

Elizabeth Lyons papers

1132

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University of Pennsylvania, Penn Museum Archives

3/29/12

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Summary Information

Repository	University of Pennsylvania: Penn Museum Archives
Creator	Lyons, Elizabeth, b. 1912-d. 1989
Title	Elizabeth Lyons papers
Call number	1132
Date [inclusive]	1930-1989
Extent	4 linear foot
Language	English
Abstract	<p>Elizabeth Lyons was a native of Michigan who received her B.A. at the University of Michigan and M.A. at Michigan State University. She studied Fine Arts at the Fine Arts Institute at N.Y.U., the Musee Anquantenaire, Brussels and the Ecole du Louvre, Paris. Her tenure with the University of Pennsylvania Museum began in 1968 following a term as lecturer at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. While working in the Asian section of the museum, Ms Lyons took a leave to work for the Ford Foundation in their program of assistance to Southeast Asia art and archaeology. She returned to the Museum as Keeper of the Asian Section. The Elizabeth Lyons papers are four archival boxes of materials related to her professional career, personal writings, research, and photographs. A large amount of correspondence is filed with the corresponding series.</p>

Biography/History

Elizabeth Lyons was a native of Michigan who received her B.A. at the University of Michigan and M.A. at Michigan State University. Ms Lyons next attended the Institute of Fine Arts at New York University where she completed the classwork and exams for her Ph.D.. While a student at the Institute, Ms Lyons worked as the staff Oriental Lecturer at the Metropolitan Museum which led to her appointment by the Department of State to work in Southeast Asia as a lecturer, curator and assistant in the development of museums there.

Ms Lyons received fellowships to study at the Musee du Cinquantenaire, Brussels and the Ecole du Louvre, Ecole National des Langues Orientales, Paris.

In between State Department tours, Ms Lyons taught at Queens College, Columbia, Michigan State University and the University of Pennsylvania.

Ms Lyons joined the staff of the University of Pennsylvania Museum in 1968 as assistant curator in the South Asian Division. Her service was interrupted in 1971 while she administered the Ford Foundation program of assistance to Southeast Asian art and archaeology. She remained a consultant to the Foundation after returning to the University Museum in 1976 as Keeper of the East Asian section and Research Associate for Southeast Asia and China

Ms Lyons worked extensively to excavate, inventory and revive the long dormant Chinese collection. She was a frequent contributor to Expedition and Oriental publications and a reviewer of books on Southeastern Asian art. She lectured extensively on Asian Art.

Scope and Contents

Elizabeth Lyons was a native of Michigan who received her B.A. at the University of Michigan and M.A. at Michigan State University. Ms Lyons next attended the Institute of Fine Arts at New York University where she completed the classwork and exams for her Ph.D.. While a student at the Institute, Ms Lyons worked as the staff Oriental Lecturer at the Metropolitan Museum which led to her appointment by the Department of State to work in Southeast Asia as a lecturer, curator and assistant in the development of museums there.

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The Elizabeth Lyons papers fill four archival boxes related to her professional career, personal writings, research, and photographs. Ms Lyons correspondence is filed separately with each series. The largest group of correspondence, thirty folders, represents her personal communications with people like Richard Lert, Jim Thompson, Vicki Baum and Princess Chombhot. There are also twelve folders of correspondence with the Ford Foundation and five folders of Museum correspondence. Smaller groups of letters can be found with the corresponding series.

Ms Lyons' employment with the Penn Museum is reflected in folders related to various exhibitions and the Asian Collection. Her time with the Ford Foundation is reflected in grants and proposals and folders related to her work with the Archaeology Refugees.

Among her personal communications are diaries, journals, notebooks and memoirs from her trips to Sweden and Thailand. Ms Lyons fiction writing is represented in "The Bangkok Case," an unpublished murder mystery and in miscellaneous texts. Folders are devoted to her poetry along with a sketchbook.

The photograph series contains pictures from Southeast Asia (mostly Thailand) but also India, China and Japan. Among the Thai pictures are those of people, festivals, Temples and restorations. Thai Art is well represented in the photographs including paintings, ceramics, sculpture and reliefs. There are nine folders of "unidentified" art photographs.

The Research/Scholarship series holds writings and notes for Ms Lyons "Thai Painting Manuscript." In addition, her publications and book reviews are present with notes on Buddhism for the Penn Museum Buddhist exhibition. Ms Lyons has notes on numerous objects in the Asian collection including correspondence and iconography.

Administrative Information

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Controlled Access Headings

FORM/GENRE(S)

- Photographs
- Travel photography

GEOGRAPHIC NAME(S)

- Thailand

PERSONAL NAME(S)

- Lert, Richard, b. 1885-d. 1980
- Lyons, Elizabeth, b. 1912-d. 1989
- Thompson, Jim, b. 1906-d. 1967?

SUBJECT(S)

- Art history

Collection Inventory

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES, 1955-1988.

	Box
Correspondence, 1955-1988.	1
Thailand Salvage Archaeology 1968.	1
Television series on Buddhist art (transcript).	1

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, 1955-1967.

