



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

James Cahill Papers

Evelyn Khoo and Lara Amrod

2008

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery Archives
Title:	James Cahill Papers
Identifier:	FSA.A2001.11
Date:	1945-1996
Extent:	12 Linear feet
Creator:	Cahill, James, 1926-2014
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 which contains digitized versions of selected unpublished papers, correspondence and personal reminiscences.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. Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery Archives. Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. Gift of James Cahill, December 12th, 2001.

Restrictions on Access

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.

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 historians
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
Sickman, L. C. S. (Laurence C. S.)
Soper, Alexander Coburn, 1904-
Vinograd, Richard Ellis date
Wang, Chi-ch'ien
Wu, Nelson Ikon, 1919-

Geographic Names:

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

Container Listing

Series 1: Project Files , 1945-1996

This series consists of administrative material and correspondence relating to the different symposia, exhibits, publications, lectures and other projects that Cahill was involved in during his career. It includes letters exchanged with art organizations such as the San Francisco Asian Art Museum, Freer Gallery of Art, the College Art Association, National Palace Museum (Guo Li Gu Gong Bo Wu Yuan; in the folder descriptions listed as 'Ku Kung' according to Cahill's own descriptions) and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. This series also includes some personal biographical documents, such as his military record with the army, and documentation regarding the Hackney Scholarship he received while he was a graduate student.

Box 1, Folder 1	20th Century Painting Conference 1980-1981 Schedule, correspondence, 1980-1981
Box 1, Folder 2	"AAS - 1970 on" Association for Asian Studies , 1970
Box 1, Folder 3-4	"ACLS, Misc" 1980-1990 American Council of Learned Societies Correspondence , 1980-1990
Box 1, Folder 5	Acker Review 1960 Drafts of article note, correspondence, 1960
Box 1, Folder 6	Aesthetics and Theory Conference (Susan Bush) 1976-1981 Correspondence, address, draft of a speech with notes , 1976-1981
Box 1, Folder 7	American Academy 1970s-1990s American Academy of Arts and Sciences, 1970s-1990s
Box 1, Folder 8	Anhui Symposium, April 1984 Correspondence, notes , April 1984
Box 1, Folder 9	Aspen Conference 1958 Notes, schedule, 1958
Box 1, Folder 10	Aishya Seminar Seminar outline, correspondence, notes, undated
Box 1, Folder 11	Asia House Gallery, General 1968-1977 Correspondence, press release, brochures, 1968-1977
Box 1, Folder 12	Asia Paper: Contemporary China Painting 1963-1964 Correspondence , 1963-1964
Box 1, Folder 13	"Asian Art Museum" Completed NEH grant application for AA museum SF , undated
Box 1, Folder 14	"Asian Art Museum Directorship" 1980s Correspondence , 1980s

Box 1, Folder 15 Architectural Digest Article (Prices) 1983 Correspondence, notes, article , 1983

Box 1, Folder 16 ArmyLate 1940s to early 1950s Military reserves records, correspondence , 1940s to early 1950s

Box 1, Folder 17 Arts Magazine Article 1962-1963, 1962-1963

Box 1, Folder 18 Australia Exhibition 1978-1979, 1978-1979

Box 1, Folder 19 Berkeley, U.C., Misc. 1964-1965 Correspondence , 1964-1965

Box 1, Folder 20 Bingham Books 1986 Correspondence, notes, biography of Bingham , 1986

Box 1, Folder 21 Bird and Flower Lecture 1982-1983 Correspondence, notes , 1982-1983

Box 1, Folder 22 Books and Bibliography Correspondence, invoices , undated

Box 1, Folder 23 "Bookstore" 1960s - 1980s Correspondence, invoices , 1960s-1980s

