



Smithsonian Institution Libraries

**Baird Society  
Resident Scholar Program**

**2010 APPLICATION PACKAGE**

**Deadline: May 15, 2009**

**Smithsonian Institution  
Washington, DC**



## Smithsonian Institution Libraries

### Office of the Director

November 2008

To: Applicants for the Smithsonian Institution Libraries (SIL) Baird Society  
Resident Scholar Program

Thank you for your request for application materials for the SIL Baird Society Resident Scholar Program. Awards are available for periods of one to six months and must be taken during the 2010 calendar year.

Enclosed are materials to be used in applying, which include the guidelines, instructions, 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 May 15, 2009. 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 (OF) in the Fall of 2009. 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 Ms. Lilla Vekerdy. She may be reached at P.O. Box 37012, NMAH 1041, MRC 672, Washington, DC 20013-7012; (202) 633-3872. You may also email: [SILResidentScholars@si.edu](mailto:SILResidentScholars@si.edu).

We look forward to receiving your application.

Sincerely,

Nancy E. Gwinn  
Director

National Museum of Natural History, Room 22  
10th & Constitution Avenue NW  
Washington DC 20560-0154  
202.633.2240 Telephone  
202.786.2866 Fax

**Special Collections Department**

***SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION LIBRARIES (SIL)  
BAIRD SOCIETY  
RESIDENT SCHOLAR PROGRAM***

**DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM**

The SIL Baird Society Resident Scholar Program is designed to encourage research in the special collections of SIL, including holdings in the Dibner Library of the History of Science and Technology, the Joseph F. Cullman 3rd Library of Natural History, the Admiral DeWitt Clinton Ramsey Room at the National Air and Space Museum Branch Library, the National Museum of American History Library, and the Thomas A. Bradley Room of the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum in New York City. The program, funded by the Smithsonian Institution Libraries (SIL) Spencer Baird Society, awards a short-term study grant of one to six months. Historians, librarians, pre-doctoral students and postdoctoral scholars interested in consulting the special collections of the Smithsonian Libraries are invited to apply.

**SIL SPECIAL COLLECTIONS**

The Smithsonian Institution Libraries' special collections contain rare books and manuscripts dating from the fifteenth to the early twentieth centuries with strengths in the areas of earth sciences, trade literature, natural history, history of museums, world's fairs and expositions, anthropology, and decorative arts. Baird Society Resident Scholars may work in any of these collections. Those interested in using the history of science and technology collections in the Dibner Library as their primary resource should apply for the Dibner Library Resident Scholar Program <http://www.sil.si.edu/Galaxy.cfm?id=3.31> The collections that are available for use by Baird Society Resident Scholars are described in more detail below.

The Joseph F. Cullman 3<sup>rd</sup> Library of Natural History contains the Libraries' rare books in the natural sciences. Located in the National Museum of Natural History, the collection includes approximately 10,000 works published prior to the mid-1800s in the early history of anthropology, botany, vertebrate and invertebrate zoology, paleontology, geology, and mineralogy, as well as works on the early history of museums and scientific collecting. These works are an invaluable resource for scientists researching taxonomy and systematics. The collection originated with James Smithson's own library, which contains an often inscribed and annotated mix of gentleman's reading and works on chemistry and mineralogy, at the Institution's founding. Publications from voyages of exploration from the 16th through the 19th centuries constitute a major strength of the collection, complementing the Institution's involvement in scientific expeditions since its inception in 1846.

The distinguished collection of some 285,000 pieces of commercial trade literature in the National Museum of American History Library represent an estimated 30,000 companies, with most items dating from 1875 to the mid-twentieth century. Trade catalogs (the term derived from the expression, "to the trade") are materials produced initially for wholesalers, retailers, and salesmen and ultimately, for consumers. Illustrated catalogs became an accepted way of publicizing industrial goods by the late nineteenth century, from plumbing fixtures and agricultural machinery and sophisticated precision machine tools to wall-coverings and tableware and sewing machines for the home. Researchers rely on illustrations in trade literature to identify museum artifacts and trace the history of products. The collection is used for economic, business, and labor history, by social and cultural historians, and by lawyers, restorers of old houses, and designers of period gardens.

