



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

Louise Allison Cort Collection

Caroline Fowler

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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	
Administrative Information	1
Biographical / Historical	1
Content Description	2
Names and Subjects	
Bibliography	2
Container Listing	
Series 1: Research Files, 1971-2011, undated	3
Series 2: Photographs, undated	12
Series 3: Clippings, 1968-1986	13

Collection Overview

Repository:	Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery Archives
Title:	Louise Allison Cort Collection
Date:	1968 - 2011 (bulk 1971-1989)
Identifier:	FSA.A2021.01
Source:	Cort, Louise Allison, 1944-
Extent:	4.14 Cubic feet
Language:	English , Japanese .

Administrative Information

Related Materials: Leedom Lefferts and Louise Allison Cort Archives

Lefferts, Leedom and Louise A. Cort. "Leedom Lefferts and Louise Allison Cort Archives." Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History. New Haven, CT: Archives at Yale. <https://archives.yale.edu/repositories/15/resources/12290#>

Preferred Citation

Louise Allison Cort Collection. National Museum of Asian Art Archives. Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

Biographical / Historical

Louise Allison Cort was born in 1944 in Philadelphia to parents John Shaw Cort Jr. and Mary Yunck Cort. Her interest in Asian ceramics began after traveling to Japan in 1961 as part of the American Field Service's high school exchange student program. She was particularly interested in the everyday wares used by her host mother. While in college, she took an intensive Japanese language course, and she traveled to Tokyo for further language study in graduate school. She received her Bachelor of Arts in English from Simmons College, with a minor in art history. Cort then received her graduate degree from Oxford University, studying Japanese art history. In March 1968, she traveled to Shigaraki for the first time, inspired by the Shigaraki ceramics she had seen in her visits to Japanese museums. She returned multiple times to research Shigaraki's history, ceramics, and modern life. For over three years (1976-1979), Cort lived in Kyoto while doing research for her book, *Shigaraki, Potters' Valley*. Later, she traveled to India for a year and a half (1979-1981) to research earthenware, resulting in the book *Temple Potters of Puri* (2012), coauthored with Purna Chandra Mishra. Those materials are held by the South Asian Institute archives of Heidelberg University, Germany, and film footage is in the Human Studies Film Archive, Smithsonian Institution. The archives of her research on present-day ceramics in mainland Southeast Asia between 1986 and 2018 in collaboration with Leedom Lefferts is held by the Yale University archive.

From 1969 to 1976, she served as Assistant Curator of Oriental Art at the Fogg Art Museum at Harvard University. In 1981, she began her work at the Freer Gallery of Art as a Museum Specialist, serving in that role until 1989. From 1989 to 1994, she was Assistant Curator, and then moved to Associate Curator from 1994 to 1995. Cort then

held the position of Curator of Ceramics from 1995 until her retirement in 2018. She remains curator emerita. As a scholar, her interests focused on historic and contemporary Asian ceramics, as well as other craft traditions. She published her first book "Shigaraki, Potters' Valley" in 1979. Her book was reprinted in 2000. Cort has published numerous other articles and books relating to Japanese, Southeast Asian, and South Asian art. These include *Temple Potters of Puri* (with Purna Chandra Mishra) in 2012 and *Chigusa and the Art of Tea* (with Andrew Watsky) in 2014. She received the Koyama Fujio Memorial Prize and the Smithsonian Distinguished Scholar Award in 2012 for her contributions to research on Japanese ceramics.

Content Description

The collection contains materials related to Louise Cort's book "Shigaraki, Potters' Valley" (1979, 2000), concerning ceramics manufactured in the Shigaraki area of Japan. Primarily research-related, the collection includes her dissertation, research notes, index card files, originals and copies of source materials, drawings/sketches, and photographic materials (primarily black and white, some color; formats include prints, contact sheets, and negatives). Also included are post-publication materials, including royalty statements and related correspondence, clippings of reviews, correspondence, and other materials related to Cort's ongoing interest in Shigaraki.

