Center for Creative Photography

The University of Arizona

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Finding aid for the
John P. Schaefer Collection, 1960-1999
AG 27

Finding aid created by Meghan Jordan, May 2016
John P. Schaefer Collection, 1960-1999

AG 27

Creator

Schaefer, John P. (1934- )

Abstract

Papers and photographic materials, 1960-1999, of John Paul Schaefer, professor at and president of the University of Arizona, amateur photographer, and chemist who helped establish the Center for Creative Photography at the University of Arizona. The bulk of the collection consists of photographic materials related to publications by Schaefer including Bac: Where the Waters Gather (1977); How to Use the Zone System for Fine B&W Photography (1983); Basic Techniques of Photography, Book I (1992); and Basic Techniques of Photography, Book II (1998). The collection also includes correspondence related to his tenure at the University of Arizona, including his time as President; personal records; materials related to Schaefer’s career as a professor and chemist; materials related to bird-watching; and photographs by Schaefer. The collection includes some material related to photographer Ansel Adams, including reproductions of Adams’s images and publications featuring Adams’s work.

Quantity/ Extent

1.25 linear feet (plus the materials that have not been measured yet)

Language of Materials

English

Biographical Note

John Paul Schaefer (born 1934) joined the faculty in the Chemistry Department at the University of Arizona in 1960, later becoming head of the department, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, and finally University President (1971-1982). In 1974, during his tenure as President, Schaefer approached photographer Ansel Adams about placing his archives at the University of Arizona, which resulted not only in the founding of the Center for Creative Photography in 1975, but also Schaefer’s association with Adams and, eventually, with the Ansel Adams Publishing Rights Trust. In addition to numerous photography books featuring southwestern architecture, landscapes, and flora, Schaefer has written several technical books on photography. After leaving his position at the University of Arizona, Schaefer became president of Research Corporation (1982-2004), a company dedicated to funding scientific research.
Scope and Content Note

At the time the collection was acquired, the bulk of the material was labeled “personal.” It is unclear who labeled the materials with this designation. During processing, the archivist determined much of what was labeled “personal” was, in fact, related to Schaefer’s roles as professor, Chair, Dean, and President of the University of Arizona. Artificial series were created by Center staff, based on document content rather than item labels, for researchers’ convenience. However, it should be noted that there is personal information in the University of Arizona materials as Schaefer’s professional and personal lives blend together within the materials in the collection.

The collection is divided into seven series: Correspondence, 1970-1983; Biographical Materials; Activity Files; Writings; Bird-Watching; Photographic Materials; and Ansel Adams Materials. The bulk of the collection is comprised of correspondence and publication materials.

The Correspondence series is divided into General, 1970-1982, University of Arizona, 1960-1983, and Photography-related, 1971-1982, and mainly consists of outgoing letters. The General correspondence includes correspondence relating to political matters and bill oppositions from Schaefer, finances, family and personal relationships, travel, and Schaefer’s health; “thank you” notes; and birthday cards. The University of Arizona correspondence includes correspondence from Schaefer while teaching at and serving as Chair, Dean, and President of the University. Of particular interest are letters from Schaefer to friends and colleagues thanking them for congratulatory notes received when he was named University President in 1971. Also, since Schaefer was actively involved in the field of chemistry even while serving as Dean and University President, correspondence related to chemistry is included in the University of Arizona correspondence.

Various materials remain interfiled within the Photography-related correspondence, including camera equipment orders, receipts, and insurance claims made by Schaefer; clippings related to photography; publications featuring Schaefer’s photography; and materials related to the publication, Of Earth and Little Rain: The Papgo Indians by Bernard L. Fontana, which features Schaefer’s photography.

At the time of processing, correspondence related to other series was kept with that series’ materials rather than separated to Correspondence. For example, correspondence related to the founding of the Center for Creative Photography could be in the University of Arizona files in the Correspondence series and with the Center for Creative Photography materials in the Activity Files series.

Additional materials originally interfiled with the correspondence, such as clippings and pamphlets, remain where they were found.
The Biographical Materials series is divided into John Schaefer, Helen Schaefer, and Family and consists of résumés, biographies, memorabilia, passports, and photographs. An oral interview conducted by the Arizona Historical Society with Schaefer from November, 1996 to 1997 is also included, but is restricted.

