

## MS-169

The Museum of Northern Arizona  
Harold S. Colton Memorial Library  
3101 N. Fort Valley Road  
Flagstaff, AZ 86001  
(928)774-5213 ext. 256

### Title

Helen Margaret Greene collection

### Dates

1920s-1987

### Extent

39.5 cm textual material, 8 file card boxes

### Biographical History

Helen Margaret (née Schweitzer-Stiefel) Greene (12 September 1901 – 01 July 1986) was born in Manhattan, New York. She attended Wellesley College for two years in 1924 but did not graduate. She married Milo E. Greene and had one son, Peter, in 1933. In 1951, Greene moved to Taos, New Mexico. Upon discovering that “American Indians were very much alive and had a venerable, yet animated culture,” she began attending ceremonies, collecting arts & crafts, and learning the Hopi language. She encountered many obstacles as there was no definitive dictionary on the Hopi language at the time. It was because of this that Greene’s friend, anthropologist Alice Marriott, suggested that Greene compile her own “How to Say It” word list. Beginning in 1953, Greene spent over 7 years off and on living with her son Peter at Kykotsmovi on the Hopi Reservation in order to compile her phrasebook. Her Hopi name was *Bahan So’oh*.

In 1959 -1960, Greene attended the University of Arizona, Tucson, and studied anthropology. And in 1961, at Marriott’s suggestion, Greene was appointed a Research Associate at the Logan Museum of Anthropology at Beloit College in Wisconsin for 3 years. Throughout the 1960s, Greene donated her collection of 305 ethnographic objects to the Logan Museum that she bought directly from native Hopi, Zuni, Acoma, Laguna, San Ildefonso Pueblos, as well as Navajo, Apache, Havasupai, and Tohono O’odham artists. And prior to 1971, she also donated *katsina* dolls and books to the Museum of Northern Arizona (MNA).

In 1975, Greene moved from Tucson to spend the summer in a trailer at the research center at MNA in Flagstaff to begin typing up her “Hopi Vocabulary.” She frequently consulted with P. David Seaman, a linguist in the Anthropology Department at Northern Arizona University (NAU) and research associate at MNA from 1975-[?] at the behest of Edward Danson, MNA director.

In 1976, Greene donated her archival collection to MNA. Seaman, who was working on his first edition of the “Hopi Dictionary,” which was published in 1985, removed her papers from the MNA Archives and when Greene’s health began failing, at her request

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he promised to collate her collection before returning it to the MNA archives. Seaman, along with his graduate assistant, Carol N. Motter, finished arranging Greene's notes by subject into 8 volumes in October, 1987.

Greene died in Scottsdale, Arizona in July, 1986.

### **Scope and Content**

The Helen Margaret Greene collection mostly relates to her study of Hopi culture and language. There are two volumes of her unpublished manuscript, *Hopi Vocabulary*, as well as grant information regarding the book, and 8 boxes of note cards with Hopi words and phrases that she created during her stay on the Hopi reservation. The collection also includes her field notes describing life on the Hopi reservation throughout the 1950s, '60s, and '70s; personal and professional correspondence, and various other documents relating to her donations and work.

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### **Languages and Scripts of the Materials**

English & Hopi

### **Custodial History**

The collection was bequeathed to MNA on 31 July 1976 by Helen Margaret Greene. In 1978, P. David Seaman removed the original collection and combined it with the papers Green had given to him. He then collated the entire collection and returned it to MNA.

### **Immediate Source of Acquisition**

Donated through P. David Seaman from the estate of Helen Margaret Greene (Accession # MS-169)

### **Existence and Location of Copies**

The P. David Seaman collection (MS.28) at NAU's Special Collections & Archives contains a copy of Greene's *Hopi Vocabulary*.

### **Related Archival Materials**

Some of Green's personal papers regarding the Hopi language were given to P. David Seaman when he was a professor at NAU. These papers are now apart of the P. David Seaman collection (MS.28) at NAU's Special Collections & Archives.

Helen Margaret Greene donated her collection of 305 ethnographic objects from the Hopi, Zuni, Acoma, Laguna, San Ildefonso Pueblos, as well as Navajo, Apache, Havasupai, and Tohono O'odham items to the Logan Museum of Anthropology, Beloit College (Wisconsin), throughout the 1960s. The Beloit University Archives have a small collection relating to Greene, which includes some letters from the President (such as an

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offering for her to be the Research Associate of the Logan Museum for 3 years in 1961), as well as newspaper clippings about her donation and position at the Logan Museum.

### **Publication Note**

The Helen Margaret Greene collection, when it was housed at the Special Collections Library at NAU, appears as two separate bibliographic entries in the appendix of: Seaman, P. David. *Hopi Dictionary*. Northern Arizona University Anthropological Paper No. 2, 578.

### **Description Control**

Finding aid written by Eileen Hogan using *DACS*, 12 July 2010

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### Title

Series 1: Greene Papers Collated by P. David Seaman

### Dates

1920s-1984

### Extent

12 cm textual material

### Scope and Content

Volume 1 consists of donation receipts, appraisals, photographs and negatives, and correspondence regarding the artifacts and books Greene donated to the Amerind Foundation, the Logan Museum of Anthropology, and the Museum of Northern Arizona; it also includes receipts and ledgers from when Greene was a dealer of Native American jewelry; an original and typed copy of "Pung'ock Kachina," a "story told [Greene] by Otto Pentewa;" and miscellaneous published material regarding Native Americans.