Bibliography

- Cort, Louise A and Andrew Watsky. "Chigusa and the Art of Tea." New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 2014.
Cort, Louise A. "Seto and Mino ceramics." Washington, D.C.: Freer Gallery of Art, Smithsonian Institution, 1992.
Cort, Louise A. "Shigaraki, Potters' Valley." New York: Weatherhill, Inc., 2000.
Cort, Louise A. and Purna Chandra Mishra. "Temple potters of Puri." New Jersey: Grantha, 2012.
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Names and Subject Terms

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

Names:

Cort, Louise Allison, 1944-

Container Listing

Series 1: Research Files, 1971-2011, undated

Language: English, Japanese.
 Arrangement: Arranged in original order of creator. Folder titles are original, except where indicated by brackets [], in which the processing archivist added the title where there was none on the original folder.
 Scope and Contents: Comprised of notes and research related to the publishing of Cort's book, "Shigaraki: Potters Valley" as well as her subsequent visits to Shigaraki post-publishing. Includes notes and observations about different ceramic types of the region, diagrams of ceramics and kiln sites, chronologies, data and statistics on kiln output, and ceramic condition reports. This series also includes correspondence and royalty statements regarding the publication of her book. Comprises a variety of formats, including letters, ephemera, photographs and negatives, index cards, and a bound copy of her dissertation.

Box 1, Folder 1	[Japanese Publications], undated
Box 1, Folder 3	Konoe/Taraō, 1972, 1978
Box 1, Folder 4	Medieval - Graphics, undated
Box 1, Folder 5	Tea Diaries, undated
Box 1, Folder 6	[1872 Illustrations], undated
Box 2, Folder 1	Present-Day, undated
Box 2, Folder 2	Becky [Davis, John Weatherhill Inc.], 1977-1979 Notes: Contains letters from Becky Davis, employee of John Weatherhill Inc., regarding the publication of "Shigaraki, Potters Valley."
Box 2, Folder 3	Photo Permission, 1976-1979
Box 2, Folder 4	[Sidney Cardozo], undated
Box 2, Folder 5	Shigaraki, Potters Valley, 1977-1990
Box 2, Folder 6	[Notebooks and Miscellaneous Reference], 1972-1977
Box 2, Folder 7	[Notebooks and Miscellaneous Reference], 1977
Box 3, Folder 1	[Newspaper Clippings], 1991
Box 3, Folder 2	Shigaraki Clippings, 1977-1991
Box 3, Folder 3	Shigaraki – Yamamoto Sadahiko, 1981-1987

Box 3, Folder 4	Shigaraki – Yamamoto Sadahiko, 1981
Box 3, Folder 5	Shigaraki – Yamamoto Sadahiko, 1975-1981
Box 4, Folder 1	Shigaraki – Hirano Toshizo [1 of 2], 1982-2006
Box 4, Folder 2	Shigaraki – Hirano Toshizo [2 of 2], 1982-2006
Box 4, Folder 3	Shigaraki – Hatanaka Eiji, 2003-2007
Box 4, Folder 4	Shigaraki Nagai-San, 2007
Box 4, Folder 5	Shigaraki Chatsubo Research Project, 1997, 2016
Box 4, Folder 6	[Shigaraki Ceramics], undated
Box 4, Folder 7	Shigaraki Reprint, 1996-2004
Box 4, Folder 8	Shigaraki [1 of 3], 1976-2016
Box 4, Folder 9	Shigaraki [2 of 3], 1976-2016
Box 4, Folder 10	Shigaraki [3 of 3], 1976-2016
Box 5, Folder 1	Shigaraki, June 1996, 1989-1996
Box 5, Folder 2	Shigaraki, June 1996, 1989-1993
Box 5, Folder 3	Shigaraki, June 1996, 1989-1996
Box 5, Folder 4	Shigaraki/Kyoto Symposium, 1992
Box 5, Folder 5	Shigaraki Ceramic Cultural Park Review, 2002-2006, 2010
Box 5, Folder 6	Shigaraki Ceramic Cultural Park Review, 1998-2001
Box 5, Folder 7	Shigaraki Ceramic Cultural Park Review, 1991-1997
Box 6, Folder 1	Shigaraki Toge No Mori, 1991-2011
Box 6, Folder 2	Shigaraki Toge No Mori, 1975, 1989-1991
Box 6, Folder 3	[Otsuka Ceramics], undated
Box 6, Folder 4	[Newspaper Clippings], 1981
Box 6, Folder 5	[Photograph Permissions], 1973-1979

