



ARCHIVES – FINDING AID

Collection Title: Kathryn Olmstead Papers

Creator: Olmstead, Kathryn M.

Dates: 1965-1989 (inclusive), 1969-1971 (bulk)

Extent: .5 Linear Feet (1 manuscript box, 1 slide tray and slide box)

Level of Description: Folder Level

Repository: Natural History Collections and Archives, Chicago Academy of Sciences /Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, Chicago, Illinois.

Access Conditions: Open for research. Contact the Chicago Academy of Sciences' Collections Department for access conditions.

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Citation: Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [item], [folder], [box], Kathryn Olmstead Papers, Chicago Academy of Sciences / Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum.

Acquisition Information: Given to the Chicago Academy of Sciences in 2001 as a gift (accession 2001.4) from Kathryn Olmstead. Original donation consisted of a few printed materials, 35mm slides, transparencies, acetate negatives, and photographic prints.

Processor and Date: Amber King, December 2010; Mattie Draftz, February 2020

Biographical Sketch: Kathryn (Kathy) Olmstead worked for the Chicago Academy of Sciences on exhibits and fabricating plant pieces for scenes under the direction of Dr. William Beecher in the early 1970s. Little else is known about Ms. Olmstead at this time.

Scope and Content: These materials are made up of printed materials and photographic prints, slides, transparencies and negatives. Subject matter of some of the imagery and printed material is focused on bogs, while the remaining imagery is of trips taken by the Chicago Academy of Sciences along with exhibits and displays at the Academy.

Series Description:

Series 1: Printed Materials (1965-1989)

This series is comprised of printed materials about the Volo Bog and carnivorous plants.

Series 2: Acetate Negatives (undated)

This series comprises acetate negatives of bird nests in trees and of Volo Bog.

Series 3: Transparencies (undated)

This series comprises color transparencies of raccoon specimen.

Series 4: Photographic Prints (1969-1972, undated)

This series comprises photographic prints of various subjects with a subseries of photographs of bogs and a subseries of exhibit photography of the Chicago Academy of Sciences.

Series 5: 35mm Slides (1965, 1970-1971, undated)

This series is comprised of 35mm slides split into two subseries: Chicago Academy of Sciences trips and ChAS work on exhibits and displays. The slides from ChAS trips include images from excursions to Little Grand Canyon in Shawnee National Forest, IL with pictures of people on the trip and images of the surrounding flora and fauna. This first subseries also includes slides from a trip to Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center in Willow Springs, IL with pictures of people on the trip, of employees and of the environment at the Nature Center. The second subseries of ChAS display work includes pictures of the Academy's murals, diorama work, the surrounding area outside of the ChAS building and exhibit displays of human and bat specimens.

Container List:

Box 1 (Housed separately, RVWD: 302 Film Room: Unit 1, Shelf J)

Series 1: Printed Materials (1965, 1969, 1989)

- | | | |
|---|--|---------------|
| 1 | Volo Bog | 1969, 1989 |
| 2 | <i>Carolina Tips</i> – "Carnivorous Plants – Part III" | December 1965 |

Series 2: Acetate Negatives (undated)

Sub-series 1: Ornithology

- | | | |
|---|---|---------|
| 3 | 5 color acetate negative strips – bird nest in tree | undated |
|---|---|---------|

Sub-series 2: Volo Bog

- | | | |
|---|---|---------|
| 4 | 4 (5x7") b/w acetate negatives of Volo Bog near Ingleside, IL | undated |
|---|---|---------|

Series 3: Transparencies (undated)

- | | | |
|---|---|---------|
| 5 | 6 mounted (2x2") color transparencies of raccoon specimen | undated |
|---|---|---------|

Series 4: Photographic Prints (1969-1972, undated)

Sub-series 1: Bogs (1969-1972, undated)

- | | | |
|---|--|---------------|
| 6 | Pinhook Bog, 34 (4x5") color photographic prints | June 5, 1971 |
| 7 | Pinhook Bog, 17 (4x5") color photographic prints | June 5, 1971 |
| 8 | Volo Bog, 34 (4x5") color photographic prints | ca. 1969-1970 |

