The Margaret N. Palmer Collection of Pacificulture Foundation Papers

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Note
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The Margaret N. Palmer Collection of the Pacificulture Foundation Papers

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Title: The Margaret N. Palmer Collection of the Pacificulture Foundation Papers
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Repository: Pasadena Museum of History
Research Library and Archives
470 West Walnut Street
Pasadena, California 91103-3594
Languages: English

Acquisition Information:
Personal and professional papers created and collected by Margaret N. Palmer were gifted to the Pasadena Museum of History by her family.

Accruals:
Additional materials may be added to this collection as donations are received.

Access:
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Preferred Citation:

Biography/Organization History

Biographical Note:
Margaret Ann Niedringhaus (Peg Palmer) was born at her family home in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on September 6, 1915. Peg attended Thurston School and studied art at Carnegie Tech. She later specialized in Art History and Design at Parsons in New York. Upon completion Peg worked for Bulletin Index, a women’s magazine in Pittsburgh. She married Everett Arthur Palmer, Jr. in 1941 and started a family shortly thereafter. In 1946, they moved to Pasadena, California and settled into the Linda Vista area where they enjoyed an active life within the community.

Peg inherited a love for the arts and expressed an unending commitment to community-building projects. She played an instrumental role in developing art councils and civic committees throughout the San Gabriel Valley. She is, perhaps, most recognized for her efforts to help establish the Pacificulture Foundation,(PCF) now the Pacific Asia Museum, (PAM) in Pasadena, California. Peg Palmer, and her fellow board members, created an institution that promoted mutual respect and understanding through art expressions from Asia and the Pacific Islands. She believed that an appreciation of foreign cultures could serve as a creative force to forming a more harmonious world. Peg Palmer is a founding board member of the Pacificulture Foundation and served as president from 1970 to 1971.

Historical Note:
The Pacific Asia Museum has served the city of Pasadena since 1971 as a vibrant center for learning and remains devoted to the arts and culture of Asia and the Pacific Islands. Its origins date to 1960, when a progressive group of southern California residents sought to promote intellectual understanding through the preservation of art and culture. The group adopted the name Pacificulture Foundation to represent the flow of ideas and influences across the Pacific. They prospered under creative leaders and sponsors who hosted diverse exhibitions and programs in various venues throughout Pasadena. As PCF advanced, they looked to Grace Nicholson’s iconic Chinese imperial palace-style building for a permanent residence. The City of Pasadena acquired the building in 1943 under the condition that it remains a center for culture and education. The proviso made the Pacificulture Foundation an ideal candidate for residency. After much petitioning, the City of...
Pasadena offered PCF a lease. On the evening of October 28, 1971 the director and Board of Trustees officially dedicated the Grace Nicholson Building to the Pacificulture Foundation and Asia Museum. In 1979, the Pacificulture Foundation changed its name to the Pacific Asia Museum.

The traditions set forth by the founding members established the Pacific Asia Museum as an extraordinary place for scholarship, diplomacy and art. It remains committed to exploring the arts and celebrating cultural traditions of Asia and the Pacific Islands through dynamic exhibitions, seminars, and festivals.

Abstract/Scope and Content:
The Margaret N. Palmer Collection of Pacificulture Foundation Papers covers a range of institutional records and activities during the formative years of the Pacificulture Foundation. The bulk of the collection dates from the 1960 through the 1970s. It consists of administrative records, correspondence, publicity, exhibition brochures, photographs, and ephemera. A complementary collection is housed at the Pacific Asia Museum.

Key to Arrangement/Container List:
The collection consists of material created and collected by Margaret N. Palmer and it is organized according to an organizational chart for the Pacificulture Foundation. It is divided into five series with a sub-series of relevant dependent entities. The collection arrangement is listed below:

Series:                                                                                     Box

Margaret N. Palmer (Peg Palmer), 195- - 2011                                              1
History, 1955-1970s                                                                         2
Administration - Pacificulture Foundation, 1960s-1990s                                    3-9
  Board of Directors
  Grace Nicholson Building
  Development
  Membership
  Volunteers
  Communications
  Publicity

Humanities - Pacificulture, 1960s-1980s                                                   10-12
  Library
  Council & Committees
  Programs
  Tours

Arts - Asia Museum, 1960s-1980s                                                           13
  Exhibitions
  Acquisitions & Operations

Personal Names:
Margaret N. Palmer (Peg Palmer)
Lennox Tierney
David Kamansky
Sofia Adamson
Nancy Wheat
Jae Carmichael
Grace Nicholson
Sujata & Asoka
Elise Grilli
John Crowley

Corporate Names:
Pacificulture Foundation
Pacific Asia Museum
Grace Nicholson Building
Pasadena Sister City
Pasadena Art Museum
Series I:
Margaret N. Palmer (Peg Palmer) 1951-2001
Physical Description: Box 1
Scope and Content Note
The Peg Palmer series represents a range of biographical material for Margaret N. Niedringhaus. She is a founding director of the Pacificulture Foundation and served as president from 1970-1971.

