Guide to May Weber Collection Archives

Catherine A. Nichols

August 2021

Contact: Catherine A. Nichols, PhD
Director, May Weber Ethnographic Study Collection
Phone: (773) 508-3887
Email: maywebercollection@luc.edu
Collection Overview

Repository: May Weber Ethnographic Study Collection, Mundelein Center 419, Loyola University Chicago (Lakeshore campus)

Title: May Weber Collection Archives

Date: 1970s – present

Location: All materials held in Mundelein 419

Extent: 42 boxes

Creator: Catherine Nichols, Department of Anthropology, Loyola University Chicago

Language: Collection is in English.

Summary: The May Weber Collection Archives contain documents and miscellaneous materials given to Loyola University Chicago as part of the donation of Weber’s ethnographic art collection. The records pertain to documentation of some of objects held in the collection, the records of The May Weber Foundation, the May Weber Museum of Cultural Arts, and accretions of miscellaneous materials by Weber.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information
This collection was donated to the Department of Anthropology, Loyola University Chicago in 2013.

Processing Information
This collection is ongoing. Additions generated by Loyola faculty and students are processed as they are created.

Processed under the supervision of Catherine Nichols by student interns from 2014 through 2021.

Preferred Citation
May Weber Collection Archives, Loyola University Chicago.

Restrictions
No restrictions. Access to the May Weber Collection Archives requires an appointment.

Conditions Governing Use
Contact May Weber Ethnographic Study Collection for terms of use.
Administrative History

The May Weber Ethnographic Study Collection was established in 2014, following the gift of a collection of approximately 4600 objects to Loyola University Chicago in 2012. Upon inventory and physical transfer of the majority of materials from the home of May Weber and Gerald Hoffman, following Weber’s death, Dr. Catherine Nichols was hired by the Department of Anthropology to assess the materials and select objects to form a research and teaching collection. The majority of these selections were made during 2014. In 2019 Hoffman passed away and a remaining approximately 400 objects, part of the original gift, were physically moved from the Weber/Hoffman home to the Loyola University Museum of Art (LUMA), where they were assessed and selected by Nichols. Disposition of the objects not selected was performed by Vice President of Cultural Affairs Pam Ambrose in 2014-15 and LUMA Collections and Events Manager Carlynnne Robinson. A number of objects from Weber’s gifts have been placed in Loyola buildings and facilities, including LUREC and the Cuneo Mansion. The May Weber Ethnographic Study Collection is housed in Mundelein 418. The adjacent room, Mundelein 419 functions as a research, teaching, and workspace, and holds the May Weber Collection Archives, as well as Weber’s collection of publications related to the collection’s contents.

Scope and Contents

The May Weber Collection Archives contains correspondence, invoices, photographs, object documents, fiscal records, exhibit records, grant applications, and manuscript notes. The majority of the materials were created or retained by Weber in the course of her collecting activities, the development of exhibitions, and the operation of the May Weber Museum of Cultural Arts and The May Weber Foundation.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged in 11 series: (1) Correspondence and Invoices, Alpha-Name File; (2) Object Inventory, Catalogue, Appraisal & Disposition Records; (3) Object Reference Articles and Information; (4) Records of The May Weber Museum of Cultural Arts; (5) May Weber Personal; (6) Interpretive Labels and Notes; (7) Oversize; (8) Records of The May Weber Foundation; (9) Records pertaining to LUC/LUMA; (10) Records of the May Weber Ethnographic Study Collection; (11) Deed of Gift & Disposition Records

Container Listing

Series 1: Correspondence and Invoices, Alpha-Name File
9 boxes (3.75 linear feet)

Box 1
A
Ackley, David
Art of the Past
B
Baker, Herbert
Barker, John: Object Slips & Miscellaneous, Undated (1)
Barker, John: Object Slips & Miscellaneous, Undated (2)
Box 2  Barker, John: Correspondence 1990-2000
       Barker, John: Correspondence 2001-2011
       Baruch Foundation
       Bortignons
       C
       Casa del Rio Gallery
       Chinalai Tribal Antiquities, Inc.

