Descriptive Summary

Title: Arthur J. O. Anderson papers
Collection number: 2133
Contributing Institution: UCLA Library Special Collections
Language of Material: English
Physical Description: 58 linear ft.
Date: 1892-1998

Abstract: Arthur James Outram Anderson was a professor and researcher whose specializations included the American Southwest, Mesoamerica, and the Nahuatl language. Anderson’s most significant work that defined his professional career was his collaboration with colleague Charles E. Dibble, of the University of Utah, on their English translation of the Aztec language Florentine Codex. The collection consists of correspondence, manuscripts, publications, typescripts, scrapbooks, maps, photographs, slides, microfilm, negatives and notes related to his work as a professor, researcher, editor and translator.

Language of Materials: Majority in English, some materials in Spanish, Portuguese, German and Nahuatl.
Physical Location: Stored off-site at SRLF. Advance notice is required for access to the collection. Please contact the UCLA Library Special Collections Reference Desk for paging information.
Creator: Anderson, Arthur J.O.

Restrictions on Access
COLLECTION STORED OFF-SITE AT SRLF: Open for research. Advance notice required for access. Contact the UCLA Library Special Collections Reference Desk for paging information.

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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Arthur J.O. Anderson papers (Collection 2133). Library Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, UCLA.

UCLA Catalog Record ID
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Provenance/Source of Acquisition
This collection was a gift of Elizabeth F. Klotz, 1999.

Processing Information
This collection was originally processed in 2012 by Chris Salvano. Kelly Besser, with assistance from Megan Hahn Fraser, completed processing in 2013. This collection was minimally processed to facilitate access. Most materials are in their original folders and retain the creator's folder titles and organization.

Biography/History
Arthur James Outram Anderson was born in Phoenix, Arizona on November 26, 1907 and raised in Guadalajara, Mexico before he returned to the United States for his college and graduate education. He received a B.A. in English from San Diego State College in 1930, an M.A. in Anthropology from Claremont Colleges in 1931, and a Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Southern California in 1940.

During his professional career, Anderson worked as a professor and researcher largely in the field of Anthropology. He taught at Occidental College, Eastern New Mexico, and San Diego State University, among other schools, and served as director of the Roosevelt County Museum in New Mexico and curator of history and director of publications at the Museum of New Mexico in Santa Fe. His specializations included the American Southwest, Mesoamerica, and the Nahuatl language.

The most significant work that defined his professional career was Anderson’s collaboration with colleague Charles E. Dibble, of the University of Utah, on their English translation of the Aztec language Florentine Codex. The Florentine Codex is a 16th century Nahuatl language document written by Fray Bernardino de Sahagun, a Spanish missionary who documented contemporary Aztec life in conquest-era Mexico. Sahagun’s work, also known by the title Historia general de las cosas de Nueva España, was drafted between the years 1545 and 1590 and documented Aztec rituals, customs, language, and society during the Spanish conquest of Mexico.
Anderson and Dibble were the first anthropologists to translate and publish the primary resource codex from Nahuatl to English, a major translation project that spanned more than 30 years, from 1948-1982. In recognition of their achievement, the President of Mexico conferred upon them, the Order of the Aztec Eagle, with rank of Commander in 1981 and then in 1984, the King of Spain conferred upon them, the Order of Isabel la Católica, with the rank of Knight Commander.

Anderson’s other major publications include:


In addition to Anderson’s collaboration with Charles Dibble, his bibliography includes joint publications with James Lockhart, Frances Berdan, Susan Schroeder, Barry Sell, Wayne Ruwet, Spencer Rogers and Thelma D. Sullivan. When Sullivan died, leaving her translation of Sahagun’s Primeros Memoriales unfinished, Anderson completed it for her.

In addition, Anderson served as the Editor of *El Palacio*, the journal of The School of American Research and the Archaeological Society of New Mexico, from 1947-1957, and also served as the Associate Editor of the New Mexico Historical Review from 1946-1957.

In 1975 Anderson retired as professor emeritus from San Diego State University, where he served as a professor since 1961, and died on June 3, 1996.