Sub-series 2: Chicago Academy of Sciences (1969-1972, undated)

- | | | |
|----|---|---------------------------|
| 9 | Exhibits Department, 16 b/w (4x5") photographic prints | ca. April 1970-March 1972 |
| 10 | Work on Exhibit Murals/Dioramas/Displays, 14 (4x5") color photographic prints | ca. 1969-1970, undated |

35mm Slide Box 1 (Housed separately with other 35mm slides in RVWD: 305: Slide Cab 1: 1-E)

Series 5: 35mm Slides (1965, 1970-1971, undated)

Sub-series 1: Chicago Academy of Sciences Trips (1970-1971)

- | | |
|---|------|
| Little Grand Canyon, Shawnee National Forest, IL (63 color 35mm paper-mounted slides) | 1971 |
| Two men, kneeling, next to ropes extending from tan tent with trees along PR of image and a vehicle just visible on PL of image behind tent in background. | 1971 |
| Two women, one sitting on ground manually inflating a white air mattress, the other in background sitting on bench of picnic table. | 1971 |
| Seven people, surrounding a cooking area at a campfire. Two people attempting to light a fire, others standing or sitting around two picnic tables flanking the cooking area. | 1971 |
| Man laying down in rushing, waterfall area, of stream or river, with natural rock wall in background. | 1971 |
| Back of woman's head in foreground, looking toward grill set up over open campfire in midground. | 1971 |
| Two people descending wooden ladder toward wooden pier where two other people are standing next to open water. | 1971 |
| Blooming plant amongst rock cropping. Flowers are small, white, five petaled, on long, thin stalks, possibly French's Shooting Star Plant, <i>Dodecatheon frenchii</i> . | 1971 |
| Low plants growing on rock face with small tree in background. Tree is in URC. | 1971 |
| Shrubs and trees growing along upper edge of rock face, hillside slopes downward from URC to LLC. | 1971 |
| 5 people, three men and two women, standing and sitting in rushing water in waterfall portion of stream or river. | 1971 |
| Water in canyon area with natural rock facing walls disappearing into the background. Two people swimming in water, only heads exposed, CL. | 1971 |
| Plants growing out of cliff face. Cliff face on left side of image. | 1971 |
| Man laying down on stomach with arms bent to cover eyes in rushing water in waterfall portion of stream or river. | 1971 |

Natural rock, cliff face, showing strata with plant growth between layers and along top edge. 1971

Close-up of flowering plant with compound opposite leaves made up of three lobed leaves. Flowers are shaped like narrow bell with fringe extending from petals. 1971

Close-up of leaves and clustered fruit, shaped like green, clustered wafers, of common hoptree. 1971

Various ferns and shrubs amongst undergrowth in wooded area. 1971

Close-up of unidentified plant species with compound, deeply striated, pointed leaves with very distinct, sharp teeth. 1971

Cliff face with vegetation growing from striations with driftwood-shaped dead wood along top of cliff face. TC of image. 1971

Cliff face with focus on one plant in center of image. Possibly, Prairie Fleabane, *Erigeron strigosus*. 1971

Cliff face with many rocky ledges with plants growing on cliff face. 1971

Close-up along cliff face of Prairie Fleabane, *Erigeron strigosus*, plant. 1971

Close-up of vegetation and large spiderweb along cliff face. Spiderweb on right side of image. 1971

Cliff face showing vines growing on striated rock surface and a small indentation along the water line. 1971

Close-up of deep crevice in rock cliff face. 1971

Water with cliff walls in the background. Water fills fore and midgrounds. 1971

Cliff face covered with various plants along top and on face itself, with small landslide in LRC of image. 1971

Detail of plants lining top of cliff face above small landslide. 1971

Water with many silver or white waterbugs along surface. 1971

Rock cliff face with showing cave near water level. 1971

Cliff face with cliff formation that resembles an embedded icicle. 1971

Woman's hand, outstretched, on which sits an American Toad, *Bufo americanus*. Open door to red car in background. 1971

Dirt trail with trees creating tunnel effect. Person on trail in center of image, walking with back to camera. 1971

Trail winding between tree, on left side of image, and wildflowers, on right side of image. Two people on trail walking with backs to the camera. 1971

Man half sitting, half leaning against low rock cliff in shade of trees. 1971

Large tree trunk, extending from low, rock cliff face and turning at a ninety degree angle upwards. Trunk has many crevices. 1971

Large tree trunk, extending from low, rock cliff face and turning at a ninety degree angle upwards, on right side image. Trunk has

many crevices. Rock cliff extends toward left of image.

