



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

James Marshall Plumer Collection

Ryan Murray

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery Archives
Title:	James Marshall Plumer Collection
Date:	1935-1949
Identifier:	FSA.A.14
Creator:	Plumer, James Marshall
Extent:	1.6 Cubic feet
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Image(s): James Marshall Plumer Collection

Administrative Information

Provenance

Gift of Caroline I. Plumer, 1961.

Related Materials

James M. Plumer papers, Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan

Preferred Citation

James Marshall Plumer Collection, FSA.A.14. National Museum of Asian Art Archives. Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. Gift of Caroline I. Plumer.

Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

James Marshall Plumer (1899-1960) , scholar of Asian art. After receiving his B.A. from Harvard, Plumer served as an administrative officer with the Chinese Government Service in Maritime Customs. From 1935 until his death, he taught art history at the University of Michigan while continuing to visit and work in China and Japan. In 1935 and 1937, Plumer discovered ancient kiln sites in the Chinese provinces of Fukien (Fujian) and Chekiang (Zhejiang). He wrote extensively on Chinese ceramics and edited the 'Far Eastern Ceramic Bulletin' from 1950 to 1958.

Scope and Contents

Manuscripts, translations, correspondence, notes, maps, drawings, and black and white photographic prints and negatives related to James Marshall Plumer's work with Chinese ceramics, primarily concerning the location and excavation of a Yue ware kiln site.

Yüeh (sometimes Yueh) was the common romanization at the time of creation and is used extensively in this finding aid to reflect its usage in the original materials. Yue is preferred now. All other obsolete romanizations reflect usage in the original materials.

Arrangement

Organized into two series: Series 1: Yüeh File Series 2: Photographs

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Ceramics -- China
- Ceramics -- Japan
- Kilns -- China -- Fujian
- Kilns -- China -- Zhejiang

Types of Materials:

- Correspondence
- Drawings
- Maps
- Photographs
- Printed material

Places:

- China

Container Listing

Series 1: Yüeh File, 1935-1949

Language: English, Chinese, Japanese.

Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically by title.

Scope and Contents: Files related to James Marshall Plumer's work with Yue ware ceramics, including the location of the kiln site. Contains Plumer's manuscripts and draft report, translations of Japanese and German articles by others on Yue ware, correspondence, notes, maps, and drawings of Yue ware pieces, including by Plumer's students.

Box 1, Folder 1; Box 3, Folder 1; Oversize 1, Folder 1	"Certain Celadon Potsherds from Samarra Traced to Their Source," Yüeh m/s #4, Ars Islamica, undated
Box 1, Folder 2	Class Drawings, Profile Drawings, 1937
Box 1, Folder 3; Oversize 1, Folder 2	Class Drawings, Summer, 1937
Box 1, Folder 4; Oversize 1, Folder 3	[Drawings], undated
Box 1, Folder 5; Oversize 1, Folder 4	Illustrated London News, Yüeh m/s #1, 1937 March 13-20
Box 1, Folder 6	K.C.'s [Nelson-Atkins] Yüeh Vase [photograph], undated
Box 1, Folder 7	Koyama Fujio, "Old Porcelain Kilns Found in China," [translation], 1937
Box 1, Folder 8	Koyama Fujio, "Old Porcelain Kilns Lately Found in China," Kōkogaku Zasshi [translation], 1937 September
Box 1, Folder 9	Letter from John [last name unknown], 1937 December 7
Box 1, Folder 10	Letter from Langdon Warner, 1949 June 28
Box 1, Folder 11	Letter from Nakao, Original, undated
Box 1, Folder 12	Letters from Sir Herbert Ingram, 1939 May 31-June 12
Box 1, Folder 13	Letters from Sir Herbert Ingram [includes photographs], 1941 May 16-19
Box 1, Folder 14	Matsumura Yüzō, "Talks on Ceramics from Hsi Hu," Toji (Oriental Ceramics), Vol. VII #5 [translation], 1935 October