Box 3  Cortland-Leyten Gallery
       D
       Decoro
       Dawson, Doug
       E
       F
       Felix, Marc Leo

Box 4  Felix, Marc Leo Object Folders (tagged and untagged)

Box 5  Felix, Marc Leo Object Folders (untagged)

Box 6  G
       Grammet, Ivo
       Grove Gallery
       H
       Hurst Gallery
       I

Box 7  Imari
       J
       K
       Johnson, Harmer
       L
       M
       N
       Nomads
       O

Box 8  P
       Q
       R
       S
       Saito, Inc.
       Segy, Ladislas (1)
       Segy, Ladislas (2)

Box 9  Spink
       T
       U
Series 2: Object Inventory, Catalogue, Appraisal & Disposition Records
2 boxes (1 linear foot)

Box 10
MW Inventory (1)
MW Inventory (2)
MW Inventory (3)
MW Inventory 1988? (4)
MW Inventory (5)
MW Inventory (6)
MW Inventory (7)
Home Inventories
Appraisals
Hindman Auctioneers
Bizarre Baazar

Box 11
Objects not in collection
Photography of objects not in collection
Possibly in collection
In collection – needs association with object records
May Weber Museum of Cultural Arts displays
Object exhibit photography

Series 3: Object Reference Articles and Information
7 boxes (3 linear feet)

Box 12
Reference – Maps
Segy, Ladislas publications
“Unity and Purpose in Human Lives” Dan P. McAdams
Excerpts from *Japanese Traditional Furniture*
Mexican mask essays, Janet Esser Brody
“Philippine Prehistory” Wilhelm G. Solheim II
excerpts from *The Great Migration* Hans-Joachim Diesner
excerpts from *Mirror for Man* Clyde Kluckhohn

Box 13
excerpt from book on Japan
Kalimantan tourist guide
excerpt from *The Gods as we shape them* F. Sierksma
*Crafts of Gujarat* Jasleen Dhmaja, ed.
“Cloth as Metaphor: Nigerian Textiles from the Museum of Cultural History” Jean Borgatti, ed.
excerpts from *Reflections of Reality in Japanese Art* Sherman E. Lee
excerpts from book on kosode (Japanese short-robe/kimono)
excerpts on Borneo from Expedition 30 no. 1 (1988)
Ancient India and Ancient China: Trade and Religious Exchange AD 1-600 Xinru Liu

Box 14
Wayang Golek Peter Buurman
Javanese Shadow Puppets Ward Keeler
The Uses of the Past: Profiles of Former Societies Herbert J. Muller
Nefertiti Evelyn Wells
The Rise and Splendour of the Chinese Empire René Grousset
Art and Australia 13 no. 3 (1976)

Box 15
excerpts from The Etruscans
The Golden Trade of the Moors E.W. Bovill
Ethiopian Processional Crosses Eine Moore
A Short History of Chinese Art Eine Moore

Box 16
Reference – East Asia (1)
Reference – East Asia (2)
Reference – Southeast Asia
Reference – Central Asia
Reference – Middle East
Reference – India
Reference – Buddhism

Box 17
Reference – Africa (1)
Reference – Africa (2)
Reference – Textiles (1)
Reference – Textiles (2)
Reference – Textiles (3)
Reference – Masks

Box 18
Reference – Egypt
Reference – Europe/Mediterranean
Reference – North America
Reference – Central/Mesoamerica
Reference – Oceania
Reference – Miscellaneous

Series 4: Records of The May Weber Museum of Cultural Arts
3 boxes (1.25 linear foot)

Box 19
General Information
List of Contacts
Education/Outreach
Conference on Ethnic Arts
Floor plans
Museum rental
General correspondence

Box 20  
Museum correspondence  
DePaul Art Museum  
Exhibit & Museum brochures & mailers  
Correspondence – associations  
Partner museum catalogues  
Maxwell Street  
AAM Accreditation & Publications  
Collections management

Box 21  
Newspaper and magazine articles about May Weber/MW Museum  
Newspaper and magazine articles retained by May Weber  
Association newsletters

Series 5: May Weber Personal  
2 boxes (1 linear foot)

