

Arts of Africa, the Americas, Asia, and the Pacific Islands Department Records

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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Archives and Manuscripts Collections, The Baltimore Museum of Art

2015

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Summary Information

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Repository | Archives and Manuscripts Collections, The Baltimore Museum of Art |
| Creator | Burgunder, Lillian Marie |
| Creator | Lamp, Frederick |
| Creator | Long, Glenn |
| Creator | Rosenthal, Gertrude, 1903- |
| Title | Arts of Africa, the Americas, Asia, and the Pacific Islands Department Records |
| Date [inclusive] | 1955-2004. |
| Extent | 15.3 Linear feet (11 boxes, 2 oversize boxes) |
| Language | English |
| Abstract | <p>The Arts of Africa, the Americas, Asia, and the Pacific Islands Department Records reflect the activities of the Department located within the Baltimore Museum of Art. The Department's records total 15.3 linear feet and date from 1955 to 2004 with the bulk of material dating from 1981 to 2002. The records consist of a variety of materials including correspondence, notes, photographic materials, research materials, and essays. The majority of records are dedicated to departmental correspondence and the publication of the 2004 catalog <i>See the Music, Hear the Dance: Rethinking African Art</i> at The Baltimore Museum of Art.</p> |

Preferred Citation

Arts of Africa, the Americas, Asia, and the Pacific Islands Department Records, Archives and Manuscripts Collections, The Baltimore Museum of Art

Institutional History

The Baltimore Museum of Art received its first gift of African art from Irene Gulck in 1947. The next gift of African acquisitions came in 1950 from Etta and Claribel Cone followed by two objects from Saidie A. May in 1951. The Museum received its largest gift of African Art in 1954 from collectors Janet and Alan Wurtzburger totalling 136 objects.

With the guidance of BMA Director Adelyn Breeskin and Curator, Gertrude Rosenthal, the Wurtzburgers expanded their collecting interests to Oceanic and Pre-Columbian Art. In 1958, a special gallery was opened for the purposes of displaying "primitive art" and showing the kind of objects that had greatly influenced twentieth century art. The display of the objects in a fine art museum was one of the first in the nation at a time when "primitive" works were relegated to natural history museums or private collections only.

In celebration of the Wurtzburger Collection exhibitions and subsequent gifts, the BMA published three catalogs dated 1956 to 1958. Gertrude Rosenthal coordinated production of the catalogs and worked with outside scholars from numerous institutions including Yale and Columbia to write the accompanying essays.

Throughout the 1950s, 60s, and 70s, it appears the museum functioned with Chief Curator Rosenthal overseeing all areas of the Museum's collection and delegating work to outside scholars and specialists of non-Western art when necessary. By the 1970s the Museum's collection of non-Western art had grown considerably and it became apparent that an in-house curator would be necessary to oversee the collection. In the early 1970s, Dr. Glenn A. Long, Chairman of the Division of Education at the BMA was named Curator in Charge of African, Oceanic and Pre-Columbian Collections. In 1975, he organized the exhibition *Social Rite and Personal Delight: African Art from Baltimore Collections*.

Full-time Curator Frederick Lamp was hired in 1981 as Associate Curator of the Arts of Africa, the Americas, and Oceania (AAAO). Lamp later gained the title Curatorial Department Head before leaving the Museum in 2003. While at the BMA, Lamp was responsible for organizing the permanent installation of the collection (1982), the exhibition *Art of the Baga: A Drama of Cultural Reinvention* and the publication *See the Music, Hear the Dance: Rethinking African Art at The Baltimore Museum of Art* (2004).

The Department expanded in 1987 with the hiring of an additional curator, Katherine Fernstrom. Fernstrom worked as an Associate Curator of Arts of Africa, the Americas & Oceania until 2002. Fernstrom co-curated several exhibitions with Associate Curator in Charge of Textiles, Anita Jones, including: *Navajo Textiles: 1860-1940* (1988), *A Shared Tradition: Native North American Beadwork* (1990), and *Northern Lights: Inuit Textile Art From the Canadian Arctic* (1993).

Associate Curator and Department Head, Karen Milbourne succeeded Fred Lamp and worked at the BMA from 2004 to 2008. During her time here she was responsible for the three-part exhibition, *Meditations on African Art*. From 2009 to 2012 Nichole Bridges served as Associate Curator and Department Head and was succeeded in 2012 by Kathryn Wysocki Gunsch.

Sometime between 2005 and 2008 the Department's name was changed from Arts of Africa, the Americas, Asia, and Oceania (AAAO) to Arts of Africa, the Americas, Asia, and the Pacific Islands (AAAPI).

