



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

Curt Maury Papers

Anna Rimel

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Smithsonian Institution Collections Care and Preservation Fund.

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery Archives
Title:	Curt Maury Papers
Identifier:	FSA.A1989.05
Date:	1953-circa 1985
Extent:	12.7 Linear feet
Creator:	Maury, Curt
Language:	English .
Summary:	The Curt Maury papers, dating from 1953 to circa 1985, measure 12.7 linear feet and include writings and notes for planned and published books; travel files and expense ledgers for trips to India; photograph ledgers; and extensive photographs and slides of India.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The papers were donated to the Archives after Curt Maury's death in 1989 by his brother, Hans Tischler.

Processing Information

The collection was archivally processed and a finding aid prepared by Anna Rimel in 2017 with funding provided by the Smithsonian Institution's Collections Care and Preservation Fund. For this collection, minimal level processing was implemented, which included arrangement to the series, subseries and folder levels, adhering to the creator's original arrangement as much as possible. Generally, folder contents were simply verified with the original folder titles, but items within folders were not arranged further. All materials were rehoused in archival folders and boxes for long-term stability, but staples and other fasteners have not all been removed.

Preferred Citation

Curt Maury Papers. Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery Archives. Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. Gift of Mr. Hans Tischler.

Restrictions

Collection is open for research. Due to cold storage requirements, digital surrogates are preferred for access. One week's notice is required prior to access originals.

Conditions Governing Use

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

Curt Maury (1909-1989) was a writer, social services administrator, and scholar of Indian art. He was born in Germany, earned a PhD in German Literature from the University of Vienna in 1935, and immigrated to the United States in 1939. While pursuing a literary career through the publication of novels, plays, and poems, Maury developed an interest in India, which he visited many times from the 1950s through the 1970s. He conducted research on Indian folk art, and kept extensive photographic records.

Scope and Contents

The Curt Maury papers, dating from 1953 to circa 1985, measure 12.7 linear feet and consist of writings and notes for planned and published books; travel files and expense ledgers for trips to India; photograph ledgers; and extensive photographs and slides of India.

The collection was created by Maury primarily in preparation for an unpublished book to be titled, "India's Folk Tradition as the Mirror of Mankind's Religious History." Materials include manuscript and typescript drafts and notes for this book, as well as for published book, *Folk Origins of Indian Art* (1969). Travel files include printed maps of India, Maury's sketched map outlines of cities in India, and five travel expense ledgers. Photographic materials consist of black and white prints and slides depicting Indian folk art, including religious artifacts and structures, and Indian cultural activities and surroundings. Nine photograph ledgers describe images and locations of photographs and slides with roll and image number.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 3 series.

- Series 1: Writings and Notes, circa 1960s-circa 1970s [3.7 linear feet; Boxes 1-5, 7-11]
 - Series 2: Travel Files, 1953-1975 [0.4 linear feet; Box 5, 1 OV Folder]
 - Series 3: Photographic Material, circa 1960-circa 1985 [8.5 linear feet; Boxes 6, 12-44]
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Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Art, Hindu
Cave temples
Indian art
Taj Mahal (Agra, India)

Types of Materials:

Dye coupler transparencies

Photographs -- 1950-1960 -- Black-and-white photoprints -- Silver gelatin

Geographic Names:

Gujarat (India)

India

Karnataka (India) -- Social life and customs

Kerala (India)

Maharashtra

Rajasthan (India)

Container Listing

Series 1: Writings and Notes, circa 1960s-circa 1970s

3.7 Linear feet (Boxes 1-5, 7-11)

Writings and notes primarily consist of manuscript and typescript drafts of unpublished work, "India's Folk Tradition as the Mirror of Mankind's Religious History," as well as outlines and study methodology documentation. A typescript and published copy of *Folk Origins of Indian Art* are also included. Index card files of handwritten definitions and descriptions of Indian folkloric and religious imagery are in an alphanumeric order imposed by Maury, and contain cross-reference notes of what appear to be sections within the book.

This series is arranged as 3 subseries.

