

Center for Creative Photography

The University of Arizona

1030 N. Olive Rd.

P.O. Box 210103

Tucson, AZ 85721

Phone: 520-621-6273

Fax: 520-621-9444

Email: info@ccp.arizona.edu

URL: <http://creativephotography.org>

Finding aid for the Richard McGraw archive, circa 1930s - 1973 AG 59

Richard McGraw archive, circa 1930s - 1973

AG 59

Creator

McGraw, Richard "Dick", 1905-1978

Abstract

Papers, publications, photographic materials, and equipment of Richard McGraw (1905-1978), photographer and arts patron. Included are notebooks and correspondence with Edward Weston and Ansel Adams.

Quantity/ Extent

42 linear feet

Language of Materials

English

Biographical/ Historical Note

Richard "Dick" McGraw was born in Sioux City, Iowa, 1905. He was the son of industrialist Max McGraw, president of the McGraw-Edison Company in Chicago. He graduated at Grinnell College in 1927, learned photographic portraiture as an apprentice in a studio in Evanston, Illinois from 1931-32. Upon moving to Sierra Madre, California in 1934, he became fascinated with the desert and for many years photographed in the Southwest landscape. From 1939-1953, McGraw was head of the McGraw Colorgraph company, which produced materials for the tricolor carbonyl process. He retired in 1954, a year after the company was sold to Carnation, and devoted himself entirely to his creative work.

In 1949, Dick McGraw became interested in stereography and in 1951 was accorded the world's first one-man show in this medium, which took place at the George Eastman House. A book titled The Stereo-Realist Manual, features a chapter written by McGraw and numerous examples of his work. Other photographs by McGraw have been published in various magazines and annuals of photography.

McGraw was close friends with both Ansel Adams and Edward Weston, as well as a student of Adams, and maintained a style of "pure photography." McGraw writes: "I am not a salon pictorialist, though I went through such a phase many years ago... my pictures are treated more as abstractions than as 'documentary' photographs. No portraits. No pretty pictures. No nudes or kittens or puppies."

According to Adams in the Ansel Adams: An Autobiography, McGraw was a troubled man often in despair of things going wrong, yet was a generous man due to his affluence. McGraw sold part of his land to Ansel and his wife so they could build a house in Carmel and have an “artist community” near Edward Weston. Additionally, towards the end of Edward Weston’s life, McGraw funded the printing of one-thousand negatives that were done by Brett Weston, and the sales were a major financial support for Edward. Dick McGraw died in 1978, from cancer.

Scope and Content Note

Series one contains correspondence, dated between 1950 and 1973. Most of the correspondence is with Edward Weston, Brett Weston, and Ansel Adams.

Series two contains activity files, which include materials such as personal papers, notebooks containing exposure times, several books by Richard McGraw, as well as work materials such as stereo mount viewers, glass filters, as well as empty stereo mounts and other materials.

Series three is photographic materials, which contains transparencies, color slides, stereo transparencies, stereo mounts, negatives, contact prints, and prints. All of the nitrate negatives, some of the deteriorated acetate, as well as some unidentified negatives have been isolated in cold storage. Some of the collection is unprocessed or minimally processed and has not been rehoused, including the slides and stereo mounts.

Arrangement

Series 1: Correspondence, 1950-1973, .5 linear feet

Series 2: Activity Files, 7 linear feet

Subseries 1: Personal papers, 1 linear feet

Subseries 2: Notebooks, 1.5 linear feet

Subseries 3: Books, 3.5 linear feet

Subseries 4: Work Materials, 1 linear feet

Series 3: Photographic Materials, 34.5 linear feet

Subseries 1: Negatives, 9 linear feet

Sub-Subseries 1: Nitrate Negatives, 2.5 linear feet

Sub-Subseries 2: Unidentified Negatives, 1.5 linear feet

Sub-Subseries 3: Glass Negatives, 1.5 linear feet

Sub-Subseries 4: Other Negatives, 3.5 linear feet

Subseries 2: Stereo Mounts, 2.5 linear feet

Subseries 3: Transparencies, 10 linear feet

Sub-Subseries 1: Mounted Transparencies, 6 linear feet

Sub-Subseries 2: Color Slides, 3.5 linear feet

Sub-Subseries 3: Miscellaneous Transparencies, .5 linear feet

Subseries 4: Prints, 13 linear feet

Sub-Subseries 1: Gelatin Silver Prints, 3 linear feet
Sub-Subseries 2: Cibachrome Prints, 1 linear feet
Sub-Subseries 3: Miscellaneous Prints, 9 linear feet
Subseries 5: Photographic Material Boxes

Names and Subject Terms

McGraw, Richard, 1905-1978
Adams, Ansel
Weston, Edward
Weston, Brett
Cibachrome
Stereography
Stereoscopic photography

Restrictions

Conditions Governing Access

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

Nitrate negatives have been isolated to cold storage. Access to these materials requires a two-week notice.

Conditions Governing Use

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 from the Friends of Photography, Carmel, California, in 1985.

Related Materials

McGraw Colorgraph Company collection, circa 1940s-1984. AG 22.

