

MS-325

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

Title

Watson Smith collection

Dates

1870-1983, predominant 1930-1979

Extent

2157 photographic images, 18.7 cm textual records, 5 scrapbooks, 3 postcards, 2 7-inch reels, 2 reels 16 mm films

Biographical History

Watson Smith (1897-1993) was born in Cincinnati, Ohio and grew up in Rhode Island. He received an undergraduate degree from Brown University in 1919, and graduated from Harvard Law School in 1924. Smith practiced law until 1933, at which point he left to pursue a career in archaeology.

He worked on the Field Museum Expedition at Lowry Ruin in 1933 and 1934, the Rainbow Bridge Monument in 1936 and 1937, and the Harvard Peabody Museum's Awatovi Expedition in 1938. The Awatovi Expedition, directed by J.O. Brew, would become the basis for much of Smith's work and notoriety. The Peabody Museum commissioned the Awatovi Expedition from 1935 to 1939 at the ancient Pueblo site on the Hopi Reservation. During this time, Smith became an expert on the preservation of mural paintings, and it led to his later work at Nestor's Palace in Western Peloponnesus in Greece.

Smith became Curator of Southwestern Archaeology at the Harvard Peabody Museum following World War II. He also directed field work at Wupatki for the Museum of Northern Arizona, and at the Upper Gila River Expedition for the Peabody. In 1952, he conducted research near Zuni, New Mexico, which led to his writing on Zuni law. In 1954, Smith moved to Tucson, and founded what he called "Peabody Museum West of the Pecos," and conducted extensive research on ceramics and Awatovi materials.

Scope and Content

The Watson Smith collection consists of several slides, negatives, and prints of focusing on both Watson Smith's family, and his work on archaeological excavations. It contains five scrapbooks of family photographs. The collection includes textual records, including correspondence between Smith and others on archaeological excavations and mural

preservation, as well as Smith's research notes on issues such as Zuni law and antiquities acts in Arizona.

System of Arrangement

- Series 1: Personal Photographs
 - Subseries 1.1: Indian Style Show
 - Subseries 1.2: Scrapbooks
- Series 2: Awatovi
 - Subseries 2.1: Jeddito Murals
- Series 3: Research Notes
 - Subseries 3.1: Antiquities Statutes
 - Subseries 3.2: Hawikuh Expedition
 - Subseries 3.3: Gustav Nordenskiold
 - Subseries 3.4: Zuni Law
- Series 4: Museum of Northern Arizona
- Series 5: Moving Images

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use

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Languages and Scripts of the Materials

All materials are in English.

Finding Aids

Several previous finding aids and inventory listings were created for different accessions within this collection. The current, more up-to-date version of the finding aid has combined accessions 78, 173, 182, 269, and 325. Copies of prior inventory listings are kept in the related accession files.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

The Watson Smith collection was donated to the Museum of Northern Arizona in five different accessions. Watson Smith donated material relating to antiquities statutes in 1967 (Accession #78). Several slides focusing on National Parks, the Indian Style Show at the Denver Art Museum, the Pecos Conference in 1948, and Awatovi Expedition slides from 1937-1942 were donated by Smith in 1972 (Accession #173). Smith donated correspondence on archaeological problems in 1973 (Accession #182). He donated more correspondence in 1975 (Accession # 269). In 1983, Dorothy House and Diane Miller donated a taped interview with Smith (Accession #289). Benjamin Smith donated slides, photographs, and five scrapbooks in 1995 (Accession #325)

Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

Related Archival Material

Collection relates to Accession #MS-346, the Awatovi Mural collection. It also relates to several Awatovi expedition potsherds held by the Museum of Northern Arizona. These materials may be found in the MNA 3-D Anthropology collections.

A Watson Smith collection resides at the Arizona State Museum in Tucson.

J.O. Brew collection of lantern slides, Peabody Museum, Harvard University

Description Control

Finding aid written by Libby Coyner using *DACS*, 1 June 2009

Title

Series 1: Personal Photographs

Dates

1870-1979, predominant 1934

Extent

651 photographic images (508 negatives, 216 prints, 9 tintypes, 1 postcard)

Scope and Content

Series consists of photographs (prints, negatives, and tintypes) taken in Watson Smith's personal activities. Images include snapshots from family road trips in various parts of the United States, as well as non-excavation images of archaeological sites in the Colorado Plateau region such as Kayenta, Betatakin, Montezuma's Castle, Canyon de Chelley, and Mesa Verde.

