

Diana Buitron-Oliver excavation records from Kourion, Cyprus

1051

Finding aid prepared by Karla A. Irwin.

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University of Pennsylvania, Penn Museum Archives

2011

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Summary Information

Repository	University of Pennsylvania: Penn Museum Archives
Creator	Buitron-Oliver, Diana , 1946-2002
Title	Diana Buitron-Oliver excavation records from Kourion, Cyprus
Call number	1051
Date [bulk]	1977-1986
Date [inclusive]	1977-1996
Extent	7.5 linear feet
Language	English
Abstract	The collection comprises the papers of Diana Buitron-Oliver (1946-2002) relating to her archaeological excavation work in the archaic precinct of the Apollo sanctuary at Kourion on the island of Cyprus. The collection consists primarily of correspondence, field notes, and reports on the work by Diana Buitron-Oliver.

Cite as:

[Item name]. Box [Box number]. Diana Buitron-Oliver excavation records from Kourion, Cyprus. Penn Museum Archives. Accessed [Date accessed].

Biography/History

Archaeologist and curator Diana Buitron was born in 1946 in Ecuador to an Ecuadoran father and American mother and grew up in Peru, Venezuela, and France. In 1969 she graduated from Smith College with a degree in art history. She went on to receive a master's degree in fine arts and a doctorate in Greek and Roman art and archaeology from New York University. Her doctoral thesis was titled, "Douris: A Master-Painter of Athenian Red-Figure Vases" and was published in book form in 1995. Diana spoke many languages including English, Spanish, French, Italian, and Modern Greek. She participated in excavations in places such as Carthage in Tunisia and Morgantina in Sicily. In 1979 Diana married Andrew Oliver and in 1980 they settled in Chevy Chase, Maryland. Diana's passion and primary focus of her work would be in Greek art. After completing her PhD Diana went on to work for the Walters Art Museum in Baltimore from 1977 to 1984. It was while at this institution she began work on an archaeological project at the Sanctuary of Apollo Hylates near the ruins of the ancient city of Kourion on Cyprus. The excavation lasted from the late 1970s to the early 1980s and resulted in the 1996 publication, *The Sanctuary of Apollo Hylates at Kourion: Excavations in the Archaic Precinct*.

After departing the Walters Art Museum Diana went on to be an adjunct professor at Georgetown University and mount many exhibitions, as well as produce numerous publications. At the National Gallery in Washington D.C. Diana worked as guest curator and produced two major exhibitions devoted to Greek art, "The Human Figure in Early Greek Art" in 1987-1988 and "The Greek Miracle: Classical Sculpture from the Dawn of Democracy, the Fifth Century B.C." in 1992-1993. Both were huge successes and the latter went on to be seen at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. In addition Diana co-curated "The Odyssey and Ancient Art" at Bard College in 1992. Diana produced catalogues of these exhibitions. She also organized scholarly symposia and edited the papers for publication, including "New Perspectives in Early Greek Art" (National Gallery of Art, 1991) and "The Interpretation of Architectural Sculpture in Greece and Rome" (National Gallery of Art, 1997).

Diana Buitron-Oliver died April 29, 2002 in Washington D.C. Following her death her husband Andrew donated her book collection on Mediterranean archaeology, classics, and art to the Melvin Gelman Library at George Washington University to support their growing Classics and Archaeology programs. He donated her papers to the University of Pennsylvania Museum. Diana is remembered for her passion for Greek art, and her love of travel, writing, and teaching. Washington Post staff writer called Dr. Buitron-Oliver a "scholar in serene command of her field".

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of the papers of Diana-Buitron Oliver from her excavation of the Sanctuary of Apollo Hylates at Kourion in Cyprus. The Sanctuary dates from the Classical and Roman periods. The papers cover Buitron-Oliver's efforts before, during, and after the excavation was completed, during the late 1970s and early 1980s. Financial and administrative matters are included as well. Dr. Buitron-Oliver resumed the work of excavation that was started by George McFadden for the University of Pennsylvania Museum in the years from 1934 until 1954. The excavation ended when McFadden died suddenly in a drowning accident.

The sanctuary is located near the ancient town of Kourion, near the modern town of Episkopi. In the sanctuary Apollo was worshiped as god of the woodlands, and the site was considered one of the main religious centers of Cyprus. People worshipped Apollo at Kourion from the 8th to the 4th centuries A.D. The site has undergone many alterations and extensions in different periods. Originally the site contained a temple, a circular monument, and a formalized Archaic Altar and Precinct. During the Roman period the

site was changed to include an area which may have been used as a display space for votives. Terracotta figurines and pottery were found buried in the votive pit. The city is believed to have been destroyed in an earthquake in A.D. 365.