Box 1, Folder 15	"New Light on the Development of Porcelain in China: The Important Kiln-Site of Yüeh," Yüeh m/s #2, Michigan Academic of Science, Arts, and Letters, 1937 March 18
Box 1, Folder 16	Photos including some Yueh, 1938
Box 1, Folder 17	Reidemeister, Leopold, "The Yüeh Yao," Ostasiatische Zeitschrift, Berlin [translation], 1940
Box 1, Folder 18	"The Site of the Ware of Yüeh", undated
Box 1, Folder 19	Spouted Jars, Li Shui [photographs], 1941
Box 1, Folder 20	[Translation notebooks I and II], undated
Box 1, Folder 21	Translations from Toji Oriental Ceramics, Tokyo, Vol. VIII, No. 5, 1935
Box 1, Folder 22	Wan-li Ch'en, "The Second Report of the Examination of the Lung Ch'üan yao Kiln Sites," Toji (Oriental Ceramics), Vol. VII #5 [translation], 1935 October
Box 1, Folder 23	Yokuda Seichi, "I. To the Memory of the Late Dr. M. Nakao, II. Memory of Dr. M. Nakao, III. Bibliography of Dr. Nakao's Works on Ceramics," Toji (Oriental Ceramics), Vol. VIII #4 [translation], 1936 August
Box 1, Folder 24	Yüeh etc. [notes], 1944 November 5
Box 1, Folder 25	"The Yüeh Kiln-Site at Shang Lin Hu Where Pi Sê Yao (The Secret Color Ware) Was Made," Yüeh m/s #3, American Oriental Society (at Cleveland), 1937 April 1
Box 1, Folder 26; Folder 1	Yüeh Maps, 1935
Box 1, Folder 27	Yüeh Notes, Correspondence, etc., 1935-1939

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Series 2: Photographs, 1935, undated

Language: English.

Arrangement: Organized into two sub-series: Sub-series 2.1: Prints Sub-series 2.2: Negatives

Scope and Contents: Photographs (which include silver gelatin photonegatives and photoprints) document Chinese ceramics, primarily Yue ware, and kiln sites in Fukien (Fujian) and Chekiang (Zhejiang) provinces, dating from ninth and tenth centuries, which were discovered by Plumer. Many of the images depict ceramics in private collections and in the laboratory settings. Most of the items are "wasters", imperfect ceramic objects that were broken at the kiln site at the time of manufacture. They include bowls, candlesticks, jars, tea cups, and vases. Other photographs show archaeological field workers, including Plumer and local staff, field work activities, kilns, and the landscape surrounding the kilns.

Photographers and studios represented include the Fogg Art Museum of Harvard University, Charles B. Hoyt, Herbert Ingram, C.T. Loo, the Museum of Fine Arts (Boston), and James Marshall Plumer. Some photographs from this collection have been previously published or used in exhibitions.

2.1: Prints, circa 1935, undated

Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically by title.

Scope and Contents: Silver gelatin black and white photographic prints.

Contents: Question marks derived from original markings.

Box 2, Folder 1	All Ingram? Yüeh Type, undated
Box 2, Folder 2	Called "Miniature," Sources Unrecorded, undated
Box 2, Folder 3	Ewers, Sources Unrecorded, undated
Box 2, Folder 4	Ingram Collection (Now British Museum?), undated
Box 2, Folder 5	N. Celadon Mould, Source?, undated
Box 2, Folder 6	Miscellaneous, Sources Unrecorded, undated
Box 2, Folder 7	Miscellaneous, Sources Unrecorded: Yueh Type, White Wares, Stamped Unglazed, Miscellaneous, undated
Box 2, Folder 8	Probably from Plumer London Trip, circa 1935
Box 2, Folder 9	Shards, undated
Box 2, Folder 10	Sir Herbert Ingram? Miscellaneous Wares, undated
Box 2, Folder 11	Sir Herbert Ingram? Yüeh Type, undated
Box 2, Folder 12	Sir Herbert Ingram Collection? Yüeh and Other Wares, undated
Box 2, Folder 13	Sir Herbert Ingram's Collection, Yüeh & Other Wares, undated

Box 2, Folder 14	Yüeh Cross Section, undated
Box 2, Folder 15	Yüeh, Hoyt Collection, undated
Box 2, Folder 16	Yüeh Kiln Site Expedition, undated
Box 2, Folder 17	Yüeh Raster and Saggar, undated

2.2: Negatives, 1935, undated

Language: English.
 Arrangement: Arranged chronologically by date, thereafter alphanumerically, thereafter alphabetically by title.
 Scope and Contents: Black and white photographic negatives. Many were transferred from original nitrate to acetate ("safety") bases.