**Scope and Content**
The collection consists of correspondence, manuscripts, publications, typescripts, scrapbooks, maps, photographs, slides, microfilm, negatives and notes related to the career of Arthur J. O. Anderson. It includes materials related to Anderson's teaching and research on the Florentine Codex; Nahuatl language and grammar; Fray Bernardino de Sahagun; his service as the Editor of El Palacio and as the Associate Editor of the New Mexico Historical Review; monographs and serials from his research library; and material related to Anderson’s receipt of Mexico’s Order of the Aztec Eagle in 1981 and Spain’s Order of Isabel la Católica in 1984.

**Organization and Arrangement**
The collection maintains the creator's original order. Boxes 1-33 comprise Anderson’s personal papers and boxes 34-58 contain his research library.

**Box 1**

**Correspondence, Publications and Research Files. 1937-1991.**

**Scope and Content**
Box 2

**Publications. 1938-1984.**

**Scope and Content**

Box 3

**Publications. 1940-1969.**

**Scope and Content**
Copies of El Palacio, a review of the arts and sciences in the Southwest published by the School of American Research, the Museum of New Mexico, and the Archeological Society of New Mexico.

Box 4

**Publications and Research Files. 1946-1994.**

**Scope and Content**
Reprints of Anderson's articles from El Palacio. Copies of journals, magazines bibliographies, newsletters, catalogs and pamphlets. Sahagún research files including a copy of Charles Dibble's "The Nahuatization of Christianity."

Box 5

**Florentine Codex Index Cards. Undated.**

**Scope and Content**
Four boxes of Florentine Codex index cards which include Nahuatl language glossary with cross references.

Box 6

**Florentine Codex Research Binders. Undated.**

**Scope and Content**
Six binders of manuscript and typescript Florentine Codex translations.

Box 7

**Correspondence and Research Files. 1922-1986.**

**Scope and Content**
Nine folders containing manuscript and typescript of the Tlaxcala Actas (1986), including related materials from Frances Berdan and James Lockhart. Correspondence with the University of Utah Press regarding contracts and publication of Florentine Codex. Course materials and Nahuatl bibliographies. Two notebooks of Nahuatl vocabulary translations, grammar, and etymology descriptions. Two of Anderson's scrapbooks entitled "Articles and Pictures on or about Anything Egyptian (Ancient Egyptian)" and "Everything Ancient Except Egyptian."
Box 8  **Publications. 1971-1998.**

**Scope and Content**

Box 9  **Manuscripts and Typescripts. 1909-1980.**

**Scope and Content**

Box 10  **Publications. 1892-1993.**

**Scope and Content**
Books and other publications related to Prehispanic Mexico and translation of Aztec including the Codex Barbonicus and Anderson's "Temporary Foreword to the Florentine Codex, Books IV and V." Materials also include Anderson's annotated grammar books such as Carochi's Lengva Mexicana.

Box 11  **Florentine Codex. 1950-1970.**

**Scope and Content**
Complete set of Florentine Codex, translated from the Aztec into English with notes and illustrations by Anderson and Charles E. Dibble. This was Anderson's reference set with his annotations in the margins.

Box 12  **Manuscripts and Correspondence. 1949-1996.**

**Scope and Content**

Box 13  **Manuscripts and Research Files. 1934-1966.**

**Scope and Content**
Codex Chimalpahin manuscript. Syllabi and course readings from Anderson's doctoral work at USC, annotated copies of his Curriculum Vitae and a bound copy of his dissertation, "Eclipse Rituals and Procedures of North American Indians in Relation to Their Ceremonial Patterns, From the Point of View of Social Psychology." Research materials include a photocopy of a German language document on Aztecs and articles on Spanish Medicine.