Box 9, Folder 1	Shigaraki, undated Language: English, Japanese. Notes: Index cards with citations and other notes. Folder titles represent original divider titles.
Box 10, Folder 2	Photo + Permission Ok, undated Language: English, Japanese. Notes: Index cards with citations and other notes. Folder titles represent original divider titles.
Box 10, Folder 3	Collections, undated Language: English, Japanese. Notes: Index cards with citations and other notes. Folder titles represent original divider titles.
Box 10, Folder 4	Japan, undated Language: English, Japanese. Notes: Index cards with citations and other notes. Folder titles represent original divider titles.
Box 10, Folder 5	Related Kilns/Need Photographs, undated Language: English, Japanese. Notes: Index cards with citations and other notes. Folder titles represent original divider titles. "Related Kilns" title is present on one side of the divider, and "Needs Photographs" is on the other side of the divider.
Box 10, Folder 6	Europe, undated Language: English, Japanese. Notes: Index cards with citations and other notes. Folder titles represent original divider titles.
Box 10, Folder 7	US, undated Language: English, Japanese. Notes: Index cards with citations and other notes. Folder titles represent original divider titles.
Box 11, Folder 1	Conversations, undated Language: English, Japanese. Notes: Index cards with citations and other notes. Folder titles represent original divider titles.
Box 11, Folder 2	Unsolved Problems, undated Language: English, Japanese. Notes: Index cards with citations and other notes. Folder titles represent original divider titles.
Box 11, Folder 3	Sue Ware, undated Language: English, Japanese.

Notes: Index cards with citations and other notes. Folder titles represent original divider titles.

Box 11, Folder 4	Kiln Marks/Decoration, undated Language: English, Japanese. Notes: Index cards with citations and other notes. Folder titles represent original divider titles.
Box 11, Folder 5	Shugendo Theory, undated Language: English, Japanese. Notes: Index cards with citations and other notes. Folder titles represent original divider titles.
Box 11, Folder 6	Kiln Sites, undated Language: English, Japanese. Notes: Index cards with citations and other notes. Folder titles represent original divider titles.
Box 11, Folder 7	Clay, undated Language: English, Japanese. Notes: Index cards with citations and other notes. Folder titles represent original divider titles.
Box 11, Folder 8	Dated Pieces, undated Language: English, Japanese. Notes: Index cards with citations and other notes. Folder titles represent original divider titles.
Box 11, Folder 9	Tsubo (W/ Design), undated Language: English, Japanese. Notes: Index cards with citations and other notes. Folder titles represent original divider titles.
Box 11, Folder 10	Seto, undated Language: English, Japanese. Notes: Index cards with citations and other notes. Folder titles represent original divider titles.
Box 11, Folder 11	Tokoname, undated Language: English, Japanese. Notes: Index cards with citations and other notes. Folder titles represent original divider titles.
Box 11, Folder 12	Atsumi, undated Language: English, Japanese. Notes: Index cards with citations and other notes. Folder titles represent original divider titles.
Box 11, Folder 13	Echizen, undated Language: English, Japanese.

Notes: Index cards with citations and other notes. Folder titles represent original divider titles.

