



Smithsonian
*Freer Gallery of Art and
Arthur M. Sackler Gallery*

James Cahill Papers

Evelyn Khoo and Lara Amrod

2008

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	
Administrative Information	1
Biographical Note	2
Scope and Content Note	3
Arrangement	3
Names and Subjects	

Collection Overview

Repository:	Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery Archives
Title:	James Cahill Papers
Date:	1945-1996
Identifier:	FSA.A2001.11
Creator:	Cahill, James, 1926-2014
Extent:	12 Linear feet
Language:	Multiple languages .
Summary:	Papers created by Asian art historian, curator, and collector Dr. James Francis Cahill. Includes personal and professional correspondence and project files documenting his many publications, lectures and activities in the Asian art field. Documents span his early career at the Freer Gallery of Art, where he served as curator of Chinese art from 1957-1965, and his tenure 1965-1994 as Professor of the History of Art at the University of California, Berkeley.

Administrative Information

Gift

Gift of James Cahill.

Provenance

James Cahill donated his papers to the Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery Archives on December 12th, 2001.

Location of Originals

Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery Archives, Smithsonian Institution

Related Material

The James Cahill website, <http://www.jamescahill.info/> which contains digitized versions of selected unpublished papers, correspondence and personal reminiscences.

Processing Information

Processed by intern Evelyn Khoo, with the assistance of archivists Rachael Cristine Woody and David Hogge. Encoded by Rebecca Morgan, Summer 2012.

Preferred Citation

James Cahill papers, 1945-1996. FSA.A2001.11. National Museum of Asian Art Archives. Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. Gift of James Cahill, December 12th, 2001.

Restrictions on Access

Collection is closed for processing. Please contact the Archives for more information.

Use Note

Permission to reproduce and publish an item from the Archives is coordinated through the Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery's Rights and Reproductions department. Please contact the Archives in order to initiate this process.

Biographical Note

1926	Born, Fort Bragg, CA
1950	Receives BA degree in Oriental Languages from University of California, Berkeley
1952	Receives MA degree in Art History from University of Michigan, in Ann Arbor
<i>Circa 1953</i>	Holds a museum training fellowship at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York
1954-1955	Studies with Shujiro Shimada at Kyoto University in Japan on a Fulbright Scholarship
1956	Works with Osvald Sirén in Stockholm on his seven-volume series "Chinese Painting: Leading Masters and Principles" Joins staff of Freer and Sackler Gallery as Curator of Chinese Art
1958	Receives PhD in Art History from University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, working principally with Max Loehr
1960	Publishes first and highly influential book: "Chinese Painting." In: Treasures of Asia series, Editions d'Art Albert Skira, Geneva, Switzerland 1960. Published also in French and German editions
1965	Leaves the Freer and Sackler Gallery to accept position as Professor of History of Art at the University of California, Berkeley
1973	Goes to China as member of the Chinese Archaeological Delegation, first group of art historians to visit China from the US
1976	Publishes first of projected five-volume series on later Chinese paintings: "Hills Beyond a River: Chinese Painting of the Yuan Dynasty"
1977	Visits China as chairman of Chinese Old Painting Delegation
1978	Publishes second of projected five-volume series on later Chinese painting: "Parting At the Shore: Chinese Painting of the Early and Middle Ming Dynasty"
1978-1979	Accepts appointment as Charles Eliot Norton Professor of Poetry at Harvard; delivers series of lectures titled, "The Compelling Image: Nature and Style in 17th Century Chinese Painting"
1982	Publishes "Barnhart-Cahill-Rogers Correspondence, 1981" (collection of correspondence published for colleagues)

	The Harvard lecture series: "The Compelling Image: Nature and Style in 17th Century Chinese Painting" published as a book, receives College of Art Association's Morey Prize for Best Art History book
1998-1999	Spends a year at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton with his wife, the art historian and artist Hsingyuan Tsao
2007	Former students organize 80th birthday party/symposium at Berkeley, titled: "Returning to the Shore"
2010	Became the 12th Recipient of the Charles Lang Freer Medal
Present	Living in Vancouver, Canada

Scope and Content Note

The James Cahill Papers span the years 1945 to 1996 and measures 15 linear feet. The collection includes: personal and administrative correspondence with other art historians, art dealers and collectors; lecture manuscripts and administrative material and correspondence with art museums, universities and other organizations in the Asian art community. There are also several personal letters and postcards with family friends of James and Dorothy Cahill. The folder descriptions were retained from Cahill's own folder titles and organized alphabetically within each series.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into 2 series:

Series 1: Project Files, 1945-1996

Series 2: Correspondence with Individuals, 1945-1996

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Art, Chinese
Art, Japanese

Types of Materials:

Manuscripts
Postcards

Names:

Asian Art Museum of San Francisco
Barnhart, Richard M., 1934-
Cahill, James, 1926-2014
College Art Association of America
Fong, Wen
Freer Gallery of Art
Fu, Shen, 1937-

Guo li gu gong bo wu yuan
Lawton, Thomas, 1931-
Ledderose, Lothar date
Lee, Sherman E.
Li, Chu-tsing, 1920-
Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York, N.Y.)
Pope, John Alexander, 1906-1982
Sickman, L. C. S. (Laurence C. S.)
Soper, Alexander Coburn, 1904-
Vinograd, Richard Ellis date
Wang, Chi-ch'ien
Wu, Nelson Ikon, 1919-

Occupations:

Art historians

Places:

Berkeley (Calif.)
China
Japan
Washington (D.C.)