Box 14  **Publications. 1924-1979.**

**Scope and Content**
Publications by Anderson and colleagues such as Charles Dibble. Journal articles and abstracts of papers. Copies of ECO, a bulletin from the Instituto Jalisciense de Antropologia e Historia. Programs and proceedings from The Southwest Conference.
Box 15  
**Course Notes, Bibliographies and Student Papers. circa 1920-1970.**  
**Scope and Content**  
Twelve small notebooks and two folders of Anderson’s course/lecture notes as a professor at San Diego State College. Two folders of American Southwest archaeology and ethnology notes for class. Anderson's Southwest culture bibliography. Anderson's class list for Sociology 150 Ethnography of Indians of American Southwest. Five student papers not returned to students in 1966. Copy of the Anales de Cuauh.

Box 16  
**Publications and Research Files. 1949-1980.**  
**Scope and Content**  

Box 17  
**Primeros Memoriales Research Files and Correspondence. circa 1980-1989.**  
**Scope and Content**  
Manuscripts, typescripts, correspondence and research notes related to The Primeros Memoriales of Fray Bernardino de Sahagun. Materials include a copy of the original Sahagun Primeros Memoriales document, Anderson's annotated drafts and a Sahagun sermon in English and Nahuatl.

Box 18  
**Research Files, Publications, Microfilm, Slides and Negatives. 1958-1970.**  
**Scope and Content**  

Research files include Anderson's notes on the Florentine Codex, Sahagun and the Xolotl Codex. Photostats from Charles Dibble on the Codex Borgia.

Publications include the following: Benjamin Keen's "Readings in Latin-American civilization: 1492 to the present," Manuscritos de America por Jesus Dominguez Bordona (Tomo IX), Dental Radiography and Photography, Prehispanic Indian Dentistry, "Historical notes relating to the Pre-Columbian amber trade from Chiapas, Mexico" and "Archaeology of the Funeral Mound Ocmulgee."

Box 19  
**Correspondence and Research Files. 1961-1994.**  
**Scope and Content**  
Research files on the Escalona sermons with related correspondence from Barry Sell and Stafford Poole. Research files on Codex Chimalpahin and related correspondence with Barry Sell. Research files on Sahagun and Sahagun’s sermons, Ayer manuscript and Resurrection sermon. Typescripts of “Aztec Wives” and "The Goddess Within." Materials also include a copy of the Codice en Cruz and photostats of Mayan calendars, Spanish-Maya dictionary and "Vocabulario en la lengua Maya."
Box 20  
**Correspondence and Research Files. 1903-1913, 1957-1997.**  
Scope and Content  

Box 21  
**Correspondence, Reprints and Photographs. 1956-1997.**  
Scope and Content  
Correspondence and newspaper clippings concerning Anderson and Charles Dibble's Order of the Aztec Eagle award and Anderson's Order of Isabel the Catholic from the Spanish government. Annotated reprints and offprints addressed to Anderson from his colleagues. Black and white photographs of Anderson and Mexico's Ambassador to the United Nations, Dr. Miguel Leon-Portilla at the San Diego State University Student Union Hall. File of publications, articles and newsletters about the Florentine Codex. Copies of Anderson's Curriculum Vitae. Cal State University Master's theses of Maria Nissley and Alfred Frank Velsaco, approved by Anderson. Bound copy of Montezuma opera by Roger Sessions with inscription to Anderson. Anderson's address book.

Box 22  
**Correspondence. 1953-1995.**  
Scope and Content  
Professional correspondence with colleagues and institutions including Charles Dibble, John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, The Del Amo Foundation, School of American Research, Comision de Intercambio Cultural entre Espana y los EEUU, San Diego State College, University of Utah and Susan Schroeder.

Box 23  
**Research Slides. 1958-1970.**  
Scope and Content  
Two slide cases of images from the Florentine Codex. One slide case of Peruvian museum work. One slide case of Bodley Manuscripts, American Museum of Natural History, Madrid, Egerton. One slide case of Pintura del Governador, Zuni, Hopi, Apache and Isleta Indians. One slide case of prints from British Museum including views of Athens and Rome.

Box 24  
**Index Cards. Undated.**  
Scope and Content  
Materials include handwritten research index cards, copies of cards from library catalogs and Anderson's address book.

Box 25  
**Florentine Codex Typescript. circa 1955-1971.**  
Scope and Content  
Sahagun's Florentine Codex typescript for Books 1-5, 7, 9 and 12. These documents are heavily annotated by Anderson. Materials also include Anderson's research notebooks from the British Museum, Biblioteca Nacional and Archivo Historico Nacional.