Box 1, Folder 24 "Brown University" 1964-1965 Correspondence , 1964-1965

Box 1, Folder 25 "Bunkado" 1956-1970 Correspondence, invoices , 1956-1970

Box 2, Folder 1 C.A.A. Paper 1959 College Art Association notes , 1959

Box 2, Folder 2 Status of Writing in Asia (C.A.A. 1983) 1982-1983 Correspondence, notes, lecture , 1982-1983

Box 2, Folder 3 C.A.A. Meeting: L.A. February 1985 Notes , 1985

Box 2, Folder 4 C.A.A. in L.A. 1985: Landscape Symposium Correspondence, outline , 1985

Box 2, Folder 5 C.A.A. Session. New Dir. (1985) 1983-1985 Correspondence, proposal , 1983-1985

Box 2, Folder 6 C.A.A. Meeting Toronto, February 1984" Correspondence , 1984

Box 2, Folder 7 C.A.A. 1986 (landscape) 1985-1986 Correspondence, notes, lecture "Landscape as subject matter: Different Sung approaches" , 1985-1986

Box 2, Folder 8 C.A.A. Annual Meeting 1986 (NYC) 1985-1986 Correspondence, notes, agenda, receipts , 1985-1986

Box 2, Folder 9 C.A.A. Annual Meeting, Boston 1987 Correspondence, receipts, notes , 1987

Box 2, Folder 10 C.C. Wang Exhibition 1985 "Wang Chi-chi'ien and his Landscape Painting" , 1985

Box 2, Folder 11 Central Academy Lecture 1981-1982 Notes, outline, lecture , 1981-1982

Box 2, Folder 12 Ceramics - trans., notes Notes, essay , undated

Box 2, Folder 13 Current Notes from China - From Sabin Chase 1958-1960, 1958-1960

Box 2, Folder 14 Chicago, May 1979 Correspondence, notes , May 1979

Box 2, Folder 15 "China House" 1970, 1970

Box 2, Folder 16 Chinese Books and Printing Symposium, November 2, 1984 Correspondence, notes , November 2, 1984

Box 2, Folder 17-19 "Chinese Culture Center" 1976 - Correspondence , 1976

Box 2, Folder 20 Chronicle Articles 1966 Essay, correspondence , 1966

Box 2, Folder 21 Chuo Koronsha Book (Kohara) 1972-1976 Notes, correspondence , 1972-1976

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Box 2, Folder 26 Cleveland 'JAP Realism' Exhibition Review 1983 Correspondence, notes , 1983

Box 2, Folder 27 Columbus (son of [Chinese Character meaning heaven]) April 1989 Correspondence, notes, receipts , April 1989

Box 2, Folder 28 Crawford Symposium May 1985 Correspondence, notes , May 1985

Box 2, Folder 29 CSCC1964-1967 Committee on Studies of Chinese Civilization correspondence, notes , 1964-1967

Box 2, Folder 30 "CSCPRC, Misc." 1969-1988 Committee on Scholarly Communications with the PRC correspondence , 1969-1988

Box 3, Folder 1 Dayton Article 1970 Article, correspondence , 1970

Box 3, Folder 2 "Dawson" 1966-1967, 1966-1967

Box 3, Folder 3 "Dealers, Japan" 1961-1978 Correspondence, receipts , 1961-1978

Box 3, Folder 4 "Dealers, U.S." 1967-1968 Correspondence , 1967-1968

Box 3, Folder 5 "Detroit" 1976-1981 Detroit Institute of Arts , 1976-1981

Box 3, Folder 6 "DeYoung Museum" 1964-1965 Brochure, Newspaper clippings, correspondence , 1964-1965

Box 3, Folder 7 "Dover" 1971-1985 Dover Publications , 1971-1985

Box 3, Folder 8 Paper for Duoyun: Hung Jen. Alb of Huangshan scenes, undated

Box 3, Folder 9 Ecke Review 1966-1967 Correspondence, article , 1966-1967

Box 3, Folder 10 "Ellen Laing's Index" 1969 Correspondence , 1969

Box 3, Folder 11 Embargo, etcetera 1967 Newspaper clippings, correspondence , 1967

