

Guide to the Gunflint Research and Comparative Collection

Author: BL, JM; 4/30/2007

Encoder:

Creator of Collection: Carlyle S. Smith

Collection Dates: 1957–1975

Acquisition Number: 2007.1

Repository:

Archaeological Research Center (ARC)
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Abstract:

This project grouping takes into account the work, research, and correspondence that Carlyle S. Smith dedicated to the study and understanding of early European flintlock guns and the introduction of these weapons into 17th and 18th Century Native American communities. Gunflints and flintlock mechanisms found from archaeological excavations introduce dating techniques and trade networks.

Smith provided insight and analysis to the investigative work of his colleagues at Like-A-Fishhook Village / Fort Berthold (1953), analyzing weaponry (mostly cannons) found at the site. In 1960 and 1964 Smith traveled to France and England/Italy respectively to investigate sites collecting flint samples related to European gunflint manufacturing. Smith's interest and research into European trade goods, especially gunflints, peripherally pervaded the majority of his archaeological career.

Access Restrictions: Prior notification to ARC staff is required.

Use Restrictions: ARC staff may determine use restrictions dependent upon the physical condition of the document. Researchers may be required to either purchase or use photocopies of fragile documents

Extent: 1 linear foot

Dimensions: Two 5"x12"x11" boxes

Associated Records:

correspondence / published manuscripts / unpublished manuscripts / abstracts / field notes / financial information / artifact data / photographic images

Biographical Name: Carlyle S. Smith

Biographical Note: Carlyle Smith was born in 1915 in Great Neck, New York. He received his PhD from Columbia University where he trained under William Duncan Strong and was initially exposed to Plains archaeology. He joined the University of Kansas faculty in 1947 as an assistant professor with the Department of Anthropology and Sociology and assistant curator with the Natural History Museum. His fieldwork spanned 1938 to 1975 and included investigations in New York, South Dakota and Kansas, Easter Island and the Marquesas. During excavations in South Dakota, he developed an expertise in the identification of gunflints and gun parts. Carlyle Smith's fieldwork and research significantly added to the collections at KU while his contribution to teaching prepared many students for a professional career in Anthropology. His leadership was a significant contribution to the development of a separate department of Anthropology in 1962 and the creation of the Museum of Anthropology in 1976.

Scope and Contents:

This collection consists of all correspondence, field notes, trip summaries, funding requests, published and unpublished manuscripts and abstracts, and a few photographic images in relation to Carlyle S. Smith's gunflint research in the United States, England, Italy, and France. Sites include French, English, and Italian gunflint manufacturing plants, North American archaeological sites Like-A Fishhook Village and Fort Berthold, the Biesterfeldt Site (32RM1), as well as analysis through correspondence of items found from many sites throughout the US over the course of Smith's career. Also included here is a lengthy correspondence file containing chronologically arranged correspondence between Smith and Ted Hamilton over the course of 13 years (1958-1971).

Separated Material: flint samples from Europe / flintlock rifles / photographs

Subject Terms: Gun / Flint / Gunflint / Flintlock Weaponry / Trade Goods

Geographic Locations: France / Italy / England / United States / Like-A-Fishhook Village / Biesterfeldt site / Cerilly / Couffi / Couffy / Mensnes / Lye / Bougival / La Rocheguyon / Dover / McLean County / Bowman County / North Dakota

Personal Names: Carlyle S. Smith / Ted M. Hamilton / James Howard / G. Hubert Smith

Corporate Names: American Philosophical Society / National Science Foundation / Wenner Gren Foundation / University of Kansas / State Historical Society of North Dakota / Company of Military Collectors and Historians

Language: English / French

Acquisition Information: Donated to the ARC by the estate of Carlyle S. Smith

Custodial History: Contents of the offices of the late Carlyle S. Smith at the University of Kansas in Lawrence, Kansas and at his home.

Inventory:

Box 1

FRANCE, 1960

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| Folder 1 | France 1960 - Funding Requests and Documentation – American Philosophical Society, National Science Foundation, Wenner Gren Foundation, University of Kansas, Reference letters for grantors |
| Folder 2 | France 1960 - Correspondence – general – 1953–1964, chronologically arranged (originals) |
| Folder 3 | France 1960 - Correspondence – general – 1953–1964, (select fragile originals from folder 2, photocopies in original sequence in folder 2) |
| Folder 4 | France 1960 - C. S. Smith’s 1960 daily logbook (original) |
| Folder 5 | France 1960 - C. S. Smith’s 1960 daily logbook (photocopy) |
| Folder 6 | France 1960 – customs forms, research materials, tabulations, analysis (originals) |
| Folder 7 | France 1960 – customs forms, research materials, tabulations, analysis (photocopies) |
| Folder 8 | France 1960 – research materials, includes one print and one negative strip related to research material |
| Folder 9 | France 1960 – trip summaries and reports |

- Folder 10 France 1960 – related manuscripts and publications
- “Fieldwork at Gunflint Manufacturing Centers in France”
 “Recherches sur les Pierres a Fusil en Berry”
 “French Gunflints and Strike-a-Lights”
 “Locations of Old Flint Working Centers”
- Folder 11 France 1960 – related manuscripts and publications
- “Two 18th Century Reports on the Manufacture of Gunflints in France”
 “The Characteristics of French Gunflints”
 “A Memoire of Citizen Salivet, on the Fabrication of Gunflints...”
 Translated by David Agee Horr (used by C. S. Smith as research for “Two 18th Century Reports”...in this folder)

