Descriptive Summary

Title: Malcolm J. Rogers Papers

Dates: 1916-1958

Collection Number: 1928.001

Creator/Collector: Rogers, Malcolm J. (Malcolm Jennings), 1890-1960

Extent: 10 linear feet

Repository: San Diego Museum of Man
San Diego, California 92101

Abstract: This collection primarily documents Malcolm J. Rogers's archaeological work, mostly during his tenure at the San Diego Museum of Man. It includes excavation notes, drawings, notebooks, correspondence, and publications.

Language of Material: English

Access

The collection is open to on-site researchers. Research visits must be arranged with the collections department in advance. One binder containing records of a site with human remains has been restricted in accordance with museum policy. Additional permissions are required for access.

Publication Rights

The museum can only claim physical ownership of the collection. Permission for publication is given on behalf of the San Diego Museum of Man as the owner of the physical items and is not intended to include or imply permission of the copyright holder, which must also be obtained by the researcher.

Preferred Citation

Malcolm J. Rogers Papers. San Diego Museum of Man

Acquisition Information

Rogers was a San Diego Museum of Man staff member whose papers were deposited with several accessions of artifacts and archaeological materials.

Biography/Administrative History

Malcolm Jennings Rogers (1890-1960) was born in New York, where he studied mining geology at Syracuse University. He moved to Escondido, California in 1919 and became a citrus farmer. He soon discovered a series of stone artifacts on his property in 1919, which he later termed the San Dieguito Complex. In 1929, he joined the San Diego Museum of Man as a curator. He was also a field archaeologist, obtaining a grant from the Smithsonian for the first systematic study of prehistoric cultures along the Southern California coast. During his time at the San Diego Museum of Man between 1929-1945 and later 1958-1960, Rogers served as field archaeologist, curator, acting director, and director of the museum. Rogers' fieldwork included extensive survey and excavation work in the coastal zone of San Diego County and northwestern Baja California, as well as throughout Arizona, Utah, and Nevada. He identified and named the San Dieguito, La Jolla, Amargosa, and Yuman archaeological complexes. He also produced one of the earliest ethnoarchaeological studies of pottery-making among the native peoples of the region.

Scope and Content of Collection

The collection primarily consists of Rogers's documentation of his field work, including field notebooks, journals, maps, drawings, photographs of archaeological sites, and lists of artifacts excavated at each site. Rogers deposited many of the excavated artifacts at the San Diego Museum of Man, so the records provide contextual information about several objects in our collections. Rogers's maps, photographs, and notebooks also provide further information about archaeological sites, including topography and his methods and approach at each site. Other contents include correspondence, lecture notes, ethnographic research data, and publications. Several of the journals and notebooks are extremely fragile, so reference copies have been made. These reference binders are housed in boxes 12 and 13. Approximately 100 photographs are housed in 1928.001.0187, a photograph album housed in folder 35 in box 11. The remaining 2,500 photographs are housed separately on shelf G3 and are arranged by archaeological site. A hand-written index of these additional photographs was compiled in the 1990's, and is housed in box 14. 323 maps, including regional maps and maps of archaeological sites, have been cataloged in CollectionSpace. For more information about accessing Rogers's photographs and maps, please contact collections staff at collections@museumofman.org

Indexing Terms

Anthropology
Archaeology
Archaeologists
California, Southern
Paleo-Indians
Diegueño Indians
Kamia Indians
Yuman pottery
San Dieguito culture
San Diego Museum of Man

Box List