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Records, circa 1964-1984

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu
Title:	Records
Identifier:	Record Unit 634
Date:	circa 1964-1984
Extent:	15 cu. ft. (15 record storage boxes)
Creator::	National Museum of African Art. Office of the Director
Language:	Language of Materials: English

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 634, National Museum of African Art. Office of the Director, Records

Historical Note

In 1964 a privately-funded Museum of African Art (MAA) was established by Warren M. Robbins, a former American foreign service officer, at the Frederick Douglass house in Washington, D.C. Robbins served as first Director of MAA, which mounted exhibitions of traditional African artwork and developed educational programs to foster public insight and appreciation of the cultures and artistic achievements of Africa. When MAA became a bureau of the Smithsonian Institution on August 13, 1979, its collections included some eight thousand objects of African sculpture, costumes, textiles, musical instruments, and jewelry; numerous books on African culture and history; early maps of Africa; educational materials; and photographs, slides, and film segments on African art, society, and environment bequeathed to the Museum by world-renowned photographer Eliot Elisofon.

In 1981 MAA was renamed the National Museum of African Art (NMAfA). The following year Robbins became Founding Director Emeritus and John E. Reinhardt assumed responsibility as Acting Director. Sylvia H. Williams was appointed Director of NMAfA in 1983.

Staff of NMAfA has included Warren M. Robbins, Director, 1964-1981, and Founding Director Emeritus, 1982- ; John E. Reinhardt, Acting Director, 1981-1982; Sylvia H. Williams, Director, 1983- ; Jean M. Salan, Assistant Director for Administration, 1979-1980, Assistant Deputy Director, 1981-1982, and Assistant Director, 1983- ; Lydia Puccinelli, Curator of Collections, 1979- ; Roy Sieber, Associate Director for Collections and Research, 1983- ; Roslyn A. Walker, Research Curator, 1981- ; and Edward Lifschitz, Academic Coordinator, 1979-1982, and Curator of Education, 1983- .

Descriptive Entry

These records consist mostly of the correspondence of Warren H. Robbins, which documents activities of the National Museum of African Art (NMAfA) since its inception. Also included are some correspondence and memoranda of Jean M. Salan, John E. Reinhardt, and David L. Stratmon, a previous Associate Director of MAA (Museum of African Art). The correspondence is with government officials of African nations, African art dealers, agencies of the United States government, individual benefactors of NMAfA, African American artists, university professors, and others; and concerns donations, specimen acquisition and loans, planning of exhibitions, conservation of permanent collections, grants, scholarly research, and publications.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Art dealers
- Art museum directors
- Art museums
- Art, African

Types of Materials:

- Manuscripts

Names:

- Elisofon, Eliot
- Frederick Douglass House (Washington, D.C.)
- Frederick Douglass Museum of African Art
- Lifschitz, Edward, 1945-
- Museum of African Art (U.S.)
- Puccinelli, Lydia
- Reinhardt, John E.
- Robbins, Warren M.
- Salan, Jean M.
- Sieber, Roy, 1923-2001
- Stratmon, David L.
- Walker, Roslyn A.
- Williams, Sylvia H.

Container Listing

Box 1

Box 1 of 15	A - Am
Box 1 of 15	Am - Az
Box 1 of 15	A Street Properties - Occupancy Permits
Box 1 of 15	A Street Properties - 330 A St., N.E. - General
Box 1 of 15	African-American Museums Association
Box 1 of 15	African Affairs Advisory Council
Box 1 of 15	African Art - Repatriation
Box 1 of 15	African Museums
Box 1 of 15	African Nations - Misc.
Box 1 of 15	African Nations - Botswana
Box 1 of 15	African Nations - Burundi
Box 1 of 15	African Nations - Cameroon
Box 1 of 15	African Nations - Egypt
Box 1 of 15	African Nations - Ethiopia
Box 1 of 15	African Nations - Gabon
Box 1 of 15	African Nations - Ghana
Box 1 of 15	African Nations - Guinea
Box 1 of 15	African Nations - Ivory Coast
Box 1 of 15	African Nations - Kenya
Box 1 of 15	African Nations - Liberia
Box 1 of 15	African Nations - Mali
Box 1 of 15	African Nations - Niger
Box 1 of 15	African Nations - Nigeria

