

MS-178

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

Title

Harry C. James collection

Dates

1972

Extent

0.5 cm textual material

Biographical History

Harry Clebourne James (25 Apr 1896- 28 May 1978) was born in Ottawa, Canada and immigrated to California in 1913. He began working in the film industry as a cameraman, writer, and director. He joined the Canadian military efforts in WWI in 1918 and soon after returned to California. His interest in Native American culture was sparked early on and James founded a number of organizations to highlight the aboriginal inhabitants of the Hollywood Hills; the Cahuenga Council, the Western Rangers, and the Trailblazers were scouting clubs, and were influential in the establishment of the San Geronio Wilderness. This passion later spurred James to form a private boys' school with similar subject matter, such as Native American culture and conservation. Lolomi Lodge was established in Altadena in 1926. The year before, James married Grace Clifford, a school teacher, who would spend the rest of her career teaching at Lolomi Lodge.

During one of the schools' outings, James and his students spent time on the Hopi reservation. This experience led to a lifelong interest of Hopi culture. After the school closed in 1950, James pursued his conservation interests. He established the Desert Protective Council in 1954 and started writing prolifically on Native American and environmental issues.

Lolomi Lodge was donated to the University of California in 1966 and has since become the James Reserve of the University's Natural Land and Water Reserves System.

James died in Banning, California on 28 May 1978.

Scope and Content

The collection includes a photocopy of an article from the counter-culture magazine, *Clear Creek*, entitled "Indians and the Counter-Culture," a chapter in progress of the Smithsonian's *Handbook of North American Indians*. James sent the article to Edward B. Danson, the director of the Museum of Northern Arizona, because he objected to statements made about Hopi traditionalists. There are six letters between James, Danson, and William C. Sturtevant, the editor of the *Handbook of North American Indians*.

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Material donated by Harry C. James in 1972 (Accession #MS-178)

Related Archival Materials

There are Harry C. James collections regarding his research of the Hopi tribe at The University of Southern Mississippi special collections and the Montana State University Merrill G. Burlingame Special Collections.

Publication Note

James refers to the manuscript he is completing in his letters to Danson:

James, Harry Clebourne. 1974. *Pages from Hopi history*. Tucson: University of Arizona Press.

And the article, to which James and Danson object, is supposedly an unfinished chapter of:

Sturtevant, William C. 1978. *Handbook of North American Indians*. Washington: Smithsonian Institution.

Description Control

Finding aid written by Eileen Hogan using *DACS*, 20 July 2010

Harry C. James collection				
File #	File Description	Date(s)	Extent	Box/Folder
MS-178-1	Correspondence	1972	0.5 cm textual	Asst. Box 9.5

LCSH Access Points

- Hopi Indian Reservation (Ariz.)
- Hopi Indians
- Hopi Indians -- Arizona -- Social life and customs
- Hopi Indians -- Religion
- Hopi Indians -- Rites and ceremonies
- Smithsonian Books (Publisher)
- Smithsonian handbooks
- Smithsonian Institution