Lawrence Gustave Desmond Papers Relating to Augustus and Alice Dixon Le Plongeon, 1978-2009, undated

Beth Ann Guynn and Linda Kleiger
Descriptive Summary
Title: Lawrence Gustave Desmond papers relating to Augustus and Alice Dixon Le Plongeon
Date (inclusive): 1978-2009, undated
Number: 2013.M.12
Creator/Collector: Desmond, Lawrence G.
Physical Description: 17.66 Linear Feet(29 boxes)
Repository:
The Getty Research Institute
Special Collections
1200 Getty Center Drive, Suite 1100
Los Angeles 90049-1688
URL: http://hdl.handle.net/10020/askref
Abstract: The Lawrence Gustave Desmond papers represent over 30 years of exhaustive research and writing by Lawrence Desmond on the lives and work of Mesoamerican archaeologists Augustus and Alice Dixon Le Plongeon, who lived and traveled throughout Yucatán, Mexico and Central America from 1873 to 1886, and were the first to systematically excavate and photograph the Maya sites of Chichén Itzá and Uxmal. Desmond's interest in the husband and wife team began during his graduate studies and they are the subject of his PhD dissertation and two books, A Dream of Maya: Augustus and Alice Le Plongeon in Nineteenth-century Yucatán with Phyllis Messenger (1988) and Yucatán through Her Eyes: Alice Dixon Le Plongeon, Writer & Expeditionary Photographer (2009). Included in the collection are research materials and correspondence assembled by Desmond over the course of his study of the Le Plongeons along with the drafts and manuscripts for his resulting publications. Inventories of the major holdings of original Le Plongeon photographs in the United States and of the Dixon family in England, as well as copy photographs of those holdings, are also included.
Request Materials: Request access to the physical materials described in this inventory through the catalog record for this collection. Click here for the access policy.
Language: Collection material is in English with some Spanish; Castilian.
Biographical/Historical Note
Archaeologist, author and photographer, Lawrence Gustave Desmond, was born in San Francisco in 1935. His interest in photography began as a pre-teen growing up in the nearby small town of San Carlos. After receiving a BA from the University of Santa Clara in 1957 Desmond saw active duty as a Coast Guard officer from 1957 to 1960 and served in the Coast Guard Reserve through the 1960s, attaining the rank of Lieutenant Commander. He completed an MBA at San Jose State University in 1964 and went on to a career in human resources and management development with Silicon Valley electronic manufacturing companies. During this period Desmond gradually developed an interest in Mesoamerican archaeology to the extent that he left his business career in order to study first at the Universidad de Las Americas in Cholula, Mexico, where he received an MA in cultural anthropology in 1979, and then at the University of Colorado, Boulder where he was awarded a PhD in anthropology and archeology in 1983.
Desmond has carried out archaeological research in Mexico, Guatemala, and Honduras for more than forty years. He has taught at the University of Minnesota and San Francisco State University and has published numerous articles about his archaeological and heritage preservation projects including geophysical and photogrammetric surveys at the Yucatán sites of Uxmal and Chichén Itzá. He has exhaustively researched the lives and work of Augustus and Alice Le Plongeon, who lived and traveled throughout Yucatán for ten years in the late 19th century, and they are the subject of his PhD dissertation and two books, A Dream of Maya: Augustus and Alice Le Plongeon in Nineteenth-century Yucatán with Phyllis Messenger (1988) and Yucatán through Her Eyes: Alice Dixon Le Plongeon, Writer & Expeditionary Photographer (2009). Desmond is currently a senior research fellow in archaeology with the Moses Mesoamerican Archive and Research Project (MMARP) at Harvard University and a research associate with the Department of Anthropology at the California Academy of Science in San Francisco. His blog ArcheoPlanet covers topics in archaeology (http://archaeoplanet.wordpress.com). Most recently Desmond has published a series of books resulting from his life-long avocation of photography on the online platform Blurb, with titles ranging from Growing Up in California, 1947-1959: Toy Racers and Giant Salamanders to Mexico as It Was: Life in the 1970s (both 2014).
Access
Open for use by qualified researchers.
Publication Rights
Contact Library Reproductions and Permissions.
Preferred Citation
http://hdl.handle.net/10020/cifa2013m12

Acquisition Information
Gift of Lawrence G. Desmond. Acquired in 2012.

Processing History
The collection was processed by Linda Kleiger, Lilly Tsukahira and Beth Ann Guynn in 2014-2015.