Prints in the fine print collection.

Preferred Citation

Richard McGraw archive, circa 1930s-1973. AG 59. Center for Creative Photography, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ.

Processing Information

Collection inventory created circa 1985. Collection partially processed by Kathryn Sweeney and Alexis Peregoy in fall 2016. Finding aid updated by Kathryn Sweeney and Alexis Peregoy in December, 2016.

Container List

Series 1: Correspondence

[Scope and Content Note if needed]

Box	Folder	
1	1	RFM to his father re: 50 th Anniversary portfolio, 1952
	2-5	Edward Weston, 1950-1953
	6	Edward Weston, miscellaneous
	7-9	Brett Weston, 1950-1953
	10	Brett Weston, miscellaneous
	11	Imogene Cunningham, 1965
	12	Nancy Newhall
	13-27	Ansel Adams, n.d., 1952, 1954-1969, 1971, 1973
	28	Miscellaneous correspondence, 1955-1963

Series 2: Activity Files

Subseries 1: Personal papers

Box

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2 | Greeting cards and announcements from Ansel Adams, Edward Weston, family members, and other photographers; exhibition brochures; mail from various people |
|---|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Subseries 2: Notebooks

Box

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3 | Small notebooks containing information about exposure times, stereo slides, etc. |
|---|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Subseries 3: Books

Box

- 4 Book dummy
- 5 2 copies of "Exhibition 1934-1939"
- 6 Portfolio with newspaper clippings, photographs, postcards, etc.; "Development 1989-39" by R.F. McGraw

Subseries 4: Work Materials

Box

- 7 Stereograph viewers; empty stereo mount holders; release cable; glass filter
- 8 Stereo viewers

Series 3: Photographic Materials

Subseries 1: Negatives

Sub-Subseries 1: Nitrate Negatives

Box

- 9 4x5 Negatives – Portraits, Woman from Sierra Madre, CA, Dr. Siegmund Levarie, and others
- 10 4x5 Negatives – Ship designs and steamships from the 1930s-1940s
- 11 4x5 Negatives – Ship designs and steamships from the 1930s-1940s
- 12 4x5 Negatives – Steamships from the 1930s-1940s
- 13 4x5 Negatives – Steamships; Images of paintings by C.C. Preussl, Franz Bischoff, M.K. Wachtel, and Alfred Dewey
- 14 4x5 Negatives – Malolo ship model, built by Richard McGraw and given to Christopher Morley
- 15 4x5 Negatives – Portraits of Max and Frances S. McGraw (parents of Richard McGraw)
- 16 4x5 Negatives – California, Arizona, etc. landscapes 1935-1939
- 17 4x5 Negatives – "Slumber"; California landscapes 1935-1937
- 18 4x5 Negatives – Miscellaneous images; California landscapes 1935-1937; Exhibition pages; Max McGraw with goose hunters

19 4x5, 5x7, and 8x10 Negatives – Miscellaneous images

Sub-Subseries 2: Unidentified Negatives

Box

20 Miscellaneous unidentified negatives

21 Miscellaneous unidentified negatives

22 Miscellaneous unidentified negatives

Sub-Subseries 3: Glass Negatives

Box

23 Contains miscellaneous glass negatives; Conrad Buff, Agathla paintings
[Note: “negs need cleaning on both sides (streaks are from gum of scotch tape, not completely removed by carbon tetrachloride)”]

Sub-Subseries 4: Other Negatives

Box

24 Film reel, BMW 507 Model by Manuel Olivé Sans of Barcelona (16mm sound film of Model 1/10 scale built 1966-67)

25 Acetate negatives, stored in Kodak boxes and other types of negative boxes that are labeled by McGraw

26 8x10 acetate negatives

27 5x7 acetate negatives

28 4x5 and other miscellaneous sized acetate negatives

29 35 mm film

30 Miscellaneous acetate film sizes with no folder/holder or labels; deteriorating acetate film

Subseries 2: Stereo Mounts

Box

31 Large number of unprocessed miscellaneous stereo mounts, some have been stored in Kodak boxes, others have been wrapped in brown paper

32 Large number of unprocessed miscellaneous stereo mounts, some have been stored in Kodak boxes, others have been wrapped in brown paper