Low, rock, cliff-face with protruding ledges and vegetation along face above shallow stream. 1971

Close-up for rock, cliff-face showing vegetation and pockets of water erosion. 1971

Close-up of vegetation on rock, cliff-face. Plants include ferns and mosses, as well as other unidentified plants. 1971

Close-up of rock, cliff-face with vegetation growing along top edge and small cave at bottom. 1971

Four people standing in dry stream bed of canyon with rock, cliff walls. 1971

Dry stream bed in small canyon with rock walls and felled logs. Two people stand in stream bed in background of image. 1971

Person standing in foreground of stream bed in canyon, with vegetation along left side of image and rock face on right side of image. 1971

Six people standing in dry stream bed of canyon. Image taken from top of cliff face looking down. 1971

Rock, cliff-face with vegetation on ground near crevice. Leaves from branch of tree suspended in center of image in foreground. 1971

Close-up of cliff-face showing striations. 1971

Protrusion from cliff-face with vegetation along upper edge. 1971

Three people scaling cliff-face, looking downward from top of cliff edge. Three people are standing in the stream bed below. 1971

Four people climbing down rock cliff-face toward stream bed below. 1971

People climbing down rock cliff-face, with water in LRC of image. 1971

Rock, cliff-face showing cave, in background, center of image. 1971

Rock, cliff-face showing cave, in background, center of image. 1971

Close-up of man climbing rock, cliff-face with camera slung around neck and shoulders and a flashlight tucked into his belt. 1971

Close-up of moss and unidentified leafy plant growing on and near crevice in rock. 1971

Close-up of modern day cave paintings. 1971

Close-up of modern day cave paintings. 1971

Close-up of rock face. 1971

Close-up of rock face. 1971

Two men standing in canyon looking at rock face. Image taken from above through crevice. 1971

Two men standing in canyon, with rock face towering above them on left side of image and stream bed flowing into more open area. 1971

Rock, cliff walls of canyon with vegetation growing on top edge 1971

and down rock face. Open area toward lower foreground with large rock in BC.	
Man and woman sitting on rock on edge of large body of water.	1971
Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center, Willow Springs, IL (15 color 35mm paper mounted slides)	1970
Man standing in front of wood-sided building with right arm raised above head holding bird. Head and shoulders of two people frame the shot in the foreground.	1970
Man standing in front of wood-sided building with head bent over hands holding bird. Head and shoulders and arm of two people frame shot in the foreground.	1970
Man standing in front of wood-sided building holding bird in front of chest. Arm and shoulder of two people frame shot in the foreground.	1970
Man standing in front of wood-sided building holding bird in outstretched hand. Arm and back of hat frame shot in foreground.	1970
Pond or body of water, with close-up of reeds and sedges along water's edge. Narrow wooden pier in background of image.	1970
Pond or body of water with tree lined shore in background and shallow mounds in middle of water.	1970
Pond or body of water with tree lined shore in background, curving toward BRC.	1970
Pond or body of water with trees in background, with edge of water in frame showing reeds or grasses. Edge curves toward BLC.	1970
Close-up of branches of tree in which sit birds, species unidentifiable.	1970
Pond or body of water showing edge of water in background, trees line right and left sides of image in foreground.	1970
Close-up of edge of pond or body of water with trees lining edge in background and grasses or reeds intermittent in the water.	1970
Edge of pond or body of water with people standing along edge of water on left side of image.	1970
Edge of pond or body of water with trees beyond in background.	1970
Fallen tree trunk with trees and shrubs behind and blooming dandelion on center foreground.	1970
Fallen branch or tree trunk in body of water with two ducks, possibly mallards, above on right side of image.	1970
<i>Sub-series 2: Chicago Academy of Sciences Work on/for Exhibits/Displays (1965, 1970-1971, undated)</i>	
Painted mural, showing tall trees in autumnal colors along edge of grassy clearing.	1970