Box 2

Box 2 of 15	African Nations - Senegal
Box 2 of 15	African Nations - Sierra Leone
Box 2 of 15	African Nations - Tanzania
Box 2 of 15	African Nations - Uganda
Box 2 of 15	African Nations - Upper Volta
Box 2 of 15	African Nations - Zaire
Box 2 of 15	African Nations - Zambia
Box 2 of 15	African American Institute - DC
Box 2 of 15	African American Institute - New York
Box 2 of 15	African Arts (John Povey, African Studies Center, UCLA)
Box 2 of 15	African Student Aid Fund
Box 2 of 15	Africare
Box 2 of 15	African American Artists (2 folders)
Box 2 of 15	Albers, Chris
Box 2 of 15	Alva Museum Reproductions
Box 2 of 15	American Assembly
Box 2 of 15	American Association of Dealers in Ancient, Oriental and Primitive Art
Box 2 of 15	American Association of Museums, 1975-
Box 2 of 15	American Historical Association
Box 2 of 15	American Federation of Arts (Robert Luck)
Box 2 of 15	American Negro Leadership Conference
Box 2 of 15	Amiel Book Distributions
Box 2 of 15	Arcade Gallery, Ltd. (London)
Box 2 of 15	Angelou, Maya (Reynolda House)
Box 2 of 15	Arman

Box 2 of 15 Arnett, William and Robert
Box 2 of 15 ARTSCAN
Box 2 of 15 Aspen Institute (Joseph Slater)
Box 2 of 15 Aspen Institute (lecture material)
Box 2 of 15 Associated Council of the Arts

Box 3

Box 3 of 15 Association of Science-Technology Centers
Box 3 of 15 B - Bi (#1)
Box 3 of 15 Bi - (#2)
Box 3 of 15 Herbert Baker
Box 3 of 15 Balter, Mrs. Frances
Box 3 of 15 Lucius Battle
Box 3 of 15 Baltimore Museum of Art
Box 3 of 15 Bicentennial Comm.
Box 3 of 15 Biebuyck, Daniel
Box 3 of 15 Big Brothers
Box 3 of 15 BlackWoman Collaborative, Inc.
Box 3 of 15 Bloomingdale's Benefit
Box 3 of 15 Boone, Sylvia
Box 3 of 15 Brandeis University
Box 3 of 15 William A. Brill
Box 3 of 15 British Museum
Box 3 of 15 Brody, William
Box 3 of 15 Bronson, Mark
Box 3 of 15 Brown, George and Alice
Box 3 of 15 C - Cl

Box 3 of 15 Co - (#2)
Box 3 of 15 Joseph Campbell
Box 3 of 15 Canady, John

Box 4

Box 4 of 15 Capital Press Club
Box 4 of 15 Capitol Hill
Box 4 of 15 Carnegie Institute Museum of Art
Box 4 of 15 Carter, Amb. Beverly
Box 4 of 15 Carter Administration
Box 4 of 15 Cassilly, Mrs. Thomas (Carolyn Proctor)
Box 4 of 15 Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts (National Gallery of Art)
Box 4 of 15 Children's Defense Fund
Box 4 of 15 Chindingo, Crispin
Box 4 of 15 Chrysler Art Museum
Box 4 of 15 City Museum Project
Box 4 of 15 Arthur A. Cohen
Box 4 of 15 Wilbur Cohen
Box 4 of 15 CBS Columbia Broadcasting System
Box 4 of 15 Committee on History in the Classroom
Box 4 of 15 Congressional Arts Caucus Education Program
Box 4 of 15 Congressional Black Caucus
Box 4 of 15 Congressional Correspondence
Box 4 of 15 Consortium
Box 4 of 15 Consortium of Universities
Box 4 of 15 Continental Cablevision
Box 4 of 15 Conyers, John (Congressman)

