Guide to the Charles Irby Collection, 1790-1988

Project archivist: Salvador Güereña; principal processors: Anne Rapp; student assistants: Jessica Zimmer; machine-readable finding aid created by Alexander Hauschild

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Guide to the Charles Irby Collection, 1790-1988

Collection number: CEMA 10

California Ethnic and Multicultural Archives

Donald C. Davidson Library
Department of Special Collections
University of California, Santa Barbara

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Date Completed:
April 1999
Encoded by:
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Descriptive Summary
Title: Charles Irby Collection,
Date (inclusive): 1790-1988
Collection number: CEMA 10
Creator: Irby, Charles
Extent: 44 hollinger boxes, approx. 300 audio/video items, 1 portfolio box (maps) which occupy approximately thirty linear feet.
Repository: University of California, Santa Barbara. Library. California Ethnic and Multicultural Archives
Santa Barbara, CA 93106
Shelf location: For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the library's online catalog.
Language: English.
Provenance
Donated by Gretchen M. Bataille, February 21, 1996.
Restrictions
None.
Publication Rights
Copyright resides with donor
Preferred Citation

Guide to the Charles Irby Collection, 1790-1988
CEMA 10

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Biography

Charles C. Irby was a cultural geographer who was a pioneer in the development of ethnic and gender studies in this country. Irby was a founding member of the National Association for Interdisciplinary Ethnic Studies (which later became the National Association for Ethnic Studies) and served as president of the association from 1976 to 1978. A prolific author in the field of ethnic studies, he was also editor of NAES publications. Irby was born on April 4, 1938 in Greenville, South Carolina. He earned his doctorate in Geography (1978) from Simon Fraser University, British Columbia. His Master's degree in Geography (1968) is from the University of California, Davis. Irby served in the U.S. Air Force from 1957 until 1960. Over the course of his career Irby taught at various universities, including Simon Fraser, the University of Oregon, and the University of California, Davis. From 1974 until his death in 1987, Irby was a professor of ethnic and women's studies at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona where he was the university's chair of the Ethnic and Women's Studies Department from 1974 to 1980. In 1983, Irby wrote the following short autobiography: "My college-level teaching career began during the winter quarter of 1969 at the University of California, Davis, where I developed a course concerned with the "Cultural Geography of Black America." One result of that course was a new-found interest in the cultural history of the many ethnic peoples who came to the Americas to begin life anew (it took me longer to recognize the pressures the various peoples put on the native inhabitants). I am primarily interested in the questions of how and why people "do" where they are and attempt to do likewise after migrating from one place to another. I have followed the paths of migrating Mennonites from Manitoba through Mexico to Belize and migrating blacks from Oklahoma and California to Mexico, New Mexico, British Columbia, and Alberta. I have traveled extensively throughout Belize, Canada, the Caribbean, Mexico, and the United States to get peoples' perceptions of their experiences. My academic training as a geographer allows me to remain a generalist in a specialist-oriented world; as a result, I have produced videotapes concerned with ethnic minority women, mental health issues among Amerasians, and a slide production on blacks in film. I have developed and taught twenty-five courses in ethnic and women's studies, and I continue to upgrade my skills in courses such as writing across the disciplines and word processing technology." In a tribute to Charles C. Irby, the National Association for Ethnic Studies called attention to the principles for which he worked: "that ethnic studies serves a necessary purpose in today's society and that only by understanding this country's rich multi-racial and multi-cultural heritage will it be possible to create a more loving and just society."

Scope and Content

The Charles C. Irby Collection was deeded to the California Ethnic and Multicultural Archives of the University of California, Santa Barbara, on February 21, 1996 and consists of six series distributed among 44 archival boxes which occupy approximately thirty linear feet. The collection represents Irby's life work as a prominent academician whose research and publications explored various dimensions of African American history, including the socio-cultural history of Blacks in the west, the migration of Blacks to Canada, access to agribusiness by American Blacks and the history of Blacks in the cinema. Materials in the collection take many formats, including manuscripts, correspondence files, audio-visual materials, research notes, and drafts of Irby's publications. The materials are housed in the UCSB Davidson Library's Department of Special Collections, as part of the California Ethnic and Multicultural Archives, and are arranged, as far as possible, in the order in which they were received from the donor. This order is not exact, by any means, but consists primarily in a grouping by subject, with materials in each main subject category further grouped according to their specific topic.

