

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 in the course of 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 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.

ADMINISTRATION

INSTITUTIONS-ASSOCIATIONS & INDIVIDUALS

- American Academy of Arts & Sciences
 - Centennial: Delegates: 1882
- National Institution for Promotion of Science
 - Proceedings: 1840-1841
- 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 Statistical Congress

- Berlin: 1863
- International Organizations
 - International Association of Academies: 1899-1913
 - 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

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
 - Dernerara 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 Stearn: 1864-1880
 - 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
 - Publication: 1863-1913
 - Publications of the Academy: 1882-1902
 - Relationship of Academy to Philosophical Economic & Philological Sciences: 1903-1906

- 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, 1905
- Council of the Academy
 - Committee on Classification of Academy into Sections: 1890
 - Meetings: 1891-1892*
 - *Complete sets of final approved minutes for both the Academy & Council of the Academy for 1863-1913 are in bound minute books.
 - Membership
 - Formal Listing: 1863-1913
- Founding of NAS: 1863
- Future of NAS: 1906-1913
- Home Secretary
 - Register Book of Letters - Hague A: 1901-1904
- Library: 1880-1902
- Meetings
 - 1913
 - Autumn: Speaker: Hale G E: Future of NAS
 - 1901-1912
 - 1881-1899
 - 1877-1878
 - 1876

- Oct: Resolutions: Centennial Exhibition: Transfer of Government Collection to Washington
 - Apr: Presidential Address: Henry J
 - 1871-1873
 - 1864-1869
 - 1863
 - Attendance: 1863-1866
 - Listing (Dates & Locations): 1863-1912
 - Papers
 - Author & Title: 1864-1879
 - Non-Members: 1864-1912
- Oath: 1863-1872
- Rules Governing NAS
 - Copies: 1864
- Sections: 1907-1909
- Semi-Centennial
 - Arrangements: 1911-1913
 - Dinner: 1913
 - Acceptances
 - Regrets
 - Speakers
 - Invitations & Responses: 1913
 - Copies of Formal Invitation
 - Foreign
 - Great Britain
 - General
 - United States
 - Universities
 - General
 - Opening Session: 1913
 - Speakers
 - President's Address - Remsen I
 - Secretary of the Royal Society of London
 - Schuster A - International Research in Science
 - Program: 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
 - Researcher's Use of Papers
 - 1946-1966
 - 1872-1875
- Statement

- Animal Experimentation 1882, 1896
- Treasurers
 - Register Book of Letters
 - Walcott C D & Emmons S F: 1899-1903
- Trust Funds
 - Bache Fund
 - 1883-1913
 - 1862-1877
 - Magnetic Survey of US: 1871-1873
 - Consolidation of Funds for Investment Purpose: Proposed: 1911-1912
 - Draper Fund
 - 1900-1906
 - 1883-1895
 - Gould Fund: 1879-1909
 - Henry Fund: 1878
 - Historical Account: 1908
 - Smith Fund: 1885-1913
 - Watson Fund
 - 1901-1913
 - 1887-1898
 - 1880-1884
 - William Ellery Hale Lectures: 1905-1913
- General:
 - 1910-1913
 - 1901, 1903, 1908
 - 1892-1894
 - 1863-1889

PUBLIC RELATIONS

- NAS Fund Raising: Brochure: 1900

PUBLICATIONS

- Annual Tables of Constants & Numerical Data: 1913
- Exchange with Foreign Academies
 - 1904-1912
 - 1891-1899
 - 1871-1889
 - 1863-1869
- History of First Half-Century of NAS
 - Proposed: 1901-1912
- NAS Entries in Reference Books
 - Congressional Directory: Proposed: 1898
- NAS Semi-Centennial Anniversary Volume
 - Proof Sheets: 1913

FINANCE & ACCOUNTING

ESTATES

- Bequests: Agassiz A: 1911

FINANCE

- Finance Committee: Meetings: 1911-1918

TRUSTS

- Draper Deed of Trust: 1883

GOVERNMENT

AGENCIES & DEPARTMENTS

- 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: 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
 - Resolution: Joint: 1870
 - Public Printing: 1906-1907

EXECUTIVE

October 1977

- Proclamation: San Jacinto Forest Reserve
 - Copies: 1897