

Center for Creative Photography

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Finding aid for the
Edward Weston and Johan Hagemeyer collection, 1916-1938

AG 5

Finding aid updated by Tai Huesgen, 2020

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Creator

Hagemeyer, Johan (1884-1962)

Weston, Edward (1886-1958)

Abstract

Papers, 1916 to 1938, of Edward Weston (1886-1958) and Johan Hagemeyer (1884-1962), photographers. The bulk of the collection consists of letters from Weston to Hagemeyer between 1918 and 1938. There are also published and unpublished manuscripts, clippings, notes and brochures about Weston. Notable are manuscript fragments, sent as enclosures with letters, relating to Weston's trip to New York City and visit with Alfred Stieglitz in 1922, and his trip to Mexico in 1923. Correspondents include Tina Modotti, Dorothea Lange, Margrethe Mather and others.

Quantity/ Extent

.5 linear feet

Language of Materials

English

Biographical Note

Edward Weston was born in Highland Park, Illinois on March 24, 1886. Weston was given his first camera by his father at age 16, and enrolled at the Illinois College of Photography in 1908. Weston cleverly completed the 12-month program in just six months and never received a certificate. In 1909, Weston married his first wife, Flora Chandler. His first son, Edward Chandler (born in 1910), and his second son, Brett Weston (born in 1911), both became successful photographers in their own right. In 1911, Weston opened a portrait studio in Tropic (now Glendale), California. Weston's early pictorial work transitioned into more abstract photographs by 1919. Weston began keeping daily records of his life, called Daybooks, in 1915 and were published in the 1960s. In 1923, Weston traveled to Mexico where he opened a studio with Tina Modotti. Many of his well-known photographs were taken during this time, including portraits and nudes. In the late 1920s, Weston opened two studios in California with Brett. Weston also co-founded Group *f64* in 1932. Weston was the first photographer to ever receive a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1937, and he received a second one the next year. Weston used these funds to travel and photograph in California, Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada, Oregon and Washington. Weston's work for a special edition of Walt

Whitman's *Leaves of Grass* was cut short after the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, when he returned to Carmel. Weston was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in 1945. From 1946 to 1955, Weston had two major retrospective exhibitions in New York and Paris, experimented with color photography, and worked on thousands of prints with Brett's help. Weston died in 1958.

Johan Hagemeyer was born in Amsterdam, Holland in 1884. Hagemeyer originally worked at an insurance brokerage firm and was in the army for a year and a half before returning to school to study horticulture. Hagemeyer emigrated to California with two of his brothers who also possessed an interest in horticulture in 1911; however, Hagemeyer's interest in photography led him to pursue photography once in the United States instead. Hagemeyer traveled in late 1916 to meet prominent photographer Alfred Stieglitz, who encouraged him to devote himself to photography. In 1917, Hagemeyer worked as an assistant at Martin's Camera Store and McCullagh's Studio, while also attending photo exhibitions. Hagemeyer opened a studio in Carmel, California, a different studio in San Francisco in 1923, and eventually relocated to a larger studio in 1928 in Carmel. Hagemeyer held major exhibitions of Post-Impressionist artists and also displayed his own work at this studio. Throughout the 1920s and 1940s, Hagemeyer photographed notable portraits of people such as Albert Einstein and Salvador Dali. In 1947, Hagemeyer left Carmel and eventually settled in Berkeley where he died in 1962.

Scope and Content Note

This collection has been designated Archive group 5. It is arranged by record types: Correspondence, Brochures and Clippings, and Writings. The papers are divided first into boxes and then into folders. Thus, AG5:1/2 refers to the second folder in the first box.

Series 1, Correspondence, includes 17 folders of correspondence, some undated and the rest from between 1918 and 1938. The majority of the correspondence is from Weston to Hagemeyer.

Series 2, Brochures and clippings, contains brochures and loose newspaper clippings along with their envelopes.

Series 3, Writings, contains three typescript copies of essays by Weston about photography, as well as photocopies of the documents in the collection for use by researchers.

Arrangement

[Series 1: Correspondence, n.d., 1918-1938, 2 boxes](#)

[Series 2: Brochures and clippings, 1921-1923, 2 folders](#)

[Series 3: Writings, 1916-1923, 2 boxes](#)

Names and Subject Terms

Hagemeyer, Johan [<http://vocab.getty.edu/ulan/500016237>]

Lange, Dorothea [<http://vocab.getty.edu/ulan/500007674>]

Mather, Margrethe [<http://vocab.getty.edu/ulan/500019981>]

Modotti, Tina [<http://vocab.getty.edu/ulan/500031886>]

Weston, Edward [<http://vocab.getty.edu/ulan/500003372>]

Restrictions

Conditions Governing Access

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

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 acquired by the Center for Creative Photography from David and Jeanne Hagemeyer in 1976.

Related Materials

AG 38 Edward Weston archive.

AG 6 Edward Weston miscellaneous acquisitions collection.

AG 44 Johan Hagemeyer collection.

Preferred Citation

Edward Weston and Johan Hagemeyer collection, 1916-1938. AG 5. Center for Creative Photography, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ.

Processing Information

Processed October 1984 by Roger Myers. See control file for an outline to the contents of the correspondence. The finding aid was updated by Tai Huesgen in 2020.

Container List

Series 1: Correspondence, n.d., 1918-1938

Arrangement: Chronological

Extent: 2 boxes/17 folders

Box	Folder	
1	1	Dates unknown
	2	1918
	3	1919
	4	1920
	5	1921
	6	1922
	7	1923
	8	1924
	9	1925
2	1	1926
	2	1927
	3	1928
	4	1929
	5	1930
	6	1931
	7	1935
	8	1938

Series 2: Brochures and clippings, 1921-1923

Arrangement: Chronological

Extent: 2 folders

Box	Folder	
2	9	Brochures
	10	Loose clippings and envelopes

Series 3: Writings, 1916-1923

Arrangement: Chronological

Extent: 2 boxes

Box	Folder	
2	11	"Photography as a Means of Artistic Expression," a typescript copy of a paper presented by Weston before the College Women's Club, Los Angeles, 18 Oct. 1916.
	12	"Random Notes on Photography," a typescript essay by Weston based on a lecture presented before the Southern California Camera Club, 1922. Handwritten note from Weston to Hagemeyer on the last page.
	13	Typescript letter from Weston to Wallace Gillies, published in <i>Principles of Pictorial Photography</i> , 1923, as "Pictorial Photography."
3		Photocopies of collection for use by readers.