Diana Buitron-Oliver's excavations sought to clarify the architectural arrangement of the Archaic Precinct, the nature of the cult, and the date when the sanctuary first functioned. The records relating to her excavation are arranged into the following series: Correspondence, Grant Proposals, Accounts, Field Notes, Plans and Drawings, and Reports and Summaries, and Photographs.

The Correspondence begins in the mid 1970s and lasts until the early 1990s. It is arranged chronologically into two major groups, Cyprus and Cyprus Staff, with additional distinct files for certain individuals and topics. The letters reveal much information relating to Buitron-Oliver's dealings with the Walters Art Gallery and other project supporters, preparations for each dig season, and correspondence with those who worked on the dig or conducted work related to it.

The Grant Proposals and Accounts series are arranged chronologically. Grant Proposals primarily relate to the National Endowment for the Humanities applications and related materials from the late 1970s until 1991. Accounts consist of various budget expenses for the excavation from 1978 up until 1988, including issues related to supplies and residence on Cyprus.

The Field Notes series, 1978-1986, is the largest in the collection. Extensive notes, registries, drawings, and reports can be found in this series. The folders have been arranged chronologically; where dates are not apparent they are arranged by subject or grid area. Objects are the main focus of the field notes. There are also seventeen field notebooks containing excavation data, mostly notes on pottery and terracotta.

Plans and Drawings are arranged primarily by subject. This series consists of maps of Kourion, Episkopi and the Archaic Precinct, and drawings of objects. A number of items from this section have been moved to oversize materials. The Reports and Summaries series is arranged chronologically and topically. The series contains Buitron-Oliver's reports about the excavation, as well as other publications, lectures, and/or symposiums. The series also includes correspondence regarding some of the publications.

Photographs (mostly in the form of black-and-white negatives and color slides) document life and work at the site, as well as a large number of finds from the excavation.

Administrative Information

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2011

Finding aid prepared by Karla A. Irwin.

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Related Materials

Related Archival Materials note

For other materials related to Kourion see the Kourion (Curium), Cyprus Excavation Records, 1935-1954. For materials related to the archaeology of Cyprus see also the Lapithos, Cyprus Excavation Records (1931-1935) and the papers relating to the Ohnefalsch-Richter Collection (1890-1891).

Controlled Access Headings

CORPORATE NAME(S)

- Walters Art Museum (Baltimore, Md.) .

FORM/GENRE(S)

- Correspondence
- Field notes
- Inventories
- Maps
- Photographs
- Site plans

GEOGRAPHIC NAME(S)

- Kourion (Extinct city)

PERSONAL NAME(S)

- Buitron-Oliver, Diana , 1946-2002
- Soren, David, B. 1946

SUBJECT(S)

- Archaeological expeditions
- Archaeology--Architecture, ancient
- Excavations (Archaeology)

Collection Inventory

CORRESPONDENCE, 1977-1996 (BULK, 1978-1989) .

Scope and Contents note

The Correspondence begins in the mid 1970s and lasts until the early 1990s. It is arranged chronologically into two major groups, Cyprus and Cyprus Staff, with additional distinct files for certain individuals and topics. The letters reveal much information relating to Buitron-Oliver's dealings with the Walters Art Gallery and other project supporters, preparations for each dig season, and correspondence with those who worked on the dig or conducted work related to it.

	Box
Kourion, Cyprus Undated. One item..	1
1977.	1
1978.	1
1979.	1
1980.	1
1981.	1
1982. .	1
1983.	1
1984.	1
1985.	1

1986.		1
1987.		1
1988.		1
1989.		1
1990.		1
1991-1992.		1
1993-1994.		1
1995-1996.		1
Cyprus Staff 1977-1978.		1
Cyprus Staff 1979.		1
Cyprus Staff 1980.		1
Cyprus Staff 1981.		1
Cyprus Staff 1982.		1
Cyprus Staff 1983.		1
Cyprus Staff 1994.		1
Cyprus Staff 1985-1986.		1
Cyprus Staff 1987-1988.		1
Cyprus Staff 1989. .		1
Staff Newsletters.	1	1

Staff Memos.	1
Air Travel 1978-1982.	1
Cyprus Colloquium 1985.	1
Kourion Conservation.	1
Dietrich, Bernard, 1989-1990.	1
Cyprus Exhibition 1989.	1
Foster, Giraud, 1982-1985. .	1
Glover, Stephen, 1979-1991.	1
Gubel, Eric, 1982-1990.	1
Hulin, Chris, 1986-1990.	1
Masson, Olivier, 1990-1991.	1
Missouri in Cyprus, 1978-1981.	1
Movie, 1989.	1
PENN, 1977-1983.	1
Kourion PR and Fundraising 1982.	1
Publication, 1983-1989. .	1
Soren, David, 1976-1987.	1
Cyprus Project Supporters, 1977-1984.	1
Sweeney, Laura, 1989.	1

UMBC and Dartmouth, 1977-1983.