Series 1: Personal Photographs				
File #	File Description	Date(s)	Extent	Box/File
MS-325-1-1	Providence	circa 1870-1890	9 tintypes	Box 2.1
MS-325-1-2	Old Family Photos	circa 1898-1905	19 images	Box 2.2
MS-325-1-3	Cincinnati, St Louis, Mackinack	circa 1900	11 prints	Box 2.3
MS-325-1-4	Glenwood, Yellowstone	1907	10 prints	Box 2.4
MS-325-1-5	Deep Lake, Sweetwater	1912	2 prints	Box 2.5
MS-325-1-6	Broadmeadows Farm	1917	7 prints	Box 2.6
MS-325-1-7	Cincinnati	1918	1 print	Box 2.7
MS-325-1-8	Miscellaneous	1910-1919	36 prints, 1 postcard	Box 2.8
MS-325-1-9	Somesville	1923	6 prints	Box 2.9
MS-325-1-10	Emma True's children, Littleton, CO	1933	5 prints	Box 2.10
MS-325-1-11	Bev. Hills, Westwood, Fall 1933	1933	29 images	Nitrate Freezer
MS-325-1-12	Feb. 1934, Monterey, etc. Spring 1934	1934	34 images	Nitrate Freezer
MS-325-1-13	Unlabeled, 1934	1934	37 images	Nitrate Freezer
MS-325-1-14	Colorado River, 1934	1934	27 negatives, 5 prints	2.11, Nitrate Freezer
MS-325-1-15	Ackmen, Colorado. 1934	1934	31 negatives	Nitrate Freezer
MS-325-1-16	San Juan Bautista, Monterey-Carmel, Big Sur. Feb. 1934	1934	31 negatives	Nitrate Freezer
MS-325-1-17	La Crescenta Flood, San Joaquin Valley, Yosemite. Feb. 1934	1934	33 negatives	Nitrate Freezer
MS-325-1-18	Toll Pack Trip, 1934	1934	33 negatives	Nitrate Freezer
MS-325-1-19	Palm Springs, 1934	1934	31 negatives	Nitrate Freezer
MS-325-1-20	Yosemite, 1934	1934	30 negatives	Nitrate Freezer

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MS-325-1-21	Bev. Hills, Westwood, 1934	1934	26 negatives	Nitrate Freezer
MS-325-1-22	Unlabeled, 1934	1934	24 negatives	Nitrate Freezer
MS-325-1-23	Unlabeled, 1934	1934	31 negatives	Nitrate Freezer
MS-325-1-24	L.C.S.	1935	2 prints	Box 2.12
MS-325-1-25	Miscellaneous	1930-1970	6 prints	Box 2.13
MS-325-1-26	Betatakin, Mesa Verde, Grand Canyon, Canyon de Chelley, Monument Valley	1937-1940	14 prints	Box 2.14
MS-325-1-27	Quemado, Taos, Montezuma's Castle, Bryce, Petrified Forest, Mesa Verde	1951-1959	56 negatives, 35 prints	Box 2.15
MS-325-1-28	Cocospora Trip	1960	33 prints, 20 negatives	Box 3.1
MS-325-1-29	Bluff, Utah, Kayenta, Excavation near Winona, Miscellaneous	1890, 1965	16 prints, 14 negatives	Box 3.2
MS-325-1-30	Navajo Rugs	1979	11 negatives, 8 prints	Box 3.3

Title

Subseries 1.1: Indian Style Show

Dates

1951

Extent

55 photographic images (55 slides, 32 transparencies, 32 prints)

Scope and Content

Subseries contains images from the Indian Style Show at the Denver Art Museum. These were a gift from Eric Douglas of the Denver Art Museum, after the closing of the Indian Art Department.

Subseries 1.1: Indian Style Show				
File #	File Description	Date(s)	Extent	Box/File
MS-325-1.1-1	Indian Style Show, Denver Art Museum	1951	55 images	Box 1.11

Title

Subseries 1.2: Scrapbooks

Dates

1900-1944

Extent

1128 slides, 5 photo albums, 2 scrapbook pages

Scope and Content

Subseries contains scrapbooks of Watson Smith's family and family travels.