Related Archival Materials
The Getty Research Institute holds the Augustus and Alice Dixon Le Plongeon Papers, Special Collections accession no. 2004.M.18; 2007.R.8, as well as two smaller collections of their photographs: Views of Maya Ruins in the Yucatán, Special Collections accession no. 96.R.137 and Augustus and Alice Dixon Le Plongeon photographs of Chichén Itzá, Uxmal and Yucatán, Special Collections accession no. 2007.R.8. The original copies of the Le Plongeon's photographs that Desmond made as part of his NEH grant are housed at the Wilson Library of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill as as the Lawrence G. Desmond Collection of Augustus Le Plongeon and Alice Dixon Le Plongeon Photographs, collection id no. 5268. Desmond's own photographs are represented in the Lawrence G. Desmond Moses Mesoamerican Archive and Research Project (MMARP) Photographs, Special Collections accession no. 2014.R.16.

Scope and Content of Collection
The collection represents over 30 years of exhaustive research and writing by Lawrence Desmond on the lives and work of Mesoamerican archaeologists Augustus and Alice Dixon Le Plongeon, who lived and traveled throughout Yucatán, Mexico and Central America from 1873 to 1886, and who were the first persons to systematically excavate and photograph the Maya sites of Chichén Itzá and Uxmal. Desmond's interest in the husband and wife team began during his graduate studies and they are the subject of his PhD dissertation and two books, A Dream of Maya: Augustus and Alice Le Plongeon in Nineteenth-century Yucatán with Phyllis Messenger (1988) and Yucatán through Her Eyes: Alice Dixon Le Plongeon, Writer & Expeditionary Photographer (2009). Included in the collection are research materials and correspondence assembled by Desmond over the course of his study of the Le Plongeons along with the drafts and manuscripts for his resulting publications. Inventories of the major holdings of original Le Plongeon photographs in the United States and of the Dixon family in England, as well as copy photographs of those holdings, are also included.


Included in Series III are the repository inventories; photocopies of photographic prints; copy prints, negatives and slides that resulted from inventory projects, beginning in the late 1980s, of Le Plongeon photographs that Desmond conducted at various institutions in the United States and in the private collection of the Dixon family in England. In 1987 Desmond received a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) grant to catalog three major collections of Le Plongeon photographs held in the United States at the American Museum of Natural History, the Peabody Museum, Harvard University and the Philosophical Research Society (PRS), Los Angeles. The grant also covered copy photography of the original materials. In 1998 Desmond inventoried and photographed the Getty Research Library's "Views of Maya Ruins in the Yucatan" (Special Collections accession no. 96.R.137) and in the following year he documented the Donald Dixon Album (Dixon collection). Materials related to Desmond's 2005 catalog of Le Plongeon photographs are also included in this series.

Series IV contains the bulk of Desmond's research on the Le Plongeons. Included are field notes, bibliographies, research correspondence and notes related to institutional holdings. Copy photographs (restrikes) and photocopies of original Le Plongeon correspondence, manuscripts, published articles and other materials are also present.

The photographic materials (slides, negatives, and prints) in Series V are primarily copy and reproductive materials made by Desmond from original and copied materials, usually third generation images, that Desmond made to use for various unidentified projects.

Arrangement
Subjects - Names
Le Plongeon, Augustus
Le Plongeon, Alice D. (Alice Dixon)

Subjects - Topics
Archaeology -- Mexico -- Yucatán (State)

Subjects - Places
Uxmal Site (Mexico) -- Antiquities
Chichén Itzá Site (Mexico) -- Antiquities

Genres and Forms of Material
Anaglyphs -- United States -- 20th century
Gelatin silver prints -- United States -- 20th century
Gelatin silver negatives -- United States -- 20th century
Floppy disks -- United States -- 20th century
Copy prints -- United States -- 20th century
Color slides -- United States -- 20th century
Stereoscopic photographs -- United States -- 20th century

Contributors
Desmond, Lawrence G.


Physical Description: 7 Linear Feet (15 boxes)

Scope and Content Note

Arrangement
Arranged in roughly chronological order by date of completion.

box 1, folder 1

Scope and Content Note
The first manuscript written by Desmond for a book about Augustus Le Plongeon. Unpublished, 134 pages.

box 1, 17
"Chacmools and Queen Móo: The Earliest Excavations of the Ancient Maya Ruins,” 1981

Scope and Content Note
First draft manuscript of a book about Augustus Le Plongeon submitted to the University of New Mexico Press.

box 1, folder 2
box 17
Bound manuscript

Photographs
Scope and Content Note
Mostly 8 x 10 inch gelatin silver photographs taken by Desmond from the same angle and distance as the original Le Plongeon photographs were taken. Many with typewritten captions taped to their versos.

