 1902-1903
 - Experiments on Expansion of Steam: 1864-1880
 - Explosion on USS Chenango: 1864
 - Galvanic Action from Association of Zinc & Iron (Soldiers' Graves): 1867
 - Glucose: 1882-1884
 - Greytown Harbor, Nicaragua: 1866
 - Inauguration of Rational Policy for Forested Lands of US: 1896-1897
 - Increasing Members of Academy: 1865-1866
 - Investigation of North Magnetic Pole: 1890
 - Knapsacks: 1868-1884
 - Magnetic Deviations in Iron Ships: 1863-1865
 - Measurement of Velocity of Light: 1878-1879
 - National Currency: 1863
 - Opium: 1886-1887
 - Organization of National Surveys & Signal Service: 1884
 - Plan for Surveying & Mapping US Territories: 1873-1878
 - Polaris Expedition: 1870-1877
 - Prevention of Counterfeiting: 1865-1867
 - Proposed Changes in Nautical Almanac: 1877-1878
 - Publications: General: 1863-1913
 - Publications of the Academy: Citations & References: 1882-1902
 - Relationship of Academy to Philosophical Economic & Philological Sciences: 1903-1906
 - Restoration of the Manuscript of the Declaration of Independence: 1881-1882
 - Saxton's Hydrometer: 1863
 - Scientific Surveys of Philippine Islands: 1903

- Separation of Methyl from Alcohol: 1882-1884
- Solar Research: 1904-1909
- Sorghum Sugar 1881
 - Report: 1882
 - General: 1882
- Standards for Electrical Measure: 1893-1895
- Subject of Protecting Bottoms of Iron Ships from Injury by Salt Water: 1862-1864* (*pre-1863 materials are background data)
- Sugar Determinations: 1887
- Tariff Classification of Wool: 1885
- Testing & Estimating Strength of Distilled Spirits
 - Special Investigation on Spirit Meters: 1866-1868
 - General: 1863-1866
- Use of Polarized Light for Determining Values of Sugars: 1878
- Water-Proofing Fractional Currency: 1875-1876
- Weights Measures & Coinage
 - 1872-1879
 - 1857-1867* (*pre-1863 materials are background data)
- Wind & Current Charts & Sailing Directions: 1864
- Committees & Members Lists: 1863
- Constitution & By-Laws
 - Committee to Establish Constitution: Report: 1863
 - Copies: 1864
- Constitution & Rules
 - Amendments: Apr 1872
 - Amendments: Article IV, Section 5: 1905
- Council of the Academy
 - Committee on Classification of Academy into Sections: 1890
 - Membership: Formal Listing: 1863-1913
- Future of NAS: 1906-1913
- Home Secretary: Register Book of Letters - Hague A: 1901-1904
- Library: 1880-1902
- Meetings (Each year is a separate folder)
 - 1863-1868
 - 1871-1873; 1876-1878
 - 1881-1889
 - 1890-1899
 - 1901-1910
 - 1911-1912
 - Annual: Presented Papers: Not Listed: 1864-1913
 - Attendance: 1863-1866
 - Autumn: General: 1913
 - Listings: Dates & Locations: 1863-1912
 - Papers: Read by Non-Members: 1864-1906
 - Presidential Address: Henry J: Apr: 1876
 - Read Papers: Author & Title: 1864-1879

- Resolutions: Philadelphia Centennial Exposition: Exhibition: Transfer of Government Collection to Washington DC: Oct: 1876
- Memorandum on the National Academy of Sciences: 1912
- Oath: 1863-1872
- Rules Governing NAS: Copies: 1864
- Sections: 1907-1909
- Semicentennial Anniversary: 50th
 - Arrangements: 1911-1913
 - Dinner: Speakers: 1913
 - Invitations & Responses: Copies of Formal Invitation: 1913
 - Copies of Formal Invitation
 - Meetings
 - Opening Session: 1913
 - Speakers
 - President's Address: Ira Remsen
 - Secretary of the Royal Society of London: Schuster A - International Research in Science
 - Program: 1913
 - Publications
 - History of First Half-Century of NAS: Proposed: 1901-1912
 - Proof Sheets: 1913
 - Registrants: Facsimiles of Signatures: 1913
 - Scientific Sessions: 1913
 - Speakers
 - Hale G E: Earth & Sun as Magnets
 - Kapteyn J C: Structure of the Universe
 - General: 1913
- Silliman-Whitney Controversy: 1872-1875
- Statement: Animal Experimentation: 1896
- Treasurers: Register Book of Letters: Walcott C D & Emmons S F: 1899-1903
- Trust Funds
 - Awards: Correspondence: 1885-1914
 - Bache Fund
 - 1862-1877; 1884-1888;
 - 1890-1893; 1902-1905
 - Applications: 1911-1913
 - Appropriations: Various: 1888-1905
 - Land: Polk County, Missouri
 - Magnetic Survey of US: 1871-1873
 - Report of Expenditures – 1871-1888: 1889
 - Consolidation of Funds for Investment Purpose: Proposed: 1911-1912
 - Draper Fund
 - 1883-1895
 - 1900-1906
 - Deed of Trust & Last Will: 1883-1914
 - Gibbs Fund: 1892-1914
 - Gould Fund: 1897-1900; 1902-1914