Series I: Biographical Information and Family History, 1790-1988

Physical Description: Box 1

Scope and Content Note

Series I is arranged alphabetically and includes Irby's professional vitae, certificates and degrees, obituaries, personal letters regarding his death, photographs, and documents collected in the genealogical searches conducted by Irby and his brother.
Series II: Institutional and Instructional Files

Physical Description: boxes 2-10 series
Scope and Content Note
Series II is arranged primarily by institution, then roughly alphabetically, and consists of course syllabi and plans, lectures, assigned readings and course packs, newspaper articles, bibliographies, writing handouts, and student evaluations. Aside from files directly related to course instruction, this series contains papers on the development of ethnic and Black studies curricula. These include Irby's co-authored essay, "Whither Black Studies?" and administrative documents that describe the ethnic and women's studies programs at Cal Poly Pomona.

Series III: Professional and Organizational Files

Physical Description: box 11
Scope and Content Note
Series III is arranged alphabetically by the names of the organizations to which the files pertain. These include: the Association of American Geographers, MELUS (Society for the Study of Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States), and the National Association of Interdisciplinary Ethnic Studies (NAIES), which later became simply the National Association of Ethnic Studies (NAES).
Series IV: Research and Writings

Physical Description: boxes 12-28

Scope and Content Note

Series IV contains materials in eight subseries relating to Irby's research projects in Black, ethnic, and gender studies. The series holds primary sources such as government publications and pamphlets, and also contains secondary articles related to Irby's research, materials developed by him such as surveys and correspondence, and grant proposals. The subseries are organized around individual research projects, with each subseries being listed in a rough alphabetical order (grouping by subject appears at times to take precedence over alphabetization). By far the largest subseries, Amber Valley Project: Dissertation and Book Manuscripts is divided into three subseries: Dissertation and Book Manuscripts, Primary Research Materials, and Secondary Research Materials. All contain materials relating to Irby's dissertation, as well as, more generally, information he collected in succeeding years about Blacks in Canada, African American history of the West, and related topics. The second subseries, Blacks in Agriculture, contains information related to Irby's "plan for enticing more minorities, especially blacks, into agribusiness," a project he conducted primarily during the years 1983-1985. The folder entitled "Research Grant Proposals 11/1983-11/1984" (box 18, folder 9) contains detailed narratives outlining this project. The third subseries, Blacks in Film, contains research and writings about the history of blacks in film, specifically Oscar Micheaux, a pioneer in black film-making about whom Irby wrote extensively. A script for Irby's slide/tape program "The Celluloid Black" (dated 6/84) can be found in box 20, folder 6. The script provides a brief summary of Irby's research. Box 21, folder 4 contains copies of the bulk of Irby's writings on blacks in film. Materials related to Irby's class, "Blacks in Film," can also be found in this subseries. The fourth subseries, Great Bend, contains materials related to Oscar Micheaux, who was buried in Great Bend, Kansas, as well as correspondence referring to a side project about the history of blacks in Great Bend. The fifth subseries, Hadley Irwin, contains materials related to the author of I Be Somebody, a novel for adolescents based on Irby's research about black emigration from the U.S. to Canada in the period 1910-1913. Several summaries of this book can be found in this subseries, as well as an interview Irby conducted with Irwin Hadley (a two-person writing team who lived in Iowa). The interview, which was published in the spring, 1986 issue of "The ALAN Review," can be found in box 23, folder 14. The sixth subseries, Blacks in the West, is self-descriptive and contains information from 1856 to 1984. Irby's article, "Women's Roles in Black Pioneer Communities," (1984) can be found in box 24, folder 14. The seventh subseries, Hmong and Mein Immigrants, contains materials related to the paper "Mental Health Considerations of Male Hmong and Mein in the U.S.," which Irby co-authored with Earnest M. Pon. The eighth and final subseries, Writings (Published and Unpublished), contains most of Irby's completed writings over the period 1971-1985. Titles are arranged primarily in chronological order.

Series V: Subject Files

Physical Description: boxes 29-30

Scope and Content Note

Series V includes materials Irby gathered on various topics and individuals; these include: Black Issues, Native Americans and White Supremacist Literature.
Series VI: Visual and Audio Materials

Physical Description: boxes 30-44 (includes many videos and audio recordings variously stored)

Scope and Content Note
Series VI is divided into eight subseries according to different media; each subseries is arranged in its original order as received from the donor, which is first by subject, then roughly alphabetical. The first subseries, Audio Recordings, contains 164 cassette tapes on which are recorded interviews with Irby, interviews Irby conducted with other people, various music, recorded scholarly presentations, and other recordings. The Negatives subseries contains negatives from Irby's dissertation research on Blacks in the Amber Valley, family reunion shots, and a few miscellaneous negatives. The Photographs subseries contains photographs related to Irby's genealogical and scholarly research. The Slides subseries contains numerous slides relevant to all areas of Irby’s research and teaching. The fourth subseries, The Video Recordings subseries contains videos of Irby's lectures and other videos related to his research and teaching. The 16mm subseries contains two 16mm reels labeled "Castration" and "Amber Valley." Finally, the Microfilm subseries contains four reels of early 20th century newspapers from Oklahoma.

