

2017

Guide to the Therese Whitcomb papers

Therese Whitcomb

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Guide to the Therese Whitcomb papers

Overview of the Collection

Title: Therese Whitcomb papers

Dates: 1971-1995

Creator: Whitcomb, Therese Truitt

Quantity: 2 boxes, (1.5 linear feet)

Summary: Therese Truitt Whitcomb was the first graduate of the University of San Diego College for Women and taught at the University of San Diego for 35 years. These papers document her work at the University and in the San Diego community between 1971 and 1995.

Identification: USDA_2009_023

Language: English

Repository: [University of San Diego, Archives and Special Collections](#)

Copley Library

5998 Alcalá Park

San Diego, CA 92110

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Biographical Note

Therese Whitcomb was the first and only graduate of the San Diego College for Women in 1953 when she received her Bachelor of Arts. She then attended the Art Students League in New York City, and received a Master of Arts from San Diego State University. Upon completion of her MA, Whitcomb became a full-time faculty member at the University of San Diego in 1969 where she taught for 35 years. Whitcomb chaired the Department of Art, established the Founders Gallery, and was the first Director of Institutional Design. In that role, Whitcomb was tasked with preserving the consistency of Spanish Renaissance architecture on campus and ensuring the beautification of building interiors. Whitcomb received the Davies Award for Faculty Achievement in 1985, and was awarded a Doctor of Humane Letters in 2015. As of 2017, she was a Professor Emerita of Art.

In addition to her involvement at the University of San Diego, Whitcomb served on the board of many art history and community organizations. She guided the restoration of the San Luis Rey Mission, Irving Gill's Sacred Heart Church in Coronado, the San Diego Mission Basilica, and other historic buildings. She served as a trustee of the San Diego Museum of Art and the Timken Museum, and as a chair for the San Diego County Committee of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in California.

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Scope and Content Note

The Therese Whitcomb papers document Therese Whitcomb's involvement as an instructor and administrator at the University of San Diego as well as her involvement in the San Diego community. University and community related correspondence make up the majority of these records. University correspondence documents the variety of roles Whitcomb held at USD including as the founder and curator of the Founders Gallery, the Chair of the Department of Art, an art professor, and the Director of Institutional Design. Whitcomb's correspondence in each of these roles reveals University processes in the 1970s through the 1990s.

Records documenting her community involvement include correspondence, research notes, brochures, plans, and proposals that Whitcomb put together to advance art education and community beautification. Also reflected in these materials are Whitcomb's close relationships with University staff and faculty, community members, and her students.

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Arrangement

This collection is organized into four series:

[Series I. General Correspondence](#)

[Series II: Faculty Correspondence](#)

[Series III. University Records](#)

[Series IV: Community Involvement](#)

Each series is organized in chronological order.

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Restrictions

The majority of this collection is open for research. Some materials in the Faculty Correspondence series have been restricted for 50 years from creation date.

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Related Material

More information on Whitcomb's involvement with the Founders Gallery can be found in The Founders Gallery records.

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Index Terms

This collection is indexed under the following headings in the online catalog. Researchers desiring materials about related topics, persons, or places should search the catalog using these headings.

Cosgrove, Thomas

Hughes, Author E.

Whitcomb, Therese Truitt

University of San Diego

San Diego (Calif.)

art collections

art exhibitions
fine arts
galleries (display spaces)
curators
professors

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Administrative Information

Preferred citation

[Folder Title], Box # Folder #, Therese Whitcomb papers, Copley Library, University of San Diego, Archives and Special Collections.

Acquisition Information

Gift of Therese Whitcomb.

Processing Information

This collection was initially processed by Tessie Camina in 2009. Further processing was conducted by Ashley Toutain in 2017.

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Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: General Correspondence, 1970-1995

This series includes correspondence between Whitcomb and those she worked with at USD and in the community. Topics largely center on her role as art professor and Director of Institutional Design.

Box Folder

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | 1 | [Henry Gardiner Correspondence], 1970-1981 |
| | 2 | [Correspondence with Sally Furay], 1971-1992 |
| | 3 | [Correspondence with Author Hughes], 1971-1993 |

