



Smithsonian Institution Libraries

Dibner Library of the
History of Science and Technology
Resident Scholar Program

2003 APPLICATION PACKAGE

Deadline: March 1, 2002*

Smithsonian Institution
Washington, DC
20560-0672

National Museum of American History Room 1041
12th & Constitution Avenue NW
Washington DC 20560-0672
202.357.1568 Telephone
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Smithsonian Institution Libraries

Office of the Director

July, 2001

To: Applicants for Smithsonian Institution Libraries (SIL)
Dibner Library Resident Scholar Program

Thank you for your request for application materials for SIL's Dibner Library Resident Scholar Program. Awards are available for periods of one to six months and must be taken during the 2003 calendar year.

Enclosed are materials to be used in applying, which include the guidelines, instructions, cover sheets, and letters for your referees. Please read all materials carefully. A description of the program is attached for your reference. Applications must be postmarked by March 1, 2002. Each referee should have one complete copy of your proposal upon which to prepare a letter in sufficient time for you to meet the deadline date. Please note that all reference letters should be enclosed with the completed application form and proposal. You will be notified when your application has been received. The application review process is outlined in the program description. Award offers will be made through the Smithsonian's Office of Fellowships and Grants in July 2002. This office will also manage the award payment.

If you have any questions about completing this application or about SIL's Special Collections, please feel free to write or call Mr. Ronald Brashear, who is responsible for management of this program. He may be reached at NMAH 1041 MRC 672, Washington, D.C. 20560-0672; (202) 357-1568. You may also email: brashearr@sil.si.edu.

We look forward to receiving your application.

Sincerely,

Nancy E. Gwinn
Director

National Museum of Natural History Room 22
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Smithsonian Institution Libraries

Special Collections Department

July, 2001

DIBNER LIBRARY OF THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY RESIDENT SCHOLAR PROGRAM

DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM

The Dibner Library Resident Scholar Program is designed to encourage the study of the history of science and technology through the use of materials in the Dibner Library. The program, supported by The Dibner Fund, awards short-term study grants for a duration of one to six months. Historians, librarians, and pre-doctoral students and postdoctoral scholars interested in the history of science and technology are invited to apply.

Successful applicants for the Dibner Library Resident Scholar Program must make substantial use of the materials housed in the Dibner Library of the History of Science and Technology.

The Dibner Library Resident Scholar Program allows researchers to explore the Libraries' resources in depth, while taking advantage of the artifact collections of museums to provide contextual richness. The combined holdings of the Smithsonian Institution Libraries, exceeding 1.5 million volumes, contain much of the secondary literature that places these source materials in a broader context.

Dibner Library of the History of Science and Technology

The core of the holdings of the Dibner Library of the History of Science and Technology consists of approximately 10,000 rare books and manuscripts that were generously donated to the nation by the Burndy Library and its founder, Bern Dibner, on the occasion of the nation's Bicentennial. The strengths of the Dibner Library collection are in the fields of mathematics, astronomy, classical natural philosophy, theoretical physics (up to the early twentieth century), experimental physics (especially electricity and magnetism), engineering technology (from the Renaissance to the late nineteenth century), and scientific apparatus and instruments. The rare books, which date from the fifteenth to the twentieth centuries, include significant holdings of works by Galileo Galilei, Johannes Kepler, Euclid, Carl Friedrich Gauss, Leonhard Euler, René Descartes, and Pierre Simon, marquis de Laplace, and Aristotle. Scientists represented by significant manuscript papers include Dominique François Arago, Humphry Davy, John William Lubbock, Isaac Newton, Henri Milne-Edwards, Hans Christian Ørsted, Henry Hureau de Sénarmont, Benjamin Silliman, Jr., and Silvanus P. Thompson. The Dibner Library collections support the research interests of Smithsonian staff in the National Museum of American History, and provide valuable resources for the other Smithsonian museums and research units.

Bern Dibner was an avid collector of early scientific works. Among the important works of the collection are 200 volumes described in Dr. Dibner's *Heralds of Science* (1955, reissued 1980). The manuscript material contained in the Burndy Library donation is described in *Manuscripts of the Dibner Collection in the Dibner Library of the History of Science and Technology of the Smithsonian Institution Libraries* (1985). The holdings of the Dibner Library can also be searched via the Internet <www.siris.si.edu> in SIRIS, the Smithsonian Institution Research Information System. The location field in SIRIS for items housed in the Dibner Library reads "Special Collections (Dibner)."

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The Burndy Library donation has been augmented by transfers of related materials from the Libraries' general collections, as well as by other gifts and purchases over the years. These include rare materials originally owned by the Naval Observatory, the Bureau of Printing and Engraving, and the Patent Office. Early editions of numerous encyclopedias, which serve as benchmarks for the "trickle down" of knowledge in all fields, and containing original articles of great significance in the history of science and technology are part of the Dibner Library collections.