ENGLAND / ITALY, 1964

- Folder 12 England / Italy 1964 – funding requests and documentation
 – University of Kansas, American Philosophical Society
- Folder 13 England / Italy 1964 – correspondence – general – 1963-1964,
 arranged chronologically
- Folder 14 England / Italy 1964 – field notes and analysis (originals)
- Folder 15 England / Italy 1964 – field notes and analysis (photocopies)
- Folder 16 England / Italy 1965 – related manuscripts and publications
- “Identification of Italian Gunflints”
 “Grant No. 3678 – Report on Field Work by Carlyle Smith”

Box 2

LIKE-A-FISHHOOK VILLAGE

- Folder 1 Like-a-Fishhook Village / Ft. Berthold (39ML2) – correspondence
 – 1951-1954, arranged chronologically (originals)
- Folder 2 Like-a-Fishhook Village / Ft. Berthold (39ML2) – correspondence
 – 1951-1954, (select fragile originals from folder 1, photocopies in original sequence in folder 1)

- Folder 3 Like-a-Fishhook Village / Ft. Berthold (39ML2) – correspondence – 1955, 1957, 1959, 1968-1969, 1972, and undated, arranged chronologically
- Folder 4 Like-a-Fishhook Village / Ft. Berthold (39ML2) – 1954 season field notes, catalog information (originals)
- Folder 5 Like-a-Fishhook Village / Ft. Berthold (39ML2) – 1954 season field notes, catalog information (photocopies)
- Folder 6 Like-a-Fishhook Village / Ft. Berthold (39ML2) – field notes and data – Kipp’s Post cannon, cannon from Ft. Berthold (McLean County, North Dakota), small cannon found near the site of Fort Dilts (Bowman County, North Dakota) (originals)
- Folder 7 Like-a-Fishhook Village / Ft. Berthold (39ML2) – field notes and data – Kipp’s Post cannon, cannon from Ft. Berthold (McLean County, North Dakota), small cannon found near the site of Fort Dilts (Bowman County, North Dakota) (photocopies)
- Folder 8 Like-a-Fishhook Village / Ft. Berthold (39ML2) – field notes and data - trade goods analysis (originals)
- Folder 9 Like-a-Fishhook Village / Ft. Berthold (39ML2) – field notes and data - trade goods analysis (photocopies)
- Folder 10 Like-a-Fishhook Village / Ft. Berthold (39ML2) – cannon drawings
- Folder 11 Like-a-Fishhook Village / Fr. Berthold (39ML2) – related manuscripts and publications
“Firearms, Cartridges, and Related Items from Like-a-Fishhook Village”
- Folder 12 Like-a-Fishhook Village / Ft. Berthold (39ML2) - related manuscripts and publications
“Experiments In Checking Documented Dates Against Dates Derived From Trade Goods”
“Cartridges, Bullets, and Gun Parts from 32ML2”
“An Analysis of the Firearms and Related Specimens From Like-a-Fishhook Village and Fort Berthold I”

BIESTERFELDT SITE

- Folder 13 Biesterfeldt Site (32RM1) – correspondence – 1953, arranged chronologically; metal gun ornament/clasp description and drawing (originals)
- Folder 14 Biesterfeldt Site (32RM1) – correspondence – 1953, arranged chronologically; metal gun ornament/clasp description and drawing (select fragile originals from folder 13, photocopies in original sequence in folder 13)

GENERAL GUNFLINT MATERIALS

- Folder 15 Gunflint related general correspondence – 1953-1961, arranged chronologically
- Folder 16 Gunflint related general correspondence – 1962-1978, arranged chronologically (originals)
- Folder 17 Gunflint related general correspondence – 1962-1978, arranged chronologically (select fragile originals from folder 16, photocopies in original sequence in folder 16)
- Folder 18 Gunflint related correspondence between Carlyle S. Smith and Ted M. Hamilton – 1958-1971, arranged chronologically
- Folder 19 Gunflint general – related manuscripts, abstracts, and publications
- “Firearms Identification in Historic Archaeology”
- “An Anthropological Conclusion Found in an Unusual Context”
- “Gunflint Manufacture in Cher Valley, France”
- “Cartridges and Bullets from Ft. Stevenson, North Dakota”
- “Une Baionette en Forme de Cousteau de chasse de la Manufacture Imperiale du Lingenthal” (in French)
- “Gun Parts and Related Items From the Deapolis Site”
- “Identification of French Gunflints”
- Review: “Les Fusils de Traite en Nouvelle-France, 1690-1760” – Russel Bouchard
- Folder 20 Photos associated with Gunflint correspondence and field work – seven separate groupings
- Three black and white prints associated with “Small cannon found near the site of Fort Dilts (Bowman County, North Dakota)”
- Photomicrographs of Kipp’s Post cannon (#296 cannon barrel, #123 bolt from cage)

Five black and white prints associated with “Cannon from Fort Berthold (McLean County, North Dakota)”

Four black and white negatives associated with “Minimum and Maximum dimension, table of flint measurements”

Sixteen black and white prints associated with letter from Ted Hamilton, January 9, 1958

One black and white print associated with letter from Ted Hamilton, February 22, 1965

Eight black and white prints associated with Vernon County, Missouri site 23VE1, miscellaneous gun parts

Eight black and white prints associated with Missouri site 23SA3, gun parts – brass

Thirteen black and white prints associated with Missouri site 23SA3, gun parts