Folder 1 Handwritten notes/research
Folder 2 Handwritten notes/research
Folder 3 Correspondence - Pacific Asia Museum
Folder 4 Correspondence - Pacific Asia Museum
Folder 5 Publicity
Folder 6 Awards & Recognition
Folder 7 Pacific Asia Museum, miscellaneous
Folder 8 Precepts from the Pacific
Folder 9 Pasadena Sister City, Mishima, Japan
Folder 10 Pasadena Art Museum
Folder 11 Friendly House
Folder 12 Pasadena Arts Council
Folder 13 Far Eastern Art Council
Folder 14 "Mima’s Spirituality" (Peg Palmer)
Folder 15 Oriental Art Works
Folder 16 PTA Cultural Arts Program
Folder 17 Assistance League
Folder 18 Art Alliance
Folder 19 Pasadena Centennial Committee
Folder 20 Photographs
Folder 21 Resumes

Series II:
History 1955-1970s
Physical Description: Box 2
Scope and Content Note
The History series contains videos, correspondence, newsletters, research notes, photographs, and ephemera documenting the history of the Pacificulture Foundation and its founding directors. Highlights include video recordings of Lennox Tierney, David Kamansky, John Crowley, Peg Palmer, Sofia Adamson, and Nancy Wheat. Video transcripts are housed at the Pacific Asia Museum.

Folder 1 Pacificulture Foundation & Pacificulture-Asia Museum
Folder 2 Pacificulture Foundation & Pacificulture-Asia Museum
Folder 3 Correspondence - Pacificulture Foundation, 1960s-70s
Folder 4 Founding Director - Sofia Adamson
Folder 5 Founding Director - Jae Carmichael
Folder 6 Founding Director - Lennox Tierney
Folder 7 Director - David Kamansky
Folder 8 Founding Directors - Photographs
Folder 9 Pacificulture Foundation & Pacificulture-Asia Museum
Folder 10 Pacificulture Foundation & Pacificulture-Asia Museum
Series II: History 1955-1970

The Margaret N. Palmer Collection of Pacificulture Foundation Papers

Series III: Administration, Pacificulture Foundation 1960s-1990s

Physical Description: Box 3-9

Scope and Content Note

Administration represents a range of institutional activities during the formative years of the Pacificulture Foundation/Pacific Asia Museum. Highlights include records for human resources and minutes for the Board of Directors.

Subseries:

Board of Directors

Box 3, Folder 1 Board of Directors, Records, 1960-1970
Folder 2 Correspondence
Folder 3 Board of Trustees
Folder 4 Board Meeting Minutes, 1970-1974
Folder 5 Board Meeting Minutes, 1975-1976
Folder 6 Board Meeting Minutes, 1977-1979
Folder 7 Board Meeting Minutes, 1980-1981
Folder 8 Board Meeting Minutes, 1982
Folder 9 Board Meeting Minutes, 1983
Folder 10 Board Meeting Minutes, 1984
Folder 11 Board Meeting Minutes, 1984-1985
Folder 12 Board Meeting Minutes, 1986
Box 4, Folder 1 Board Meeting Minutes, 1987
Folder 2 Board Meeting Minutes, 1988
Folder 3 Board Meeting Minutes, 1989-1990
Folder 4 Board Meeting Minutes, 1991-
Folder 5 Memorandums, 1970s-1990s
Folder 6 Publicity

Subseries:


Box 4, Folder 7 History
Folder 8 Photographs
Folder 9 Publicity, 1960s-1990s
Folder 10 Acquisition - Publicity
Folder 11 Acquisition - Correspondence, 1960s
Folder 12 Correspondence - City of Pasadena, 1960-1970s
Folder 13 Correspondence - Grace Nicholson Building, 1970s
Folder 14 Handwritten notes on acquisition, by Peg Palmer, 1960-70s
Folder 15 Acquisition Records, 1960s
Box 5, Folder 1 Endorsement, 1969-1970
Folder 2 Lease Documents, 1970s
Folder 3 Lease Agreement, 1970s
Folder 4 Dedication - Photographs, 1971
Folder 5 Courtyard
Folder 6 Publicity - Courtyard
Folder 7 National Register of Historical Places
Folder 8  Floor Plan
Folder 9  Appraisal of 46 North Los Robles Avenue
Folder 10 Maintenance & Restoration, 1970s
Folder 11 Correspondence—Restoration & Maintenance
Folder 12 Building Prints
Folder 13 Security, 1970s
Folder 14 Insurance

