
Finding aid prepared by Beth Ann Guynn
Descriptive Summary

Title: Lawrence G. Desmond Moses Mesoamerican Archive and Research Project (MMARP) Photographs

Date (inclusive): 1982-2013

Number: 2014.R.16

Creator/Collector: Desmond, Lawrence G., 1935-

Physical Description: 9.0 linear feet (6 boxes and 1 flatfile)

Repository:
The Getty Research Institute
Special Collections
1200 Getty Center Drive, Suite 1100
Los Angeles, California, 90049-1688
(310) 440-7390

Abstract: The collection comprises Lawrence G. Desmond's photographic documentation of symposia organized by the Moses Mesoamerican Archive and Research Project (MMARP) held between 1982 and 1999. Included are approximately 1,700 black-and-white and color slides and 179 gelatin silver prints including a panoramic print of the 1989 symposium participants at the Templo Mayor Museum in Mexico City.

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.

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 in 1964 and went on to a career in human resources and management development with Silicon Valley electronic manufacturing companies. During this period Desmond developed an interest in Mesoamerican archaeology to the extent that he left his business career to pursue studies first at the Universidad de Las Americas in Cholula, México, 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. It was during his time at Boulder that he first became involved with the Moses Mesoamerican Archive and Research Project (MMARP) for which he ultimately became its unofficial photographer.

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. His work of 30 years researching the lives and work of Augustus and Alice Le Plongeon, who lived and traveled throughout Yucatán for ten years in the late 19th century, is 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) for which he ultimately became its unofficial photographer.

Desmond is currently a senior research fellow in archaeology with the Moses Mesoamerican Archive and Research Project 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 archeology: http://archaeoplanet.wordpress.com. Most recently Desmond has published a series of books documenting his life-long avocation of photography on the on-line 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.

Access

Open for use by qualified researchers.

Publication Rights

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Preferred Citation


http://hdl.handle.net/10020/cifa2014r16
Acquisition Information
Gift of Lawrence G. Desmond. Acquired in 2014.

Processing History
The collection was processed by Lilly Tsukahira and Beth Ann Guynn in 2014.

Related Archival Materials
Desmond's photographs of Mexico are held by the Peabody Museum at Harvard University.

Scope and Content of Collection
The collection comprises Lawrence Desmond's photographic documentation of symposia organized by the Moses Mesoamerican Archive and Research Project (MMARP) held between 1982 and 1999 at the University of Colorado-Boulder; the Museo Templo Mayor, Mexico City; and Princeton University. Included in the collection are approximately 1,700 black-and-white and color slides, approximately 179 gelatin silver prints of various sizes, and a panoramic print of the 1989 symposium participants at the Templo Mayor Museum in Mexico City, also reproduced as a symposium poster. Desmond's unpublished catalog of his MMARP photographs, "Mesoamerican Archive and Research Project, 1982-1994: Catalog of Black-and-White and Color Negatives and Transparencies," 2013, accompanies the collection. Also included are two signed copies of David Carrasco and Jane Marie Swanberg, Waiting for the Dawn: Mircea Eliade in Perspective, 1985, illustrated with a number of Desmond's early MMARP photographs.

David Carrasco, a historian of religions, and archaeologist Eduardo Matos Moctezuma, the founders of MMARP along with archaeoastronomer Anthony Aveni, met in 1976 via a letter of introduction from the archaeologist Pedro Armillas. At the time Carrasco was conducting field research in Mexico, while at the University of Chicago, and Matos was Director of Pre-Hispanic Monuments. Finding they had common interests they began to discuss the need to bring Mesoamerican materials into dynamic exchange with the academic discipline of the history of religions, and especially the history of religion and culture in the Americas. In its early years their project was known as the Mesoamerican Archive and Research Project (MARP). In 1984 Raphael Moses, a water rights attorney and member of the University of Colorado's board of regents, became interested in the project and agreed to help fund it; the project was subsequently renamed the Moses Mesoamerican Archive and Research Project (MMARP). The MMARP's intellectual mission is to organize and transmit new knowledge about the history of religion and society in Mesoamerica. Its educational program is modeled on the interdisciplinary work of the Templo Mayor Project in Mexico City guided by Eduardo Matos Moctezuma. MMARP is currently housed in the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology at Harvard University.

In 1982 Carrasco invited Matos Moctezuma to give a talk on the excavation of the Templo Mayor in Mexico City at the University of Colorado-Boulder. This is the first of the MMARP events documented in the collection. Later that year Mircea Eliade, the noted Romanian historian of religion from the University of Chicago whose ideas had influenced Carrasco and Matos Moctezuma, led a week-long multi-disciplinary symposium at Boulder. Lawrence Desmond, then a graduate student in anthropology and archaeology at Boulder, who was already making photographs for the MMARP Templo Mayor Archaeological Site Photo Archive, photographed these early events, thereby becoming the unofficial photographer for MMARP. He continued to document its activities until 1999.