Box 22  
About & photos  
Personal  
Holiday greetings  
“The Psychoanalytic Process” by May Weber  
Thesis on Abdullah Mwinymoyo Bin Hassan  
May Weber travel  
Milner & Fawcett documents  
Mary & Gene and friends (1980)  
Art on paper

Box 23  
Museum brochures (1)  
Museum brochures (2)

Series 6: Interpretive Labels and Notes

Box 24  
Exhibition Schedules, Promotional Materials  
Exhibit Catalogues  
Exhibit – Beautiful Tradition (1988)  
Exhibit – Messages to God and Men (1989)  
Exhibit – To Market, To Market (1991)  
Exhibit – Art in Daily Life, Masks of Humanity (1993)  
Exhibit – Gods as We Shape Them (2006)  
Exhibit - Wayang: Art of Puppetry (2017)  
Labels (1) Textile Exhibit – Stories in Cloth (?)  
Labels (2) Textile Exhibit – Stories in Cloth (?)  
Labels (3) Textile Exhibit  
Labels (4) Textile Exhibit

Box 25  
Exhibit – Everyman Trader (1992) Labels  
Exhibit – Containers of Spirit and Substance (1992) Labels
Labels – Mexico & Central America
Labels – The Enduring Maya
Labels – Mexico – Folk Art
Labels – The Folk Art of Mexico
Labels – Miscellaneous Textiles
Labels – Jewelry
Labels – Asia
Labels – Central Asia
Labels – Oceania

Box 26
- Labels – A Single Blade of Grass (Japan)
- Labels – Japan (1)
- Labels – Japan (2)
- Labels – The Gods as We Shape Them (1)
- Labels – The Gods as We Shape Them (2)

Box 27
- Labels – Indonesia
- Labels – SE Asia
- Labels – Africa
- Labels – India (1)
- Labels – India (2)
- Lectures (?)
- Exhibit/Label – Miscellaneous

Box 28
- Looseleaf May Weber object notes

Box 29
- Spiral bound May Weber object notes

Box 30
- Spiral bound May Weber object notes

Box 31
- Spiral bound May Weber object notes

Box 32
- Spiral bound May Weber object notes

Series 7: Oversize
1 box (.5 linear foot)

Box 33
- Bortignons (Invoices)
- The World of Talavera (Ref)
- African Civilizations: Precolonial cities and states in tropical Africa (Ref)
- Tibetan Divination Paintings (Ref)
- Hethitisches Keilschrift-Lesebach (Ref)
- Transcript of clothing conference remarks (MW Museum)
- North America (Ref)

Series 8: Records of The May Weber Foundation

Box 34
- Unprocessed records from The May Weber Foundation
Box 35  Unprocessed records from The May Weber Foundation

Box 36  Unprocessed records from The May Weber Foundation

Box 37  Unprocessed records from The May Weber Foundation

Box 38  Unprocessed records from The May Weber Foundation

Series 9: Records pertaining to LUC/LUMA
1 box (.5 linear foot)

Box 39  Unprocessed records from LUMA

Series 10: Records of the May Weber Ethnographic Study Collection
1 box (.5 linear foot)

Box 40  Object Selection
Collections Management Policy
LUC Audits
Instagram Collections Consult
Collections consults
Notes for educational talks
Cataloguing notes
Object-related correspondence
Collections processing correspondence
Rehousing information
Intern logs
“Masquerade” Pop-Up Exhibit (2014)
“Women’s Work” Exhibit (2017)
“Wayang” Exhibit (2017)
“East Asian Textiles” Digital Archives (2020)
N. Claudio exhibit simulation study
Miscellaneous

Series 11: Deed of Gift & Disposition Records
2 boxes (1 linear foot)

Box 41  May Weber Foundation
Binding Pledge Agreement
Non-Appraised Books, Papers & Archives
Appraised Property
Binding Pledge Agreement
Non-Appraised Property
NMMA Gift Agreement
Tags – Unsorted

Box 42  LUREC
Damen Center
Baumhart
LUMA Collection
Library
Ecology
Mundelein
Cuneo
Lewis Towers
Unsorted Records related to disposition of gift items