Box 11, Folder 14	Tamba, undated Language: English, Japanese. Notes: Index cards with citations and other notes. Folder titles represent original divider titles.
Box 11, Folder 15	Bizen, undated Language: English, Japanese. Notes: Index cards with citations and other notes. Folder titles represent original divider titles.
Box 11, Folder 16	Other, undated Language: English, Japanese. Notes: Index cards with citations and other notes. Folder titles represent original divider titles.
Box 11, Folder 17	Murata Juko, undated Language: English, Japanese. Notes: Index cards with citations and other notes. Folder titles represent original divider titles.
Box 11, Folder 18	Documents, undated Language: English, Japanese. Notes: Index cards with citations and other notes. Folder titles represent original divider titles.
Box 11, Folder 19	Decoration, undated Language: English, Japanese. Notes: Index cards with citations and other notes. Folder titles represent original divider titles.
Box 11, Folder 20	Extant Wares, undated Language: English, Japanese. Notes: Index cards with citations and other notes. Folder titles represent original divider titles.
Box 11, Folder 21	Kyoto Connections, undated Language: English, Japanese. Notes: Index cards with citations and other notes. Folder titles represent original divider titles.
Box 11, Folder 22	Shinjiro, undated Language: English, Japanese. Notes: Index cards with citations and other notes. Folder titles represent original divider titles.
Box 11, Folder 23	雲林院, undated Language: English, Japanese.

Notes: Index cards with citations and other notes. Folder titles represent original divider titles.

Box 11, Folder 24	Shimbei, undated Language: English, Japanese. Notes: Index cards with citations and other notes. Folder titles represent original divider titles.
Box 11, Folder 25	Sōseki, undated Language: English, Japanese. Notes: Index cards with citations and other notes. Folder titles represent original divider titles.
Box 11, Folder 26	Ninsei, undated Language: English, Japanese. Notes: Index cards with citations and other notes. Folder titles represent original divider titles.
Box 11, Folder 27	Kuchu, undated Language: English, Japanese. Notes: Index cards with citations and other notes. Folder titles represent original divider titles.
Box 11, Folder 28	Tea Ceremony, undated Language: English, Japanese. Notes: Index cards with citations and other notes. Folder titles represent original divider titles.
Box 11, Folder 29	Takeo Jōō, undated Language: English, Japanese. Notes: Index cards with citations and other notes. Folder titles represent original divider titles.
Box 11, Folder 30	Sen-No-Rikyu, undated Language: English, Japanese. Notes: Index cards with citations and other notes. Folder titles represent original divider titles.
Box 11, Folder 31	Furata Oribe, undated Language: English, Japanese. Notes: Index cards with citations and other notes. Folder titles represent original divider titles.
Box 11, Folder 32	Sen Sotan, undated Language: English, Japanese. Notes: Index cards with citations and other notes. Folder titles represent original divider titles.
Box 11, Folder 33	Kobori Enshu, undated Language: English, Japanese.

Notes: Index cards with citations and other notes. Folder titles represent original divider titles.

Box 11, Folder 34	Matsudaira Fumai, undated Language: English, Japanese. Notes: Index cards with citations and other notes. Folder titles represent original divider titles.
Box 11, Folder 35	Tea Ceremony Diaries, undated Language: English, Japanese. Notes: Index cards with citations and other notes. Folder titles represent original divider titles.
Box 11, Folder 36	Potters, undated Language: English, Japanese. Notes: Index cards with citations and other notes. Folder titles represent original divider titles.
Box 11, Folder 37	Mizusashi, undated Language: English, Japanese. Notes: Index cards with citations and other notes. Folder titles represent original divider titles.
Box 11, Folder 38	Hana Ike, undated Language: English, Japanese. Notes: Index cards with citations and other notes. Folder titles represent original divider titles.
Box 11, Folder 39	Tea Caddy, undated Language: English, Japanese. Notes: Index cards with citations and other notes. Folder titles represent original divider titles.
Box 11, Folder 40	Tea Bowl, undated Language: English, Japanese. Notes: Index cards with citations and other notes. Folder titles represent original divider titles.
Box 11, Folder 41	Kaiseki, undated Language: English, Japanese. Notes: Index cards with citations and other notes. Folder titles represent original divider titles.
Box 11, Folder 42	Kensui, undated Language: English, Japanese. Notes: Index cards with citations and other notes. Folder titles represent original divider titles.
Box 11, Folder 43	Ash Container, undated Language: English, Japanese.

