



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

Guide to the Mary Constance Kloss collection
of Acee Blue Eagle papers and artwork

Gina Rappaport

2019 July

National Anthropological Archives
Museum Support Center
4210 Silver Hill Road
Suitland, Maryland 20746
naa@si.edu
<http://www.anthropology.si.edu/naa/>

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Scope and Contents.....	2
Biographical / Historical.....	1
Arrangement.....	2
Names and Subjects	2
Container Listing	3
Series 1: Papers, 1931-1946, undated.....	3
Series 2: Artwork, 1932, undated.....	4

Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	Mary Constance Kloss collection of Acee Blue Eagle papers and artwork
Date:	1931-1932 undated
Identifier:	NAA.2019-22
Source:	Kloss, Mary Constance, 1911-2004
Creator:	Blue Eagle, Acee, 1907-1959
Extent:	2.5 Linear feet
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The collection was donated by Adrienne Dorf, stepdaughter of Mary Constance Kloss, in 2019.

Related Materials

The National Anthropological Archives holds NAA.1973-51, the Acee Blue Eagle papers and artwork.

Processing Information

The collection was processed and encoded by Gina Rappaport, 2019.

Biographical / Historical

Born in 1911, Mary Constance "Connie" Kloss grew up in Oklahoma as an only child. She attended the University of Oklahoma and around 1931 met Acee Blue Eagle; the two dated for a time. When Kloss's father was killed in an accident, she left college to live with her mother. Kloss married Meyer Dorf around 1971. She died in 2004.

Born Alex McIntosh in 1907, Acee Blue Eagle was a celebrated Muskogee-Creek-Pawnee-Wichita artist, dancer, and teacher. Blue Eagle attended Haskell Indian Industrial Training Institute (Now Haskell Indian Nations University) as well as the Chilocco Indian Agricultural School, graduating high school in 1928. He then entered Bacone Indian College and the University of Oklahoma, where his art took shape under Oscar B. Jacobson, director of UO's School of Art, and earned a BFA in 1932.

In 1934 Blue Eagle painted murals for the Works Progress Administration. In 1935 he lectured at Oxford, after which he helped to establish the art program at Bacone, teaching there for several years. In 1938, his work was shown at the Grand Central art galleries in New York City, which afforded him national recognition. Many exhibits followed over the years. During World War II Blue Eagle served in the Air Force. After the war, he joined the art faculty of the Oklahoma State University Technological School, a post he kept until his death. Blue Eagle died in 1959.

Scope and Contents

The collection contains letters, photographs, and artwork received by Mary Constance Kloss from Acee Blue Eagle, as well as newspaper clippings about Blue Eagle collected by Kloss.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into two series: (1) Papers; and (2) Artwork.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Names:

Blue Eagle, Acee, 1907-1959
Kloss, Mary Constance, 1911-2004

Container Listing

Series 1: Papers, 1931-1946, undated

0.25 Linear feet

Scope and Contents: The papers series contains a small amount of material including letters from Blue Eagle to Kloss, photographs of Blue Eagle, and newspaper clippings.

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| Box 1, Folder 1 | Letters from Acee Blue Eagle to Mary Constance Kloss, 1931
1 Folder (7 letters)
Notes: Most letters and some envelopes have little drawings and embellishments; one letter discusses Blue Eagle formally changing his name from Alex McIntosh to Acee Blue Eagle. |
| Box 1, Folder 2 | Photographs of Acee Blue Eagle, undated
1 Folder (6 photographic prints)
Notes: Includes two signed studio portraits of Blue Eagle as well as several snapshots of Blue Eagle wearing dance and other regalia. Also includes Blue Eagle's calling card. |
| Box 1, Folder 3 | Newspaper clippings regarding Acee Blue Eagle, 1934-1946, undated
1 Folder |

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 2: Artwork, 1932, undated

2.25 Linear feet

7 Drawings

Scope and Contents: The artwork series consists of six small ink drawings and one painting. The drawings are small vignettes or cartoons of people and are all signed Alex McIntosh. The painting depicts a Native American man making smoke signals, and is signed Acee Blue Eagle and dated 1932.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)