Carobeth Laird papers

Finding aid prepared by Julianna Gil, Student Processing Assistant.
Special Collections & University Archives
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Descriptive Summary

Title: Carobeth Laird papers

Date (inclusive): 1927-1991

Collection Number: MS 109

Creator: Laird, Carobeth, 1895-1983

Extent: 8.04 linear feet (11 boxes, 2 flat file folders)

Repository: Rivera Library. Special Collections Department.

Riverside, CA 92517-5900

Abstract: This collection contains manuscripts, press clippings, and other material regarding the research of Carobeth Laird, a noted anthropologist, linguistics specialist, and ethnographer who studied the Chemehuevi people of southeastern California and western Arizona. Materials regarding her first husband, American linguist and ethnologist John Peabody Harrington, are also included.

Languages: The collection is in English.

Access

This collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

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Preferred Citation

[identification of item], [date if possible]. Carobeth Laird papers (MS 109). Special Collections & University Archives, University of California, Riverside.

Acquisition Information

Provenance unknown.

Processing History

Processed by Julianna Gil, Student Processing Assistant, 2018.

Processing of the Carobeth Laird papers was completed by undergraduate students from the University of California, Riverside as part of the Special Collections & University Archives Backlog Processing Project started in 2015. This project was funded by the UCR Library and administered by Jessica Geiser, Collections Management Librarian.

Biographical Note

Carobeth Laird was an accomplished anthropologist, linguistics specialist, and ethnographer who studied the Chemehuevi people of southeastern California and western Arizona.

Laird was born in Coleman, Texas on 20 July, 1895 and married noted linguist and ethnologist John Peabody Harrington in 1916. Together they conducted field work and ethnographic research on Native American tribes. Laird's experiences through six years of marriage to John Harrington led to her book *Encounter with an Angry God*, published in 1975.

After the dissolution of her marriage to Harrington, Carobeth married George Laird, her principal informant while studying the Chemehuevi tribe. Laird's work focused particularly on the language and mythology of the Chemehuevi, culminating in two books: *The Chemehuevis* (1976) and *Mirror and Pattern* (1984).

In her later years Laird lived in a nursing home and wrote a memoir, titled *Limbo* (1979), based on her experiences there and her view of time.

Carobeth Laird passed away on the fifth of August, 1983.

Collection Scope and Contents

This collection contains manuscripts, press clippings, and other material regarding the research of Carobeth Laird a noted anthropologist, linguistics specialist, and ethnographer who studied the Chemehuevi people of southeastern California and western Arizona. Material regarding her first husband, American linguist and ethnologist John Peabody Harrington, is also included.

Collection Arrangement

The collection is arranged into three series as follows:
Series 1: Literary works, 1970-1991; undated
Series 3: Personal, 1927-1987

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

Subjects
Harrington, John Peabody
Chemehuevi Indians
Ethnology

Genres and Forms of Materials
Clippings (information artifacts)
Correspondence
Manuscripts


Series Scope and Contents
This series consists of several literary works written by Carobeth Laird. The series includes manuscripts, galley proofs, publicity and correspondence, and graphic designs for the book's cover art.

Series Arrangement
The series is arranged into 7 sub-series as follows:
Sub-Series 1.1 Encounter with an Angry God, 1973-1984
Sub-Series 1.2 Limbo, 1978-1981; undated
Sub-Series 1.3 Mirror and Pattern, 1972-1984
Sub-Series 1.4 The Chemehuevis, 1970-1980; undated
Sub-Series 1.5 Short stories, 1973-1983; undated
Sub-Series 1.6 To Live a Thousand Years, undated
Sub-Series 1.7 Untitled manuscript, 1991

