



Smithsonian

National Museum of the American Indian

Teriananda papers

Mattie Lewis

2024

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Museum of the American Indian
Title:	Teriananda papers
Date:	1950-2009 (bulk 1975-1990)
Identifier:	NMAI.AC.009
Creator:	Teriananda, 1947- (Author)
Extent:	3.96 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The Teriananda Papers contain writings authored by Teriananda, clippings, flyers, correspondence, and newsletters that represent the political activities she participated in on behalf of Indigenous peoples.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Gift of Teriananda, March 2003.

Processing Information

Processed by Mattie Lewis, Archives Technician in 2024.

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Teriananda Papers, NMAI.AC.009; National Museum of the American Indian Archives Center, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

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Biographical / Historical

Teriananda was born in Manhattan in 1947, where she grew up and has continued to live throughout her adult life. Teriananda's father, born in Brooklyn, became a financial officer and independent scholar, her mother, born in British Guiana (now Guyana), was a classical pianist who immigrated to the United States and later became an editorial assistant, working part-time during Teriananda's childhood. Her parents instilled in Teriananda a belief that she was "a citizen of the world." She studied ballet as a youngster, and, as a teenager, immersed herself in the artistic and intellectual milieu of the Lower East Side and Greenwich Village. An improperly diagnosed back injury while she was a senior in high school resulted in severe back problems in the 1970s that have persisted throughout her life.

Teriananda became interested in Indigenous struggles in the 1970s following a "back crisis" that almost took her life yet proved to be psychically transformative. In seeking to know who she was, she realized she needed to know where she was, and this led her to ask who the original inhabitants of the continent were. She soon became involved in activist struggles for Indigenous rights, and worked with a number of Native American groups during the 1970s and 1980s, including, among other things, the International Treaty Council's attempts to found the U.N.'s permanent Working Group on Indigenous People, support for Yvonne Wanrow and Leonard Peltier, the issue of uranium contamination from mining on Native American land, and the problem of the Joint Land Use Area near Big Mountain on the Hopi and Navajo reservations.

Teriananda also worked on issues surrounding the AIDS crisis after the death of several friends from this disease. She had become familiar with the possibilities of natural medicines, partly through contact with traditional Native teachers, and she became active promoting the benefits of nutritional, herbal and other natural therapies to sufferers of AIDS. As Teriananda's own health issues persisted and worsened, she turned to Tibetan Buddhism, and has devoted herself to artistic pursuits influenced by this spiritual path, although she has worked artistically since the early 1970s, when she stopped dancing. Although she has cut back on her activism, due to health problems and family demands, Teriananda remains a committed political activist who stays informed of current issues and is determined to pass on the heritage of struggles for peace and justice to the next generation.

(Provided by Teriananda)

Scope and Contents

This collection is comprised of newspaper and magazine articles, newsletters, flyers, correspondence, and writings by Teriananda. The majority of the material is from the United States, 1970-1990, and highlights some of the major problems faced by Indigenous peoples during the time period and continue today.

Arrangement

The Teriananda papers are arranged into five series, primarily based on geography following the donor's original arrangement. Folders in each series are arranged alphabetically:

Series 1: North America

Series 2: Central and South American Series 3: Philippines and South Africa

Series 4: Collected Publication

Series 5: Additional Material

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- AIDS (Disease)
- Cree
- Diné (Navajo)
- Hopi Pueblo
- Indians of North America -- Civil rights
- Indians of North America -- Land tenure
- Mohawk
- Western Shoshone

Cultures:

- Cree
- Diné (Navajo)
- Hopi Pueblo
- Mohawk
- Western Shoshone

Types of Materials:

- Clippings
- Writings

Names:

- Boncore, John, 1952-2013
- Peltier, Leonard
- Wahpepah, Bill

Functions:

- American Indian Movement

Places:

- Black Hills (South Dakota)
- James Bay (Nunavut)

Container Listing

North America, 1955-2007, undated

2.18 Linear feet

Scope and Contents: This series contains mostly newspaper clippings and newsletters on Indigenous issues in North America with a focus on land rights, environmentalism, incarceration of Native people, and sovereignty. Folders are arranged alphabetically.