Detail of painted mural showing leaves in autumnal colors.	1970
Painted mural, depicting dead tree trunk, with a few protruding branches in center of image in grassy clearing with trees with autumnal colored leaves in background.	1970
Diorama scene with four Canada geese (one with head only in foreground, BRC) with painted mural in background of open pond or body of water with stands of grasses or reeds.	1970
Painted mural for diorama depicting five Canada geese in flight, but about to land, with pond or body of water in background containing clumps of grasses or reeds.	1970
Detail of diorama scene with three Canada geese display mounts clustered together in at rest position with painted mural in background of body of water containing clumps of grasses or reeds and two Canada geese in flight about to land.	1970
Diorama scene, in preparation phase, with five snow geese bird display mounts, three white goose display mounts and two crane mounts covered by plastic, in marsh scene with clumps of grasses intermittent amongst the mounts and a curved painted mural in background and right side of image depicting grasses and craggy cliff with water.	1970
Detail of diorama scene, in preparation phase, showing bare tree trunk in center with head of crane display mount covered by plastic in foreground and man standing in background.	1970
Painted mural for diorama depicting hilly wooded area with trees intermixed with open grassy areas and sand or snow in center foreground.	1970
Painted mural for diorama depicting hilly wooded area with trees intermixed with open grassy areas and a trail winding through the center of the image. Man kneeling on ground in front of mural with wide brush in his right hand.	1970
Diorama scene of nine bird display mounts (terns and plovers toward foreground, heron in BRC, and larger bird on top of protruding dead trunk) depicting dune scene. Image taken through glass.	1970
Detail of diorama scene set in sand dune, depicting bald eagle display mount with fish in right talon perched on piece of drift wood with one crow or raven display mounts on the left side of the image. Mural in background of sand dune with intermittent grasses and clear sky above with painted crow or raven in CL of image.	1970
Detail of diorama scene set in sand dune, depicting four seagull mounts standing in sand with the one mount in background bent toward fish mount. Mural in background of sand dune along	1970

shore line with Lake Michigan on left side of image and one soaring seagull.

Detail of diorama scene set in marshland with reeds and grasses along water's edge three bird display mounts (one identifiable as head of heron) set amongst the grasses and blooming waterlilies on water's edge. Image taken through glass. 1970

Outdoor scene of enclosure at Lincoln Park Zoo, with trunk of tree in foreground on right side of image, and peacock, with tail feathers extended, in center background of image. 1970

Outdoor scene of enclosure at Lincoln Park Zoo, showing dirt area along edge of pond area with fallen tree trunk in water and peacock, with tail feathers extended in CR of image. 1970

Outdoor scene of enclosure at Lincoln Park Zoo, taken through chainlink fence, of Rooster and pigeons with pond area in background and two overturned canoes on bank. 1970

Outdoor scene of enclosure at Lincoln Park Zoo, taken through chainlink fence, of peacock, with tail feathers extended, standing in dirt area with wooden boardwalk in background. 1970

Outdoor scene of enclosure at Lincoln Park Zoo, taken through chainlink fence, on bank of pond of adult swan about to enter water near a duck swimming in water. 1970

Detail of painted mural depicting various cell and cell shapes. 1971

Image possibly of cracked dry stream bed. 1970

Diorama scene of marshland with eleven bird display mounts arranged in "water" with reeds and grasses intermixed. Mural in background show body of water with reed and grasses growing at water's edge with flying egret, and two other birds perched on reed. 1970

Diorama scene of marshland with eleven bird display mounts arranged in "water" with reeds and grasses intermixed. Mural in background show body of water with reed and grasses growing at water's edge with flying egret and red-winged blackbird perched in reed clump on left side of image, and two other birds perched on reed on right side. 1970

Diorama scene of marshland with eleven bird display mounts arranged in "water" with reeds and grasses intermixed. Mural in background show body of water with reed and grasses growing at water's edge with red-winged blackbird perched in reed clump on left side of image and two other birds perched on reed on right side. 1970

Detail of diorama scene of marshland with nine bird display mounts arranged in "water" with reeds and grasses intermixed. Mural in background show body of water with reed and grasses 1970

growing at water's edge with red-winged blackbird perched in reed clump on left side of image.