box 17, folder 1-3
Chichén Itzá
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box/Folder</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>box 17, folder 1</td>
<td></td>
<td>Scope and Content Note Twenty-four photographs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 17, folder 2</td>
<td></td>
<td>Scope and Content Note Thirteen photographs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 17, folder 3</td>
<td></td>
<td>Scope and Content Note Twenty-two photographs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 17, folder 4, 5</td>
<td>Uxmal</td>
<td>Scope and Content Note Sixteen photographs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 17, folder 4</td>
<td></td>
<td>Scope and Content Note Seventeen photographs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 17, folder 5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 1, folder 3</td>
<td>&quot;Augustus Le Plongeon: Important or Fringe Figure in the Development of Early Mayan Studies,&quot; 1982</td>
<td>Scope and Content Note Research proposal for Desmond's doctoral dissertation with comments from Professor James R. McGoodwin, dissertation advisor. Also includes notes about the comments of six members of the dissertation committee during discussions after the formal proposal. Unbound.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 2, folder 2-3</td>
<td>Final draft, 1983</td>
<td>Scope and Content Note Two bound typewritten copies. Includes copies of committee signatures.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
box 3, folder 1

"Augustus Le Plongeon: Early Maya Archaeologist," 1984
Scope and Content Note
Manuscript of a second draft under this title, returned for revisions by the University of New Mexico Press. Bound volume.

box 3, folder 2

"Augustus Le Plongeon and Alice Dixon: Lives amongst the Ancient Maya Ruins," 1985
Scope and Content Note
First draft of a manuscript under this title, edited by Phyllis Messenger. Bound computer printout.

A Dream of Maya
box 3, folder 3
First draft, 1986
Scope and Content Note
First draft submitted to the University of New Mexico Press. This manuscript was the result of the two years Messenger and Desmond spent editing Desmond's doctoral dissertation. It was written using Volkswriter software at the University of Colorado.

box 3, folder 4

First manuscript, 1986
box 4, folder 1
Final version, 1986
Scope and Content Note
Final bound version submitted to the University of New Mexico Press. Includes the forward by Jaime Litvak King with a handwritten personal note by him. Also includes original drawings by Lewis "Skip" Messenger for use at the end of each chapter.

box 4, folder 2

Press edit version, 1987
box 4, folder 3
Photocopies not used in book, 1987
box 4-5
Galley proofs, 1987
Scope and Content Note
One original and five copies, each annotated.

box 4, folder 4

Original, I
box 5, folder 1
II, III
box 5, folder 2
IV, V
box 6, item D1-D5
Computer disks, 1986
Scope and Content Note
5 computer disks (floppy disks) of 5: 5 1/2 in (?). Includes test disk, book, drafts and final versions.

box 7, folder 1

Book contract, 1986
box 7, folder 2
Permissions correspondence, 1981
box 7, folder 3
Manuscript editing, correspondence, 1980-1990
box 7, folder 4
Book reviews, 1988-1999
box 7, folder 5
Advertising, 1988-1989
box 7, folder 6
Marketing, 1988
box 7, folder 7
Sample book cover, late 1980s
box 7, folder 8
Correspondence regarding remainder of copies, 1992
box 18
Photographs, undated
box 18, folder 1-6
Captioned photographs
Scope and Content Note
8 x 10 inch gelatin silver prints from various sources, most with typewritten captions taped to their versos.
box 18, folder 1  Portraits: Brinton, Salisbury, Haven  
Scope and Content Note  
Three photographs.

box 18, folder 2  Chichén Itzá and Progresso  
Scope and Content Note  
Three photographs.

box 18, folder 3  Yucatán ethnographic  
Scope and Content Note  
Six photographs.

box 18, folder 4  Belize  
Scope and Content Note  
Three photographs.

box 18, folder 5  The Le Plongeons  
Scope and Content Note  
Thirteen photographs taken in the field and formal portraits.

box 18, folder 6  Figures 1-11  
Scope and Content Note  
Ten photographs (figure 7 is lacking); figure numbers on labels adhered to rectos of prints; most versos with handwritten captions or annotations.

box 18, folder 7-9  Miscellaneous photographs, 1980s  
Scope and Content Note  
Circa 165 gelatin silver prints, 8 x 10 inches and smaller, some with typewritten captions taped on the versos. Includes copy photographs of original Le Plongeon plans and schematics as well as photographs taken by Desmond replicating the angle and distance of the original Le Plongeon photographs.