33 Briefcase with drawers of miscellaneous stereo mounts

Subseries 3: Transparencies

Sub-Subseries 1: Mounted Transparencies

Box

- | | | |
|----|---|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 34 | 1 | 5x7 Mounted transparencies, images of Arizona and California landscapes; Grand Canyon |
| | 2 | 5x7 Mounted transparencies, Glacier Park 89 Utah U.S. 91 Montana Not 91 |
| | 3 | 5x7 Mounted transparencies, U.S. 89 Central and Northern Utah, Logan Canyon |
| | 4 | 5x7 Mounted transparencies, U.S. 89 Central and Northern Utah, Logan Canyon |
| | 5 | 4x5 and 5x7 Mounted transparencies, Montana, Arizona, and California landscape images; Red Door ektachrome |
| 35 | 1 | 5x7 Mounted transparencies, U.S. 395 |
| | 2 | 5x7 Mounted transparencies, U.S. 395 |
| | 3 | 5x7 Mounted transparencies, U.S. 89-7 Yellowstone Montana |
| | 4 | 4x5 and 5x7 Mounted transparencies, Beach details and Carmel, Monterey; Snow, Illinois; Snow, Sierra Madre |
| | 5 | 4x5 and 5x7 Mounted transparencies, Beach details and Carmel, Monterey; Snow, Illinois; Snow, Sierra Madre |
| 36 | 1 | 4x5 and 5x7 Mounted transparencies, Point Lobos, California |
| | 2 | 4x5 and 5x7 Mounted transparencies, US 89-2; Grand Canyon, Cameron, Painted Desert, Echo and Verm. Cliffs |
| | 3 | 4x5 and 5x7 Mounted transparencies US 89-2; Grand Canyon, Cameron, Painted Desert, Echo and Verm. Cliffs |
| | 4 | 5x7 Mounted transparencies, US 89-3 Southern Utah – Northern Arizona; Zion National Park |
| | 5 | 4x5 and 5x7 Mounted transparencies, US 89-6 Idaho; Jackson Hole; Tetons |

- 37
 - 1 4x5 and 5x7 Mounted transparencies, US 89-4 Cedar Breaks; Bryce; Capitol Reef; Shave Cliffs; 1000-Lake Mountain
 - 2 5x7 Mounted transparencies, US 89-4 Cedar Breaks; Bryce; Capitol Reef; Shave Cliffs; 1000-Lake Mountain
 - 3 4x5 and 5x7 Mounted transparencies, miscellaneous groupings
 - 4 4x5 and 5x7 Mounted transparencies, miscellaneous groupings
 - 5 4x5 and 5x7 Mounted transparencies, miscellaneous groupings
- 38
 - 1 4x5 and 5x7 Mounted transparencies, miscellaneous groupings
 - 2 4x5 and 5x7 Mounted transparencies, miscellaneous groupings
 - 3 4x5 and 5x7 Mounted transparencies, miscellaneous groupings
 - 4 4x5 and 5x7 Mounted transparencies, miscellaneous groupings
 - 5 4x5 and 5x7 Mounted transparencies, miscellaneous groupings
- 39
 - 1 4x5 and 5x7 Mounted transparencies, miscellaneous groupings
 - 2 4x5 and 5x7 Mounted transparencies, miscellaneous groupings
 - 3 4x5 and 5x7 Mounted transparencies, miscellaneous groupings
 - 4 4x5 and 5x7 Mounted transparencies, miscellaneous groupings
 - 5 4x5 and 5x7 Mounted color transparencies, nature close-ups

Sub-Subseries 2: Color Slides

Box

- 40 Miscellaneous boxes with color slides
- 41 Miscellaneous boxes with color slides
- 42 Miscellaneous boxes with color slides
- 43 Miscellaneous boxes with color slides

Sub-Subseries 3: Miscellaneous Transparencies

Box

- 44 Unmounted 4x5 and 5x7 transparencies, property of Dick McGraw Rt. 1, Box 182 Carmel, CA. Capitol Reef Area

Subseries 4: Prints

Sub-Subseries 1: Gelatin Silver Prints

Box

- 45 8x10 miscellaneous gelatin silver prints
- 46 8x10 miscellaneous gelatin silver prints
- 47 8x10 miscellaneous gelatin silver prints
- 48 5.5x10 and 8x10 miscellaneous gelatin silver prints
- 49 8x10 miscellaneous gelatin silver prints
- 50 8x10 miscellaneous gelatin silver prints and several test strips

Sub-Subseries 2: Cibachrome Prints

Box Folder

- 51 1 8x10 Cibachrome usable prints "Where I Live"
- 2 8x10 Cibachrome usable prints (not "Where I Live");
- 3 8x10 Cibachrome rejects (some may be salvageable)
- 52 Miscellaneous Cibachrome prints (multiple sizes and subjects)

Sub-Subseries 3: Miscellaneous Prints

Box

- 53 Multiple sized prints, includes combination of gelatin silver prints and some color prints. Original box labeled "Eugene Richards 21-13 45th Ave Long Island, N.Y. 11101 tel: (212) 784-0694, 14 prints, Puerto Rican Bride, Dorchester"
- 54 Mounted prints ranging in size and medium
- 55 Carbro Prints
- 56 Mounted prints ranging in size and medium
- 57 Miscellaneous mounted and unmounted prints
- 58 Miscellaneous color and BW prints, notes on processes mixed with various prints
- 59 Smaller work prints, most were originally mixed with negatives with no corresponding information

60 Mounted stereograph prints; mounted work prints; other miscellaneous test prints; charted graphs by McGraw

Subseries 5: Photographic material containers

Note: These boxes are empty, but were used to store McGraw's photographic materials. They have been saved to preserve the context of each box, to show historical cartons and containers from various photographic material companies, such as Kodak, Agfa, and others.

Box

61 – 63 Photographic material boxes and containers