Subseries:
Human Resources, 1970s-1980s

Box 5, Folder 15  Organizational Chart, 1970s-1980s
Folder 16  Employee Expectations & Responsibilities, 1970s
Folder 17  Personnel, 1970s-1980s
Folder 18  Schedules & Compensation, 1970s
Folder 19  Resumes, 1970s
Folder 20  Resignation, 1970s
Folder 21  Terminations, 1979
Folder 22  By-laws, 1960-1970
Folder 23  By-laws, 1960-1970

Subseries:
Administration-Financial, 1960s-1990s

Box 6, Folder 1  Income & Expenses, 1971-1977
Folder 2  Income & Expenses, 1980s
Folder 3  Income & Expenses, 1980s
Folder 4  Budget, 1964-1979
Folder 5  Assets & Liabilities—PCF, prepared by David McFadden, 1970
Folder 6  Assets & Liabilities, 1980s
Folder 7  Assets & Liabilities, 1980s
Folder 8  Accounts Payable, 1960s-1970s
Folder 9  Receipts & Invoices, 1960-1970s
Folder 10  Balance Sheets—PCF, 1970s-1980s

Subseries:
Development

Box 6, Folder 11  Correspondence, 1970s
Folder 12  Correspondence, 1970s
Folder 13  Five-Year Plan, 1978
Folder 14  Five-Year Plan, 1987
Folder 15  Fundraising, 1960s
Box 7, Folder 1  Grants, 1960s-1970s
Folder 2  Gifts, 1970s
Folder 3  Donors, 1960s
Folder 4  National Endowment for the Humanities, 1970s
Folder 5  Collectors Gallery, 1970s
Folder 6  Collectors Gallery—Financial History, 1970s
Folder 7  Collectors Gallery—Correspondence, 1960s-1970s
Folder 8  Collectors Gallery—Correspondence, 1970s-1980s
Folder 9  Collectors Gallery—Publicity
Folder 10  Collectors Gallery—Photographs
Folder 11  Rentals
Folder 12  Volunteers
Series III: Administration, Pacificulture Foundation 1960s-1990s
Subseries: Communications, 1960s-1990s

Subseries:
Communications, 1960s-1990s

Box 7, Folder 13  Correspondence, 1960-1970
Folder 14  Correspondence, 1960-1970
Folder 15  Correspondence, 1970s
Folder 16  Correspondence, 1980s-1990s
Folder 17  Newsletters, 1960-1970s
Box 8, Folder 1  Newsletters, 1981-1987
Folder 2  Newsletters, 1988-1991
Folder 3  Newsletters, 1980s
Folder 4  Mail Services, 1970s
Folder 5  Mailing lists, 1972 (folder 1 of 2)
Folder 6  Mailing lists, 1972 (folder 2 of 2)

Subseries:
Administration—Publicity, 1960s-1980s

Box 8, Folder 7  Press Releases, 1960s-1970s
Folder 8  Newspaper media, 1960s
Folder 9  Newspaper & radio media, 1970s
Folder 10  Newspaper media, 1980s
Folder 11  Correspondence, 1970s
Folder 12  Miscellaneous
Folder 13  Awards & Recognition, 1970s
Folder 14  Awards & Recognition, Phoenix Award
Folder 15  Photographs
Folder 16  Templates

Subseries:
Membership, 1960s-1970s

Box 9, Folder 1  Member Lists, 1960-1974
Folder 2  Dues, 1960s
Folder 3  Brochures
Folder 4  Correspondence, 1960-1970
Folder 5  Friends
Folder 6  Friends—Correspondence, 1960s-1970s
Cards  "Original Pacificulture Foundation Membership list"
Envelope  Interest Quiz
Bags  Business contacts

Series IV:
Humanities 1960s-1980s

Physical Description: Boxes 10-12
Scope and Content Note
Humanities represent the various groups, councils, and programs of the Pacificulture Foundation/Pacific Asia Museum. The series is organized into categories according to the organizational chart for the PCF.

Subseries:
Councils & Committees, 1970s-1980s

Box 10, Folder 1  Library
Folder 2  Presidents, 1970
### Series IV: Humanities 1960s-1980s
### Subseries: Councils & Committees, 1970s-1980s