Desmond restrikes, 1978-1979  
Scope and Content Note  
Copy prints made by Desmond from the original Le Plongeon negatives housed at the PRS used originally for early research and then for The Dream of Maya. Blind stamp on versos: Lawrence G. Desmond. Most numbered and with annotations written on versos; many with typed captions adhered to versos.

box 23, folder 1-2  Chichén Itzá flats  
Scope and Content Note  
Seventy-one prints, 6 x 8 1/2 inches and smaller.

box 23, folder 3-4  Chichén Itzá stereographic prints  
Scope and Content Note  
Ninety-three prints, 5 x 8 inches and smaller.

box 24, folder 1  Lower Temple of the Jaguars, Chichén Itzá  
Scope and Content Note  
Thirty-seven prints 8 1/2 x 5 inches and smaller. Mostly stereographic.
Ake

Scope and Content Note
Seven stereographic prints, 5 x 8 inches and smaller.

Panorama of Uxmal

Scope and Content Note
Six stereographic prints, 5 x 8 inches and smaller.

Uxmal, various

Scope and Content Note
Sixty-seven two-dimensional and stereographic prints, 6 x 8 1/2 inches and smaller, and 13 4 x 5 inch test prints (made using TRIX 4 and TMAX 4 filters).

Chenes Temple, Uxmal

Scope and Content Note
Eight stereographic prints, 6 x 8 1/2 inches and smaller.

East facade, Governor’s Palace, Uxmal

Scope and Content Note
Sixteen stereographic prints, 6 x 8 1/2 inches and smaller.

Yucatán

Scope and Content Note
Eight two-dimensional and one stereographic print, 5 1/2 x 8 inches and smaller.

Artifacts

Scope and Content Note
Three two-dimensional and 23 stereographic prints, 6 x 8 1/2 inches and smaller.

Portraits of the Le Plongeons

Scope and Content Note
Twenty-two prints, 6 x 8 1/2 inches and smaller and six test prints (made using TRIX 4 and TMAX 4 filters).

Yucatan through Her Eyes, 2009

Scope and Content Note

Text

Scope and Content Note
Two 32 gigabyte flash drives titled Lep Files 1 and Lep Files 2, containing texts, illustrations other materials relating to the book.

Non-Getty Research Library illustrations

Scope and Content Note
Four 4 x 5 inch gelatin silver proof prints with typewritten captions and figure numbers taped to versos, of unknown provenance.
Series II. Articles, papers and lectures, late 1970s-2001

Physical Description: 2.76 Linear Feet (4 boxes)

Scope and Content Note
Included here are unpublished class papers, published articles and lectures and unpublished slide lecture materials including texts, images lists, slides and ephemera.

Arrangement
Arranged chronologically.

box 7-8
box 7, folder 9
**Articles, late 1970s-2001**

**Unpublished articles and class papers, late 1970s-1981**

Scope and Content Note

box 7, folder 10
"Excavation of the Platform of Venus, Chichén Itzá, Yucatán, Mexico," 1981-1984

Scope and Content Note
Presented at the annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, April 1982, Minneapolis, Minnesota and at the "Coloquio en Homenaje a Ignacio Bernal," January 30-February 1, 1984, UNAM, Mexico, D.F. Also included are maps, photographs, and correspondence pertaining to the paper and conference. Later published in *Tributo a Jaime Litvak King*, Mexico: UNAM, 2008. Pages 155-166.

box 7, folder 11

Scope and Content Note

box 7, folder 12
"Introduction to 'The Pyramid of Xochicalco by Augustus Le Plongeon,'" 1986

Scope and Content Note

box 7, folder 13
"Methodology in the Assessment of Augustus Le Plongeon," 1987

Scope and Content Note

box 8, folder 1-3
"From Center to Periphery: A Fall from Archaeological Grace," 1990-1999

Scope and Content Note
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box/Folder</th>
<th>Date/Period</th>
<th>Scope and Content Note</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>box 8, folder 1</td>
<td>1990-1991</td>
<td>Draft and correspondence relating to publication of the article, including in the projected publication &quot;Mainstreams and Margins&quot; with Alice Kehoe.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 8, folder 2</td>
<td>1995</td>
<td>Includes correspondence with respect to possible publication.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 8, folder 4-5</td>
<td>1993-1995</td>
<td>Includes published page from the dictionary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 8, 19</td>
<td>Lecture materials</td>
<td>Includes lecture typescript and notes, flyers and ephemera and notes written by attendees.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 19</td>
<td>Slides</td>
<td>One hundred and sixty-two slides; original sleeves labeled: Le Plongeon 3D presentation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 20</td>
<td>Le Plongeon lecture, 1980s-1990s</td>
<td>One hundred and fifty-two slides; original sleeves labeled: Le Plongeon.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Series III. Catalogs of Le Plongeon photographs, 1987-2005

Physical Description: 4 Linear Feet (6 boxes)

Scope and Content Note

Beginning in the late 1980s Desmond inventoried photographs made by the Le Plongeons held at various institutions in the United States and in the private collection of the Dixon family in England. In 1987 Desmond received a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) grant to catalog three major collections of Le Plongeon photographs held in the United States at the American Museum of Natural History, the Peabody Museum, Harvard University and the Philosophical Research Society (PRS), Los Angeles. The grant also covered copy photography of the original materials. In 1998 Desmond inventoried and photographed the Getty Research Library's "Views of Maya Ruins in the Yucatan" (Special Collections accession no. 96.R.137) and in the following year he documented the Donald Dixon Album (Dixon collection).