Box 4 of 15 Copyright Application Blanks
Box 4 of 15 Corcoran Gallery of Art
Box 4 of 15 Cummings, Eric L.
Box 4 of 15 D
Box 4 of 15 Dallas Contacts
Box 4 of 15 Dallas Museum of Fine Arts
Box 4 of 15 Gaston T. de Havenon
Box 4 of 15 De Kolb, Eric - Gallery d'Hautbarr
Box 4 of 15 Vaughn de Long (see also: HEW)
Box 4 of 15 Delta Sigma Theta
Box 4 of 15 Detroit Institute of Arts
Box 4 of 15 Detweiler, Donald
Box 4 of 15 Diamonstein, Barbaralee
Box 4 of 15 DC Public Services Commission

Box 5

Box 5 of 15 DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities (2 folders)
Box 5 of 15 Barry - Mayor Marion and Effi Barry
Box 5 of 15 DC Government - Corporation Counsel
Box 5 of 15 DC Government Council
Box 5 of 15 DC Government - Motor Vehicles, Police, Etc.
Box 5 of 15 DC Government - Public Schools
Box 5 of 15 DC Government - Dept of Recreation
Box 5 of 15 DC Government - Dept of Transportation
Box 5 of 15 Tanner
Box 5 of 15 David C. Driskell
Box 5 of 15 Comm. John B. Duncan

Box 5 of 15 Duke University
Box 5 of 15 Dukes, Ofield
Box 5 of 15 du Pont, Ernest
Box 5 of 15 E
Box 5 of 15 Edmonia Lewis Foundation
Box 5 of 15 Eisenberg, Emil
Box 5 of 15 Ralph Ellison
Box 5 of 15 Encyclopedia Britannica
Box 5 of 15 Arthur Erickson
Box 5 of 15 Europe - General
Box 5 of 15 Europe - Austria
Box 5 of 15 Europe - Belgium
Box 5 of 15 Europe - England
Box 5 of 15 Europe - France

Box 6

Box 6 of 15 Europe - Germany
Box 6 of 15 Evening Star
Box 6 of 15 Extension Programs
Box 6 of 15 Exxon Educational Foundation (George Aguirre)
Box 6 of 15 F
Box 6 of 15 William Fagg
Box 6 of 15 Faith Tabernacle Church
Box 6 of 15 Federal Reserve System
Box 6 of 15 Fischer, Eberhard
Box 6 of 15 Marshall W. Fishwick (see also: Lincoln University)
Box 6 of 15 Prof. Michael J. Flack

Box 6 of 15 Rep. Thomas Foley
Box 6 of 15 Folger Library
Box 6 of 15 Fourth Triennial Symposium
Box 6 of 15 Franklin, John Hope - Professor
Box 6 of 15 Frederick Douglass Memorial and Historical Association
Box 6 of 15 J. Wayne Fredericks
Box 6 of 15 Carl Freeman
Box 6 of 15 Kenneth A. Freeman
Box 6 of 15 Friedman, Martin (Walker Art Center)
Box 6 of 15 Friendship House
Box 6 of 15 Aaron Furman
Box 6 of 15 G (2 folders)
Box 6 of 15 Garland Publishing
Box 6 of 15 General Services Administration (foreign gifts)

Box 7

Box 7 of 15 Georgetown University
Box 7 of 15 George Washington University
Box 7 of 15 Gillon, J. W.
Box 7 of 15 Grand Central Galleries, Inc.
Box 7 of 15 Graves, Frank (re: doors for new Museum building)
Box 7 of 15 William Greaves Productions, Inc.
Box 7 of 15 Carroll Greene
Box 7 of 15 Gross, Chaim - Correspondence
Box 7 of 15 Gross, Chaim - Catalogues, Etc.
Box 7 of 15 Gubernick, Cynthia
Box 7 of 15 Guggenheim