- 1.1 "India's Folk Tradition as the Mirror for Mankind's Religious History," Unpublished Book, circa 1970s
- 1.2 *Folk Origins of Indian Art*, 1968-1969
- 1.3 Index Card Note Files, circa 1960s-circa 1970s

1.1: "India's Folk Tradition as the Mirror of Mankind's Religious History," Unpublished Book, circa 1970s

Box 1, Folder 1	Manuscript Draft, Book Outline, circa 1970s
Box 1, Folder 2	Manuscript Draft, Lists of Included Images, circa 1970s
Box 1, Folder 3	Manuscript Draft, Various Sections, circa 1970s
Box 1, Folder 4	Early Typescript Draft, Detailed Outline by Section, circa 1970s
Box 1, Folder 5	Early Typescript Draft, The Method of This Study and its Tools (10-16), circa 1970s
Box 1, Folder 6	Early Typescript Draft, The Iconographic Coincidence (17-28), circa 1970s
Box 1, Folder 7	Early Typescript Draft, The Mythic Evidence I (29-36), circa 1970s
Box 1, Folder 8	Early Typescript Draft, The Mythic Evidence II (37-42), circa 1970s
Box 1, Folder 9	Early Typescript Draft, The Mythic Evidence III (43, Appendices A and B), circa 1970s
Box 1, Folder 10	Early Typescript Drafts, The Mythic Evidence IV, The Cultic Evidence, The Philological Evidence (44-46, Appendices A and B), circa 1970s

Box 1, Folder 11	Early Typescript Draft, Mortuary Monuments: The Worship of the Ancestral Spirits, circa 1970s
Box 1, Folder 12	Early Typescript Draft, Appendix: Pictorial Material, circa 1970s
Box 1, Folder 13	Early Typescript Draft, Part II, circa 1970s
Box 1, Folder 14	Early Typescript Draft, Part F: The Magical Universe of Folk Religion, Section II: The Cult of the Ancestral Spirits, circa 1970s
Box 1, Folder 15	Early Typescript Draft, Part F: The Magical Universe of Folk Religion, Section III: The Mistress of the Spirits, circa 1970s
Box 1, Folder 16	Early Typescript Draft, Part H, circa 1970s
Box 2, Folder 1-6	Early Typescript Draft, Definitions and Figures Described, circa 1970s
Box 2, Folder 7	Typescript Draft, Introduction, circa 1970s
Box 2, Folder 8	Typescript Draft, Appendix I, circa 1970s
Box 2, Folder 9	Typescript Draft, Appendix II, circa 1970s
Box 2, Folder 10-13	Typescript Draft, Appendix III, circa 1970s
Box 2, Folder 14	Typescript Draft, Appendix IV and V, circa 1970s
Box 2, Folder 15	Typescript Draft, Section A: Folk Tradition's Present Environment, circa 1970s
Box 3, Folder 1-2	Typescript Draft, Section A: Folk Tradition's Present Environment, circa 1970s
Box 3, Folder 3	Typescript Draft, Section B: The Sanctuaries of India, circa 1970s
Box 3, Folder 4	Typescript Draft, Section C: The Religio-Historical Evolution of India, circa 1970s
Box 3, Folder 5	Typescript Draft, Section D: The Aryan-Vedic Tradition, circa 1970s
Box 3, Folder 6	Typescript Draft, Section E: The Matrix of Folk Tradition, The Gynocentric Perspective, circa 1970s
Box 3, Folder 7	Typescript Draft, Section F: The Matrix of Folk Tradition, The Goddess and Her Cultic Manifestations, circa 1970s