Box 26  
**Scrapbook and Typescript. 1951-1987.**  
Scope and Content  
Scrapbook of newspaper clippings, reviews, photographs of Anderson and Dibble and correspondence regarding the publication of Codex Florentine. Annotated Codex Florentine typescript.
Box 27  Typescripts, Photostats and Publications. 1921-1974.
  Scope and Content

Box 28  Manuscripts and Research Files. 1940-1987.
  Scope and Content
  Copy and manuscript of Juan de San Antonio's letter on "Texcoco Episodes." Exercicio Quotidiano manuscript and appendix. Copy of Ayer MS #1486 with Additions and Appendix. Materials also include early manuscript drafts, related correspondence, translations, articles, research notes and School of American Research Annual Reports.

Box 29  Correspondence, Typescripts and Research Files. 1953-1996.
  Scope and Content
  Correspondence and Sahagun research materials.

Box 30  Correspondence and Research Files. 1969-1994.
  Scope and Content
  Typescripts of Psalmodia Christiana Y Sermona in Nahuatl and English. Correspondence includes letters from Charles E. Dibble. Research files on Sahagun, Codex Florentine and Psalmodia.

Box 31  Slides, Negatives and Film. circa 1960s.
  Scope and Content
  One box of negatives and film related to Mexico and Sahagun. One slide case labeled "Mexican Codices. Sahagun, Spain."

Box 32  Morheme Map, Dictionary and Photostats. undated.
  Scope and Content

Box 33  Maps. undated.
  Scope and Content
  A map of ancient Mexico City, a map of Sahagun village, Spain and a color photograph of Aztec Lily (Sprekelia formosissima).

Box 34-35  Monographs.
  Scope and Content Note
  Materials from Anderson's library concerning pre-conquest Mexican history.

Box 36  Monographs.
  Scope and Content Note
  Materials from Anderson's library concerning Aztec history.
Box 37-40  **Monographs.**  
Scope and Content Note  
Materials from Anderson's library concerning the Spanish conquest of Mexico.

Box 41  **Monographs.**  
Scope and Content Note  
Materials from Anderson's library by Fray Bernardino de Sahagun.

Box 42-43  **Monographs.**  
Scope and Content Note  
Codices from Anderson's library.

Box 44  **Monographs.**  
Scope and Content Note  
Dictionaries, grammar and vocabulary books from Anderson's library.

Box 45  **Monographs.**  
Scope and Content Note  
Dictionaries from Anderson's library.

Box 46  **Monographs.**  
Scope and Content Note  
Manuscript and historical document bibliographies from Anderson's library.

Box 47  **Monographs.**  
Scope and Content Note  
Manuscript and historical document bibliographies, facsimiles of historical documents and materials concerning paleography from Anderson's library.

Box 48  **Monographs.**  
Scope and Content Note  
Materials from Anderson's library concerning Nahuatl philosophy, religion, politics and culture.

Box 49  **Monographs.**  
Scope and Content Note  
Materials from Anderson's library concerning theater and literature.

Box 50  **Monographs.**  
Scope and Content Note  
Materials from Anderson's library concerning spirituality, religion and medicine.

Box 51  **Monographs.**  
Scope and Content Note  
Materials from Anderson's library concerning art and architecture.

Box 52  **Monographs.**  
Scope and Content Note  
Materials from Anderson's library concerning literature, music and textiles.
Box 53-54  
**Monographs.**

**Scope and Content Note**
Materials from Anderson's library concerning Mexican anthropology and archaeology.

Box 55  
**Monographs.**

**Scope and Content Note**
Materials from Anderson's library concerning subjects such as Darwinism in Mexico, the history of the School of American Research, colonial mining communities and Guadalajara.

Box 56  
**Serials. 1963-1995.**

**Scope and Content Note**

Box 57  
**Serials. 1946-1986.**

**Scope and Content**

Box 58  
**Serials. 1938-1986.**

**Scope and Content**