The collection of world's fair and exposition material (some 1,700 titles) representing expositions held between the mid-nineteenth century and 1916 demonstrates the extent of the Smithsonian Institution's role in many of the international fairs held in the period. Most of those titles were microfilmed in 1990 by Research Publications, Inc. A list of this collection was published by the Libraries in *The Books of the Fairs: Materials About World's Fairs, 1834-1916, in the Smithsonian Institution Libraries* with an introductory essay by Robert W. Rydell (Chicago: American Library Association, 1992). Additional materials from later fairs were subsequently donated to the Libraries by the estates of Larry Zim and Edward J. Orth. The world's fair material is held primarily in the Dibner Library of the History of Science and Technology, the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum Library, and the Smithsonian American Art Museum/National Portrait Gallery Library.

Special collections housed in the Admiral Dewitt Clinton Ramsey Room at the National Air and Space Museum Library include Robert H. Goddard's lecture notes and a transcription of his "Rocket Experiments," "Scrapbook of Early Aeronautica, 1783-1840" collected by William Upcott of Islington, England, the logbook of the Lafayette Escadrille of American volunteers, 1916-1918 ("Journal des Marches et Operations"), the Bella C. Landauer collection of aeronautical sheet music, and a number of items documenting the history of ballooning and early flight.

The Thomas A. Bradley Room of the Cooper Hewitt National Design Museum contains our premier collections of European and American decorative arts, architecture, and design (eighteenth to twentieth centuries); juvenile literature; and landscape design (dating from the eighteenth to twentieth centuries). The works of Palladio, Piranesi, and other famous architects compliment extensive holdings of nineteenth and twentieth century decorative arts, landscape design, and architecture.

The SIL Baird Society Resident Scholar Program allows researchers to explore the Libraries' resources in depth, while taking advantage of the proximity of museum collections 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.

## **QUALIFICATIONS FOR APPLICATION**

Applicants must have serious interests that relate to materials in the special collections held by the Smithsonian Institution Libraries.

The selection of scholars is based on:

the need to consult specific holdings in the SIL Special Collections (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.

## **SELECTION**

Proposals are reviewed once a year by a Selection Committee. Committee members are drawn from the Libraries, the National Museum of American History, the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum, and from the Smithsonian Office of Fellowships (ex-officio). This group ranks and recommends candidates to the Director, Smithsonian Institution Libraries, who makes the selection.

## **AWARD**

Each award lasts for a period of one to six months. The stipend of \$3,500 a month can be used for any purpose, including travel to Washington and New York. There are no additional allowances available. The Libraries will provide appropriate study space and equipment necessary for the work. Longer-term scholars 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. or New York City area libraries during the term of the award. The Smithsonian Office of Fellowships (OF) manages the award procedures. Support for the Baird Society Resident Scholar Program is supplied by the Spencer Baird Society of the Smithsonian Institution Libraries.

## **CONDITIONS OF AWARD**

In submitting an application for the program, the applicant does not incur any obligation to accept the award if selected. Scholars are expected:

- to be in residence at the Smithsonian full-time during their award tenures (plans to be away from the Institution during tenure must be cleared in advance and the time adjusted accordingly)

- to devote full-time effort to the research proposed

- to be regular users of SIL Special Collections

- to submit a brief written report (800-1,000 words) describing their experiences and its results, no later than thirty days following the award period (format to be provided)

- to give appropriate credit to the "Smithsonian Institution Libraries Baird Society Resident Scholar Program" in any presentation or publication based on research performed during award tenure.

The residency may begin any time on or after January 1, 2010, and must be completed by December 31, 2010. The residency does not have to be taken all at one time. Scholars may be invited to address an informal colloquium of Smithsonian Institution and affiliated staff on the topic of his or her research.

## **HOUSING**

The Smithsonian Institution does not have any place for visiting scholars to stay, unfortunately. Upon request, we can, however, provide you with some helpful information on finding housing in the DC area.

## **VISAS**

Upon request, the Smithsonian will arrange for appropriate visa documentation for foreign nationals. Normally, visas arranged by the Smithsonian Institution will give the scholar the status of "Foreign Exchange Visitor" (J-visa) or (F-visa) for students. A spouse and minor children may travel on the same visa as the scholar. The Office of Fellowships encourages foreign scholars to apply for the J-1 visa because this is standard procedure for visiting research scholars coming into the U.S. They do not encourage people to come on B or H visas.

## **INCOME TAX**

Income taxes are not withheld from stipends of scholars who are citizens or permanent residents of the United States. Payment of income tax is a personal obligation of each individual. The Institution cannot give authoritative advice with respect to individual tax liability. In some cases, taxes are withheld from the stipends of foreign scholars.\* Questions with regard to tax liability should be addressed to the District Director of Internal Revenue for the district in which you reside, or to your own attorney.