Series VII: Maps

Physical Description: box 45

Scope and Content Note
Series VII contains various maps of California and Canada arranged alphabetically according to the name of the area mapped.

SERIES I: BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION AND FAMILY HISTORY

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College Transcripts, University of California, Davis, 1966
Folder 3
Correspondence Regarding Irby’s Death, 1987
Folder 4
Death Certificate, 1987
Folder 5
Diploma, MA, Geography, UC Davis, 1968
Folder 6
Family Reunion, 1983
Folder 7-11
Genealogical Information, 1790-1985
Folder 12
Information / Research on Cancer, 1986
Folder 13
Irby-Burke Family Reunion, 1979-1988
Folder 14
Journal Entries on Trip to South Carolina, 1979
Folder 15
Vita, 1974-1985
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Obituaries, 1987
Folder 18
Personal Cards and Effects, 1966-1984
Folder 19
Students’ IDs, 1970-1983

SERIES II: INSTITUTIONAL AND INSTRUCTIONAL FILES

General Curricular Materials, 1970-1986

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American Indians, n.d.
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Articles and News Clippings in Ethnic and Women’s Studies, ca. 1970-1986 (1)
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Notes on History and Theory, n.d.
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Paper on Being a Chinese American, N/A, n.d.
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| Folder 11 | Notes and Materials from undergraduate course work at Sacramento State College, n.d. |
| Folder 12-15 | University of California, Davis |
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| Folder 8 | "Their Blood is Strong" by John Steinbeck, 1938 |

**Simon Fraser University**

| Box 3, Folder 8 | Correspondence, 1970 |
| Folder 9 | V-Bag, Vancouver Black Action Group Newsletter, ca. 1970 |

**California State Polytechnic University, Pomona**

<p>| Box 3, Folder 10 | Correspondence |
| Folder 11-19 | Courses on Ethnic and Women's Studies and Related Materials, 1974-1986 |
| Box 4, Folder 1 | Contemporary Media Images of Black Women, Syllabus Fall Quarter 1986 |
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| Folder 7 | &quot;The Woman Manager and Woman Executive,&quot; n.d. |
| Folder 8 | EWS 101 The University, Its Methods and Values. |
| Folder 9 | Fall 1977 |
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| Folder 13 | EWS 120 Afro-American Experience. Annotated Bibliography. Fall 1985 |
| Box 6, Folder 1 | EWS 140 Intro to Ethnic Studies: |
| Folder 2 | Course Materials and Readings. 1981 |
| Folder 3 | Course Packet. n.d. |
| Folder 4 | Course Packet. Spring 1983 |
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Irby, Charles "A Town Remembered, A Site Explored" 1985

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"The Downfall of Adeline and Frank." n.d.

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"Interview with Dewasenta (Alice Papineau) at Onondaja." 7/1983

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Maclam, Helen. 1952-1983

Folder 23
Thomas, Mabel. n.d.

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"A Voice from the Past." n.d.

SERIES III: PROFESSIONAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL FILES

Association of American Geographers

Box 11, Folder 1

Society for the Study of Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States

Box 11, Folder 2
MELUS fragment of a Newsletter. n.d.

Folder 3
MELUS News Notes. 8/1986

National Association of Ethnic Studies

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SERIES III: PROFESSIONAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL FILES

National Association of Ethnic Studies

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"Ethnicity in the State Based Humanities Program." n.d.  
NAIES

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Annual Conference 1984

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Folder 8
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Folder 31
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"All That Blood. The Amber Valley Saga."

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Appendices. n.d.

Folder 3
Early Manuscript with Marginal Notes. n.d.

