

**American Military History Foundation (AMHF)/Order of the Indian Wars (OIW)/
American Military Institute (AMI)/Society for Military History (SMH) Records
Pagination (1933-2007)**

- Pre-1941** AMHF/AMI records and “library” are housed in three major locations (Library of Congress, the Reference Branch of the Office of the Chief of Military History and the Smithsonian) under the care of organization members employed at these locations.
- While some OIW papers are housed with the AMHF/AMI papers, most are eventually transferred to the Center for Military History at Carlyle Barracks.
- 1940s** AMI records are transferred to a National Archives Records Administration (NARA) site as a courtesy for the duration of the war.
- With the publication of *Military Affairs (MA)*, membership donations, and the actions of organization’s librarian, the “library” collection radically expanded to include review copies of new military history works.
- 1945/6** Under increased pressure from NARA, several attempts are made to house the collection with the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Sons of the American Revolution, and the Colonial Dames, but none of the organizations accepted the offer. Eventually, the collection is split between the Smithsonian Institution and the Society of Cincinnati’s Anderson House.
- March 1947** The collection stored in the Library of Congress is moved to the Anderson House (2118 Massachusetts Ave, Washington D.C.). “Italian materials of the war” and other officer donations are added to the organization’s holdings.
- October 1952** A flash flood in AMI member/*ad interim* MA editor Colonel Milton Skelly’s basement (Alexandria, Virginia) forces the transfer of a large portion of AMI records to the Anderson House, including the records of the Order of Indian Wars (“Dead Storage Status”)
- A tentative deal is reached with the National Rifle Association (NRA) to house material at their new Washington, D.C. headquarters
- An internal report indicated that ten percent of the organization’s collection is still kept in the Reference Branch of the Office of the Chief of Military History (CMH)

- 1953** An internal report indicated that ninety percent of AMI records (fifty-five locker boxes) are stored in the Anderson House attic
The retained collection includes 133 typed manuscripts on the Louisiana Militia, the Lull Collection (approximately 1,000 books), and 5,000 other bound volumes on military history (of which an estimated 1,000 are duplicates slated to be sold or exchanged).
- Back issues of *Military Affairs* are also placed on display at the location
- 1958** President Trevor Dupuy recommends that, if the library could not be granted room in the office area in the Pentagon, then the book/periodical collection should be given to the Department of Military Art and Engineering at the United States Military Academy
- 1959** The AMI librarian reports that AMI Library holdings include 4,000 books, 1,000 bound periodicals, asset of the Official Records of the War of the Rebellion, copies of *Proceedings*, five rare military books (earliest 1556), a collection of British Army cap badges on permanent loan to West Point, 150 bound volumes of the military records of Louisiana, and 1,000 volumes on indefinite loan to the Office of the Chief of Military History
- 1965** AMI officers votes to transmit the organizational records on “indefinite loan” to the Smithsonian Institution with the codicil that the collection retains physical integrity as a single unit
- 1969** A Washington, D.C. fire marshal orders all AMI records removed from Anderson House
- Discussions take place over placing the library at KSU, the Army War College, the Library of Congress, the Armed Forces Museum Library, the CMH at Carlyle Barracks, but the motion is tabled when questions arise over the uncertainty of the retention of the collection as a single unit
- 1969** More OIW papers are transferred to Carlyle Barracks
- The AMI Library is slated to be transferred to the Armed Forces Museum Library
- 1974** Within the Smithsonian Institution, the AMI Library is moved from the Pension Building to the Liberty Loan Building
- Approximately 2,000 volumes are moved into the Division of Naval History and, subsequently, cataloged

The remainder of the collection is placed on pallets and sent to the Silver Hill, Maryland Warehouse

1975 Under the direction of Forrest Pogue, the AMI library is moved to the Eisenhower Institute in the Smithsonian Institution Museum of History and Technology from the National Armed Forces Museum Board

1975 AMI transferred “residual” holdings to the Combat Studies Institute with the stipulations that Leavenworth both assumed responsibility of packing and shipping of the volumes and attached AMI bookplates to each gifted volume

Upon closer inspection of the find, AMI books are found to be mixed in with the Smithsonian material and other library collections

In response, the officers resolved that the boxes should/would be sorted by Smithsonian personnel

1979 With rent rising at Columbia Historical Society, AMI boxes in storage at the site are periodically culled by the officer staff