Scope and Contents

The records of the Arts of Africa, the Americas, Asia, and the Pacific Islands Department (AAAPI) span from 1955 to 2004 with the majority of records dating from 1981 to 2002. The records include a wide variety of materials such as correspondence, notes, photographic materials, research material, grant applications, and essays.

The majority of records are located in the Correspondence series and are from curators Frederick Lamp and Katherine Fernstrom with limited records from Glenn E. Long in the Exhibitions series. Notably absent are records from curator Karen Milbourne.

The Exhibition series contains records for a traveling African Arts exhibition loaned to the museum after 1954, and the 1975 exhibition and catalog for *Social Rite and Personal Delight: African Art from Baltimore Collections*.

The records within the Publication series focus on publications not associated with specific exhibitions. *The Alan Wurtzburger Collection of Pre-Columbian Art* (1958) and *See the Music, Hear the Dance: Rethinking African Art at The Baltimore Museum of Art* (2004).

Arrangement

Arranged into six series: Budgets, Correspondence, Exhibitions, Grants, Publications, and Research. Some series such as Exhibitions and Publications have been arranged into subseries by event.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Archives and Manuscripts Collections, The Baltimore Museum of Art 2015

Ownership and Copyright

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Provenance

Transferred from the AAPI department to the Archives in 2010 and in earlier undated groups.

Processing Information

Processed by Anna J. Clarkson in January 2013, using the *More Product, Less Process* methodology. In 2015, Bria Sinnott completed the detailed processing of the Publications series and the Exhibitions series.

Controlled Access Headings

Genre(s)

- Correspondence
- Grant proposals
- Photographs

Subject(s)

- Art museums -- Exhibitions
- Art, African
- Art, Egyptian
- Art, Pacific Island
- Baltimore Museum of Art
- Budgets
- Drafts (documents)
- Exhibition catalogs
- Museum labels
- Museum publications

- Research

Budgets.**Collection Inventory**

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Budgets. 1990-1993. 0.1 Linear feet [3 folders] | Box OS 1 |
| <p>Scope and Contents</p> <p>Contains information on the expenditures for the AA-API Department in the following years: 1990-1991, 1991-1992, 1992-1993.</p> | |
| Correspondence. 1957-2002. 9.7 Linear feet [8 boxes] | |
| <p>Scope and Contents</p> <p>The Correspondence series contains 8 boxes of correspondence dating from 1957 to 2002 with the bulk of correspondence dating between 1981 and 2002. The files contain the correspondence of curators Frederick Lamp and Katherine Fernstrom. Correspondence consists of reading files, memorandums between BMA staff and the Department, as well as correspondence with dealers, curators, scholars and the general public.</p> <p>The series contains one box of permanently restricted material.</p> | |
| | Box |
| General Correspondence. 1957 - 1985 | 1 |
| Frederick Lamp's Reading Files. 1981 - 1989 | 2 |
| General Correspondence. 1986 - 1988 | 3 |
| Frederick Lamp's Reading Files. 1989 - 1992 | 4 |

Exhibitions.

| | |
|--|-----|
| General Correspondence. 1989 - 1990 | 5 |
| General Correspondence. 1991 - 1993 | 6 |
| Katherine Fernstrom's Reading Files. 1993 - 2002 | 7 |
| RESTRICTED | OS2 |

Exhibitions. 1954-1975. 0.1 Linear feet [4 folders]**Scope and Contents**

The series consists of four folders for the exhibition *African Traveling Exhibition*(after 1954) and *Social Rite and Personal Delight: African Art from Baltimore Collections* (1975).

The record for the subseries *African Traveling Exhibition* consists of one document. The document includes the physical descriptions, locations, and monetary values of eleven items. The items come from the Wurtzburger Collection, the Cone Collection, and gifts from Dr. and Mrs. Bernard Berk.

The subseries for *Social Rite and Personal Delight: African Art from Baltimore Collections* involve the 1975 exhibition and its published catalog. The records occur from 1975-1979 and include logistical information for the June 15, 1975 opening, such as equipment requests and vendor correspondence. Also included are drafts of the catalog introduction written by Curator-in-charge Dr. Glenn Long, and drafts and correspondence from essay contributor Irwin Hershey. Press materials for the exhibit include press releases, a 1979 article from *African Arts*, published by the University of California and a newspaper clipping from the June 15, 1975 issue of *The Sunday Sun*. The bulk of the records include correspondence from Dr. Long to Director Tom Freudenheim, Tribal Arts Society member Ann Harper and various donors and vendors.

African Traveling Exhibition. after 1954.