Box 3, Folder 8-9	Typescript Draft, Section G: The Symbols of Folk-Traditional India, circa 1970s
Box 3, Folder 10	Typescript Draft, Section H: The Hindu Synthesis, circa 1970s
Box 3, Folder 11-14	Typescript Draft, Section J: The Metamorphoses of the Canonical Deity, circa 1970s
Box 3, Folder 15	Typescript Draft, Section K, circa 1970s
Box 3, Folder 16-17	Typescript Draft, Section L: The Iconic Evidence, circa 1970s
Box 4, Folder 1-7	Typescript Draft, Section L: The Iconic Evidence, circa 1970s
Box 4, Folder 8	Typescript Draft, Section M, circa 1970s
Box 4, Folder 9	Typescript Draft, Conclusion, Part I, circa 1970s
Box 4, Folder 10	Typescript Draft, Conclusion, Part II, circa 1970s
Box 4, Folder 11	Typescript Draft, Conclusion, Part III, circa 1970s
Box 4, Folder 12	Typescript Draft, Conclusion, Part IV, circa 1970s
Box 4, Folder 13	Typescript Drafts, Miscellaneous Sections, circa 1970s

1.2: *Folk Origins of Indian Art*, 1968-1969

Box 4, Folder 14-16	Typescript, circa 1968
Box 5, Folder 1	Typescript, circa 1968
Box 5, Folder 2	Final Publication, 1969

1.3: Index Card Note Files, circa 1960s-circa 1970s

Shoeboxes of handwritten notecards include definitions and descriptions of Indian folkloric and religious imagery and symbols, arranged in an alphanumeric system imposed by Curt Maury. Some sections include cross-references to what appear to be sections of a book, presumably Maury's unpublished work, "India's Folk Tradition as the Mirror of Mankind's Religious History."

Notecards in boxes 7-10 are arranged alphabetically by subject and have been given alphanumeric inventory numbers by Maury. Notes in box 11 are arranged alphabetically by areas in India.

Box 7	Notes for Publication Reference and Research, Notecards by Subject [A-G], circa 1960s-circa 1970s
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- Box 8 Notes for Publication Reference and Research, Notecards by Subject [G-N],
circa 1960s-circa 1970s
- Box 9 Notes for Publication Reference and Research, Notecards by Subject [O-S],
circa 1960s-circa 1970s
- Box 10 Notes for Publication Reference and Research, Notecards by Subject [T-Z],
circa 1960s-circa 1970s
- Box 11 Notes for Publication Reference and Research, Notecards by Area [A-Z], circa
1960s-circa 1970s

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Series 2: Travel Files, 1953-1975

0.4 Linear feet (Box 5, 1 OV Folder [Map Case Drawer 23, Folder 3])

Files include three maps of India and five ledgers documenting various expenses incurred during Maury's travels in the 60s and 70s. Also included are scattered travel itineraries, notes, and hotel receipts. A sketchbook contains Maury's ten pencil-sketched city outlines in India of Ganjam, Srikakulam, Raipur, Nagpur, Jabalpur, Bhubaneshwar, Mandla, Bilaspur, Jagdalpur, and Keonjhar.

Box 5, Folder 3	Maps of India, 1953-1973 Three oversized maps housed in Map Case Drawer 23, Folder 3.
Box 5, Folder 4	Miscellaneous Travel Documents, circa 1960s-1978
Box 5, Folder 5	Sketchbook of City Maps of India by Curt Maury, circa 1960s-circa 1970s Oversized sketchbook housed in Map Case Drawer 23, Folder 3. The sketchbook includes ten hand drawn sketches of outlines of cities in India, most likely visited by Maury, including: Bhubaneshwar, Bilaspur, Ganjam, Jabalpur, Jagdalpur, Keonjhar, Mandla, Nagpur, Raipur, Srikakulam.
Box 5, Folder 6	Travel Expense Ledger 1, 1961
Box 5, Folder 7	Travel Expense Ledger 2, 1968-1969
Box 5, Folder 8	Travel Expense Ledger 3, 1970-1971
Box 5, Folder 9	Travel Expense Ledger 4, 1973
Box 5, Folder 10	Travel Expense Ledger 5, 1974-1975

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Series 3: Photographic Material, circa 1950s-circa 1985

8.5 Linear feet (Boxes 6, 12-16, 17-22, 23-44 [Freezer 1])

Photographic materials consist of black and white prints, slides, and nine photograph ledgers. Images document Indian folk art, primarily religious artifacts and structures with applied decorative detailing, as well as Indian cultural activities and natural surroundings. Areas of India documented include the states of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Tamil Nadu. Prints and slides, taken by Maury during his India travels, have inventory numbers generated by Maury for his own reference. Photograph ledgers document the places in India where the photographs and slides were taken, and include corresponding roll and image numbers. Researchers may be interested to note that black and white print numbers, as well as slide numbers, appear in ledgers 1 and 2 for years 1966 to 1967, but are absent from the other seven ledgers.