Initial interest expressed by the University of New Mexico Press with regard to publishing Desmond's catalog did not come to fruition. In 2005 Desmond compiled his inventories on a CD-ROM catalog titled The Nineteenth Century Photographs of Alice Dixon Le Plongeon and Augustus Le Plongeon. He self-published a revised, printed catalog in 2015 with Blurb Inc.

Included in Series III are the repository inventories; photocopies of photographic prints; extra copy prints, negatives and slides that resulted from Desmond's inventory projects; and materials related to Desmond's 2005 catalog. The original copies of the Le Plongeon's photographs that Desmond made as part of his NEH grant are housed at the Wilson Library of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill as as the Lawrence G. Desmond Collection of Augustus Le Plongeon and Alice Dixon Le Plongeon Photographs

Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically by institution with the final compilation catalog at the end of the series.

American Museum of Natural History, 1987

Inventory and photocopies of prints

Photographs

Scope and Content Note

These materials were created as part of Desmond's NEH grant to copy Le Plongeon photographic materials held at the AMNH. There are some images from the collection not included among these materials. The Wilson Library, University of North Carolina holds a complete set of copy images from the AMNH.

Reference prints for catalog,

Scope and Content Note

Seventy-two 4 x 5 inch copy prints, numbered 16-171 (with some numbers skipped).

Copy negatives

Scope and Content Note

Circa one hundred and sixty-four 35mm black-and-white negatives contained in six negative saver sheets.

Copy slides, 1987

Scope and Content Note

Forty-one 35mm color slides with AMNH numbers indicated.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 8, 11 | Peabody Museum, Harvard University, late 1980s  
Scope and Content Note  
Includes a one-page handwritten inventory of the Le Plongeon photographs held at the Peabody; photocopies of the prints made by the Peabody from the photographs of their large boards with Le Plongeon prints mounted on them; and photocopies of unmounted Le Plongeon prints held by the institution. |
| 8, 22 | Philosophical Research Society, 1987-1988  
**Duplication of prints and negatives, 1987-1988** |
| 8, 12-13 | Douglas Munson at PRS, 1987  
Scope and Content Note  
Nineteen 35mm color slides of Munson working on the NEH copy project. |
| 27-29 | **Copy prints, 1989**  
Scope and Content Note  
Circa three hundred and thirty 5 x 8 inch gelatin silver copy prints made by Douglas Munson (Chicago Albumen Works) as part of Desmond's NEH grant to duplicate and catalog Le Plongeon photographs and tracings held at the PRS. Most replicate stereographic photographs although flat photographs are also included. Subjects included are: Ake; artifacts; Chichén Itzá; graphics; portraits; Uxmal; and Yucatán. Each category includes duplicates as Munson often made prints at different densities so that highlight and shadow detail would be visible, since the tonal range of collodion glass plate negatives is beyond the data capacity of copy films manufactured in the 1980s. |
| 8-9 | **The Nineteenth Century Photographs of Alice Dixon Le Plongeon and Augustus Le Plongeon..., 1989-1990**  
Scope and Content Note  
The series contains the bulk of Desmond's research on the Le Plongeons. Included are field notes, bibliographies, research correspondence and notes related to institutional holdings. Copy photographs (restrikes) and photocopies of original Le Plongeon correspondence, manuscripts, published articles and other materials are also present. File dates refer to the date of request to the holding institution or correspondent. When known, the dates of the original materials are given in the notes. The Le Plongeon-related materials contained in the files are photocopies, unless otherwise noted.  
Arrangement  
Arranged alphabetically by institution, correspondent or subject and preceded by general notes, bibliographies and general research correspondence. |
| 8, 14 | Notes and chronology of Le Plongeon research, 1977-1980  
Scope and Content Note  
Includes notes on the following topics: Excavation of Akab Dzib; Le Plongeon research in the San Francisco area; Ansel Adams; American Museum of Natural History, 1987; Philosophical Research Society copy photos, 1987. |
| 9, 1 | Correspondence regarding Le Plongeon catalog, 2005  
Scope and Content Note  
Includes notes on the following topics: Excavation of Akab Dzib; Le Plongeon research in the San Francisco area; Ansel Adams; American Museum of Natural History, 1987; Philosophical Research Society copy photos, 1987. |
| 9, 2 | Catalog of the Le Plongeon Collection of Donald Dixon, 2004  
Scope and Content Note  
Includes notes on the following topics: Excavation of Akab Dzib; Le Plongeon research in the San Francisco area; Ansel Adams; American Museum of Natural History, 1987; Philosophical Research Society copy photos, 1987. |
box 9, folder 6  Le Plongeon project notes, 1980-1982
Scope and Content Note
Includes notes on the following topics: Museum visits; psychic consults; individuals consulted; American Museum of Natural History.

