Finding aid for the David Piper papers relating to British museums and art institutions, 1916-1990

Finding aid prepared by Kirstin Hammer.
Descriptive Summary

Title: David Piper papers relating to British museums and art institutions

Date (inclusive): 1916-1990

Number: 960020

Creator/Collector: Piper, David

Physical Description: 3.0 linear feet

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

Abstract: British museum director, art historian, and novelist (1918-1990). These papers reflect Piper's tenure as director of the National Portrait Gallery (1964-1967), the Fitzwilliam Museum (1967-1973), and the Ashmolean Museum (1973-1985), as well as his position on various boards and institutions. The collection consists of letters, notes, essays, reports, clippings, and some single journal issues and promotional material concerning the arts in Britain.

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
British museum director, art historian, and novelist (1918-1990).

Access
Open for use by qualified researchers.

Publication Rights
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Preferred Citation

http://hdl.handle.net/10020/cifa960020

Acquisition Information
Acquired in 1996.

Scope and Content of Collection
The David Piper Papers relate to Piper's tenure as director of the National Portrait Gallery (1964-1967), the Fitzwilliam Museum (1967-1973), and the Ashmolean Museum (1973-1985), as well as his position on various boards and institutions, such as the Royal Fine Art Commission and the Leeds Castle Foundation. The papers consist of letters, notes, essays, reports, clippings, and some single journal issues and promotional material concerning the arts in Britain. Incorporated are the miscellaneous papers of Isherwood Kay, Keeper at the National Gallery from 1933-1938. Dating mostly from 1924-1938, these papers include correspondence with members of the art world, including Collins Baker, Kenneth Clark, Charles Holmes, Ellis Waterhouse, Martin Davies, and others, as well as additional ephemera and a small collection of art postcards. Piper's literary manuscripts are not included.

Arrangement note
Series I. Correspondence, ca. 1916-1985

Physical Description: 17.0 folder(s)

Scope and Content Note

Includes letters to and from art historians and British institutions concerning works of art, exhibitions, building programs, and general news. The correspondence is primarily professional although some letters have a personal tone. Collins Baker, the Burlington Fine Arts Club, Kenneth Clark, the Fitzwilliam Museum, Charles Holmes, Leeds Castle, and the Royal Fine Art Commission are among the most frequent correspondents or subjects of correspondence. The end of the series includes an alphabetical grouping of miscellaneous correspondence.

Box 1, Folder 1  Baker, Collins, ca. 1916-1935
Box 1, Folder 2  Baker, Collins, ca. 1936-1938
Box 1, Folder 3  Burlington Fine Arts Club, ca. 1925-1928
Box 1, Folder 4  Christ's College, Cambridge, ca. 1966-1968
Box 1, Folder 5  Clark, Kenneth, ca. 1930-1938
Box 1, Folder 6  Cooper's and Lybrand/National Heritage, ca. 1985
Box 1, Folder 7  Fitzwilliam, ca. 1972
Box 1, Folder 8  Holmes, Charles, ca. 1927-1934
Box 1, Folder 9  Leeds Castle, 1986-1989
Box 1, Folder 10  Royal Fine Art Commission, ca. 1970-1984
Box 1, Folder 11  Miscellaneous A-D
Box 1, Folder 12  Miscellaneous E-H
Box 1, Folder 13  Miscellaneous I-L
Box 1, Folder 14  Miscellaneous M-P
Box 1, Folder 15  Miscellaneous Q-T
Box 1, Folder 16  Miscellaneous U-Z
Box 1, Folder 17  Unidentified Correspondence

Series II. Notes and writings, ca. 1928-1989

Physical Description: 6.0 folder(s)

Scope and Content Note

Arranged alphabetically by topic and concerning primarily artists, such as Diego Velazquez, and art institutions, including the Leeds Castle Foundation. Primarily drafts of essays and reports, with several biographical entries in typescript and manuscript form. The end of the series includes miscellaneous writings arranged by date.

Box 1, Folder 18  Fitzwilliam
Box 1, Folder 19  Leeds Castle Foundation, ca. 1989
Box 2, Folder 1   Velazquez
Box 2, Folder 2   Waterhouse, Ellis, ca. 1972-1989
Box 2, Folder 3   Miscellaneous, 1928-1986
Box 2, Folder 4   Miscellaneous, n.d.

Series III. Ephemera, ca. 1925-1989

Physical Description: 2.0 and 1/2 boxes

Scope and Content Note

The largest part of the collection, this series contains ephemera related to British arts institutions, including the Leeds Castle Foundation, the Victoria and Albert Museum, and a large section on the Royal Fine Art Commission, as well as an obituary file.

Box 2, Folder 5   Burlington 1925
Box 2, Folder 6   Christ's College, Cambridge, ca. 1959
Box 2, Folder 7   Cooper's and Lybrand/ National Heritage
Box 2, Folder 8   Fitzwilliam, 1968-1969
Box 2, Folder 9   Leeds Castle Foundation Publications, ca. 1976-1983
Box 2, Folder 10  Obituaries
Box 3, Folder 1   Oxbridge, ca. 1970-1986
Box 3, Folder 2  Parnham House, ca. 1982-1986
Box 3, Folder 3  Royal Fine Art Commission, 1978
Box 3, Folder 4  Royal Fine Art Commission, 1979
Box 3, Folder 5  Royal Fine Art Commission, 1980
Box 3, Folder 6  Royal Fine Art Commission, 1981
Box 3, Folder 7  Royal Fine Art Commission, 1982
Box 3, Folder 8  Royal Fine Art Commission, 1983
Box 3, Folder 9  Royal Fine Art Commission, 1984
Box 3, Folder 10  Royal Fine Art Commission, 1984
Box 3, Folder 11  Royal Fine Art Commission, 1985
Box 3, Folder 12  Royal Fine Art Commission, n.d.
Box 3, Folder 13  Tradescant Trust, 1984-1985
Box 4, Folder 1  Victoria and Albert, 1987-1989
Box 4, Folder 2  Waterhouse, Ellis
Box 4, Folder 3  Watts Gallery, ca. 1985-1986
Box 4, Folder 4  Miscellaneous Ephemera

Series IV. Clippings, ca. 1926-1990

Physical Description: 10.0 folder(s)
Scope and Content Note
Miscellaneous clippings arranged by date and concerning institutions, exhibitions, art trends, collecting, and theft. Also included are two folders devoted to "Oxbridge" and the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Box 4, Folder 5  Oxbridge, ca. 1966-1985
Box 4, Folder 6  Victoria and Albert Museum, ca. 1987-1989
Box 4, Folder 7  Victoria and Albert Museum, n.d.
Box 4, Folder 8  Miscellaneous Clippings, 1926-1938
Box 4, Folder 9  Miscellaneous Clippings, ca. 1966-1979
Box 4, Folder 10  Miscellaneous Clippings, ca. 1980-1987
Box 4, Folder 11  Miscellaneous Clippings, ca. 1988
Box 4, Folder 12  Miscellaneous Clippings, ca. 1989
Box 4, Folder 13  Miscellaneous Clippings, ca. 1990
Box 4, Folder 14  Miscellaneous Clippings, n.d.

Series V. Art postcards, n.d.

Physical Description: 1.0 box(es)
Scope and Content Note
Early postcards depicting works of art. In original alphabetical order arranged by artist, collection, region, or subject, possibly assembled by Isherwood Kay.

Box 5  Postcards, arranged alphabetically by artist, institution, region or subject