	Box
Correspondence, 1955-1967.	1
Documents, 1955-1963.	1

THAILAND FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT, 1962-1967.

	Box
Correspondence, 1962-1967.	1

Miscellaneous, 1962-1967.	1
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PENN MUSEUM, 1968-1988.

	Box
Employment 1968.	1
General Correspondence (1 of 5), 1968-1978.	1
General Correspondence (2 of 5), 1979.	1
General Correspondence (3 of 5), 1980-1982.	1
General Correspondence (4 of 5), 1983-1985.	1
General Correspondence (5 of 5), 1986-1988.	1
Jade Exhibition 1968.	1
Buddhist Exhibition 1985.	1
Ban Chiang Traveling Exhibit: Correspondence, 1980-1987.	1
Ben Chiang Traveling Exhibit: Miscellaneous, 1980-1987.	1
Asian Collection, 1979-1981.	1
Asian Collection: Correspondence, 1979-1981.	1

FORD FOUNDATION, 1968-1989.

	Box
Correspondence 1969-1974 (1 of 12).	2
Correspondence 1975-1976 (2 of 12).	2
Correspondence 1977 (3 of 12).	2
Correspondence 1977 (4 of 12).	2
Correspondence 1978 (5 of 12).	2
Correspondence 1978 (6 of 12).	2
Correspondence 1979 (7 of 12).	2
Correspondence 1979 (8 of 12).	2
Correspondence 1980 (9 of 12).	2
Correspondence 1980 (10 of 12).	2
Correspondence 1981-1983 (11 of 12).	2
Correspondence 1984-1989 (12 of 12).	2
Reports/Grant Proposals/Miscellaneous 1968-1971 (1 of 5).	3
Reports/Grant Proposals/Miscellaneous 1972 (2 of 5).	3
Reports/Grant Proposals/Miscellaneous 1973-1976 (3 of 5).	3
Reports/Grant Proposals/Miscellaneous 1977-1979 (4 of 5).	3
Reports/Grant Proposals/Miscellaneous 1980-1987 (5 of 5).	3

Reports/Grant Proposals/Miscellaneous (1 of 2).	3
Reports/Grant Proposals/Miscellaneous (2 of 2).	3
Archaeology Refugees: Correspondence 1975.	3
Archaeology Refugees: Correspondence from Refugees 1975.	3
Archaeology Refugees: Miscellaneous 1975.	3

SCHOLARSHIP/RESEARCH.

	Box
Thai Painting Manuscript: Proposal and Outline.	4
Thai Painting Manuscript: Chapters 1 - 4.	4
Thai Painting Manuscript: Chapter 5.	4
Thai Painting Manuscript: Chapter 6.	4
Thai Painting Manuscript: Wat Buddhaisawan.	4
Thai Painting Manuscript: The Magalee Phol.	4
Thai Painting Manuscript: Tosachat.	4
Thai Painting Manuscript: Possible Drafts.	4
Thai Painting Manuscript: Notes/Miscellaneous.	4
Thai Painting Manuscript: Reference Material.	4

Thai Painting: Northern Region.	4
Thai Painting: Index Cards with Photos.	4
Thai Painting: Dvarati History and Art.	4
Thai Painting: Private Collections in Bangkok.	4
Thai Painting: Traditional Thai Painting.	4
Thai Painting: Technical Notes.	4
Thailand Silver.	4
Thailand Wats.	4
Chansen.	4
Publications and Book Reviews, 1963-1973.	5
Buddhism (Related to Buddhist Exhibition, Penn Museum).	5
Buddhism Painting: Notes.	5
Buddhism in Southeast Asia.	5
Chinese Jade.	5
Chinese Jade Knife: Correspondence 1961.	5
Chinese Jade Knife: Miscellaneous.	5
Chinese Mirrors.	5
The Other Cambodia.	5
Chinese Comb (Penn Museum Object).	5

Contribution to Han Book on China 1959.	5
Late Eastern Chou Dynasty 1951-1952(China).	5
Late Eastern Chou Dynasty 1951-1952(China), Miscellaneous.	5
Iconography of the Dong S'on Drums.	5
The Museum in Southeast Asia.	5
Burmese Textile Exhibition [Jim Thomson] 1954.	5
Laos: The Legend of Plain of Jars 1970.	5
Southeast Asia: General.	5
Ancient Tombs at Yunnan, China.	5
Miscellaneous.	5

PERSONAL, 1930-1989.