Carrasco, Matos Moctezuma, Eliade, and his wife Christine, are prominently featured in the photographs. Other symposia participants pictured in the collection include Anthony Aveni, Elizabeth Boone, José Cuellar, Barbara Fash, Doris Heyden, Jaime Litvak King, Cecelia Klein, Leonardo López Luján, Charles K. Long, Phyllis Messenger, Raphael Moses, Henry B. Nicholson and Desmond himself. Most of the photographs were taken during the symposia and at symposia receptions and meals. Symposia speakers and participants are represented in individual images and in both posed and candid group portraits.

The photographic materials are black-and-white (negatives or gelatin silver prints), unless otherwise noted. The negatives and their corresponding contact prints are numbered 4-01 to 4-47 and were originally arranged sequentially in a single binder, the order of which has been retained.

Arrangement
Arranged chronologically by date of symposium.

Subjects - Names
Aveni, Anthony
Boone, Elizabeth Hill
Carrasco, David
Eliade, Christinel
Eliade, Mircea, 1907-1986
Fash, Barbara W., 1955
Heyden, Doris
Klein, Cecelia F.
Litvak King, Jaime
Long, Charles H.
López Luján, Leonardo
Matos Moctezuma, Eduardo
Moses, Raphael J., 1913
Nicholson, Henry B., (Henry B.)

Subjects - Corporate Bodies
Mesoamerican Archive and Research Project--Congresses.
Museo del Templo Mayor (Mexico City, Mexico).

Genres and Forms of Material
Color slides--Mexico--20th century
Contact prints -- United States -- 20th century
Gelatin silver negatives -- United States -- 20th century
Gelatin silver prints--United States--20th century
Group portraits--Mexico--20th century
Group portraits--United States--20th century
Panoramas--Mexico--20th century
Photographs, Original

Lawrence Gustave Desmond Moses Mesoamerican Archive and Research Project (MMARP) Photographs
University of Colorado, Boulder

Eduardo Matos, 1982

Scope and Content Note
35 mm negatives and corresponding contact sheets labeled 4-01 and 4-02.


Scope and Content Note
35 mm negatives and corresponding contact sheets labeled 4-01 to 4-08.

Prints

8 x 10 inch
Scope and Content Note
Nineteen prints; one wet stamped on verso: Photograph / by / Lawrence G. Desmond.

5 x 7 inch
Scope and Content Note

Mounted prints

2014.R.16
Box 3, Folder 2  
**Mircea Eliade**

**Scope and Content Note**
One 8 x 10 inch print on 14 x 11 inch mount of Eliade wearing a hat and seated with his legs crossed. Verso bears typewritten caption and the annotation: Photo and print by Lawrence G. Desmond.

Box 4  
**Exhibition prints**

**Scope and Content Note**
Seventeen prints 6 x 8 3/4 inches and smaller on mounts 20 x 15 inches. All are signed and dated on mount below image and have typewritten captions adhered to their versos. Two prints of Eliade are signed on the mount: Mircea Eliade / Colorado / May 1, 1985. The prints were exhibited at the 1985 MMARP symposium at the University of Colorado-Boulder.

**David Carasco and Eduardo Matos in hat shop**

**8 x 10 inch**

**Scope and Content Note**
Three 8 x 10 inch prints of Matos in various hats and one print of Matos and Carrasco in hats with dedications from both of them to Desmond written on the face of the print. Photographer's name, date and location written on versos of all prints.

Box 3, Folder 1  
**8 x 10 inch mounted print**

**Scope and Content Note**
One print on 14 x 11 inch mount of Matos and Carrasco in hats with dedications from both of them to Desmond written on the face of the print. Verso bears a typewritten caption dated 1983; the annotation: Photo and print by; and the blind stamp: Lawrence G. Desmond.

"Waiting for the Dawn: A Reception for Mircea Eliade," 1985

**Negatives and contact sheets**

**Scope and Content Note**
35 mm negatives and corresponding contact sheets labeled 4-09 to 4-12, including three copies of the 4-09 contact sheets and two copies of the 4-10 contact sheets.

**Prints**

**8 x 10 inch**

**Scope and Content Note**

Box 2, Folder 4  
**Duplicates**

**Scope and Content Note**
Twenty-eight 8 x 10 inch prints. Includes photographs from 1982.
Box 3, Folder 1  
**Mircea Eliade**  
Scope and Content Note  
One 8 x 10 inch print on 14 x 11 inch mount of Eliade seated, holding his pipe in one hand and gesturing with his other hand. Signed and dated on mount below image.