box 9, folder 7  Bibliographies, undated
box 9, 10  Research correspondence, 1977-1995
Scope and Content Note
The correspondence deals with topics such as book contracts, papers submitted for professional meetings, searches for materials, and so forth.

box 9, folder 8  1977-1979
box 9, folder 9  1980 A
box 10, folder 1  1980 B
box 10, folder 2  1981 A
box 10, folder 3  1981 B
box 10, folder 4  1982
box 10, folder 5  1983
box 10, folder 6  1984-1986
box 10, folder 7  1987-1995
box 11, folder 1  Albany Institute, 1981
Scope and Content Note
Regarding a lecture given by Alice Le Plongeon, December 22, 1896.

box 11  American Antiquarian Society, circa 1990
box 11, folder 2-3  Miscellaneous materials, circa 1990
Scope and Content Note
Correspondence between Augustus Le Plongeon and Stephen Salisbury spanning from 1873 to 1896.

box 11, folder 2  I
box 11, folder 3  II
box 11, folder 4  Notes on September 6-7, meeting, 1990
box 11, folder 5  American Institute of Archaeology, undated
box 11  American Museum of Natural History, undated
box 11, folder 6  I
Scope and Content Note
List of Le Plongeon moulds from Yucatán ruins. Photocopies of Le Plongeon correspondence with Marshall Saville, 1894.

box 11, folder 7  II
Scope and Content Note
Regarding casts from Uxmal, 1893-1911, and gifts to the museum from the estate of Alice Le Plongeon.

box 11, folder 8  Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley, 1989
Scope and Content Note
Includes: list of letters from Phoebe A. Hearst to Alice Dixon Le Plongeon, 1895-1998; copies of letters from Alice Dixon Le Plongeon to Mrs. Hearst regarding payment for donating the casts of moulds from Yucatán, 1895-1900; list of topics covered by lectures prepared for the Lowell Institute given by Augustus Le Plongeon, 1890.

box 11, folder 9  Bania, Melissa, 1990
Scope and Content Note
Article on Alice Le Plongeon.
box 16, folder 11  
**Betts, Brooks, The Fall of Maya, 1911**  
*Scope and Content Note*  
Two photocopies (one spiral bound) of a typescript play by Betts based on Alice Le Plongeon’s *Queen Moo and the Egyptian Sphinx*. The original typescript is in the Liebler Collection, NYPL. Also included are notes and correspondence from Desmond to Beth Ann Guynn detailing how he acquired the copies and providing biographical information on Betts.

box 11, folder 10  
**Brooklyn Museum, undated**  
*Scope and Content Note*  
Letter requesting information about Le Plongeon’s birth and early training, written in 1947.

box 11, folder 11  
**California Academy of Sciences, 1979**  
*Scope and Content Note*  
List of early officers of the California Academy of Sciences (CAS). Notes on the proceedings of the CAS between 1868 and 1872.

box 11, folder 12  
**Casares family, undated**  
*Scope and Content Note*  
Letters, historic material and photograph from David Casares and family, 1885-1905.

box 11, folder 13  
**Carnegie Institution of Washington, undated**  
*Scope and Content Note*  
Letter from Sylvanus Morely to J. C. Merriam, dated October 10, 1931, detailing the Le Plongeon materials left to Mrs. Henry Field Blackwell by Alice Le Plongeon.

box 11, folder 14  
**Dixon family genealogy, 2004**  
*Scope and Content Note*  
Diagram of family tree with letter from Donald Dixon.

box 11, folder 15  
**Dixon family genealogical search, 1990**  
*Scope and Content Note*  
Information regarding the Dixon family genealogy from a descendant of Alice Dixon Le Plongeon.

box 11, folder 17  
**Field, Stephen, 1991**  
*Scope and Content Note*  
Donation of Le Plongeon copy photographs.

box 12, folder 3  
**Postdoctoral Fellowship application, 1988-1989**  
*Scope and Content Note*  

box 12, folder 4  
**Request for support, 1998**  
*Scope and Content Note*  

**Getty Research Institute, 2004-2007**

Scope and Content Note

**Research materials, 2004-2007**

**2004-2006**

Scope and Content Note
Obituaries, psychic experiences, lecture notices, etc.