The Volume 1 Supplement file contains annotated copies of documents found in Volume one, such as the Dance Calendars & Ceremonies, and other original material including a list of Hopi chiefs from 1957. Subjects include: Amerind Foundation, Archeology, Arts & Crafts, Beloit College, Bibliography, and Dance Calendars & Ceremonies (copy).

Volume 3 consists of miscellaneous museum publications, receipts and appraisals from the donation of artifacts to MNA, and linguistics research and correspondence. Subjects include: Education, Ethnobotany, Finances, Grand Canyon, Health, History, Linguistics, Museums, and Music.

Volume 4 consists of personal and professional correspondence, photographs, and newspaper clippings relating to people Greene was acquainted with. The correspondence is arranged by person. Subjects include: Native and Non-Native People, and Religion.

<b>Series 1: Greene Papers Collated by PDS</b>				
<b>File #</b>	<b>File Description</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>	<b>Extent</b>	<b>Box/Folder</b>
MS-169-1-1	Indian Archives - Volume 1	1952-1983	4 cm textual	1.1
MS-169-1-2	Volume 1 Supplement	1957-1975	1 cm textual	1.2
MS-169-1-3	Indian Archives - Volume 3	1961-1978	3 cm textual	1.3
MS-169-1-4	Indian Archives - Volume 4	1920s-1984	4 cm textual	1.4

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### Title

Series 2: Hopi Vocabulary

### Dates

1962-1987

### Extent

12 cm textual material, 8 file card boxes

### Scope and Content

Greene's unpublished manuscript, *Hopi Vocabulary (HV)*, was collated by PDS in two volumes. Series also includes Greene's vocabulary note cards, which she created during her time on the Hopi Reservation and later used when writing *HV*, and a binder (Volume 2) containing Greene's grant information, applications, and correspondence for the writing and publishing of *HV*, which was compiled by PDS.

<b>Series 2: Hopi Vocabulary</b>				
<b>File #</b>	<b>File Description</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>	<b>Extent</b>	<b>Box/Folder</b>
MS-169-2-1	Indian Archives – Volume 2	1962-1973	4 cm textual	2.1
MS-169-2-2	Indian Archives ( <i>HV</i> ) – Part 1	1975-1987	4 cm textual	2.2
MS-169-2-3	Indian Archives ( <i>HV</i> ) – Part 2	1975-1987	4 cm textual	2.3
MS-169-2-4	Vocab. Cards: A – N	undated	1 file card box	4
MS-169-2-5	Vocab. Cards: Ha – ζ <sup>^</sup>	undated	1 file card box	5
MS-169-2-6	Vocab. Cards: T – I	undated	1 file card box	6
MS-169-2-7	Vocab. Cards: K – Z, Pronouns, Prefixes, Suffixes	undated	1 file card box	7
MS-169-2-8	Vocab. Cards: Baby Words A – Fl	undated	1 file card box	8
MS-169-2-9	Vocab. Cards: Baby Words Fo – Q	undated	1 file card box	9
MS-169-2-10	Vocab. Cards: Baby Words R – Z	undated	1 file card box	10
MS-169-2-11	Vocab. Cards: Phrases A – Z, K'na (Katchina) Names	undated	1 file card box	11

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### Title

Series 3: Field Notes

### Dates

1951-1973

### Extent

14.5 cm textual material

### Scope and Content

What began as a near daily diary of Greene's time spent on the Hopi Reservation turned into what her anthropologist friend, Alice Marriott, called "field notes." Greene's observations include stories told to her by the Hopis, her descriptions of dances and ceremonies and daily life on the reservation, personal information about her friends and acquaintances, her struggle to compile a Hopi vocabulary, and more. This series includes both the original handwritten notes and the typed copies.

Series 3: Field Notes				
File #	File Description	Date(s)	Extent	Box/Folder
MS-169-3-1	Field Notes - 1951, 1954, 1956	1951-1972	2 cm textual	3.1
MS-169-3-2	Field Notes - 1957	1957-1973	4 cm textual	3.2-3.3
MS-169-3-3	Field Notes - 1958	1958-1973	4 cm textual	3.4-3.5
MS-169-3-4	Field Notes - 1959	1959-197[?]	2 cm textual	3.6
MS-169-3-5	Field Notes - 1960, 1961, 1963	1960-197[?]	1.5 cm textual	3.7
MS-169-3-6	Field Notes - 1964, 1967, 1971, 1972	1964-1972	1 cm textual	3.8

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### Title

Series 4: Spanish Language Notes

### Dates

Undated

### Extent

1 cm textual material

### Scope and Content

Spiral notebook and loose sheet of Spanish language notes in Greene's handwriting

Series 4: Spanish Language Notes				
File #	Item Description	Date(s)	Extent	Box/Folder
MS-169-4-1	Spanish language notes	undated	1 cm textual	3.9

### LCSH Access Points

Amerind Foundation  
Dockstader, Frederick J.  
First Mesa (Ariz. : Mesa)  
Hopi Indians  
Hopi Indians -- Arizona -- Social life and customs  
Hopi Indian Reservation (Ariz.)  
Hopi Indians -- Children  
Hopi Indians -- Correspondence  
Hopi Indians Dances  
Hopi Indians -- Folklore  
Hopi Indians -- Jewelry  
Hopi language  
Hopi language -- Dictionaries -- English  
Hopi language materials  
Hopi Indians -- Rites and ceremonies  
Logan Museum of Anthropology  
Marriott, Alice Lee, 1910-1992  
Oraibi (Ariz.)  
Seaman, P. David  
Second Mesa (Ariz. : Mesa) -- Social life and customs  
Shungopavi (Ariz.)  
Third Mesa (Ariz.) -- Social life and customs.  
Titiev, Mischa, 1901-1978