Box 5  
**Lawrence Desmond and Mircea Eliade viewing Desmond exhibition**  
Scope and Content Note  
One 8 x 9 1/4 inch color print on mount 15 x 15 1/4 inches. Annotation on verso: Lawrence Desmond and / Mircea Eliade. / Boulder, CO 1985 / "Viewing my photos" in exhibit at the University of Colorado. / Photographer not identified.

Box 6, Folder 3  
**David Carrasco and Jane Marie Swanberg, editors, Waiting for the Dawn: Mircea Eliade in Perspective**  
Scope and Content Note  
Two copies. The photographs included in this book were taken by Desmond at MMARP symposia. One copy is signed to Desmond by Mircea and Christinel Eliade. The second is signed to Desmond by both of the Eliades and both editors.

Box 6, Folder 2  
**Reception for Mircea and Christine Eliade**  
Scope and Content Note  
Three copies of typed program held on the occasion of the publication of Waiting for the Dawn.

Box 1, Folder 4  
**MMARP-Hale SC 1, 1983**  
Scope and Content Note  
Negative sheet 4-13. Images depict the MMARP office in the Hale Science Building at the University of Colorado, Boulder. Also included are views of and from Desmond’s apartment in Boulder.

Box 1, Folder 5  
**Litvak 1984, Aveni 1986, 1984-1986**  
Scope and Content Note  
Negative sheet 4-14. Includes Jaime Litvak King in Mexico City (UNAM) and Anthony Aveni in the MMARP offices.

Box 1, Folder 6  
Scope and Content Note  
The photographs are from either "The Imagination of Matter: Religion and Ecology in Mesoamerican Traditions" or Significations: Signs, Symbols, and Images in the Interpretation of Religion: Conversations with Charles H. Long."  
Negative sheet 4-15 and print 8 x 10 inch print group portrait of seminar participants. Includes typewritten identification key.

Box 1, Folder 7  
"Consultation on the Future of Aztec Studies: Center and Periphery in the Mexica World," 1987  
Scope and Content Note  
Negative sheets 4-16 to 4-18.

Box 1, Folder 8  
"Performance and Place: Aztec Centers, Aztec Actions," 1988  
Scope and Content Note  
Negative and contact sheets 4-19 to 4-22.
<table>
<thead>
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<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
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| Box 1, Folder 10 | "Tradition and Innovation in Aztec Society," 1991  
Scope and Content Note  
Negative sheets 4-31 to 4-38. |
| Box 1, Folder 11 | "Aztec Time and the Ceremonial Landscape," 1992  
Scope and Content Note  
Negative sheets 4-39 to 4-42. |
| Box 2, Folder 6 | Group portraits, 1985-1988  
Scope and Content Note  
Fourteen 8 x 10 inch prints, all dated on verso, four signed on verso and six with typewritten keys adhered to versos. |
| Box 1, Folder 9 | "Ceremonial Landscapes in Aztec Religion: Focusing on Specifics,"  
Scope and Content Note  
Held at the Templo Mayor Museum, Mexico City. Also includes images taken at the exhibition Herencia Recuperada, at the National Museum of Anthropology, Mexico City.  
Negative and contact sheets 4-23 to 4-29 and 4 x 5 inch negative 4-30. Also includes one 5 x 7 print from sheet 4-27; two 5 x 7 inch prints from sheet 4-29; and three 8 x 10 inch prints and two pieced panorama prints, one with typewritten key, from sheets 4-29 and 4-30. |
| Box 1, Folder 14 | Templo Mayor  
Scope and Content Note  
Nineteen 35 mm color slides. |
| Box 1, Folder 12 | The Classic Heritage: From Teotihuacan to the Templo Mayor [?], 1994  
Scope and Content Note  
The MMARP website lists this conference as the first of two conferences having taken place in 1995.  
Negative and contact sheets 4-43 to 4-45. |
| Box 1, Folder 13 | "Reimagining Mesoamerica: Archive, Community, and Interpretation," 1999  
Negatives  
Scope and Content Note  
Color negative sheets 4-46 and 4-47 (Kodak Gold 100-6). |
| Flatfile 1** | Poster  
Scope and Content Note  
Text on poster reads: Reimagining Mesoamerica: Archive, Community, and Interpretation / 15th Anniversary of the Moses Mesoamerican Archive and Research Project / April 8-11, 1999 Princeton University. The poster reproduces the panorama of the 1989 symposium participants wearing 3-D glasses (used for Desmond's talk on the stereographs of Augustus and Alice Dixon Le Plongeon) at the Templo Mayor Museum, Mexico City. |