- Hartley Fund: 1913
- Henry Fund: 1878
- Historical Account: 1908
- History Abstracts: 1863-1902
- Hodgkins Metal of the Smithsonian Institution: 1893-1894
- Le Conte Fund: 1883-1893
- Murray Fund: 1911
- Smith Fund: 1885-1916
- Watson Fund
 - 1880-1884; 1887-1890
 - 1891-1898; 1901-1913
 - Bonds & Stocks: 1890-1981
- William Ellery Hale Lectures: 1905-1913
- General: (Each year is a separate folder)
 - 1863-1867; 1869-1870
 - 1872-1886
 - 1888-1889
 - 1892-1894; 1899
 - 1901; 1903; 1908
 - 1910-1913

PUBLIC RELATIONS

- Articles & News Clippings
- Brochure: NAS Fundraising: 1900
- Business Calling Card: Sample: 1884

PUBLICATIONS

- Annual of the National Academy of Sciences: 1865; 1866
- Annual Report: 1887
- Annual Tables of Constants & Numerical Data: 1913
- Exchange with Foreign Academies
 - 1863-1869
 - 1871-1880
 - 1881-1889
 - 1904-1912
- Proceedings: Vol 1
 - Part 1: 1863-1876
 - Part 2: 1877-1883
 - Part 3: 1884-1894
- Reports
 - National Academy of Sciences (NAS): House of Representatives: 46th Congress: 1879
 - National Academy of Sciences (NAS) for the Year 1863: 1864
- Reference Books: NAS Entries: Congressional Directory: Proposed: 1898
- Scientific Memoirs: Content Listing: 1866-1925

FINANCE & ACCOUNTING

ACCOUNTING

- Auditing Committee: List of Securities: 1871-1890
- General Ledger & Checkbook Ledger: 1901-1911

COSTS

- Goods & Services: Cancelled Checks: 1898-1909
- Scientific Equipment
 - Invoices & Correspondence: 1885-1886
 - Invoices: Harvard College Observatory: 1885-1886

ESTATES

- Bequests: Agassiz A: 1911

FINANCE

- Finance Committee: Meetings: 1911-1918
- Funds
 - Cancelled Checks: 1889-1909
 - Interest Loan Payments: Philadelphia Bonds: 1897-1895
 - Property Loans: 1890-1909
 - Treasury Bonds: Cancelled Checks: 1893-1909
- General: Correspondence: 1878-1906

GOVERNMENT

AGENCIES & DEPARTMENTS

- Commerce: Patent Office: General: 1875
- Navy: Commission for Observing Transits of Venus: 1870-1889
- Sanitary Commission: Home for Disabled Veterans Proposed: 1865
- Treasury: 1896

CONGRESS

- Acts
 - 1871, 1882
 - Authorizing NAS to Receive & Hold Trust Funds: Jun: 1884
 - Incorporation of NAS: Mar 1863
 - Morrill Act: 1862: (Folder contains a copy of a compilation of Federal Laws & Rulings Affecting Land-Grant Colleges & Universities)
 - Public Printing: 1895, 1907
 - Removing Limitation on Number of Ordinary Members of NAS: 1870
- Bills
 - Authorizing NAS to Receive & Hold Trust Funds: 1879-1880, 1884
 - Amendment: 1912
 - Incorporation of NAS: Feb 1863
 - Public Printing: 1892, 1907

- Removing Limitation on Number of Ordinary Members of NAS: 1870
 - Resolution: Joint: Public Printing: 1906-1907

EXECUTIVE

- Proclamation: San Jacinto Forest Reserve: Copies: 1897

PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT

REAL ESTATE

- Buildings:
 - NAS-NRC
 - Construction: Materials: Acoustical Tiles: Akoustolith: 1907-1925
 - Early Washington DC: Articles: 1911-1937
 - Property
 - 1145 7th St NW: 1903-1903

PHOTOGRAPHS

ADMINISTRATION

INSTITUTIONS-ASSOCIATIONS & INDIVIDUALS

- University of Chicago: Physics Department: Albert A Michelson: Robert A Millikan: Henry G Gale: Carl Kinsley: 1908

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES (NAS)

- Committees
 - Polaris Expedition: USS Steamer Polaris: 1871
 - Weights Measures & Coinage: Beginning of Program: Request: 1863
- Meetings
 - Annual: 10th: Smithsonian Institution: 1874
 - Annual: 14th: Thomas Edison: 1878
 - Autumn: Group: 1903
 - Letter: 1st Meeting Organization & News Articles: 1863
- Members
 - Charter Members: 1863
- Officers
 - NAS Presidents: Portraits: 1863-1913
 - NRC Organizer: George E Hale: 1880-1938

GOVERNMENT

CONGRESS

- Act of Incorporation
 - Mar: 1863
 - Amendment: Jul: 1870
 - Sponsor: Senator Henry Wilson: Portrait: 1863