Descriptive Summary

Title: William Armand Lessa papers

Date (inclusive): 1943-1985

Collection number: 1499

Creator: Lessa, William Armand.

Extent: 9 boxes (4.5 linear ft.)

Abstract: William Armand Lessa (1908-1997) was assigned to the postwar allied administration of Italy as a military government official administering towns and other population units. In 1947, he joined the UCLA Anthropology Department. He investigated comparative religion, myth and ritual, while doing field work in Oceania, China and Hawaii. The collection consists of papers relating to the postwar allied administration of Italy. Includes notes for and a copy of Lessa's book, Spearhead governatore: remembrances of the campaign in Italy (1985).

Language: Finding aid is written in English.

Language of the Material: Materials are in English.

Repository: University of California, Los Angeles. Library Special Collections.
Los Angeles, California 90095-1575

Physical location: Stored off-site at SRLF. Advance notice is required for access to the collection. Please contact UCLA Library Special Collections for paging information.

Restrictions on Access
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Provenance/Source of Acquisition

Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], William Armand Lessa papers (Collection 1499). UCLA Library Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, UCLA.

UCLA Catalog Record ID
UCLA Catalog Record ID: 1973123

Biography/History
Lessa was born in 1908; he received his Ph.D from the University of Chicago; joined the UCLA Anthropology Department in 1947; investigated comparative religion, myth and ritual, while doing field work in Oceania, China and Hawaii; books include An appraisal of constitutional typologies (1943), The ethnography of Ulithi Atoll (1950), and More tales from Ulithi Atoll: a content analysis (1980); Lessa retired in 1970; he died on October 14, 1997 in Los Angeles.

Scope and Content
Collection consists of papers relating to the postwar allied administration of Italy, in particular to Lessa's assignments in Italy as a military government official administering towns and other population units. Includes notes for and a copy of Lessa's book, Spearhead governatore: remembrances of the campaign in Italy (1985). Also contains documents, maps, memorabilia, publications, notes and accounts contributed by others, and postwar correspondence.

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library’s online public access catalog.

Subjects
Lessa, William Armand --Archives.
Allied Military Government.
University of California, Los Angeles. Dept. of Anthropology --Faculty --Archival resources.
Italy --History --Allied occupation, 1943-1947 --Archival resources.
Box 1, Folder 1  
*Spearhead Governatore: remembrances of the campaign in Italy.* Malibu: Undena Publications. 1985

Box 1, Folder 2  
Biographical data.

Box 1, Folder 3  
Contents pages for notebook now arranged in folders[?].

Box 1, Folder 4  
Prologo - first files of notes arranged according to chapters of book.

Box 1, Folder 5  
Algeria.

Box 1, Folder 6  
Cefalu.

Box 1, Folder 7  
Taranto.

Box 1, Folder 8  
Brindisi.

Box 1, Folder 9  
Foggia.

Box 1, Folder 10  
Cantalupo.

Box 1, Folder 11  
Forlì del Sannio.

Box 1, Folder 12  
Paglieta.

Box 1, Folder 13  
Fossacesia.

Box 1, Folder 14  
Loreto.

Box 1, Folder 15  
Ancona.

Box 1, Folder 16  
Senigallia.

Box 1, Folder 17  
Pesaro.

Box 1, Folder 18  
Santarcangelo (1 of 2).

Box 2, Folder 1  
Santarcangelo (2 of 2).

Box 2, Folder 2  
Rovigo.

Box 2, Folder 3  
Venezia.

Box 2, Folder 4  
Milano.

Box 2, Folder 5  
Epilogo.

Box 2, Folder 6  
Bronze star medal (Lessa), military insignia, shoulder patches, journals, etc.

Box 3, Folder 1  
Forms.

Box 3, Folder 2  
Law.

Box 3, Folder 3  
Orders (Army).

Box 3, Folder 4  
Receipts.

Box 3, Folder 5  
Service documents.

Box 3, Folder 6  
Songs.

Box 3, Folder 7  
Souvenirs from Mussolini's office.

Box 3, Folder 8  
Italy: postcards, photos, places and people.

Box 4, Folder 1  
Postwar correspondence (Mavis).

Box 4, Folder 2  
Postwar correspondence (recent).

Box 4, Folder 3  
Postwar correspondence.

Box 5, Folder 1  
Maps: detailed road maps of all of Italy.

General note

Sheets 1-30 in individual folders.

Box 6  
Publications, some from Allied Control Mission, some War Department manuals, etc.

Box 7, Folder 1  
Publications (cont'd), including dissertation, soldier's outline of Italian history, etc.

Box 7, Folder 2  
Court trials (Lessa).

Box 8, Folder 1  
Notes contributed by Lt. Col. Mavis (American), AMG.

Box 8, Folder 2  
Publications.

Box 9, Folder 1  
Notes contributed by Captain A. Riley (British).

Box 9, Folder 2  
Informed satiric publications about AMG by Captain Peter Clarke (British) [recalled by superior officers].

Box 9, Folder 3  
*Allied military administration of Italy 1943-1945.* London: HMSO. 1957

Physical Description: [Photocopy]

Box 9, Folder 4  
Photocopies of 'Notes of Master Francis Fletcher.'