Sub-Series 1.1. Encounter with an Angry God 1973-1984

Box 1, Folder 1
Reproductions of materials from the Malki Museum Press 1977

Box 1, Folder 3
Correspondence regarding movie rights 1975-1981

Box 1, Folder 4, Flat-File-Folder 1
Galley proofs circa 1973

Box 1, Folder 5, Flat-File-Folder 2
Publicity 1975-1983

Box 1, Folder 6
Cover art and copies of pages 1975

Box 1, Folder 7 A & B
Manuscript 1973

Box 1, Folder 8
Original art and manuscript undated

Box 1, Folder 9
Page proof undated

Box 2, Folder 1
Literary Magazines featuring Encounter with an Angry God 1975-1976

Box 2, Folder 2
Proposal for Carobeth Laird interview with UCR about Encounter with an Angry God 1975

Box 2, Folder 3
Correspondence regarding development and publication 1975-1984

Box 2, Folder 4
Newspaper articles about Encounter with an Angry God 1975-1977

Sub-Series 1.2. Limbo 1978-1981; undated

Sub-Series 1.2. Limbo 1978-1981; undated

- Box 2, Folder 7: Correspondence regarding *Limbo* 1978-1981
- Box 2, Folder 8: Manuscript pages 112-200, includes revision notes undated
- Box 2, Folder 9: Manuscript pages I-XIII, and I-III undated

Sub-Series 1.3. *Mirror and Pattern* 1972-1984

- Box 2, Folder 10: Galley proofs 1984
- Box 2, Folder 11: Correspondence regarding *Mirror and Pattern* draft 1972-1983


- Box 3, Folder 2: Corrections undated
- Box 3, Folder 3: Articles regarding *The Chemehuevis* 1976-1978
- Box 3, Folder 4: Xeroxes: pages 191-324 circa 1976
- Box 3, Folder 5: Xeroxes: pages 69-105 circa 1976
- Box 3, Folder 6: Chapters 3-5 with corrections 1975
- Box 3, Folder 7: Appendix and endnotes with corrections undated
- Box 3, Folder 8: Manuscript and proofs of introduction undated
- Box 3, Folder 9: Typescript proofs with corrections undated
- Box 3, Folder 10: Early copies of glossary and a brief note on language 1975

Sub-Series 1.5. Short stories 1973-1983; undated

- Box 3, Folder 11: Articles regarding *The Journal of California Anthropology* undated
- Box 3, Folder 12: "Medicine Dance" for the Chemehuevi Newsletters undated
- Box 3, Folder 13: "Chrome Dome and the Lion" short story undated
- Box 3, Folder 14: "Myth, Ritual, Ethnic, Dogma" essay undated
- Box 3, Folder 15: Proofs for "When Animals were People" 1983
- Box 3, Folder 16: "The Linguist" draft, pages 1-2 and 147-194, and correspondence 1973; undated
- Box 3, Folder 17: "Introduction: To Live a Thousand Years" original copy undated
- Box 3, Folder 18: "Two Chemehuevi Teaching Myths" and "The Buffalo in Chemehuevi Folklore" undated
- Box 3, Folder 19: "Duck Magic" myth and "Intimations of Unity" article undated
- Box 3, Folder 20: Other works and general publishing 1975-1976; undated

Sub-Series 1.6. *To Live a Thousand Years* undated

- Box 4, Folder 1: Carobeth Laird's second binder on pages 181-309 undated

Sub-Series 1.7. Untitled manuscript 1991

- Box 4, Folder 2 A, B, & C: Parts I, II, and III (Anotated) 1991

Series 2. Lynn Laredo 1976-1987

Series Scope and Contents
The series contains notes, research material, and interview tapes related to Lynn Laredo's work on Carobeth's documentary. The series also includes personal notes and materials that pertained to her development and early research for the Carobeth documentary.