Detail of diorama scene of marshland with nine bird display mounts arranged in "water" with reeds and grasses intermixed. Mural in background show body of water with reed and grasses growing at water's edge with red-winged blackbird perched in reed clump on left side of image. 1970

Detail of diorama scene of marshland with seven bird display mounts arranged in "water" with reeds and grasses intermixed. Mural in background show body of water with reed and grasses growing at water's edge with red-winged blackbird perched in reed clump on left side of image. Image taken through glass. 1970

Detail of diorama scene of marshland with seven bird display mounts arranged in "water" with reeds and grasses intermixed. Mural in background show body of water with reed and grasses growing at water's edge with red-winged blackbird perched in reed clump on left side of image. Image taken through glass. 1970

Diorama scene depicting sand dune, with nine bird display mounts and two painted bird specimens on mural behind. Part of a larger diorama. 1970

Diorama scene depicting sand dune, with nine bird display mounts and two painted bird specimens on mural behind. Part of a larger diorama. 1970

Detail of diorama scene depicting marshland. Four bird display mounts are arranged in grass or reed clumps with one turtle display mount near waterlilies. 1970

Diorama scene depicting marshland, containing four bird display mounts display in and around clumps of reeds or grasses. 1970

Diorama scene depicting marshland, containing many bird display mounts arranged in and around clumps of reeds and grasses. Painted mural in background shows a fire burning. 1970

Detail of diorama scene set in sand dune, depicting bald eagle display mount with fish in right talon perched on piece of drift wood with one crow or raven display mounts on the left side of the image. Mural in background of sand dune with painted crow or raven in CL of image. 1970

Detail of mural from diorama, depicting seven bird species and one turtle in sand dune. One bird is soaring and the rest are all at rest. 1970

Detail of diorama, tree trunk with large hollow crevice in trunk with autumnal leaves on branches in foreground, tufts of grass on right side of image and water in background. 1970

Detail of diorama, tree stump protruding from sand dune with 1970

grasses surrounding it. Monarch butterfly specimen perched on tree stump.	
Detail of diorama, tree stump with Monarch butterfly specimen perched on it.	1970
Detail of diorama, tree trunk with large crevice along left side in center of image with rear end of cougar in left corner.	1970
Detail of diorama, crevice of tree trunk.	1970
Diorama of white-tailed deer, adult female and male and two fawns near a watering hole. Painted mural behind depicts a clearing in a wooded area.	1970
Diorama of five muskrats near entrance to their den in grassland area, with dead tree on left side of image.	1970
Handwritten label, "CHICAGO ACADEMY OF SCIENCES SCULPTING/ LABORATORY/ KATHRINE OLMSTEAD MANAGER & DIRECTOR," laying flat on sheet of newspaper.	
Exhibit display of human head and torso with cloth connectors to larger examples of those organs sitting on a table, 3/4 view.	1965
Exhibit display of human head and torso with cloth connectors to larger examples of those organs sitting on a table, from front.	1965
Table with handmade displays of human teeth, half of a human mandible showing tooth connections, human hand and foot, and the inside of cells.	1965
Table with handmade displays of dissected frog and two other larger displays.	1965
Bat, placed on back, wings outstretched, with metal forceps pointing at abdomen on right side of image.	
Bat, placed on back, wings outstretched, with metal forceps pointing at abdomen on right side of image. Bat turned toward left side of image.	
Bat, wings outstretched, held by human hands at tips of wings, abdomen toward the camera.	