The Activity Files series includes materials related to John Schaefer’s professional career and his involvement with various chemical and photography related organizations. It also includes audio recordings of speeches given by Schaefer at the University of Arizona.

The Writings series includes materials related to books written by Schaefer, Bac: Where the Waters Gather; Basic Techniques of Photography, Book 1; Basic Techniques of Photography, Book 2; and How to Use the Zone System for Fine B&W Photography. The bulk of the materials in this series are photographs and graphics used to illustrate the books. Also included are two published books by Schaefer, Bac: Where the Waters Gather and John P. Schaefer, People, Places and Things: Thirty Years in Photography.

The miscellaneous materials within the Writings series include charts and graphs, publication drafts, photographs, references, and notes pertaining to various unknown publications by Schaefer.

The unidentified publication materials within the Writings series pertain to a specific unidentified publication by Schaefer, grouped into chapters. These mainly consist of photographs and visuals.

Materials in the Bird-Watching series document John Schaefer’s interest in birding. Included in this series are bird lists pertaining to various countries; correspondence regarding birding trips and organizations; field checklists and guides; maps; and miscellaneous materials.

The Photographs series consists of photographs by Schaefer, the bulk of them featuring the Tarahumara people and their homes in Nararachic, Mexico and photographs and photomosaics of Venus and Mercury taken by the Mariner 10 spacecraft in 1974.

The photographs of the Tarahumara people taken by Schaefer within the Photographs series were used within the book, Tarahumara: Where Night Is the Day of the Moon by Bernard L. Fontana, as well as featured within the book, John P. Schaefer, People, Places and Things: Thirty Years in Photography.

The Ansel Adams Materials series includes issues of the publication U.S. Camera Magazine, which feature images by Adams, and reproduction prints of Adams’s images.

Arrangement

Series 1: Correspondence, 1960-1983
Subseries 1: General, 1970-1982
Subseries 2: University of Arizona, 1960-1983
Series 2: Bibliographic Materials, 1996-1997 and undated
  Subseries 1: John Schaefer
  Subseries 2: Helen Schaefer
  Subseries 3: Family
Series 3: Activity Files, 1969-1993 and undated
  Subseries 1: *Bac: Where the Waters Gather*, 1977
  Subseries 2: *Basic Techniques of Photography, Book 1*, 1992 and undated
  Subseries 5: Miscellaneous
  Subseries 6: Photographs
  Subseries 7: Published Works, 1977, 197
Series 7: Ansel Adams Materials, 1940-1970 and undated
  Subseries 1: U.S. Camera Magazine
  Subseries 2: Reproduction Prints

**Names and Subject Terms**

Schaefer, John P.
Photography

**Restrictions**

**Conditions Governing Access**

Access to this collection requires an appointment with the Volkerding Study Center.

**Conditions Governing Use**

An oral interview conducted by the Arizona Historical Society with Schaefer from November, 1996 to 1997 in the Biographical Materials series is restricted due to a written note by Schaefer on the folder stating, “Not to be used without written permission by J.P.S.,” and his signature.

It is the responsibility of the user to obtain permission from the copyright owner (which could be the institution, the creator of the record, the author or his/her transferees,
heirs, legates or literary executors) prior to any copyright-protected uses of the collection.

The user agrees to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the Arizona Board of Regents, the University of Arizona, Center of Creative Photography, including its officers, employees, and agents, from and against all claims made relating to copyright or other intellectual property infringement.

Provenance

This collection was a gift of John P. Schaefer to the Center for Creative Photography in 1978 and 2013.