Box 4, Folder 1	[Dated negatives], 1935, undated
Box 4, Folder 1, Item 1	1/9/35.1, 1935 1 Safety film negative
Box 4, Folder 1, Item 2	7/7/35.6, Yüeh Shard, 1935 1 Safety film negative
Box 4, Folder 1, Item 3	7/9/35.4, Yüeh Shard, 1935 1 Safety film negative
Box 4, Folder 1, Item 4	7/9/35.5, Yüeh, 1935
Box 4, Folder 1, Item 5	7/9/35.7, Yüeh, 1935 1 Safety film negative
Box 4, Folder 1, Item 6	Oct. 12, Yüeh Shard, undated 1 Safety film negative
Box 4, Folder 1, Item 7	Oct. 13, Yüeh Ware, undated 1 Safety film negative
Box 4, Folder 1, Item 8	Oct. 15, Yüeh Shard, undated 1 Safety film negative
Box 4, Folder 2	[Alphanumeric negatives], undated

Box 4, Folder 2, Item 1	B7, undated 1 Safety film negative
Box 4, Folder 2, Item 2	C.2, Yüeh Shared, undated 1 Safety film negative
Box 4, Folder 2, Item 3	C.10, Yüeh Shard, undated 1 Safety film negative
Box 4, Folder 2, Item 4	C.11, Yüeh Shard, undated 1 Safety film negative
Box 4, Folder 2, Item 5	C.12 + ?, Yüeh Shards, undated 1 Safety film negative
Box 4, Folder 2, Item 6	C.13, Yüeh Shard, undated 1 Safety film negative
Box 4, Folder 2, Item 7	C.14, Yüeh Shard, undated 1 Safety film negative
Box 4, Folder 2, Item 8	C.15, Yüeh Shard, undated
Box 4, Folder 2, Item 9	C.16, Yüeh Shards, undated 1 Safety film negative
Box 4, Folder 3	[Alphabetical negatives], undated

Box 4, Folder 3, Item 1	Chien Ware, Hoyt?, undated 2 Safety film negative
Box 4, Folder 3, Item 2	Fogg Negative, Yüeh Ware, undated 1 Safety film negative
Box 4, Folder 3, Item 3	Fogg Negatives of Yueh, undated 1 Safety film negative
Box 4, Folder 3, Item 4	Hoyt Collection?, undated 4 Safety film negative
Box 4, Folder 3, Item 5	Sung, Northern Celadon, Hoyt?, undated 2 Safety film negative
Box 4, Folder 3, Item 6	T'ang, Hoyt?, undated 1 Safety film negative
Box 4, Folder 3, Item 7	T'ang and Huang Tao, Hoyt?, undated 1 Safety film negative
Box 4, Folder 3, Item 8	T'zu Chou Ware, Hoyt Collection?, undated 1 Safety film negative
Box 4, Folder 3, Item 9	Yüeh, undated 1 Safety film negative
Box 4, Folder 3, Item 10	Yüeh Cross Section, undated 1 Safety film negative
Box 4, Folder 3, Item 11	Yüeh Shard, undated 1 Safety film negative
Box 4, Folder 3, Item 12	Yüeh Shard, undated 1 Safety film negative
Box 4, Folder 3, Item 13	Yüeh Shard, undated 1 Safety film negative
Box 4, Folder 3, Item 14	Yüeh Ware, undated 1 Safety film negative
Box 4, Folder 3, Item 15	Yüeh Ware, undated 1 Safety film negative
Box 4, Folder 3, Item 16	Yüeh Ware, C.T. Loo's Piece, undated 3 Safety film negative
Box 4, Folder 3, Item 17	Yüeh Ware, Hoyt Collection, undated 1 Safety film negative
Box 4, Folder 3, Item 18	Yüeh Ware Shards, undated 1 Safety film negative
Box 4, Folder 3, Item 19	Yüeh Ware Shards, undated 1 Safety film negative