Box 7 of 15	Haley, Alex
Box 7 of 15	Halperin, Eliot
Box 7 of 15	Hampton Institute
Box 7 of 15	Harlem Museum
Box 7 of 15	Harriman, Averell
Box 7 of 15	H (2 folders)
Box 7 of 15	Haynes, Ulric, Jr.
Box 7 of 15	Henry Hecht Jr.
Box 7 of 15	Heitler, Emmett H. / Samsonite
Box 7 of 15	Heller, Ben
Box 7 of 15	Henick, Bertram
Box 7 of 15	Irwin Hersey
Box 7 of 15	Hirshhorn, Joseph
Box 7 of 15	Dana Hodgdon
Box 7 of 15	Holder, Geoffrey
Box 7 of 15	Harry Holtzman
Box 7 of 15	Hommel, William
Box 7 of 15	Cong. Frank Horton
Box 7 of 15	Howard University

Box 8

Box 8 of 15	Frances Humphrey Howard
Box 8 of 15	Huggins, Nathan I.
Box 8 of 15	Hubert H. Humphrey National Art Scholarship Fund, Inc. (Raku Gallery)
Box 8 of 15	The Hyde Collection
Box 8 of 15	I
Box 8 of 15	IBM

Box 8 of 15	Independence Federal Savings and Loan (William B. Fitzgerald)
Box 8 of 15	Institute of International Education
Box 8 of 15	Institute of Museum Services
Box 8 of 15	Internal Revenue Service
Box 8 of 15	International Afro-American Museum
Box 8 of 15	International Communication Agency
Box 8 of 15	International Exhibitions Foundation (Annemarie Pope)
Box 8 of 15	ISCARI
Box 8 of 15	Islam Centennial (Amb. William R. Crawford)
Box 8 of 15	J
Box 8 of 15	The Johnson Foundation
Box 8 of 15	Jules-Rosette, Bennette Washington
Box 8 of 15	K
Box 8 of 15	Kamer, Henri
Box 8 of 15	Keating, Robert
Box 8 of 15	Kennedy Galleries (Milton Esterow)
Box 8 of 15	J.F. Kennedy Center
Box 8 of 15	Robert Kennedy
Box 8 of 15	Keeney, Barnaby C.
Box 8 of 15	Kimche, Lee
Box 8 of 15	Kirsch, Mrs. Neville
Box 8 of 15	Knox, Simmie
Box 9	
Box 9 of 15	David L. Kreeger
Box 9 of 15	Kress Foundation - Dr. Murphy
Box 9 of 15	Kress Foundation

Box 9 of 15	Kuroyengi, Tetsuko
Box 9 of 15	Kwanza
Box 9 of 15	L (2 folders)
Box 9 of 15	Dan Lacy
Box 9 of 15	Jan Lasseter
Box 9 of 15	Jacob Lawrence
Box 9 of 15	Lee, Marshall (International Archive of Art)
Box 9 of 15	Jay C. Leff
Box 9 of 15	Legal Consideration (re: cultural property)
Box 9 of 15	Library of Congress, WR: Arts Advisory Group
Box 9 of 15	The Links, Inc.
Box 9 of 15	Jacques Lipchitz - Collector
Box 9 of 15	Lipp, Delmar
Box 9 of 15	Mrs. Albert A. List
Box 9 of 15	Long, Richard
Box 9 of 15	M - Mh (#1) (2 folders)
Box 10	
Box 10 of 15	Mi - (#2) (2 folders)
Box 10 of 15	Maps
Box 10 of 15	Marcus, Stanley
Box 10 of 15	Maryland Commission on Afro-American History and Culture
Box 10 of 15	Mary McFadden
Box 10 of 15	McGraw-Hill Book Co. (Dan Lacy)
Box 10 of 15	McNamara, Robert
Box 10 of 15	G. William Miller - Federal Reserve Board
Box 10 of 15	Daniel Millsaps - Washington International News Letter