Box 1, Folder 1	500th Anniversary of Columbus, 1992
Box 1, Folder 2	AIDS, 1994-1997, undated
Box 1, Folder 3	Akwesasne Freedom School, 1983-1986, undated
Box 1, Folder 4; Map-folder 2	American Indian Movement, 1973-1989, undated
Box 1, Folder 5	Archeology and looting, 1983-1986, undated
Box 1, Folder 6	Big Mountain clippings, 1970-1980
Box 1, Folder 7	Big Mountain clippings, 1981-1985
Box 1, Folder 8	Big Mountain clippings, 1986-1990
Box 1, Folder 9	Big Mountain clippings, 1991-2005, undated
Box 1, Folder 10	Big Mountain Hopi prophecy and land dispute, 1969-1999, undated
Box 1, Folder 11	Big Mountain legal documents, 1974-1996
Box 2, Folder 1	Big Mountain News, 1983-1955
Box 2, Folder 2	Big Mountain report to Hopi Kikmongwis, 1979
Box 2, Folder 3	Big Mountain support group, Arizona, 1969-1986
Box 2, Folder 4	Big Mountain support group, Arizona, 1987-1996, undated
Box 2, Folder 5	Big Mountain support group, California, 1981-1989, undated
Box 2, Folder 6; Map-folder 2	Big Mountain support group, New York, 1977-1986

Box 2, Folder 7	Big Mountain support group, New York, 1987-1995, undated
Box 2, Folder 8	Big Mountain support group, others, 1985-1992, undated
Box 3, Folder 1	Blackhills, 1978-1987, undated
Box 3, Folder 2; Map-folder 7	Decajewiah (John Boncore), 1971-1996, undated
Box 3, Folder 3	Education, 1978-1997, undated
Box 3, Folder 4	Emergency Response International Network, 1980-1985, undated
Box 3, Folder 5	Fair trade, 1990-1991
Box 3, Folder 6	Family welfare, 1980-1987, undated
Box 3, Folder 7	Fishing rights, 1978-1980, undated
Box 3, Folder 8	Funding and media sources, 1973-1985, undated
Box 3, Folder 9; Map-folder 1; Map-folder 8	General Indigenous topics, United States, 1955-1998, undated
Box 3, Folder 10	General Indigenous topics, Canada, 1973-1996
Box 3, Folder 11	Houdenosaunee, 1970-2006, undated
Box 4, Folder 1; Map-folder 3	Indigenous arts, 1971-2006, undated
Box 4, Folder 2	Indigenous lectures, 1981-2005, undated
Box 4, Folder 3; Map-folder 6	Indigenous literature, 1968-2007, undated
Box 4, Folder 4	Indigenous women's issues, 1979-1999, undated
Box 4, Folder 5; Map-folder 6	International Indian Treaty Council, 1977-1985, undated
Box 4, Folder 6	James Bay, 1990-1992
Box 4, Folder 7	Kateri Tekakwitha, 1980

Box 4, Folder 8	Land rights, 1956-1980
Box 4, Folder 9	Land rights, 1981-2006, undated
Box 4, Folder 10	Leonard Peltier clippings, 1979-1991
Box 4, Folder 11; Map-folder 2	Leonard Peltier support group, 1977-1984
Box 4, Folder 12	Leonard Peltier support group, 1985-1993, undated
Box 5, Folder 1	Longest Walk Clippings, 1978, undated
Box 5, Folder 2; Map-folder 7	<p>Longest Walk support, 1978-1979</p> <p>Notes: Included in this folder are flyers, newsletters, and support materials. Also included is an interview conducted by Teriananda with Bill Wahpepah, a native activist and one of the creators of the Longest Walk.</p> <p>Names: Wahpepah, Bill</p>
Box 5, Folder 3	Longest Walk inspired events, 1980-1983, undated
Box 5, Folder 4	Mexico, 1985-2001, undated
Box 5, Folder 5; Map-folder 6	Native American prisoners, 1957-1998
Box 5, Folder 6	New York activism, copy of photographs, 1975-1999
Box 5, Folder 7	Non-native, United States, 1979-1987, undated
Box 5, Folder 8; Map-folder 7	Nuclear energy on Indigenous land, 1978-1995, undated
Box 5, Folder 9	Old Man River dam, 1990-1991
Box 5, Folder 10; Map-folder 6	Olympics, 1979-1980
Box 5, Folder 11	Rainforests, 1985-1997, undated
Box 5, Folder 12	Repatriation, 1980-1993, undated
Box 5, Folder 13	Rights of American Indians Now, 1978-1983, undated

Box 6, Folder 1	Solidarity with Indigenous people, 1976, undated
Box 6, Folder 2	Sovereignty, 1977-1987, undated
Box 6, Folder 3	Traditional knowledge and religion, 1974-1996
Box 6, Folder 4	Tree of peace, 1986-1995
Box 6, Folder 5	United Nations nuclear disarmament, 1979-1987
Box 6, Folder 6	Western Shoshone, 1979-2006

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Central and South America, 1977-1999, undated

.21 Linear feet

Scope and Contents: This series contains newspaper clippings concerning land rights and government issues in Central and South America. The majority of material is about Guatemala while most of the folders only have one or two articles.

