

Center for Creative Photography

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Finding aid for the  
Minor White Miscellaneous collection, 1949-1965, 1976

AG 9

**Minor White Miscellaneous collection, 1949-1965, 1976**

**AG 9**

**Creator**

White, Minor

Gassan, Arnold

**Abstract**

Correspondence, 1949-1965, and papers, of Minor White (1908-1976), teacher, photographer, author, and editor. The bulk of the letters are between White and Ansel Adams, but there is some correspondence with other photographers. Also included are a "Notebook Resume", prepared by Arnold Gassan, from a photography workshop conducted by Minor White in 1962, and three audiotapes of Minor White discussing the photographs of his students in the Interim Photographic Workshop, ca. 1962. Tapes have been dubbed for listening.

**Quantity/ Extent**

.25 linear feet

**Language of Materials**

English

**Biographical/ Historical Note**

Minor White was born July 9, 1908 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He received his first camera in 1916. White studied botany at the University of Minnesota from 1928-1933. He then worked as a waiter from 1933-1937. In 1937, White moved to Portland, Oregon where he worked as an assistant in a photographic studio. A year later, White was an instructor in photography with the YMCA in Portland, was a member of the Camera Club of Oregon, and accepted a job as assistant secretary in the People's Power League which helped him obtain the title of creative photographer for the Works Progress Administration (WPA). He continued to teach photography for the next few years until joining the Army and serving in the Philippines from 1942-1945.

Upon returning from the Philippines, White studied the history of art and esthetics at Columbia University in New York and worked as a photographer at the Museum of Modern Art with Beaumont and Nancy Newhall. In 1946, White met Alfred Stieglitz, Harry Callahan, and Paul Strand, and became a lecturer at the California School of Fine Arts in San Francisco. In 1952, White founded and directed the magazine, *Aperture*, with

Dorothea Lange, Ansel Adams, Barbara Morgan, and Beaumont and Nancy Newhall. In 1953, White created a long series of demonstrations titled "How to Read a Photograph." From 1953-1957, he worked with the George Eastman House in Rochester, NY and was the editor of the magazine *Image*. By 1955, White moved from portrait photography to landscape photography. White continued to instruct photography throughout the rest of his life, and was a founder of the Society for Photographic Education. He died in Boston on June 24, 1976.

### **Scope and Content Note**

Series one contains correspondence between White and Ansel Adams, 1949-1963, (16 folders) and other general correspondence between 1952 and 1965. Gift of Beaumont Newhall in 1977.

Series two is "A Notebook Resume of the Workshop in Photography Conducted by Minor White," prepared by Arnold Gassan in Denver during the summer of 1962. There are two copies. Purchase from the Temple Bar Bookstore in Boston, Massachusetts, 1978.

Series three contains three audiotapes of Minor White discussing the photographs of his students in the Interim Photographic Workshop, circa 1965. Tapes have been dubbed for listening. Summary of tapes is available. Gift of Dr. Arnold Rustin, 1986.

Series four contains correspondence, dated August 26, 1976, between Victory Schragger, Light Gallery, New York, to Harold Jones, former director of the Center for Creative Photography. Also includes lists of Minor White prints for sale with prices and six contact sheets of all 140 prints listed. Contact sheets are made from 35 mm film.

### **Arrangement**

Material is arranged into series by provenance history:

Series 1: Correspondence, 1949-1965, 17 folders, gift of Beaumont Newhall

Series 2: Notebooks, 1962, quantity: two, purchase from Temple Bar Bookstore

Series 3: Audiotapes, 1965, quantity: three, gift of Dr. Arnold Rustin

Series 4: Correspondence, 1976, 1 folder, Light Gallery

### **Names and Subject Terms**

Adams, Ansel [ULAN]

Gassan, Arnold [ULAN]

White, Minor [ULAN]

## **Restrictions**

### **Conditions Governing Access**

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

### **Conditions Governing Use**

Permission to publish or to reproduce any correspondence in this collection must be obtained from the Curator of the Minor White Archive, Princeton, New Jersey.

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**

Collection materials acquired from miscellaneous sources.

## **Related Materials**

Center for Creative Photography has books related to Minor White in the Library collection as well as prints in the Fine Print collection.

## **Preferred Citation**

Minor White Miscellaneous collection, 1949-1965, 1976. AG 9. Center for Creative Photography, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ.

## **Processing Information**

Processed by Judith Leckrone in July 1984. Materials were withdrawn from the Miscellaneous small collections (formerly AG 8, subgroup 44) by Kristi Bradford, May 1990. Finding aid updated by Alexis Peregoy in December 2016.

## Container List

### Series 1: Correspondence, 1949-1965

Quantity: 17 folders. General correspondence includes communication between Minor White and Gus Blaisdell, Ron Binks, Reva Brooks, and Barbara Morgan. This series was a gift by Beaumont Newhall.

Box	Folder	
1	1	Adams, Ansel correspondence, unknown dates
	2	Adams, Ansel correspondence, 1949
	3	Adams, Ansel correspondence, 1950
	4	Adams, Ansel correspondence, 1951
	5	Adams, Ansel correspondence, 1952
	6	Adams, Ansel correspondence, 1953
	7	Adams, Ansel correspondence, 1954
	8	Adams, Ansel correspondence, 1955
	9	Adams, Ansel correspondence, 1956
	10	Adams, Ansel correspondence, 1957
	11	Adams, Ansel correspondence, 1958
	12	Adams, Ansel correspondence, 1959
	13	Adams, Ansel correspondence, 1960
	14	Adams, Ansel correspondence, 1961
	15	Adams, Ansel correspondence, 1962
	16	Adams, Ansel correspondence, 1963
	17	General correspondence, 1952-1965

### Series 2: Notebooks, 1962

Quantity: 2 notebooks. This series was purchased from the Temple Bar Bookstore in Boston, MA.

Box	Folder	
1	18	"A Notebook Resume of the Workshop in Photography Conducted by Minor White," prepared by Arnold Gassan, Denver, CO, summer 1962

### Series 3: Audiotapes, circa 1965

Quantity: 3 tapes. This series was a gift of Dr. Arnold Rustin, 1986.

Box	Folder	
1	19	Interim Photographic Workshop, circa 1965, tape # 1 and written summary
	20	Interim Photographic Workshop, circa 1965, tape # 2
	21	Interim Photographic Workshop, circa 1965, tape # 3

**Series 4: Correspondence, 1976**

Quantity: 1 folder. This material was received by Harold Jones of the Center for Creative Photography from the Light Gallery in New York. One letter, notes, and six contact sheets regarding the work of Minor White.

Box    Folder

1	23	Correspondence and contact sheets from Light Gallery, New York to Center for Creative Photography, August 26, 1976.
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