Box 10 of 15 Mondale, V. P./Mrs.
Box 10 of 15 Moroccan Art Exhibit - Proposed (Mustaphe Alaoui, Ministere de l'artisanat)
Box 10 of 15 Museums - General
Box 10 of 15 Metropolitan Museum of Art
Box 10 of 15 Musee Royale de L'Afrique Centrale, Tervuren, Belgium
Box 10 of 15 Museum of Primitive Art (New York)
Box 10 of 15 N (2 folders)
Box 10 of 15 NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People)
Box 10 of 15 National Academy of Sciences
Box 10 of 15 National Council of Negro Women
Box 10 of 15 National Endowment for the Arts
Box 10 of 15 National Gallery of Art
Box 10 of 15 National Geographic
Box 10 of 15 National Landmarks
Box 10 of 15 National Museum for the Building Arts

Box 11

Box 11 of 15 National Peace Academy
Box 11 of 15 National Trust for Historic Preservation
Box 11 of 15 National Urban League, NY Urban League
Box 11 of 15 Negley, Nancy
Box 11 of 15 Neufeld, Mace
Box 11 of 15 New Orleans Museum of Art
Box 11 of 15 New World Forum, Inc.
Box 11 of 15 Harry Nicholas
Box 11 of 15 Norton Simon Museum of Art at Pasadena
Box 11 of 15 O

Box 11 of 15	Rabbi Levi A. Olan
Box 11 of 15	Olatunji
Box 11 of 15	Glenn A. Olds
Box 11 of 15	Frederick O'Neal
Box 11 of 15	Operation Crossroads
Box 11 of 15	"Ossie & Ruby" - Ossie Davis and Ruby Davis
Box 11 of 15	P (2 folders)
Box 11 of 15	George Palley
Box 11 of 15	Peal, S. Edward
Box 11 of 15	Pearle, Mrs. Stanley
Box 11 of 15	Claiborne Pell
Box 11 of 15	Phelps Stokes Fund
Box 11 of 15	Picket, Eliot
Box 11 of 15	Mrs. Webster Plass (Margaret)
Box 11 of 15	Vincent Price
Box 11 of 15	Pride, Inc. - Barry
Box 11 of 15	Priebatsch, Suzanne (N'Debele beadwork)
Box 11 of 15	Princeton University
Box 11 of 15	Pritzker Architecture Prize
Box 11 of 15	Q
Box 11 of 15	Quaye, Naakoshie (Theresa)
Box 11 of 15	R
	Box 12
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Box 12 of 15	Raku Gallery
Box 12 of 15	Rhea Radin

Box 12 of 15	Rea, Michael
Box 12 of 15	Read, Charlotte (Mrs. A. W.) or Institute of General Semantics
Box 12 of 15	Real Estate Acquisition (Jacklin, Lund)
Box 12 of 15	Reinhardt, John E.
Box 12 of 15	Reis, Bernard
Box 12 of 15	Renchard, George
Box 12 of 15	Fred Richman
Box 12 of 15	Lawrence Richmond, Estate of
Box 12 of 15	Rockefeller, Nelson A.
Box 12 of 15	The Nelson Rockefeller Collection, Inc.
Box 12 of 15	S - Si (#1) (2 folders)
Box 12 of 15	Sk - (#2) (2 folders)
Box 12 of 15	Sackler Enclave
Box 12 of 15	Saks Fifth Avenue
Box 12 of 15	Samuels, Susan
Box 12 of 15	Schauffer, Henri
Box 12 of 15	Schenley Affiliated Brands, Corp.
Box 12 of 15	Schindler, Gustave
Box 12 of 15	Schomburg Collection
Box 12 of 15	Thomas Schwab
Box 12 of 15	Sears, Roebuck & Co.
Box 12 of 15	Sherman, Marc S.
Box 12 of 15	Sign of the Times
Box 12 of 15	James M. Silberman
Box 12 of 15	Leon Siroto
Box 12 of 15	Sloane, Arthur W.