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Folder 6
Manuscript, Dedicated to Wife. ca. Early 1980s

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Folder 3
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Folder 5
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Folder 6
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Folder 7

Folder 8
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Folder 9
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| Folder 18 | *Farmers Home Administration*. "Heirs Property as an Aspect of Minority Housing in 5 So. States. 03/9-10/78 |
| Folder 19 | "Guide to Sources on Agricultural Labor" 1969 |
| Folder 20 | Information on Jobs and Careers. 12/1982-04/1983 |
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| Folder 2 | U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. "Fifteen Years Ago...Rural Alabama Revisited." 12/83 |
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Folder 11  Correspondence from "The Alan Review." 04/1985-01/1996
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Folder 13  Irwin, Hadley. Interview and Article. 1983-1985
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Folder 7
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Stewart, Dennis R. "The Politics of Agribusiness and Ethnicity: Some Considerations in Search for Active Participation" (w/marginal notes). Fall 1985

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A0475/CS Holiday Inn. 08/29/1972
A0476/CS The White Man’s Way. Jack London. Reading by Charles Irby [We too Belong]
A0477/CS BH and Ernie Pon
A0478/CS Mr. Lorenz Graham. 05/12/1980
A0479/CS Mrs. Cromwell, Chuck, Fred Collins. 1970
A0480/CS Mrs. Leona Fay (Phillips) Gibson Risby. 08/10/1975.
A0482/CS "Japanese Americans--Four Generations of Adaptation"
A0483/CS Mapps. Oxen and Democrat. 07/1970
A0484/CS Mrs. Cromwell (Second Tape). 10/1970
A0485/CS Joyce Edwards. 08/14/1975
A0486/CS Ms. Dorothy Collier. 09/2/1981
A0487/CS Jeff Edwards. 08/13/1973
A0488/CS Ken and Joyce Edwards. Amber Valley, Alberta
A0489/CS Willie Toles. A.V. Alta. 08/23/1972
A0490/CS Felix and Elijah. 03/1971
A0493/CS Brenda Jones in Guinda. 05/1973
A0494/CS NPR Black Preachers. 02/23/1982; Naies 1979

Negatives

Box 30, Folder 2  Amber Valley School Pictures. Mrs. Ruby Edward and Mr. Cromwell. n.d.
Folder 3  Athabasca Valley, incl. 1 developed photograph. 07/1976
Folder 4-6  Blacks in the Amber Valley. n.d.
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Box 30, Folder 26  Amber Valley. n.d.
Folder 27  Amelia Earhart Memorial. 1979
Folder 28  Blacks in the Amber Valley. 1920-1977
Folder 29  Blacks in California and Kansas. n.d.
Folder 30  Boley, Kansas and Buxton, Ontario (incl. Negatives). n.d.
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#### Video Recordings

- V0021/UM Blacks in Agriculture (Dec. 1983) -- see accompanying guide to tape in box 19, folder 6
- V0022/UM Chuck Irby- Minority (Women: Indian Culture)- Sarah Hutchison (50 min., 10/23/75)
- V0023/UM Chuck Irby- Minority Women (60 min., 11/20/75), Barbara Hiura, EST30A, 20 Nov. 75
- V0024/UM "Marva Styles" Chuck Irby (Lecture One) -- Notes: Rec. date: 3/3/77, dub date: 3/80, tape no. 1 of 2
- V0025/UM "Marva Styles" Chuck Irby (Lecture Two) -- Notes: Rec. date: 3/3/77, dub date: 3/80, tape no. 2 of 2
- V0026/UM Mental health (Robert Yoshioka, Irby)
- V0027/UM You Can't Go Back to Buxton -- Notes: To: Charles C. Irby/ Exchange for Buxton Photographs

#### 16mm

- V0028/FO Notes: 16 mm microfilm labeled "Amber Valley, 'Rape,' 'Good' and "Charles Irby"
- V0029/FO "Castration" -- Notes: 16 mm microfilm

#### Microfilm

- Box 44, Folder 1 | Various Oklahoma Newspapers covering 1905-1926
- Folder 2 | Various Oklahoma Newspapers covering 1904-1916
- Folder 3 | Okemah Independent covering 1911-1913
- Folder 4 | Okemah Ledger covering 1910-1911

### SERIES VII: MAPS

- Additional Note: alphabetized by location

- Box 45 | Department of Geography, University of California, Davis. "Geography of California, Maps and Tables" (booklet), n.d.
Sacramento County Planning Department [City of Sacramento], Current City Limits, California, May 1965.
Harry Freese, mapmaker. Yolo County, California, n.d.
State of California, Department of Natural Resources, Geologic Map of Amador County California, n.d.
State of California, Department of Natural Resources, Economic and Geologic Map of El Dorado County, California, n.d.
State of California, Department of Natural Resources, Geologic Map of Sacramento City, California, California, n.d.
Department of the Interior, Ottawa. Plan of Township 68, Range 22 West of the Fourth Meridian. Scale: 40 chains to an inch. Alberta, June 12, 1911.