**The Margaret N. Palmer Collection of Pacificulture Foundation Papers**

| Folder 4 | Docent Council, education & training, 1980s |
| Binder  | Docent Council, training 1975 |
| Folder 5 | Docent Council, 1970s |
| Folder 6 | Docent Council, 1970s-1980s |
| Folder 7 | Docent Council, 1980s |
| Folder 8 | Docent Council—Correspondence, 1975-1985 |
| Folder 9 | Men's Council, 1975-1980 |
| Folder 10 | Ethnic Arts Council, 1978 |
| Folder 11 | Service Council, 1970s-1980s |
| Folder 12 | Culinary Arts Council, 1970s-1980s |
| Folder 13 | Philippine Arts Council, 1970s |
| Folder 14 | Himalayan Arts Council, 1970s |
| Box 11, Folder 1 | Funding Committee, 1975 |
| Folder 2 | Nominating Committee, 1970s |
| Folder 3 | Exhibition Committee, 1974-1975 |
| Folder 4 | Advisory Council, 1970s |
| Folder 5 | Asian Arts Council, 1978 |
| Folder 6 | Thai Arts Council, 1988 |
| Folder 7 | Japan Arts Council, 1970s |
| Folder 8 | Indonesia Arts Council, 1978-1988 |
| Folder 9 | Pacific Islands Arts Council |
| Folder 10 | Pakistan Arts Council, 1991 |
| Folder 11 | Principal Committees, 1981-1986 |

### Subseries:
**Programs, 1960s-1980s**

| Box 11, Folder 12 | Calendar of Events, 1960s-1970s |
| Folder 13 | Correspondence, 1965-1970 |
| Folder 14 | Correspondence, 1970 |
| Folder 15 | Programs—miscellaneous, 1960-1970 |
| Folder 16 | Publicity—newspaper, 1970s |
| Folder 17 | Pacifcuture Festival, 1961 |
| Folder 18 | Pacifcuture Festival—Correspondence, 1961 |
| Folder 19 | Pacifcuture Festival—Correspondence, 1961 |
| Folder 20 | Pacifcuture Festival—Photographs |
| Folder 21 | Pacifcuture Festival—Publicity |
| Folder 22 | Open House—Correspondence, 1970 |
| Folder 23 | Opening Celebration, 1971 |
| Folder 24 | 50th Anniversary of Grace Nicholson Building, 1976 |
| Box 12, Folder 1 | Festival of the Autumn Moon—Publicity |
| Folder 2 | Tibet/Nepal, 1970s |
| Folder 3 | Hawaii, 1960s |
| Folder 4 | Persia/Turkey, 1970s |
| Folder 5 | Japan, 1970s |
| Folder 6 | Viet Nam, 1963 |
| Folder 7 | Korea, 1970s |
| Folder 8 | China, 1960s-1970s |
| Folder 9 | Philippines, 1970s |
| Folder 10 | New Guinea, 1978 |
| Folder 11 | Indonesia, 1970s |
| Folder 12 | India, 1970s |
| Folder 13 | India—Sujata & Asoka, 1960s |
| Folder 14 | India—Sujata & Asoka, publicity & correspondence |
Series IV: Humanities 1960s-1980s
Subseries: Programs, 1960s-1980s

Folder 15  The Theatre Company, 1970s
Folder 16  Travel, 1970s
Folder 17  Travel, 1980s
Folder 18  Travel—Correspondence, 1970s
Folder 19  Travel—Publicity, 1970s
Folder 20  Travel—China-Tibet 1983—Photographs
Folder 21  Education, 1960s-1970s
Folder 22  Education—Publicity, 1970s
Folder 23  Programs—Photographs, 1960s
Folder 24  Programs—Photographs, 1970s
Folder 25  Programs—Photographs, 1980s-1990s
Folder 26  Programs—Photographs

Series V: Arts 1960s-1980s

Physical Description: Box 13
Scope and Content Note
Arts represent the exhibitions, acquisitions, and collections of the Asia Museum. Highlights include lists of exhibition schedules and lending institutions.

Subseries:
Exhibitions, 1960s-1980s

Box 13, Folder 1  General Exhibitions, 1970s
Folder 2  General Exhibitions
Folder 3  Auctions, 1960s-1970s
Folder 4  Bhutan, 1990-1991
Folder 5  Captain Cook, 1978
Folder 6  Captain Cook—Publicity, 1978
Folder 7  China, 1970s
Folder 8  Han & T’ang Murals, 1977
Folder 9  Han & T’ang Murals—Correspondence
Folder 10  Han & T’ang Murals—Publicity
Folder 11  Hong Kong, 1972
Folder 12  India, 1970s
Folder 13  Indonesia, 1970s
Folder 14  Japan, 1970s
Folder 15  Korea, 1960s-1970s
Folder 16  Pasadena Society of Artists, 1970s
Folder 17  Philippines, 1970s
Folder 18  Publicity, 1980s

Subseries:
Acquisitions & Operations

Box 13, Folder 19  Acquisitions & Appraisal, 1985
Folder 20  Loan Receipts, 1970s
Folder 21  Operations & Financial Statements, 1970s
Folder 22  Netsuke theft, 1983
Folder 23  Postcards
Folder 24  Elise Grilli Collection, 1960s
Folder 25  Elise Grilli Collection, 1960s
Folder 26  Elise Grilli Collection—Correspondence, 1960s