Box 3, Folder 12 Encyclopedia of Japan 1977-1986 Correspondence, notes re: article for the encyclopedia , 1977-1986

Box 3, Folder 13 Encyclopedia Universale delle Arte 1961 Correspondence, notes re: article for the encyclopedia , 1961

Box 3, Folder 14 Expo 70 Correspondence , undated

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Box 3, Folder 31 "Gumps" 1961-1964 Correspondence , 1961-1964

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Box 3, Folder 36 Hong Kong Symposium, 1984 Correspondence, notes, lecture , 1984

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Box 4, Folder 1 ICA Lecture Notes Drafts, note cards with lecture , undated

Box 4, Folder 2 Imperial Arts of China Exhibition 1985 Notes, correspondence , 1985

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Box 4, Folder 4 JAS Article 1983-1984 Journal of Asian Studies Correspondence , 1983-1984

Box 4, Folder 5 "Japan Society NYC" 1962-1986 Correspondence , 1962-1986

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Box 4, Folder 14 Ku-Kung Symposium 1970 Correspondence, notes, lists , 1970

Box 4, Folder 15 "Kung Hsien Article" Drafts , undated

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Box 5, Folder 1 "Maryland U. Symposium 1982" Correspondence, announcements , 1982

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Box 5, Folder 4 "Met Bronze Symposium" June 1980, June 1980

Box 5, Folder 5 Met Lecture, November 16, 1987 Correspondence, notes, receipts , November 16, 1987

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Box 5, Folder 11 Morgan Library Lecture Notes , undated

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- Box 6, Folder 42 "Taiwan Photo Project - Southern Sung Exhibit", undated
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Correspondence, draft proposal, draft agreement, notes , 1964-1967
- Box 7, Folder 3-4 "Taiwan Photo Project - Michigan Archives 1969-1972", 1969-1972
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- Box 7, Folder 7 Tanguchi Symposium III. Kyoto October 1984 Landscape II Abstract , October 1984
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- Box 7, Folder 9 Temple 1967-1996 Correspondence re: the Temple collection in Japan , 1967-1996
- Box 7, Folder 10 Tessai article for Sumi 1988 Correspondence, article , 1988
- Box 7, Folder 11 Tessai Exhibition In China 1985-1986 Notes, correspondence, lecture , 1985-1986
- Box 7, Folder 12 Texas Lectures, April 1982, April 1982
- Box 7, Folder 13 Tokyo Congress, 1983 (Kawakami) 1981-1983 Correspondence, notes , 1981-1983
- Box 7, Folder 14 Tokyo-Kyoto Congress 1981-1983 Schedules, notes, lecture , 1981-1983
- Box 7, Folder 15 Toledo Lecture 1986 Correspondence, notes , 1986
- Box 7, Folder 16 Topography of Chia-Hsing Notes , undated
- Box 7, Folder 17 Trans-cultural Paper. L.A., (May 1981) 1980-1987 Correspondence, notes , 1980-1987
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Series 2: Correspondence with Individuals , 1945-1996

This series consists of correspondence between Cahill and numerous members of the Asian art community in his capacity as teacher, colleague and curator. Correspondents include other influential Asian art figures such as Richard M. Barnhart, Wen Fong, Shen Fu, Thomas Lawton, Lothar Ledderose, Sherman Lee, C.C. Wang, Fangyu Wang, Richard Vinograd and Nelson Wu, among others. Administrative correspondence with collectors and art dealers are also contained within this series, with both U.S. and Japanese dealers. Personal correspondence with friends outside of the art community, as well as personal letters to and from former students is also included in this series.

The folder descriptions were retained from Cahill's own folder titles, so the folder titles with just an alphabetical letter were not renamed. These one-alphabet folders often contain single-document correspondence with individuals or organizations, filed according to the alphabet of their names.

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