

The Papers of JOSEPH HENRY

Compiled by

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with the assistance of

Sarah J. Shoenfeld

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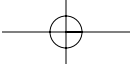
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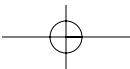
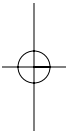
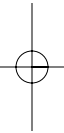
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*To all who worked on the Joseph Henry Papers Project over
the years and to all who supported their work*



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 PREFACE 

This volume is based on work done over many years by the Henry Papers editors, who, at least in the early days, used colorful felt-tip pens to mark long galley proofs, scribbled index terms on 3×5 cards, and filed the cards in agate boxes. Under the circumstances, the compilers cannot claim full credit for either the merits or deficiencies of the combined product.

To prepare this cumulation, the indexes of the early volumes were keyboarded (and in one case converted from a word-processing file) into CINDEX™ under the supervision of David K. Ream of Leverage Technologies, Inc., who also graciously helped to troubleshoot any problems that arose as we worked with the files in CINDEX™. Sarah Shoenfeld, formerly research assistant on the project, proofed the keyboarded output, merged the files of the individual volumes, made numerous decisions about sorting and formatting, and did a preliminary edit of terms to rationalize variations. Kathleen Dorman, formerly associate editor, did further rationalization and analysis to mold the individual indexes into one. When the task seemed overwhelming, we took solace in the Emersonian phrase that Nathan Reingold, editor of the project from 1966 to 1985, was fond of quoting: “A foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds.”

Users should be alerted to one inconsistency in procedure. For the first seven volumes, terms that appeared both in the text and in a note were indexed twice. Beginning with volume 8, such terms were not indexed a second time if the text was footnoted to lead readers directly to the relevant note.

We wish to thank our colleagues at the Smithsonian Institution Archives for their collegiality, to say nothing of their occasional technical assistance and provision of baked goods, and especially our former Henry Papers colleagues, Marc Rothenberg, for guidance in scientific areas, and Frank Millikan, for serving as a sounding board for all manner of questions. We also wish to thank the Smithsonian’s Office of Sponsored Projects and the Office of Contracting for assistance with funding and contracts.

The Papers of Joseph Henry

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This final volume would not have been possible without the efforts of two individuals. Neale W. Watson of Science History Publications, USA, suggested it was worth doing and patiently coaxed it to completion. Pamela M. Henson, director of SIA's Institutional History Division, took on supervision of this project at a busy time and saw it through from initial conversion of files to final publication, not only arranging contracts and funding but offering advice, humor, and constant encouragement.

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