

## Guide to the Melvern Reservoir Collection

**Author:** BL, 5/1/2007, updated 7/20/2022

**Encoder:**

**Creator of Collection:** Carlyle S. Smith

**Collection Dates:** 1961–1967

**Acquisition Number:** 165.1962

**Repository:**

Archaeology Division  
Biodiversity Institute  
The University of Kansas  
1340 Jayhawk Boulevard, Lawrence, Kansas 66045-7550  
Telephone: 785-864-0158

**Abstract:**

Archaeological investigations in the Melvern Reservoir, Osage County, Kansas were carried on as part of the Inter-Agency Archaeological Salvage Program in the Missouri Basin under a cooperative agreement between the University of Kansas and the United States National Park Service and in collaboration with the Missouri Basin Project of the Smithsonian Institution. From June 14 to August 2, 1962, excavations were carried on under the direction of Carlyle S. Smith at the Turkey Creek Site (14OS1), the Harsch Site (14OS314), the Wiley Site (14OS312), and the Judy Hammond Site (14OS4). Surface collections were gathered from sites 14OS2, 14OS3, 14OS313, 14OS315, 14OS316, and 14OS318 (from Carlyle Smith's forward to *Archaeological Investigations in Melvern Reservoir, Osage County, Kansas, 1962*).

Carlyle Smith's work as the principle investigator produced the correspondence, field notes, and manuscripts included in this collection.

**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correspondence / published manuscripts / unpublished manuscripts /  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 / field journals / artifact catalogues / photograph logs  
/ artifact data / feature data forms

**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 correspondence, field notes, field journals, lab analysis of artifacts, and published and unpublished manuscripts in relation to Carlyle S. Smith's role as principle investigator in the archaeological investigations in Melvern Reservoir in Osage County, Kansas.

Included is a small group of correspondence from 1962; one descriptive daily journal kept by Smith during the investigations; one journal kept by Walter Birkby during the investigations; descriptive lab analysis of collected items; site feature forms and burial excavations forms; and photograph notebooks describing individual images as they were captured.

**Subject Terms:** Melvern Reservoir / 14OS1 / 14OS314 / 14OS312 / 14OS4 / 14OS2 / 14OS3 / 14OS313 / 14OS315 / 14OS316 / 14OS318 / Archaeology / Excavation / Burial

**Geographic Locations:** United States / Kansas / Osage County / Melvern Reservoir / Missouri Basin / Osage Plains / Marais des Cygnes River

**Personal Names:** Carlyle S. Smith / Petra S. Moore / Walter H. Birkby / William M. Bass / John D. Featherstone / Paul Lin / Jack M Schock / Paul Beaubien / Roger T. Grange

**Corporate Names:** United States National Park Service / University of Kansas / Missouri River Basin Project / Kansas State Historical Society / Peoples Herald / Smithsonian Institution / Kansas Anthropological Association

**Language:** English

**Acquisition Information:** Documents were generated as the compliance project with the National Park Service for Melvern reservoir was completed. The documents and associated collections are curated at the ARC under a curation agreement with the Kansas City District, Army Corps of Engineers.

**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

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| Folder 1 | General—1962, 1963, 1964, 1967 (originals)  |
| Folder 2 | General—1962, 1963, 1964, 1967 (select fragile originals from folder 1, photocopies in original sequence in folder 1) |

**MANUSCRIPTS / PUBLICATIONS**

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| Folder 3 | “Archaeological Investigations In Melvern Reservoir: Osage County, Kansas, 1962” by Petra S. Moore, and Walter H. Birkby, with Foreword by Carlyle S. Smith (principle investigator) (illustrations connected to this manuscript are in folder 4) |
| Folder 4 | Illustrations, plates, and maps separated from contents of folder 3, “Archaeological Investigations In Melvern Reservoir: Osage County, Kansas, 1962”   |
| Folder 5 | Untitled (preliminary) final report on Archaeological Investigations on Melvern Reservoir (precursor to contents of folder 3)   |
| Folder 6 | Progress report to the NPS for the field season 8 June – 3 August 1962 on archaeological investigations in the Melvern reservoir, Osage County, Kansas  |

Abstract: "Archaeological Investigations in the Melvern Reservoir, Osage County, Kansas, 1962" (Carlyle S. Smith and Walter H. Birkby)

1962 End of Fiscal Year Report NPS Melvern Reservoir Project

"A Preliminary Report on Archaeological Investigations in the Melvern Reservoir, Osage County, Kansas, 1962," by Carlyle S. Smith and Walter H. Birkby in Kansas Anthropological Association Newsletter, Vol. VIII, December 1962

## **FIELD NOTES / DATA ANALYSIS**

- Folder 7      Lab notes and descriptive analysis of items from sites 14OS1, 14OS2, 14OS3, 14OS312, 14OS314, 14OS315, and 14OS316 (originals)
- Folder 8      Lab notes and descriptive analysis of items from sites 14OS1, 14OS2, 14OS3, 14OS312, 14OS314, 14OS315, and 14OS316 (photocopies of folder 7)
- Folder 9      Site feature forms and burial excavation forms (originals)
- Folder 10     Site feature forms and burial excavation forms (photocopies of folder 9)

### Box 2

- Folder 1      Project field log – Walt Birkby, 1962 (original)
- Folder 2      Project field log – Walt Birkby, 1962 (photocopies of folder 1)
- Folder 3      Project field log – Carlyle Smith, 1962 (original)
- Folder 4      Project field log – Carlyle Smith, 1962 (photocopies of folder 3)
- Folder 5      Photo logs and notes – Carlyle Smith (530.1962.2)