



Smithsonian
National Museum of Natural History

Donald Bush Cordry photographs of Mexican
masks and mask-making, 1941-1974

NAA Staff

2015

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

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Local Call Number(s).....	2
Scope and Contents note.....	2
Biographical/Historical note.....	2
Names and Subjects	2

Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	Donald Bush Cordry photographs of Mexican masks and mask-making
Identifier:	NAA.PhotoLot.82-14
Date:	1941-1974
Extent:	1 Mounted color print 11 Mounted prints (silver gelatin)
Creator:	Cordry, Donald Bush
Language:	Undetermined .

Administrative Information

Provenance

Probably donated by Donald Cordry in the 1970s. Transferred from Department of Anthropology Processing Lab, 1981.

Location of Other Archival Materials

Photographs of the Donald Cordry Mexican mask exhibit can be found in the National Anthropological Archives in Photo Lot 80-3.

Location of Other Archival Materials

The Donald Cordry Mexican mask collection can be found in the Department of Anthropology in USNM ACC 355867.

Location of Other Archival Materials

Photographs taken by Cordry can be found in the National Anthropological Archives in Photo Lot 87-38.

Location of Other Archival Materials

Donald Cordry and his wife, Dorothy Mann Cordry, also donated clothing and musical instruments from Mexico to the Department of Anthropology in USNM ACC 361232 and USNM ACC 355866.

Location of Other Archival Materials

The National Museum of the American Indian Archives holds the Donald Bush Cordry collection of photographs and negatives, 1933-1940, as well as artifacts collected by Cordry.

Location of Other Archival Materials

The University of Texas at Austin holds the Donald Cordry Collection Relating to Mexican Masks, 1931-1978.

Preferred Citation

Photo lot 82-14, Donald Bush Cordry photographs of Mexican masks and mask-making, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

Restrictions

The collection is open for research.

Access to the collection requires an appointment.

Conditions Governing Use

Contact the repository for terms of use.

Biographical Note

Donald Bush Cordry (1907-1978) was an artist, photographer, and ethnographer of the arts and crafts of Indians of Mexico. In 1931, Cordry made his first trip to Mexico (Guerrero) and become fascinated by contemporary Mexican Indian art, especially mask making. In 1934, Cordry moved to New York to work as a marionette designer for puppeteer Tony Sarg and soon contacted George G. Heye to learn more about Mexican Indian art. From 1935 to 1938, Cordry collected Mexican masks and other art forms on behalf of the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation. On his first 1935 collecting trip for Heye, Cordry traveled throughout the states of Michoacan and Guerrero and collected carved and painted dance masks.

Scope and Contents

Images of masks, mask making, and use of masks in various parts of Mexico. Also includes photograph of a painting by Donald Cordry depicting use of a mask and musical instruments.

Local Call Number(s)

NAA Photo Lot 82-14

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Festivals -- Mexico
Mask makers
Masks -- Mexico
Mexicans

Cultures:

Mexicans

Types of Materials:

Photographs

Geographic Names:

Mexico