- 4 [Correspondence - San Diego Historical Society], 1972
- 5 [Correspondence with Ernest Morin], 1972-1973
- 6 [General Correspondence], 1972; 1975; 1980; 1992
- 7 [Lilly Rosa Materials], 1973-1987
- 8 [Correspondence regarding Faculty Lounge], 1974; 1977
- 9 [Correspondence with Richard Reilly], 1974-1981
- 10 [Correspondence with Brent Eagan], 1975; 1994; 1995
- 11 [John Portman Correspondence], 1976
- 12 [Correspondence - San Gabriel Mission], 1977
- 13 [Brezzo Correspondence], 1979-1981; 1988
- 14 [Correspondence with Thomas Burke], 1980-1989
- 15 [Correspondence regarding Mission San Fernando], April 1981
- 16 [Correspondence regarding Vista newspaper], May 1981
- 17 [Correspondence regarding artist Yoshi Nagara], 1984
- 18 [Cara Kennedy Correspondence], 1985
- 19-20 [Correspondence with G. R. Durenberger], 1985-1993
- 21 [Anne Moran Correspondence], circa 1988
- 22 [Joel Sweimler Correspondence], 1988; undated
- 23 [Correspondence regarding Carlota Duarte], 1988-1990
- 24 [Notes of Appreciation], 1989-1993; undated
- 25 [Correspondence - Sacred Heart Cabinet], 1990
- 26 [Director of Institutional Design Correspondence], 1990-1995
- 27 [Correspondence regarding Jenny Craig], January 1991
- 28 [General University related Correspondence], 1991; 1992
- 29 [Derrick Cartwright Articles and Correspondence], 1991-1995
- 30 [Director of Institutional Design Correspondence with Adrienne Smith], 1992
- 31 [Founders Gallery Correspondence], 1993-1994

- 32 [Correspondence and Photographs from Lendy Duda], 1994
- 33 [Correspondence with Marilyn Bennett], March 1994
- 34 [Rainforth Donation Correspondence], 1995

Series II: Faculty Correspondence, 1970-1994

This series consists of correspondence with and about University of San Diego faculty members.

A good portion of this series is restricted for 50 years from creation date. Correspondence available for research includes that with James Rocha, Duncan McCosker, and Marianne Pfau.

Box Folder

- 1 35-48 [Correspondence regarding faculty members], 1970-1994

Series III: University Records, 1978-1984

Records in this series include memoranda, correspondence, meeting minutes, and planning materials for university related activities. These records document Whitcomb's work at the University of San Diego serving on various committees, curating exhibitions for the Founders Gallery, and supporting area cultural institutions. Also included are course materials and records pertaining to Whitcomb's sabbaticals.

Box Folder

- 1 49 [Ana Elizabeth Montforte materials], 1970; 1971; 1992
- 50 [Knights of Columbus Library exhibit], 1971
- 51 [Founders Gallery Exhibit list], 1971
- 52 [Founders Gallery materials], 1971; undated
- 53 [Founders Gallery], 1972-1995
- 54 [Docent Training], 1973-1975
- 55 [Sabbatical 1], 1974
- 56 [Art Fund - Records], 1974-1992
- 57 [Liturgical Art], 1977-1988

- 58 [Honors Convocation], 1977-1990
- 59 [Mission San Diego Exhibition Design course], 1979
- 60 [Art Management Certification], 1979-1981
- 61 [Curatorial Work], 1983; 1986

Box Folder

- 2 1 [Sabbatical Report], 1983-1988
- 2 [Student-Faculty Ratio Trends], 1985
- 3 [Standing Crosses], 1986
- 4 [Sabbatical 2], 1986; 1988
- 5 [Copley Library Exhibit - "Ireland and the Hellenic Tradition], 1988
- 6 [Program in Art in Public Service proposal], 1989 1991
- 7 [Correspondence regarding Art 44 course], 1990
- 8 [Master of Fine Arts - Cultural Context Course], 1990
- 9 [Ann McFarland Scholarship for the Study of Decorative Arts], 1990-1991
- 10 [Course Materials - Catholicism and Western Culture - Pachence], Fall 1992
- 11 [Museum Studies Alumni], 1994
- 12 [Director of Institutional Design - Sharon Siegan Memorial Lecture], 1994
- 13 [Director of Institutional Design - Torero Manual], 1994
- 14 [Director of Institutional Design - Vista Article], 1994
- 15 [Thomas Cosgrove], 1994; 1995
- 16 [Mission San Diego Loans], 1994
- 17 [Alumni Admissions Advisory Committee], 1994-1995
- 18 [Ex Corde Ecclesiae Committee Materials], 1995

Series IV: Community Involvement, 1978-1984

In addition to the 35 years spent in the Department of Art at the University of San Diego, Whitcomb assisted the surrounding San Diego community in the areas of art and culture. Materials in this series include brochures,

design plans, notes, and correspondence related to some of Whitcomb's community activities.

Box Folder

- 2 19 [Sonora Notes], undated
- 20 [Mission San Antonio de Pala], 1976
- 21 [Assorted Material], circa 1980
- 22 [Silver Seal Analysis], 1980
- 23 [Frank Harmon Myers biography], 1981
- 24 [Ray Brandes], 1983-1985
- 25 [College Art Association Conference], 1986
- 26 [Minge International Museum], 1986
- 27 [Interfaith Forum on Religion, Art, and Architecture], 1988
- 28 [Alvarado Water Filtration Plant Design], 1992-1993
- 29 [College Art Association Conference], 1993