\*if they do not have a J-1 visa

## **MAILING OF APPLICATIONS**

Applications should be mailed via USPS to our P.O. Box:

Smithsonian Institution Libraries  
Resident Scholar Programs  
Selection Committee  
P.O. Box 37012 NMAH 1041 MRC 672  
Washington, DC 20013-7012

Please use the following address if shipping via Federal Express or other service requiring a street address:

Smithsonian Institution Libraries  
Resident Scholar Programs  
Selection Committee  
12th St. & Constitution Ave., NW  
NMAH 1041 MRC672  
Washington, DC 20560-0672

Applications must be postmarked no later than May 15, 2009.

Award offers will be mailed to successful applicants from the Smithsonian's Office of Fellowships in the Fall of 2009.

## **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

Questions concerning program requirements or the SIL Special Collections Department should be addressed to: Head, Special Collections, P.O. Box 37012, NMAH 1041, MRC 672, Washington, D.C. 20013-7012  
(Telephone: 202-633-3872; FAX: 202-633-9102; Email: [SILResidentScholars@si.edu](mailto:SILResidentScholars@si.edu)).



# Smithsonian Institution Libraries

Special Collections Department

## Baird Society Resident Scholar Program

### **Application Instructions**

#### *Parts of the Application*

1. Completed application form
2. Research proposal
3. Curriculum vitae
4. Two letters of reference

#### *Instructions for each part of the Application*

1. Complete the two-page form
2. Research proposal:
  - A. Statement of your research (not more than 1000 words), double-spaced. Include the following in your proposal:
    - Full description of the research you plan to undertake at the Smithsonian Institution's special collections libraries
    - The importance of the project both in relation to the broader discipline and to your own research goals
    - Justification for conducting your research at the Smithsonian and using the special collections at SIL
  - B. Selected bibliography of titles or collections in the SIL Special Collections that are relevant to your research proposal.
3. Curriculum Vitae, reflecting your education, previous or current fellowships, grants, and awards, and a brief description of your research interests. Include undergraduate and graduate institutions, inclusive dates or study, areas of study, degrees earned, and major publications.
4. Letters of reference. These should be from two individuals who will evaluate your proposal and are familiar with your work. Attached are copies of an explanatory letter which you should give to your referees, along with a copy of your proposal.

Note: **Referee letters should be enclosed with your application and proposal** in sealed envelopes signed by the referee across the flap. It is the applicant's responsibility to obtain these letters in sufficient time to meet the deadline.

***Other instructions***

1. Use white paper (8 1/2 x 11 or A4) and type in dark ink.
2. Assemble FIVE COLLATED sets, each containing your application form, research proposal, and curriculum vitae. Enclose the two sealed envelopes from your referees and mail the package to:

Send via USPS mail to:

SIL Resident Scholar Programs  
Attn: Selection Committee  
P.O. Box 37012 NMAH 1041 MRC 672  
Washington, DC 20013-7012

If using Federal Express or other service requiring a street address, please use:

SIL Resident Scholar Programs  
Attn: Selection Committee  
12<sup>th</sup> St. & Constitution Ave., NW  
NMAH 1041 MRC 672  
Washington, DC 20560-0672

We will acknowledge receipt of your application package by e-mail only.

Questions? Call 202-633-3872 or email [SILResidentScholars@si.edu](mailto:SILResidentScholars@si.edu)

Applications are due May 15, 2009 for the 2010 program. Applications postmarked after that date will not be accepted.



**Baird Society  
Resident Scholar Program**

**APPLICATION FOR SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION LIBRARIES (SIL) BAIRD SOCIETY  
RESIDENT SCHOLAR PROGRAM**

Use this form in applying for SIL's Baird Society Resident Scholar Program. Please read the instructions and the information for applicants carefully, then prepare and COLLATE FIVE 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 (last 4): XXX - XX -**

**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:**

**Total number of months:**

**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 SIL's Baird Society 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 SIL's Baird Society 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 May 15, 2009.**



## Smithsonian Institution Libraries

### Special Collections Department

November 2008

To: Referees for Persons Applying for the SIL Baird Society Resident Scholar Program

The Smithsonian Institution Libraries offers an award to historians, librarians, bibliographers, and pre-and postdoctoral students to conduct research that primarily uses the collections of the SIL's Special Collections. 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 your 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 May 15, 2009.

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 Smithsonian Libraries' resources can contribute to the proposed research.

We appreciate your cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

Lilla Vekerdy  
Special Collections Department

National Museum of American History, Room 1041  
12<sup>th</sup> & Constitution Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20560-0672  
202.633.3872 Telephone  
202.633.9102 Fax