Box 12 of 15 Sonnenreich, Michael R.

Box 12 of 15 Stevens, Roger

Box 13

Box 13 of 15 T

Box 13 of 15 Textile Museum

Box 13 of 15 TIME, Inc.

Box 13 of 15 Tishman, Paul, Louis

Box 13 of 15 Tribal Arts Gallery (Albert Gordon)

Box 13 of 15 Trinity College (Washington, DC)

Box 13 of 15 Tschacbasov

Box 13 of 15 Sterling Tucker

Box 13 of 15 Tuesday Magazine

Box 13 of 15 Turnbull, Cohn

Box 13 of 15 U

Box 13 of 15 UNESCO

Box 13 of 15 United Black Fund '78

Box 13 of 15 United Nations

Box 13 of 15 U.S. Government - General

Box 13 of 15 U.S. Government - Supreme Court

Box 13 of 15 U.S. Department of Agriculture

Box 13 of 15 U.S. Department of Commerce

Box 13 of 15 U.S. Office of Education

Box 13 of 15 U.S. Department of State - Bureau of African Affairs

Box 13 of 15 U.S. Department of State - Ed. & Cultural Affairs

Box 13 of 15 U.S. Department of State - Foreign Service Institute - FSI

Box 13 of 15 U.S. Department of Health - Education and Welfare

Box 13 of 15 U.S. Department of State - Protocol
Box 13 of 15 U.S. Department of the Treasury
Box 13 of 15 University Museum (correspondence)
Box 13 of 15 University of California
Box 13 of 15 University of Maryland
Box 13 of 15 University of Minnesota - Dept. of Art History
Box 13 of 15 University of New Hampshire
Box 13 of 15 University of Notre Dame
Box 13 of 15 University of Texas

Box 14

Box 14 of 15 V (2 folders)
Box 14 of 15 Virginia Museum of Fine Arts
Box 14 of 15 Wolf von Eckardt
Box 14 of 15 W - Wh (2 folders)
Box 14 of 15 Wi - Wy
Box 14 of 15 Konrad Wachsmann
Box 14 of 15 Walker Art Center - Martin Friedman
Box 14 of 15 Walker, Bo
Box 14 of 15 Wallace, De Witt (Reader's Digest)
Box 14 of 15 Irving Wahlace/Posner Foundation
Box 14 of 15 Washington, Bennetta, Walter
Box 14 of 15 Washington Gallery of Modern Art
Box 14 of 15 The Washington Post
Box 14 of 15 Washington Star
Box 14 of 15 Washingtonian of the Year
Box 14 of 15 Frederick S. Weaver

Box 14 of 15 Dr. Bryant Wedge

Box 14 of 15 Edward H. Weiss

Box 15

Box 15 of 15 Edward H. Weiss

Box 15 of 15 Wesley, M/M Charles (Dorothy Porter)

Box 15 of 15 Katherine White

Box 15 of 15 White House Correspondence

Box 15 of 15 White House Conference "To Fulfill These Rights"

Box 15 of 15 G. Mennen Williams

Box 15 of 15 Jay Williams (Ballad of the Black Dragon)

Box 15 of 15 Wesley Williams

Box 15 of 15 Wolfe, Ernie

Box 15 of 15 Wolford, Jean Kennedy

Box 15 of 15 Mrs. Stanley Woodward

Box 15 of 15 World Brotherhood

Box 15 of 15 World Crafts Council

Box 15 of 15 Wunderman, Mr. Lester

Box 15 of 15 The Wunderman Foundation Project (Project Guggenheim)

Box 15 of 15 X - Y - Z

Box 15 of 15 Zervas, Dr. Nicholas

Box 15 of 15 Staff Personnel Memoranda

Box 15 of 15 Staff Memos - 1980

Box 15 of 15 Signs - Lamb