Series Arrangement
The series is arranged into two sub-series as follows:
Subseries 2.2. Personal materials, 1976-1985; undated


Box 4, Folder 3  
Notes regarding documentary 1982-1985
Box 4, Folder 4  
Lynn Laredo notes 1981-1987; undated
Box 4, Folder 5  
Lynn Laredo research material 1976-1983; undated
Box 4, Folder 6  
Fact sheets about Carobeth Laird and her documentary 1982
Box 4, Folder 7  
Receipts for materials used for the documentary 1979
Box 4, Folder 8  
Correspondence regarding permission for audiovisual tapes 1983
Box 5, Folder 1  
Correspondence regarding funds for documentary 1981-1982
Box 5, Folder 2  
Release forms for documentary 1982
Box 7  
Interview tapes 1982

Scope and Contents
This file contains six cassette tapes: 1. "7-30-82 Meeting on focus re Carobeth, Lynn, John, Judy, Rennie, Dree Allison, Keely" 2. "Lyn & Judy discuss Carobeth 5-4-82" 3. "Lynn & Judy discuss Carobeth 5-4-82" 4. "LAIRD" 5. "LAIRD; no pulses" 6. "Interviewer Ruth Miesser-B; Laird; 5-6-82"

Box 9  
Lynn Laredo interview of Carobeth Laird 1983; undated

Scope and Content
Two KCS20BR video tapes under Unit IV title; third Unit IV tape is a Memorex T-120 model.

Sub-Series 2.2. Personal materials 1976-1985; undated

Box 5, Folder 3  
Outline of visual tribute to Carobeth Laird undated
Box 5, Folder 4  
Notes on documentary logistics 1983-1984; undated
Box 5, Folder 5  
Outline of slides for Carobeth Laird project 1982-1985
Box 5, Folder 6  
Advanced copies and distribution list 1976; undated
Box 5, Folder 7  
John Rafter items 1982-1983

Scope and Contents
This file contains fylers, correspondence, photographs, and notes related to John Rafter, who worked along with Carobeth Laird in his research on analyzing a tortoise intaglio site located north of Highway 15, between Barstow and Yermo.

Box 5, Folder 8  
News and correspondence regarding ancient "Sun Daggers" 1982-1983
Box 5, Folder 9  
Lynn Laredo material 1977-1983

Scope and Contents
This file contains correspondence that was related to Carobeth Laird, as well as a certificate of appreciation.

Box 5, Folder 10  
Phone and address lists undated

Series 3. Personal 1927-1987

Series Scope and Contents
This series contains personal materials related to events in Carobeth Laird's life. Such events include her memorial service, her ex-husband John Peabody Harrington, and award certificates.

Series Arrangement
The series is arranged into five sub-series as follows:
Subseries 3.1. Memorial, 1983
Subseries 3.2. Awards and recognition, 1982-1983
Subseries 3.3. Publicity, 1975-1984
Subseries 3.4. Life events, 1973-1987
Subseries 3.5. John Peabody Harrington, 1927-1978; undated
**Scope and Content**

This file contains no. 2, 3, and 4 out of 5 Sony KCS20 video cassettes.

**Scope and Content**

This file contains 4 out of 4 Sony KCS20 video cassettes, one of them titled "Pointing Here and There' 7 Minute Demo."

This file contains 7 Sony KCS20 BR video cassettes; cassettes no. 5 and 1 are duplicated.

**Scope and Content**

This file contains tapes 1, 3, and 4 out of 4; all three tapes are Scotch 3 millimeter, 209 audio recording.

**Scope and Content**

This file contains a 5" 1.0 millimeter audio recording tape.
Box 8
Small picture slides of Carobeth Laird undated

Box 10
Harry Lawton interview of Carobeth video cassettes 1982
Scope and Content

Box 10
Malki Museum Fiesta video cassettes 1982
Scope and Content
This file contains 7 out of 7 Sony KCS20 video cassettes.

Box 11
Counsel Rocks (I & II) 1982
Scope and Content
This file contains three Sony KCS20 BR video cassettes, from Unit III A & B.

Sub-Series 3.5. John Peabody Harrington 1927-1978; undated

Box 6, Folder 16
Articles and photograph of John Peabody Harrington 1927-1978

Box 6, Folder 17
Biographical summaries on John P. Harrington 1961-1970; undated

Box 6, Folder 18
Blackborn thesis undated