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

Title

Emil W. Haury collection

Dates

1983-1995

Extent

.2 in. textual material, 1 5" magnetic audio tape reel, 2 audiocassette tapes, 1 3.5" floppy disk, 1 VHS tape

Name of Creator(s)

Haury, Emil W. (Emil Walter), 1904-1992
KUAT-TV (Television station : Tucson, Ariz.)

Biographical History

Emil Walter "Doc" Haury (May 2, 1904-December 5, 1992) was born in Newton Kansas, the youngest of four sons. Haury attended public schools from 1910 to 1919 and Bethel Academy from 1919 to 1923. After high school, he attended Bethel College for two years.

In 1924, Southwest archaeologist Byron Cummings gave a lecture on archaeology at Bethel College. At the lecture, Haury met Cummings and asked to be included in the exploration and excavation of Native American ruins in Northern Arizona. The following year, he travelled to Cuicuilco, Mexico at Cummings' invitation. After the field season Haury accompanied Cummings to Tucson, Arizona and finished his undergraduate studies at the University of Arizona, earning his bachelor's degree in 1927 and Master of Arts in 1928.

Having gained employment, Haury was able to marry his childhood friend Hulda Esther Penner (27 February 1904-20 February 1987). They were married in Newton, Kansas on 7 June 1928 and raised two sons: Allan Gene, an engineer, and Loren Richard, and biological oceanographer.

Research on dendrochronology conducted with Andrew Douglass and Lyndon Hargrave made Haury an important member in tree-ring dating projects in the Southwest. On June 22, 1929, Haury was part of an expedition that found a charred beam fragment that allowed Douglass to fill in the gap in his chronology and effectively date the most well known archaeological sites in the Southwest. He also set up a tree-ring laboratory at Gila Pueblo and his excavations of the Canyon Creek ruin, providing significant contributions to the new field of dendrochronology.

In 1930, he became the assistant director of the Gila Pueblo Archaeological Foundation, which allowed him to focus on field research. This allowed him to study at Harvard University during the 1931-32 and 1932-33 academic years, where he produced a dissertation on the tree-ring

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dating of a large collection of sites in southern Arizona. He received his Ph.D. in 1934, and his dissertation was published in 1945, and remains a basic reference for late Hohokan prehistory.

Haury left Gila Pueblo to become assistant professor and head of the Department of Archaeology at the University of Arizona in 1937. One of the first changes he made as department head was to rename it the Department of Anthropology, changing its focus to the four-field approach that was the academic standard. A year later, he assumed the role of professor and also director of the Arizona State Museum. Haury developed the small department into a nationally competitive doctoral program, the first students receiving their Ph.D.s in 1953. He also built up the State Museum, hiring the first curators and developing interpretive exhibits.

Haury remarried in 1990 to Agnes Nelms Lindley, an old friend from his early excavations at Snaketown. They traveled around the Southwest until Haury's death on 5 December 1992.

A more detailed biography is available online from the National Academy of Science, and a copy of the NAS biography is available in print form upon request.

Scope and Content

This collection contains audio recordings and video productions about Haury's career as an archaeologist in Arizona. An oral history interview with transcript, conducted by Museum of Northern Arizona staff, and a video documentary about his work are included.

Conditions Governing Access

The video documentary "In the Field of Time" was produced and copyright KUAT Television. It may be viewed for research purposes but not reproduced. Contact Arizona Public Media, University of Arizona, for permission to use.

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Languages and Scripts of the Materials

English

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Donated by Dorothy House and Diane Miller in 1983 as accession #MS-288.

Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

Related Archival Materials

- Gila Pueblo Foundation Papers, 1928-1950. MS 15, Arizona State Museum Archives.

Description Control

Finding aid written by Melissa VanOtterloo using *DACS*, 3 December 2012.

Inventory

Asst. Box 8 Folder 1 Oral History Interview and Transcript, 1983
Asst. Box 8 Folder 2 “In the Field of Time” Documentary, 1995

LCSH Access Points

Haury, Emil W. (Emil Walter), 1904-1992
Southwest, New--Antiquities.
Archaeology—Southwest, New
Dendrochronology
Gila Pueblo Archaeological Foundation
University of Arizona.
Arizona State Museum
Point of Pines Site (Ariz.)
KUAT-TV (Television station : Tucson, Ariz.)