Preferred Citation


Processing Information


Finding aid updated by Meghan Jordan in May 2016.
**Container List**

**Box**  **Folder**

**Series 1: Correspondence, 1960-1983**

Subseries 1: General, 1970-1982

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Subseries</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>1970-1979</td>
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Subseries 2: University of Arizona, 1960-1983

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3-16</td>
<td>1960-1979</td>
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<td>17-19</td>
<td>1981-1983</td>
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<tr>
<td>20-21</td>
<td>1971-1978</td>
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**Series 2: Biographical Materials, 1996-1997 and undated**

Subseries 1: John Schaefer

<table>
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<th>Box</th>
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<th>Notes</th>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Biography</td>
<td>Oral interview conducted by the Arizona Historical Society [transcribed], 1996-1997 (note: restricted; written permission from Schaefer must be obtained to use)</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Memorabilia</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Passports</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>Photographs</td>
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Subseries 2: Helen Schaefer

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<td>Subseries 2: Helen Schaefer</td>
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Subseries 3: Family

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**Series 3: Activity Files, 1969-1993 and undated**

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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Ansel Adams Trust</td>
<td>1975-1993</td>
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<td>Center for Creative Photography</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Listed Publications</td>
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4-6 Organizations, 1969-1982
7 Research Corporation, 1971-1988
    Speeches, 1972-1981
8 Audio Recordings
    Welcome address to faculty, 1980 August 23
    Speech to new faculty and staff at luncheon, 1981 August 22
9 Manuscripts of and notes concerning various speeches by Schaefer, 1972-1973

Series 4: Writings, 1977-1998 and undated

Manuscripts/Pre-print Materials, 1977-1998 and undated

Subseries 1: Bac: Where the Waters Gather, 1977
3  1-19 Photographs, 1977
17 Photographs [oversize]
3  20 Text draft [contains some photocopies and handwritten corrections], 1977

Subseries 2: Basic Techniques of Photography, Book 1, 1992 and undated
4  1 Chapter 1, Photographs
    Chapter 2
4  2 Graphics
3 Photographs
    Chapter 3
4 Graphics
5 Photographs
    Chapter 4
6 Graphics
7 Photographs
6 Photographs [oversize]
4  8 Chapter 5, Photographs
Chapter 6

9     Graphics

5  1     Photographs

Chapter 7

2-3     Graphics

4     Photographs

Chapter 8

5     Graphics

6  1     Photographs

Chapter 9

2     Graphics

3     Photographs

Chapter 10

4     Graphics

5     Photographs

Chapter 11

6     Graphics

7     Photographs

8     Chapter 12, Photographs

5  6     Related Materials, 1992

15     Related Materials [oversize]


5  7     Chapter 1, Photographs

Chapter 2

8     Charts and Graphs

9     Photographs

10    Chapter 3, Photographs

Chapter 5

7  1     Charts and Graphs
Photographs
References and Notes [includes floppy disk]

Chapter 6
Photographs
References and notes

Chapter 7, photographs

Chapter 8
Photographs

References and Notes

Chapter 9, Photographs

Chapter 10-12, Photographs and References and Notes

Chapter 13
Graphics

Graphics

Photographs

Correspondence, 1996-1998

Photographs

References and Notes

Related Materials


Charts and Graphs

Correspondence, 1980-1982

Drafts

Photographs

Photography-related Receipts, 1981

References and Notes

Related Materials
Subseries 5: Miscellaneous

4 Charts and Graphs
5 Drafts

3 21-23 Subseries 6: Photographs
11 [oversize]

10 6 References and Notes

16 1-2 Chapter 1-2
3-11 Chapter 4-12
12 Photographs

Subseries 7: Published Works, 1977, 1997

10 7 Bac: Where the Waters Gather, 1977
8 John P. Schaefer, People, Places and Things: Thirty Years in Photography, 1997


2 10-11 Bird Lists
12 Correspondence, 1968-1982
13-14 Field Checklists, 1962-1973
15 Field Guides
16 Maps
17 Miscellaneous Materials, 1966-1974
18 Travel Forms and Materials, 1968, 1971, and undated


By Schaefer

11 Laura Gilpin, 1978
19-20 Tarahumara people and their homes in Nararachic, Mexico
21 Venus and Mercury taken by the Mariner 10 spacecraft, 1974 [includes Photomosaics]
Series 7: Ansel Adams Materials, 1940-1970 and undated

Subseries 1: U.S. Camera Magazine

12
- 1940, vol. 1, nos. 9, 11, 12
- 1941, vol. 1, nos. 14, 15
- 1944, vol. 7, no. 9
- 1954, vol. 17, no. 12
- 1959, vol. 22, no. 12
- 1960, vol. 22, no. 1
- 1970, World Annual

13-14 Subseries 2: Reproduction Prints