Box 6, Folder 7	Argentina, 1977-1982
Box 6, Folder 8	Bolivia, undated
Box 6, Folder 9	Brazil, 1980-1989, undated
Box 6, Folder 10	Chile, 1977-1990
Box 6, Folder 11	Colombia, 1985-1999, undated
Box 6, Folder 12	Ecuador, 1982
Box 6, Folder 13; Map-folder 4	El Salvador, 1983
Box 6, Folder 14	Flyers, 1984-1999, undated
Box 6, Folder 15; Map-folder 4	Guatemala, 1979-1984
Box 6, Folder 16	Guatemala, 1985
Box 6, Folder 17	Guatemala, 1986-1996
Box 6, Folder 18	Nicaragua, 1982-1987
Box 6, Folder 19	Peru, 1983-1989
Box 6, Folder 20	Venezuela, 1981
Box 6, Folder 21	Uruguay, 1983

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Philippines and South Africa, undated

.1 Linear feet

Scope and Contents: This series has one folder of material regarding the Philippines and South Africa.

Box 6, Folder 22 Philippines and South Africa, undated

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Collected Publications, 1950-2009, undated

1.25 Linear feet

Scope and Contents: This series contains full newspapers, magazines, and books collected by Teriananda. Many of the newspapers are not mainstream sources and authored by native peoples.

Box 7, Folder 1	Aboriginal Voices, Fall 1996
Box 7, Folder 2	American Indian Community House Bulletins, 1990-1993
Box 7, Folder 3	American Indian Community House Bulletins, 1994-1998
Box 7, Folder 4	American Indian Community House Bulletins, 1999-2009
Box 7, Folder 5	Arizona Highways, 1977
Box 7, Folder 6	Akwesasne Notes, 1981, 1983, 1988
Box 7, Folder 7	Cultural Survival, 1980-1982
Box 7, Folder 8	Cultural Survival, 1983
Box 7, Folder 9	Cultural Survival, 1984
Box 7, Folder 10	Cultural Survival, 1985
Box 8, Folder 1	Cultural Survival, 1986-1989
Box 8, Folder 2	Daybreak, 1988, 1993
Box 8, Folder 3	East West Journal, 1975-1976
Box 8, Folder 4	Eagle Wing Press, undated
Box 8, Folder 5	Encounters, Winter 1989
Box 8, Folder 6	Guatemala! The horror and the hope, 1982
Box 8, Folder 7	High Times, October 1992
Box 8, Folder 8	Indian Voices, April 2003
Box 8, Folder 9	"Indians of the Longhouse", 1950
Box 8, Folder 10	Indigenous World, 1982-1983

Box 8, Folder 11	"Kalakaua, Hawaii's Last King", 1983
Box 9, Folder 1	Many Smokes, 1970, 1977, 1979
Box 9, Folder 2	Turtle, 1979-1980
Box 9, Folder 3	Native Americas, 1995
Box 9, Folder 4	Native Americas, 1999, 2003
Box 9, Folder 5	Native Nations, January 1991
Box 9, Folder 6	Native Peoples' News, 1982, 1984
Box 9, Folder 7	Native Self-Sufficiency, Spring 1987
Box 9, Folder 8	Northeast Indian Quarterly, Summer 1986
Box 9, Folder 9	Northern Sun News, May 1979
Box 9, Folder 10	Open Road, 1982, 1986
Box 9, Folder 11	Red Buffalo, Summer 1971
Box 9, Folder 12	Rolling stock, 1987
Box 9, Folder 13	Rotunda, March 1981
Box 9, Folder 14	Survival News, 1978
Box 9, Folder 15	The Circle, 1980, 1994
Box 9, Folder 16	The Freedom Socialist, Winter 1978
Box 9, Folder 17	The Indian Reader, Spring 1986
Box 9, Folder 18	Tacoma Indian News, June 1979

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Additional Material, 1972-1992, undated

.21 Linear feet

Scope and Contents: This series contains photograph calendars depicting native peoples, pamphlets from a variety of community groups, and writings by Teriananda.

Box 10, Folder 1; Calendars, 1975-1986

Map-folder 5

Box 10, Folder 2 Pamphlets, undated

Box 10, Folder 3 Teriananda's Writings, 1972-1992

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