This series is arranged as 3 subseries.

- 3.1 Portrait Images, circa 1970s-circa 1985
- 3.2 Photograph Ledgers, 1966-1977
- 3.3 India Images, circa 1960s-circa 1970s

3.1: Portrait Images, circa 1950s-circa 1985

Box 6, Folder 1	Curt Maury, circa 1985
Box 6, Folder 2	Unidentified Woman, circa 1950s-circa 1970s

3.2: Photograph Ledgers, 1966-1977

Box 6, Folder 3	Ledger 1, 1966-1967 Includes black and white print numbers [1-1] to [81-15] and some overlapping slide numbers, approximately 480 to 2408. See boxes 12-15 for corresponding prints.
Box 6, Folder 4	Ledger 2, 1966-1967 Includes black and white print numbers [81-16] to [95-15] and some overlapping slide numbers, approximately 770 to 1304. See boxes 15-16 for corresponding prints.
Box 6, Folder 5	Ledger 3, 1968-1969
Box 6, Folder 6	Ledger 4, 1968-1969
Box 6, Folder 7	Ledgers 5 and 6, 1970-1971
Box 6, Folder 8	Ledgers 7 and 8, 1973
Box 6, Folder 9	Ledger 9, 1974-1977

3.3: Folkloric and Religious Images of India, circa 1960s-circa 1970s

Black and white prints are of folkloric and religious sites in India, as well as cultural and social events. Prints are arranged in numerical order, grouped by cities or regions in India. Also see Photographic Ledgers 1 and 2 (located in box 6, folders 3 and 4) for further image descriptions by number.

- Box 12 Black and White Prints, circa 1960s-circa 1970s
Includes print numbers [1-5] to [22-14].
- Box 13 Black and White Prints, circa 1960s-circa 1970s
Includes print numbers [21-35] to [45-3].
- Box 14 Black and White Prints, circa 1960s-circa 1970s
Includes print numbers [45-6] to [65-15].
- Box 15 Black and White Prints, circa 1960s-circa 1970s
Includes print numbers [65-16] to [83-32].
- Box 16 Black and White Prints, circa 1960s-circa 1970s
Includes print numbers [83-33] to [95-15].
- Box 6, Folder 10 Loose Slide Box Sheets with Slide Numbers, circa 1960s-circa 1970s
- Box 17 Slides, circa 1960s-circa 1970s
Includes slide numbers [7722-18] to [8611-02].
- Box 18 Slides, circa 1960s-circa 1970s
Includes slide numbers [8611-03] to [9436-01].
- Box 19 Slides, circa 1960s-circa 1970s
Includes slide numbers [9437-01] to [9767-01].
- Box 20 Slides, circa 1960s-circa 1970s
Includes slide numbers [9768-01] to [9891-01].
- Box 21 Slides, circa 1960s-circa 1970s
Includes slide numbers [9891-02] to [9899-01]; and [98100-01] to [98198-02].
- Box 22 Slides, circa 1960s-circa 1970s
Includes slide numbers [98198-03] to [98225-01]; [9901-01] to [9970-12];
[1001-01] to [1003-03]; and five small groups of slides divided by chapters.
- Box 23;
Box 24;
Box 25;
Box 26;
Box 27;
- Slides, Various, circa 1960s-circa 1970s
Slides in boxes 23-44 housed in Freezer 1 for preservation.

Box 28;
Box 29;
Box 30;
Box 31;
Box 32;
Box 33;
Box 34;
Box 35;
Box 36;
Box 37;
Box 38;
Box 39;
Box 40;
Box 41;
Box 42;
Box 43;
Box 44

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