Dibner Institute, Cambridge, Massachusetts

Allied with the collections of the Dibner Library are those of the Burndy Library, founded by Bern Dibner and now part of the Dibner Institute, affiliated with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The Dibner Institute has an active fellowship program and a growing library collection of rare books and secondary resources.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR APPLICATION

Applicants must have serious interests that relate to collections in the Dibner Library of the History of Science and Technology.

The selection of scholars is based on:

- ▶ the need to consult specific Dibner Library holdings (application must include a bibliography of specific titles or a description of specific collections to be used)
- ▶ evidence of the applicant's ability to carry out the proposed research (as outlined in letters of reference, reviews of previous work, publication record, etc.)
- ▶ the quality of the proposal (importance of topic, its originality and sophistication of approach, the feasibility of research objectives, and relevance to the collections)

Applicants whose native language is not English must be able to demonstrate the ability to write and converse fluently in English. In addition, depending on the topic and specific research materials required, applicants should have an understanding of Latin or other foreign languages sufficient to make substantive use of Special Collections materials. English translations are not always available.

SELECTION

Proposals are reviewed once a year by a Selection Committee. Committee members are drawn from the Libraries, the National Museum of American History, and from the Smithsonian Office of Fellowships and Grants (ex-officio). This group ranks and recommends candidates to the Director, Smithsonian Institution Libraries. The applications of the finalists are then reviewed by a representative of The Dibner Fund. Final selection is made by the Director of Libraries.

AWARD

Each award lasts for a period of one to six months. The stipend of \$2,500 a month can be used for any purpose, including travel to Washington. There are no additional allowances available. The Libraries will provide appropriate study space and equipment necessary for the work. The scholar will have access to the Libraries' general collections and borrowing privileges for non-Special Collections materials. A reasonable amount of online database searching and interlibrary loan services will be provided. Although the scholar is expected to spend most of the time in residence at the Smithsonian Institution Libraries, the Libraries will also arrange access to other appropriate Washington, D.C., area libraries during the term of the award.

The SI Office of Fellowships and Grants manages the award procedures. Support for the Dibner Library Resident Scholar Program comes from The Dibner Fund.



**Dibner Library
of the History of Science and Technology
Resident Scholar Program**

APPLICATION FOR DIBNER LIBRARY RESIDENT SCHOLAR PROGRAM

Use this form in applying for the Dibner Library Resident Scholar Program. Please read the instructions and the information for applicants carefully, then prepare and COLLATE SEVEN COPIES of the complete application in accordance with those instructions. Please type or print in dark ink.

1. Name in full (surname in capitals):

1a. Female

Male

1b. Social Security Number

Be sure to notify the Libraries of any address changes as soon as possible.

2. Complete residence address and telephone number

3. Complete office address and telephone number

4. Complete email address:

Fax#:

5. Address to which all correspondence should be sent:

Residence

Office

6. Short title of proposed research:

7. Dates you propose for your work at the Smithsonian:

Beginning:

Ending:

- 8. Current academic status (if applicable):**
- 9. Names and addresses of two persons from whom you are enclosing letters of reference:**
- 10. Please indicate how you first learned about the Dibner Library Resident Scholar Program:**

11. For non-U.S. Citizens

Citizenship

Type of visa if now in U.S.

Date of birth

Place of Birth.

Country of Permanent Residence

12. Financial Statement

I am applying for the Dibner Library Resident Scholar Program at the stipend level described in the information for applicants. I understand that financial support from the Smithsonian Institution, other than the stipend, will not be available.

Signature

Date

All application materials must be postmarked by 1 March, 2002.



Smithsonian Institution Libraries

Special Collections Department

July 2001

To: Referees for Persons Applying for the Dibner Library Resident Scholar Program

The Smithsonian Institution Libraries offers awards to historians, librarians, bibliographers, and pre- and postdoctoral students to conduct research that primarily uses the collections of the Dibner Library of the History of Science and Technology. You are being asked by an applicant for this award to serve as a referee and to evaluate the enclosed proposal.

Please provide an evaluation of the proposal, considering the scholarly merit of the proposed research, and the likelihood of the applicant conducting it successfully at the Smithsonian. We also solicit your comments regarding the applicant's ability and his or her potential contribution to the field. Please send our letter to the applicant in a sealed envelope signed over the flap. All reference letters should be enclosed by the applicant with the completed application form and proposal. Therefore, please send your letter in sufficient time for the applicant to meet the deadline date of March 1, 2002.

The application, consisting of the proposal and two supporting letters, will be reviewed by a selection committee composed of Smithsonian research and library staff. Applications will be evaluated on the basis of the proposal's merit, the ability of the applicant to carry out the proposed research and study, and the extent to which the Dibner Library's resources can contribute to the proposed research.

We appreciate your cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

Ronald Brashear, Head
Special Collections Department

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