Notes: Index cards with citations and other notes. Folder titles represent original divider titles.

Box 11, Folder 44 Official Tea Jars (Edo), undated
Language: English, Japanese.
Notes: Index cards with citations and other notes. Folder titles represent original divider titles.

Box 11, Folder 45 Edo Daily Wares, undated
Language: English, Japanese.
Notes: Index cards with citations and other notes. Folder titles represent original divider titles.

Box 11, Folder 46 Other Kilns, undated
Language: English, Japanese.
Notes: Index cards with citations and other notes. Folder titles represent original divider titles.

Box 11, Folder 47 Small Wares, undated
Language: English, Japanese.
Notes: Index cards with citations and other notes. Folder titles represent original divider titles.

Box 11, Folder 48 Meiji, undated
Language: English, Japanese.
Notes: Index cards with citations and other notes. Folder titles represent original divider titles.

Box 11, Folder 49 Tanuki, undated
Language: English, Japanese.
Notes: Index cards with citations and other notes. Folder titles represent original divider titles.

Box 11, Folder 50 Present Day, undated
Language: English, Japanese.
Notes: Index cards with citations and other notes. Folder titles represent original divider titles.

Box 11, Folder 51 Aesthetics, undated
Language: English, Japanese.
Notes: Index cards with citations and other notes. Folder titles represent original divider titles.

Box 11, Folder 52 Potters, undated
Language: English, Japanese.
Notes: Index cards with citations and other notes. Folder titles represent original divider titles.

Box 14, Folder 1 [Dissertation], 1969
Language: English, Japanese.

Notes: Dissertation entitled "Shigaraki - History of a Japanese Kiln" written by Louise Cort as part of the completion of her Bachelor of Letters at Oxford University.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 2: Photographs, undated

Language: English, Japanese.

Arrangement: Arranged in original order of creator. In cases where sleeves are used, this order runs from top to bottom, left to right. Folders titled "_ of_" contain photographs housed together in one box by the creator.

Scope and Contents: Includes photographs of Shigaraki ceramics, kiln sites, modern Shigaraki potters, and landscapes. Ceramics include those in museums, those in the collections of private collectors, and examples of contemporary Shigaraki ceramics. Some documents related to photograph permissions can also be found in this series.

Box 6, Folder 6 [Photographs], undated

Box 6, Folder 7 [Photographs], undated [1 of 5]

Box 6, Folder 8 [Photographs], undated [2 of 5]

Box 7, Folder 1 [Photographs], undated [3 of 5]

Box 7, Folder 2 [Photographs], undated [4 of 5]

Box 7, Folder 3 [Photographs], undated [5 of 5]

Box 7, Folder 4 [Photographs], undated [1 of 6]

Box 7, Folder 5 [Photographs], undated [2 of 6]

Box 7, Folder 6 [Photographs], undated [3 of 6]

Box 7, Folder 7 [Photographs], undated [4 of 6]

Box 8, Folder 1 [Photographs], undated [5 of 6]

Box 8, Folder 2 [Photographs], undated [6 of 6]

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 3: Clippings, 1968-1986

0.32 Cubic feet

Language: Japanese.

Arrangement: Arranged in original order of creator.

Scope and Contents: This series includes newspaper clippings from Japanese newspapers, ranging from 1968-1986. It includes loose clippings, as well as two calendars that were repurposed and used as backing for the clippings to be adhered to.

Box 12, Object 1	[Bound Volume – Newspaper Clippings], 1973-1977
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Box 13, Object 1	[Bound Volume – Newspaper Clippings], 1977-1986
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Box 13, Object 2	[Bound Volume – Newspaper Clippings], 1968-1986
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[Return to Table of Contents](#)