**2005-2007**

Scope and Content Note
Alice Le Plongeon lecture notices.

**Preliminary archive materials, 2005**

Gottheim, Larry, 1996

Scope and Content Note
Collection of Le Plongeon photographs. This collection was ultimately purchased by the Getty Research Institute and is cataloged as "Views of Maya Ruins in the Yucatán," accession no. 96.R.137.

**Keltz, Marsha, "A Mayan Trilogy," 1994**

Scope and Content Note

**Le Plongeon, Alice, 2007-2008, undated**

**Article in Spanish about Alice, undated**

Scope and Content Note
Published in 1978.

**Articles by Alice, undated**

Scope and Content Note
Published between 1894 and 1910.

**Articles written by and about Alice, undated**

Scope and Content Note
Published between 1879 and 1893.

**"The Conquest of the Mayas," undated**

Scope and Content Note
Serialized in *Magazine of American History* from January through June 1888.

**A Dream of Atlantis, undated**

Scope and Content Note
Bound copy of serialization in *The Word*, from 1909 to 1911.

**Marriage and death certificates, 2007-2008**

**Articles from newspapers, professional society meetings, etc., 1977-1985**

Scope and Content Note
Includes Desmond’s summary of some of the articles. Handwritten note sets the date of this summary.
Letter to John R. Bartlett, undated

Scope and Content Note
Regarding the Maya-Spanish dictionary copied from the original in the John Carter Brown Library and published by the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, 1984 as Calepino Maya de Motul.

Le Plongeon, Augustus, 1991, undated

Los Jesuitas e el Perú, o, El R. Fray Pedro Gual y sus doctrinas en trasparencia..., undated

Scope and Content Note

The Pyramid of Xochicalco, undated

Scope and Content Note
Serialized in The Word, 1913-1914.

La religion de Jésus, 1991

Scope and Content Note

Le Plongeon, Alice and Augustus, 1981-1988, undated

Book flyers, undated

Scope and Content Note
Desmond's notes on one flyer indicate "probably 1885-1886." Another flyer is dated 1896.

Articles from The Photographic Times and The Photographic Times and American Photographer, 1988

Articles referencing the Le Plongeons, 1981, undated

I, undated

II, 1981

Lerdo de Tejada monument, undated

Scope and Content Note
Copy of a drawing signed by R. Martin.

Library of Congress, 1983

Maps and plans, undated

San Francisco, Marquina plans of Maya buildings

Sections of Maya buildings

The Akabdzib

Marysville City Library, 1988

Scope and Content Note
Earl Ramey address, Le Plongeon advertisements, Le Plongeon local hero articles.

Masonic Library of the Grand Lodge, 1995

MacNab, Lynn, 1999-2008

Scope and Content Note
Dixon family genealogy.

Exhibition notes from London, 1999

Correspondence, 2003-2008
box 15, folder 3  Microscopical Society, undated
Scope and Content Note
Correspondence between James de T. Abajian and James Fidiam regarding the Le Plongeons' involvement in the society, 1969; copies of register from 1874.

box 15, folder 4  Milbrath, Susan, 1995-1996
Scope and Content Note
Correspondence between Desmond and Susan Milbrath, associate curator of the Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida, exploring the possibility of a traveling exhibit featuring many of the prints of the Le Plongeon photographs owned by the Philosophical Research Society. Discusses the possibility of it being permanently housed at the Graves Museum in Dania Beach, Florida.

box 15  National Endowment for the Humanities, 1985-1989
Scope and Content Note
In 1987 Desmond received an NEH grant to photograph and catalog the three main collections of Le Plongeon photographs in the United States held at the American Museum of Natural History, the Peabody Museum, Harvard University, and the Philosophical Research Society, Los Angeles.

box 15, folder 5  Grant correspondence, 1985-1989
box 15, folder 6  Grant proposal, 1986
box 15, folder 7  Travel, 1989
box 15, folder 8  National Geographic correspondence, 1979-1980
box 15, folder 9  Newspaper articles, undated
Scope and Content Note
Article from The Sun December 5, 1897 on Egyptian excavations; "Electricity Sheds Light on Orthopedic Healing" in PLS Star, November 1980.

box 15, folder 12  Palmquist, Peter, correspondence, 1980-1989
Scope and Content Note
Correspondence with Desmond regarding possible photographs of the Le Plongeons in California. Copies of advertisements for the services of Augustus Le Plongeon as a surveyor, engineer, and photographer with offices in San Francisco and Marysville.