They are unpacked, sorted, repacked and sent to the Marine Corps Historical Division

1979 Reports indicate that the AMI Library is comprised of 6,300 volumes. Many are in need of rebinding

Consideration is given to housing the collection on the Smithsonian’s new floor, but the Institute refuse to rebind someone else’s books. Hence, part of the AMI Library is donated to the Smithsonian for use by military and non-military scholars alike

1981 Outbid for the rented office space it held at the Columbia House, the AMI site records are removed to a closet on site and remaining files/infrastructure deposited in the hallway

After a brief period of inactivity, the material is then temporarily relocated to the Marine Corps Historical Center

1983 Appraising the site, the AMI Librarian reported that the organization hold three major series of records, including (1) meeting minutes, core files, and IRS certificates; (2) “older files” and financial statements going back to the founding of AMI; (3) documents compiled by the

late Victor Gondos as editor of MA. Many back issues of *MA* are also peppered throughout the collection

At this time, some of the documents, unorganized, and *sans* finding aid, are also housed at the Marine Corps Historical Center's (MCHC) warehouse

Dr. Harold Langley, estimating a retained library of approximately 4,000 books, 1,000 bound periodicals and assorted memorabilia, requests AMI/MCHC provide a shelved storage closet with room for sixty-five boxes

One thousand books are also estimated to have been "siphoned off from the collection "on loan" to the Chief of Military History, Dept. of the Army

CMH can only locate eighty one of the books (marked with AMI stamps)

The subdepartment at Carlyle Barracks can find no AMI books in their collection

Of the previous locations holding records of AMI, only the Smithsonian Institution retains a separate set of AMI records with some being used in the Army, some used in the Navy ends of the organization. The rest, measuring 600 cubic feet in size, are housed in open storage boxes for NAFMAB on a pallet at the Silver Hill facility

The US Army Combat Studies Institute, Uniformed Services University of Health Services, and USMHI offers to take the surviving "rump collection" of records

- 1985 The AMI library holdings housed in the Smithsonian are screened by Dr. Langley and the AMI president, who then transmits duplicates to the Combat Studies Institute at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas
- 1985 With the retirement of Forrest Pogue from the Smithsonian Institution, the Eisenhower Institute and the AMI Library's future are cast in doubt

Non-AMI related material is given away

More AMI material is sent to the Combat Studies Institute at Fort Leavenworth

At this time, AMI officers are also looking for a new repository/home to house the records of Victor Gondos

1988 **The “hard core records” (thirty-three boxes of meeting minutes and other AMI records) are moved from Dr. Langley’s house Military History Institute at Carlyle Barracks**

Dr. Langely is also attempting to get the records of past AMI presidents

1990 **“An Instrument of Gift” contract is signed between AMI and The National Defense University to transmit “approximately seventy-six archival boxes” of AMI material into their care**

1991 **The first shipment of AMI archives is moved to National Defense University**

1999 **Harold Langley transmits two boxes of the remaining AMI/SMG Library to the Marine Corps University**

2001 **General Simmons retains custody of the files of his own presidency and his work on various AMI committees**

Harold Langley retains fourteen to fifteen boxes of AMI minutes as well as the officer papers of Coffman and Cooling

SMH works out a deal with the Industrial College of the Armed Forces to deposit and preserve the AMI Archives

Harold Langely, under a deal arranged by Frank Cooling as Executive Secretary, retains records for a period of ten years

The ICAF refuses further additions to the AMI records in their possession, claiming that, as their space is limited, they can no longer take additions to the collection

At the time, Graham Cosmos is ready to deposit his Financial Committee files

Reg Schrader still retains his own files

2002 **The Librarian at ICAAF reports that eighty-five boxes of AMI material are being held at CMH, Carlyle Barracks.**

2008

The AMHF/AMI/SMH institutional papers as well as the AMI/SMH related papers of Don Bittner and Robert Berlin are transmitted to Kansas State University

Note: A cursory survey of internet posted archival finding aids has revealed AMHF/AMI/SMH-related collections are also housed at the following institutions:

Smithsonian Institution Archives

-Philip K. Lundeberg Papers

Eisenhower Library, Abilene

-Edwin Clark Papers

George C Marshall Research Foundation

-Edward Coffman Collection

Archives of the University of Missouri

-Donald Bittner Papers

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