Finding aid to the G. A. (Gottlieb Adam) Steiner Basket Collection Research Files MS.235

Finding aid prepared by Holly Rose Larson
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2012 September 12
Title: G. A. (Gottlieb Adam) Steiner Basket Collection Research Files
Identifier/Call Number: MS.235
Contributing Institution: Autry National Center, Braun Research Library
Language of Material: English
Physical Description: 0.7 Linear feet (1 box)
Date: circa 1983
Abstract: Gotlieb Adam Steiner (1844 March 28-1916 February 18) made a successful living in the steel industry in Southwestern Pennsylvania with the Schoenberger Steel Company, but his passion was collecting baskets woven by Native Americans. The Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania displayed a portion of Steiner's basket collection between 1913 and 1937, but otherwise the collection was closed to the public and sold some time in the late 1970s. This collection of photocopied materials includes a catalog of Indian basketry, correspondence regarding basket collections and purchases, purchase orders and receipts, and photos of baskets with full descriptions and provenance.
creator: Steiner, G. A. (Gottlieb Adam), 1844-1916
Preferred citation
G. A. (Gottlieb Adam) Steiner Basket Collection Research Files, circa 1983, Autry National Center, Los Angeles; MS.235; [folder number] [folder title][date].
Biographical Note
Gotlieb Adam Steiner was born in Allegheny, Pennsylvania on 1844 March 28. He served in the Union Army during the Civil War for about a year until he was honorably discharged on 1863 May 13. Steiner then went on to make a very successful living in the steel industry in Southwestern Pennsylvania with the Schoenberger Steel Company, which was then bought by American Steel & Wire. By 1900, Steiner was financially free to pursue other interests. Steiner and his wife Elizabeth Voegtly traveled to the American Southwest annually and began collecting baskets woven by Native Americans. Steiner was so enthralled with his basket collection that he received his last order less than a month before he died on 1916 February 18. The Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania displayed a portion of Steiner's basket collection between 1913 and 1937. Steiner's daughter Elsa S. Huff hired her son William S. Huff, an architect, to design a building to house and display the basket collection on their land in Pennsylvania. The building was erected between 1966 and 1972, although it was never open to the public. The museum displayed 555 baskets from at least 62 different tribes. The basket collection now resides in the New York State Historical Association's collections at Fenimore Art Museum in Cooperstown, New York. Source: Zigmond, Maurice L. "Gotlieb Adam Steiner and the G. A. Steiner Museum." Journal of California and Great Basin Anthropology 1, no. 2 (1979): 322-330.
Use
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Access
Collection is open for research. Appointments to view materials are required. To make an appointment please visit http://theautry.org/research/research-rules-and-application or contact library staff at rroom@theautry.org.
Processing history
Processing completed by Braun Research Library staff. Finding aid completed by Holly Rose Larson, NHPRC Processing Archivist, 2012 September 10, made possible through grant funding from the National Historical Publications and Records Commissions (NHPRC).
Scope and Contents
Collection primarily consists of photocopied materials which include a catalog of Indian basketry; correspondence regarding basket collections and purchases; purchase orders and receipts; photos of baskets with full descriptions and provenance. Original creation dates of correspondence spans from 1905 to 1983. Date of when photocopies were created is unknown.
Related Archival Materials
G. A. Steiner Collection, New York State Historical Association Library, Cooperstown, N.Y.
Subjects and Indexing Terms
Correspondence
Indian art -- Collectors and collecting
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