Subseries 1.2: Scrapbooks				
Item #	Item Description	Date(s)	Extent	Box/File
MS-325-1.2-1	Album 1: Images of the Lancaster children	1939	2 pages	Box 5
MS-325-1.2-2	Album 2: 1900-1920	1900-1920	1 photo album	Box 5
MS-325-1.2-3	Album 3: 1920-1933	1920-1933	1 photo album	Box 6
MS-325-1.2-4	Album 4: 1934-1935	1934-1935	1 photo album	Box 7
MS-325-1.2-5	Album 5: 1934-1935	1934-1935	1 photo album	Box 8
MS-325-1.2-6	Album 6: 1943-1944	1943-1944	1 photo album	Box 9
MS-325-1.2-7	Album 7: Slides [1 of 2]	1941-1960	566 slides	Box 10
MS-325-1.2-8	Album 8: Slides [2 of 2]	1941-1973	562 slides	Box 11

Title

Series 2: Awatovi

Dates

circa 1930-1979

Extent

291 images (156 slides, 129 prints, 88 negatives, 3 transparencies), 1.1 cm textual records

Scope and Content

Series consists of images of the Awatovi Expedition in 1937. It contains images from the Awatovi Reunion in 1975, and photographs of the Awatovi murals held at the Peabody Museum at Harvard. Additionally, it includes the Story of Awatovi, written by Watson Smith.

Series 2: Awatovi				
File #	File Description	Date(s)	Extent	Box/File
MS-325-2-1	The Story of Awatovi, Watson Smith	1941	.25 cm textual	Box 1.19
MS-325-2-2	Awatovi Project camp	circa 1937	36 images	Box 1.20
MS-325-2-3	Awatovi; Kodacolor	1959	3 images	Box 1.21
MS-325-2-4	Awatovi Reunion	1975	53 images	Box 2.16
MS-325-2-5	Awatovi Reunion; Gaede pictures	1975	5 images	Box 2.17
MS-325-2-6	Awatovi Project	undated	11 images	Box 2.18
MS-325-2-7	Awatovi Expedition Information	1975	.25 cm textual	Box 2.19
MS-325-2-8	Awatovi Project Early Photos	circa 1930	34 images	Box 4.1
MS-325-2-9	Awatovi Murals [1 of 2]	1961	5 images, .1 cm textual	Box 4.2
MS-325-2-10	Awatovi Murals [2 of 2]	undated	8 images	Box 4.3
MS-325-2-11	Awatovi Murals, Peabody Museum information	circa 1951	1 image, .5 cm textual	Box 4.4
MS-325-2-12	Pottery Mound Mural, Kin Kletso, Awatovi Kiva Murals, Awatovi Church, Awatovi 1959	1959, 1968, 1979	38 images	Box 4.5
MS-325-2-13	Awatovi Murals, Peabody Museum slides	undated	118 images	Box 4.6

Title

Subseries 2.1: Jeddito Murals

Dates

undated

Extent

11 images (7 prints, 2 negatives, 2 transparencies)

Scope and Content

Subseries consists of images of the Jeddito Murals at the Hopi Reservation.

Subseries 2.1: Jeddito Murals				
File #	File Description	Date(s)	Extent	Box/File
MS-325-2.1-1	Jeddito Murals	undated	11 images	Box 4.7

Title

Series 3: Research Notes

Dates

1941-1973

Extent

4 cm textual

Scope and Content

Series consists of Watson Smith's research notes on kiva mural excavations and other archaeological topics.

Series 3: Research Notes				
File #	File Description	Date(s)	Extent	Box/File
MS-325-3-1	Prehistoric murals from Arizona, Watson Smith	1941	.15 cm textual	Box 1.9
MS-325-3-2	Prehistoric Chronology in the Southwest, Watson Smith	1941	.1 cm textual	Box 1.10
MS-325-3-3	Hopi Canteens	1969	.25 cm textual	Box 1.17
MS-325-3-4	Earl H. Morris excavation at Kayenta	undated	2 cm textual	Box 3.8
MS-325-3-5	Notes: Hargrave's Type Determinants	1973-1974	1.5 cm textual	Box 3.9

Title

Subseries 3.1: Antiquities Statutes

Dates

1906, 1927-1963

Extent

4.85 cm textual records

Scope and Content

Subseries consists of Smith's drafts and notes related to antiquities acts in Arizona.