box 15, folder 10  Le Plongeon collections, 1980
Scope and Content Note
Letter to the officers and members of the American Antiquarian Society, 1882; to Charles Bowditch from Augustus Le Plongeon 1896-1907; letter to Mrs. Henry Blackwell from the Peabody Museum, 1911. Also list of the accession records for the Le Plongeon collections at the Peabody and letter from Sally Bond to Desmond, 1980.

box 15, folder 11  Copy prints, east facade, Governor's Palace, Uxmal 1981
box 15, folder 13  Peru correspondence, 1988-1990
box 15  Philosophical Research Society, 1982-1997, undated
box 15, folder 14  Le Plongeon correspondence and manuscripts, undated
Scope and Content Note
Includes copy of the original manuscript of The Origin of the Egyptians, and correspondence from D. C. Brinton and Manly Hall among others.

box 15, folder 15-16  Mural, Upper Temple of the Jaguars, Chichén Itzá, undated
Drawings
Scope and Content Note
Photocopies of drawings of the entire mural made by ? Includes a typewritten note regarding Seler's view of the drawings.

Tracings
Scope and Content Note
Reduced photocopies of the tracings made by the Le Plongeons of the scenes from the mural.

Copy slides
Scope and Content Note
Fifty-five 35 mm color slides.

Le Plongeon dictionary, undated
Manly P. Hall correspondence and papers, undated
Scope and Content Note
Manly P. Hall was the founder of the Philosophical Research Society.

Death of Manly P. Hall, correspondence and papers, 1991
Sale of Le Plongeon collection, 1995
Scope and Content Note
Correspondence with the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, the Smithsonian Institution, and the J. Paul Getty Museum.

Correspondence between Director Harris and L. G. Desmond, 1988-1997
Scope and Content Note
Regarding the catalog of Le Plongeon works and permission to use images taken from photographs in the collection.

Advertisements for A Dream of Maya, Summer 1988
"Notes on Augustus Le Plongeon," Fall 1988
"The Little World of PRS," 1982
Photocopies of Le Plongeon photographs, 1980s
Scope and Content Note
Correspondence between Augustus Le Plongeon and the institution.

Drawings from Incidents of Travel in Yucatan.

Letters from Frans Blom dated 1931. Blom was director of Middle American Research at Tulane University.

Books and articles on 19th century travelers.
Series V. Photographs, 1980-1989, undated

Physical Description: 1 Linear Feet (4 boxes)

Scope and Content Note

The photographic materials (slides, negatives, and prints) in this series are primarily copy and reproductive materials made by Desmond from original and copied materials, usually third generation images, that Desmond made to use for various unidentified projects.

Arrangement

Arranged as found in the collection.

box 26

Slides of Le Plongeon 3D and flats, undated

Scope and Content Note

Two hundred and sixty-four black-and-white slides.

box 17, folder 6-7

Le Plongeon graphics, undated

Scope and Content Note

Copy photographs of architectural drawings, maps, plans, signatures, prints.

box 17, folder 6

1

Scope and Content Note

Twenty-six 8 x 10 inch gelatin silver prints, one with tracing paper overlay, and one photocopy of Alice Le Plongeon's signature.

box 17, folder 7

2

Scope and Content Note

Twenty-five 8 x 10 inch gelatin silver prints.

box 21-22

Chichén Itzá and Uxmal stereo replicas, 1989

Negatives

Scope and Content Note

One hundred and twenty-nine 35 mm gelatin silver negatives.

box 21, folder 2

Prints

Scope and Content Note

Fifteen pairs of 4 x 5 inch gelatin silver prints from inter-negatives made by Desmond from slides.

box 21-22

Chichén Itzá and Uxmal photographs reproduced from slides, 1980s?

Negatives

Scope and Content Note

Forty-seven 4 x 5 inch inter-negatives made by Desmond from slides.

box 21, folder 3

Prints

Scope and Content Note

Fifty 4 x 5 inch gelatin silver prints from inter-negatives made by Desmond from slides.

box 21, folder 4

Anaglyphs, undated

Scope and Content Note

Five color prints.

box 22, folder 7

Le Plongeon replications, 1980

Scope and Content Note

Fifty-one 35 mm gelatin silver negatives made from flat prints.
box 22, folder 8  

**Negatives, undated**

Scope and Content Note

Seventeen 35 mm gelatin silver negatives in a print file sleeve marked "Misc."

box 29

**Miscellaneous photographs, 1981, undated**

Scope and Content Note

Includes as photograph of a Scovill camera similar to the one used by the Le Plongeons in the Yucatan, with a typeritten and annotated label on the verso, and a copy of a photograph of the facade of the Henry Dixon and Son photography studio on Albany Street, London (provided to Desmond by the Guilhall Library photo archive).