George Phillips Sweepiana Collection

An Inventory of Holdings at the Special Collections & University Archives: Finding Aid Database

Collection Description/Finding Aid prepared by Jennifer Hollander.
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Special Collections & University Archives: Finding Aid Database06/09/2008
5500 Campanile Dr. MC 8050
San Diego, CA, 92182-8050
URL: http://hobbit.sdsu.edu/archon
Email: scref@rohan.sdsu.edu
Phone: 619-594-6791
Fax: 619-594-0466
Overview of the Collection

**Repository:** Special Collections & University Archives: Finding Aid Database
5500 Campanile Dr. MC 8050
San Diego, CA, 92182-8050
URL: http://hobbit.sdsu.edu/archon
Email: scref@rohan.sdsu.edu
Phone: 619-594-6791
Fax: 619-594-0466

**Creator:** Phillips, George

**Title:** George Phillips Sweepiana Collection

**Dates:** 1932-1963

**Quantity:** 47.05

**Abstract:** The George Phillips Sweepiana Collection is a comprehensive collection of materials related to chimney sweepers. The collection dates from approximately 1932-1963, with the bulk of the documents undated. It consists of both paper records and artifacts. The collection has a broad interdisciplinary focus and includes literature, history, art, and artifacts relating to chimney sweeping. It has been divided into five series: Research Files, Publications, Correspondence and Clippings, Personal Files, and Figuring and Artifact Collection.

**Identification:** MS-0186

**Language of Materials:** The papers are in: English

**Biographical Note**

Dr. George Phillips taught in the English department at San Diego State University from 1947-1973. A scholar of 18th and 19th Century British literature, Phillips was recognized as the world's authority on the history and literature of chimney sweeps. For over fifty years Phillips amassed a sizeable collection of books, prints, manuscripts, paintings, and memorabilia from all over New York and Europe.

Phillips also wrote a number of articles and books on chimney sweeps. Perhaps one of his best known works was "American Chimney Sweeps: An Historical Account of a Once Important Trade," which was illustrated by noted San Diego artist Everett Gee Jackson.

**Scope and Contents**

The George Phillips Sweepiana Collection is a comprehensive collection of materials related to chimney sweepers. The collection dates from approximately 1932-1963, with the bulk of the documents undated. It consists of both paper records and artifacts. The collection has a broad interdisciplinary focus and includes literature, history, art, and artifacts relating to chimney sweeping. It has been divided into five series: Research Files, Publications, Correspondence and Clippings, Personal Files, and Figuring and Artifact Collection.

The Research Files series document Phillips research on chimney sweeps. Records date from 1932-1960; most of the materials are undated. This series covers a wide range of subjects, including regulations, costumes and disguises, bills, advertisements, resource pamphlets, and periodicals. There is no filing order.

The Publications series documents Phillips own publications on sweepania. Records date from 1947-1963. Materials in this series include numerous articles on chimney sweeps published by Phillips, as well as two books he wrote on the subject. One of these books, "American Chimney Sweeps: An Historical Account of a Once Important Trade," was illustrated by San Diego artist Everett Gee Jackson. The materials are organized chronologically.

The Correspondence and Clippings series includes a miscellaneous collection of Phillip's correspondence and clippings. Materials date from 1943-1944, with most of the records undated. There is no filing order.

The Personal Files series include Phillips personal papers. The records in this collection are undated. Included in these papers are newspaper clippings, birthday cards, financial records, and photographs. There is no filing order.

The George Phillips Figurine and Artifact Collection series includes seven boxes of artifacts and a chimney sweeping device. The artifacts are all undated. This collection includes numerous figurines, incense burners, dolls, nutcrackers, plaques, ceramics, pins, coins, a sweep hat, and block print negatives used for Phillips publications. There is no filing order.

**Arrangement of Materials**

I. Research Files, 1932-1960
II. Publications, 1947-1963
III. Correspondence and Clippings, 1943-1944
IV. Personal Files
V. Figurine and Artifact Collection

Index Terms
This Collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

Genre/Form of Material:
Personal Papers
Publications

Personal Name:
Chimney sweeps -- History -- Sources
Phillips, George Lewis, 1909- -- Archives

Conditions Governing Access
This collection is open for research.

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Research Files 1932-1960

Publications 1947-1963

Correspondence and Clippings 1943-1944

Personal Files

Figurine and Artifact Collection