Subseries 3.1: Antiquities Statutes				
File #	File Description	Date(s)	Extent	Box/File
MS-325-3.1-1	Notes regarding legal status of dead bodies	undated	.25 cm textual	Box 1.1
MS-325-3.1-2	Federal Lacey Act	1906	.1 cm textual	Box 1.2
MS-325-3.1-3	Texts of state statutes and digest of their provisions	1941	2 cm textual	Box 1.3
MS-325-3.1-4	Legal opinions by various persons	1927-1963	1 cm textual	Box 1.4
MS-325-3.1-5	Arkansas preliminary draft, correspondence	1959	.5 cm textual	Box 1.5
MS-325-3.1-6	Correspondence, re: Arizona	1955-1956	.25 cm textual	Box 1.6
MS-325-3.1-7	Arizona statute, draft text	1955	.25 cm textual	Box 1.7
MS-325-3.1-8	Society for Vertebrate Paleontology	undated	.5 cm textual	Box 1.8

Title

Subseries 3.2: Hawikuh Expedition

Dates

1954-1973

Extent

1.5 cm textual records

Scope and Content

Subseries consists of Smith's correspondence with Hodge, Burnett, Walker, Bryan, and Nusbaum on the Hawikuh Expedition.

Subseries 3.2: Hawikuh Expedition				
File #	File Description	Date(s)	Extent	Box/File
MS-325-3.2-1	Correspondence: Smith, Hodge, Burnett, memoir	1954-1955	1 cm textual	Box 1.12
MS-325-3.2-2	Correspondence: Smith, Roberts, Walker, Bryan	1962-1973	.25 cm textual	Box 1.13
MS-325-3.2-3	Correspondence: Smith, Nusbaum	1962-1963	.25 cm textual	Box 1.14

Title

Subseries 3.3: Gustaf Nordenskiöld Biography

Dates

1954-1955, 1971

Extent

2 cm textual records

Scope and Content

Subseries contains correspondence between Watson Smith and Arrhenius on Mesa Verde scholar Gustaf Nordenskiöld.

Subseries 3.3: Gustaf Nordenskiöld Biography				
File #	File Description	Date(s)	Extent	Box/File
MS-325-3.3-1	Correspondence between Smith and Arrhenius	1954-1955	1 cm textual	Box 1.15
MS-325-3.3-2	General Correspondence	1971	1 cm textual	Box 1.16

Title

Subseries 3.4: Zuni Law

Dates

1952

Extent

4 cm textual records

Scope and Content

Subseries consists of Watson Smith's notes on Zuni Law.

Subseries 3.4: Zuni Law				
File #	File Description	Date(s)	Extent	Box/File
MS-325-3.4-1	Notes on Zuni Law [1 of 2]	1952	2 cm textual	Box 3.6
MS-325-3.4-1	Notes on Zuni Law [2 of 2]	1952	2 cm textual	Box 3.7

Title

Series 4: Museum of Northern Arizona

Dates

1977, 1983

Extent

2 7-inch reels, 2 postcards, .25 cm textual records

Scope and Content

Series consists of recordings of MNA recollections, 2 postcards containing correspondence with MNA staff, and records related to Smith's MNA Trustee of the Year award.

Series 4: Museum of Northern Arizona				
File #	File Description	Date(s)	Extent	Box/File
MS-325-4-1	Museum of Northern Arizona recollections	1983	2 7-inch reels	Box 1.18
MS-325-4-2	Correspondence	undated	2 postcards	Box 3.4
MS-325-4-3	MNA Trustee of the Year program	1977	.25 cm textual	Box 3.5

Title

Series 5: Moving Images

Dates

1933

Extent

2 reels 16 mm films

Scope and Content

Series contains 2 reels of motion picture film related to the Southwest

Series 5: Moving Images				
Item #	Item Description	Date(s)	Extent	Box/File
MS-325-5-1	Reel 1: Southwest 1933	1933	1 16 mm reel	Reel 1
MS-325-5-2	Reel 2: Southwest 1933	1933	1 16 mm reel	Reel 2

LCSH Access Points

Antiquities -- Law and legislation
 Awatovi (Ariz.)
 Awatovi Expedition (1935-1939)
 Brew, J. O. (John Otis), 1906-
 Canyon de Chelly National Monument (Ariz.)
 Denver Art Museum.
 Hawikuh (N.M.)
 Hopi Indian Reservation (Ariz.)
 Hopi Indians
 Jeddito Valley (Ariz.) -- Antiquities
 Kayenta (Ariz.)
 Mesa Verde National Park (Colo.)
 Montezuma Castle (Ariz.)
 Monument Valley (Ariz. and Utah)
 Mural painting and decoration, American
 Museum of Northern Arizona
 Navajo National Monument (Ariz.)
 Navajo rugs
 Nordenskiöld, Gustaf, 1868-1895
 Petrified Forest National Park (Ariz.)
 Smith, Watson, 1897-1993
 Taos (N.M.)
 Zuni (N.M.)
 Zuni law