Box
OS1

Social Rite and Personal Delight: African Art from Baltimore Collections.***Social Rite and Personal Delight: African Art from Baltimore Collections. 1975.*****Box**

OS1

Exhibition Labels. undated. **labels.**

OS1

Exhibition Correspondance. 1975.

Box

8

Grants. 1983-1994. 1.25 Linear feet [1 box]**Scope and Contents**

The Grants series contains records for grant projects both approved and unrealized. The grant packages have a variety of subjects including BMA exhibitions and research funding for travel by curator Frederick Lamp. The files contain applications, correspondence, narratives, resumes & curriculum vitae.

Publications. 1957-2004. 2.08 Linear feet [3.1 boxes]**Separated Materials**

The series contained large amounts of photographic material related to *See the Music, Hear the Dance* in the form of slides, transparencies, and CD-ROMs that were transferred to the Archives' Photograph Collection.

Scope and Contents

The Alan Wurtzburger Collection of Pre-Columbian Art subseries contains correspondence from Senior Curator, Gertrude Rosenthal from August 1957-January 1958 in regards to the 1958 catalog. The bulk of correspondence is between Rosenthal and Dr. George Kubler from the Department of Art History at Yale University, who authored the catalog notes. There is additional correspondence between Rosenthal and the publisher, H.K. Press, concerning edits and design. The records include photo requests, edits

The Alan Wurtzburger Collection of Pre-Columbian Art.

to the map designed by Mary Margaret Collier, and copies of letters sent from Rosenthal to various contributors and editors.

The subseries relating to the 2004 publication by Frederick Lamp, *See the Music, Hear the Dance: Rethinking African Art at The Baltimore Museum of Art*, contains records from 1998 to 2004. The records contain rough drafts of the book, which was tentatively titled during pre-production, "African Catalog", and feature essays from 35 contributing authors. A large part of the records include research and drafts from Lillian Marie Burgunder, an in-house Research Associate. Also included are drafts and edits of essay submissions, as well as correspondence between contributors and Frederick Lamp. The records also include the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Grant proposal and final manuscript draft. Correspondence between potential publishers and Manager of Creative Services Michele Boardman include proposals, negotiations, and in-house budgets. Notably absent is research from Frederick Lamp.

The Alan Wurtzburger Collection of Pre-Columbian Art. 1958.**Box**

Publication Correspondence. 1957-1958.

OS1

See the Music, Hear the Dance: Rethinking African Art at the Baltimore Museum of Art. 2004.**General Note**

Box 9 contains the research and essays of Lillian Marie Burgunder.

Box

Essay Final. 1998 Apr, undated.

9

Texts Drafts. 1997-2003.

9

See the Music, Hear the Dance: Rethinking African Art at the Baltimore Mus...

| | |
|---|----|
| Photocopies of Catalog Illustrations. undated. | 9 |
| Manuscript Notes. 1998-2004. | 9 |
| Translations of Kuba Legends. undated. | 9 |
| Essay Final Drafts. 2003. | 9 |
| Unused Images. undated. | 9 |
| Draft: Michele Boardman Edits. 2003 Jun. | 9 |
| Prospective Field Photos Used. undated. negative, documents. | 9 |
| References to Add. undated. | 9 |
| Lillian Burgunder Essays. 1998-2003. compact disc, documents. | 9 |
| Citations for Personal Communications. undated. | 9 |
| Contributor Biographies and Afterword. circa 2003. | 9 |
| Essay Drafts. 2003. | 10 |
| Essay Draft Revisions. 2003. | 10 |
| In-house Essay Drafts. 2003 Mar-Jul. | 10 |

Research.

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Catalog Essay Drafts. 1993-2002. | 10 |
| Interpreting African Art through New Technology Proposal. 2002. | 10 |
| Contributor Payment Information. circa 2002. | 10 |
| In-house Drafts. 1997-2003. | 10 |
| Outside Entry Drafts. 2001-2003. compact disc, documents. | 10 |
| Correspondence with Contributors. 2002. | 10 |
| Publisher Proposals. 2003. | 11 |
| National Endowment for the Arts Grant: Final Proposal circa 2000. | 11 |
| National Endowment for the Arts Grant Draft. circa 2000. | 11 |
| Photocopied Illustrations. undated. | 11 |
| Photography Payments. circa 2000. | 11 |
| Research. 1955-1975. 0.2 Linear feet [5 folders] | Box |
| | OS 1 |
| Scope and Contents | |
| The Research series contains five folders from 1955 to 1967 containing correspondence, clippings, objects lists and essays. The folders are labeled: Accessions Committee | |

Research.

(Discontinued); Accessions Committee June 17, 1977; Appriasals - Remarks; General Lists; Interpretation, 1962; News Clippings; and Sillah, Kakaria.