	Box
Correspondence: Rita Ammundseng, 1968-1986.	6
Correspondence: Vicki Baum, 1960.	6
Correspondence: Princess Chumbhot (Panthip), 1959-1985.	6
Correspondence: Elinor Douglas, 1967-1969.	6
Correspondence: Louise Koegel, 1955-1965.	6

Correspondence: P (Puck) Janzen, 1964-1969.	6
Correspondence: Richard Lert 1960-1961(1 of 10).	6
Correspondence: Richard Lert 1962 (2 of 10).	6
Correspondence: Richard Lert 1962 (3 of 10).	6
Correspondence: Richard Lert 1963 (4 of 10).	6
Correspondence: Richard Lert 1964 (5 of 10).	6
Correspondence: Richard Lert 1965 (6 of 10).	6
Correspondence: Richard Lert 1966 (7 of 10).	6
Correspondence: Richard Lert 1967 (8 of 10).	6
Correspondence: Richard Lert 1968-1971 (9 of 10).	6
Correspondence: Richard Lert 1972-1977 (10 of 10).	6
Correspondence: Mrs. J. W. Lyons (Mother) (1 of 2).	6
Correspondence: Mrs. J. W. Lyons (Mother) (2 of 2), 1949-1966.	6
Correspondence: Graham Lucas, 1963-1968.	6
Correspondence: Saeng Manavidura 1963.	7
Correspondence: L. Meisel, 1966-1967.	7
Correspondence: Charles Sheffield, 1968-1970.	7
Correspondence: Eugene Staples, 1976-1981.	7
Correspondence: Jim Thompson 1956-1960 (1 of 3).	7

Correspondence: Jim Thompson 1961-1966 (2 of 3).	7
Correspondence: Jim Thompson (3 of 3).	7
Correspondence: William Warren.	7
Correspondence: Mrs. Kenneth T. Young (Trish), 1967-1989.	7
Correspondence: Miscellaneous (Alphabetical).	7
Correspondence: Miscellaneous, Unidentified.	7
Correspondence: Posthumous.	7
Invitations (Formal Events), 1955-1977.	7
Education: Documents.	7
Education: Classroom: English - Writings (New York University) 1941.	7
Documents (Including Medical Report).	7
Diary 1941-1942; 1953-1954.	7
Journal (Including Poetry) 1930-1940.	7
Journal 1955-1956+ (1 of 2).	7
Journal 1971-1983 (2 of 2).	8
Memoirs: Sweden.	8
Memoirs: Thailand.	8
Memoirs: Dinner at Suan Pakad.	8
Notebook: Thailand (1 of 2).	8

Notebook: Thailand (2 of 2).	8
Fiction: "The Bangkok Case" (1 of 2).	8
Fiction: "The Bangkok Case" (2 of 2).	8
Fiction: Completed.	8
Fiction: Fragments and Notes.	8
Poetry.	8
Essays.	8
Miscellaneous Writings.	8
Sketch Books.	9

PHOTOGRAPHS.

	Box
Photo Lists.	9
Burma.	9
Cambodia.	9
Cambodia: Art.	9
China.	9
Hong Kong.	9

India.	9
Japan.	9
Laos: Miscellaneous.	9
Laos: Plain of Jars.	9
Laos: Wat Phu Ruins.	9
Nepal.	9
Pakistan.	9
Sri Lanka.	9
Thailand: Ban Chiang; Excavation/Villager with Pottery/Exhibition Opening.	9
Thailand: Bangkok.	9
Thailand: Bangkok; Prince Chumbot's Cremation Procession 1959.	9
Thailand: Bangkok; Wat Phra Keo.	9
Thailand: Expedition; "Figurines from Chansen".	9
Thailand: Children.	9
Thailand: Festivals/Processions/Performances.	9
Thailand: People/Scenes.	9
Thailand: Restorations.	9
Thailand: Temple Ruins.	9
Thailand: Workers.	9

Vietnam.	9
Southeast Asia: People/Scenes.	10
Southeast Asia: Restorations.	10
Southeast Asia: Water Craft.	10
Thai Art: Ayutthaya.	10
Thai Art: Bangkok; Buddhai Sawan.	10
Thai Art: Bangkok; Wat Du Shit.	10
Thai Art: Bangkok; Wat Suthat.	10
Thai Art: Bangkok; Wat Suwannaram.	10
Thai Art: Bangkok; Miscellaneous.	10
Thai Art: Ceramics.	10
Thai Art: Chiang Mai.	10
Thai Art: Lop Buri.	10
Thai Art: Nan.	10
Thai Art: Phayao.	10
Thai Art: Phet Buri; Wat Yiah (1 of 2).	10
Thai Art: Phet Buri; Wat Yiah (2 of 2).	10
Thai Art: Phet Buri; Miscellaneous.	10
Thai Art: Phitsanulok.	10

Thai Art: Songkhla.	10
Thai Art: Surat Thani.	10
Thai Art: Miscellaneous Locations.	10
Thai Art: Unknown Locations; Notes on Prints.	10
Thai Art: Sukothai Style.	11
Thai Art: Museum and Private Collections.	11
Thai Art: Unidentified; Small Prints.	11
Thai Art: Unidentified; Contact Prints.	11
Thai Art: Unidentified (1 of 9).	11
Thai Art: Unidentified (2 of 9).	11
Thai Art: Unidentified (3 of 9).	11
Thai Art: Unidentified (4 of 9).	11
Thai Art: Unidentified (5 of 9).	11
Thai Art: Unidentified (6 of 9).	11
Thai Art: Unidentified (7 of 9).	11
Thai Art: Unidentified (8 of 9).	11
Thai Art: Unidentified (9 of 9).	11
Art: Sculpture.	11
Art: Reliefs (Stone, Wood, Lacquer Ware).	11