1

GRANT PROPOSALS, 1978-1991.

Scope and Contents note

The series of Grant Proposals and Accounts are arranged chronologically. Grant Proposals primarily relate to the National Endowment for the Humanities applications and related materials from the late 1970s until 1991.

	Box
NEH Proposal Original 1978-1981.	2
NEH Correspondence 1978-1982.	2
Missouri Contribution 1980-1982.	2
AAUW 1982.	2
NEH 1982 Original.	2
NEH Correspondence 1983.	2
NEH Correspondence 1984-1985.	2
Cyprus NEH 1984-1986. . .	2
Narrative Report of Accomplishment 1981-1984.	2
ASOR Application 1985-1988.	2
NEH Grant 1987-1988. .	2

NEH Grant Expenses.	2
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PLANS AND DRAWINGS, 1978-1983.

Scope and Contents note

Plans and Drawings are arranged primarily by subject. This series consists of maps of Kourion, Episkopi and the Archaic Precinct, and drawings of objects.

	Box
OM 1978.	5
Scarab Seals and TC Drawings 1981.	5
Archaic Precinct.	5
Kourion Bamboula.	5
Bronzes.	5
Chariot Groups.	5
Jones, F. Inked.	5
Misc. (1 of 2).	5
Misc. (2 of 2).	5
Drawings That Have Been Inked.	5
Episkopi Maps.	5
Kourion VL and L Lamps.	5
Maps and Plans.	5

Misc. Maps (1 of 3).	5
Misc. Maps (2 of 3).	5
Misc. Maps (3 of 3).	5
Jkd/Kd.	5
Jkd and Kd Original Top Plans.	5
Jkg.	5
Jg Pottery (Kg).	5
Kd 7-12 Top Plans.	5
Kd 7-13 Pottery.	5
Mf Le Mg & LG Not to Be Published.	5
Cypriot Sigillata 1983.	5
	Box
NEH Tomb Application.	2

ACCOUNTS, 1978-1988.

Scope and Contents note

Accounts consist of various budget expenses for the excavation from 1978 up until 1988, including issues related to supplies and the residences on Cyprus.

Box

Cyprus Project Supplies 1978.	2
Budget Funds 1978-1981.	2
Budget Expenses 1978-1981.	2
Payroll 1979.	2
Budget Expenses 1981. .	2
Budget 1982. .	2
Budget 1983.	2
Expenses 1983.	2
Expenses 1984.	2
Expenses 1986-1987.	2
Budget 1988.	2
Exports.	2

FIELD NOTES, 1978-1986.

Scope and Contents note

The Field Notes Series is the largest series in the collection. Extensive notes, registries, drawings, and reports can be found in this series. The folders have been arranged chronologically and where dates are not apparent by dig subject or grid area. Objects are the main focus of the field notes. There are also seventeen field notebooks contained in this series. Many of these notebooks contain notes on pottery and terracotta.

	Box
1978 Notes (1 of 3).	3
1978 Notes (2 of 3).	3
1978 Notes (3 of 3).	3
Registry 1978 (1 of 2).	3
Registry 1978 (2 of 2).	3
Kourion Bronzes 1978-1984.	3
Kourion Lamps 1978-1982.	3
Kourion Limestones 1978-1982.	3
Notes 1979.	3
Kourion Inscriptions 1978-1982.	3
Registry 1979 (1 of 2).	3
Registry 1979 (2 of 2).	3
Archaic Altar 1980.	3
Registry 1980 (1 of 3).	3
Registry 1980 (2 of 3).	3
Registry 1980 (3 of 3).	3
1980 Jg Henry Lie (1 of 3).	3
1980 Jg Henry Lie (2 of 3).	3

1980 Jg Henry Lie (3 of 3).	3
1980 Kg Guy Sanders.	3
1981 Jkef Jf4 Jf1-2 Jef Jkd Harry Heywood (1 of 2).	3
1981 Jkef Jf4 Jf1-2 Jef Jkd Harry Heywood (2 of 2).	3
1981 Registry (1 of 2).	3
1981 Registry (2 of 2).	3
1981 Jkg Kf3 Paul Rebak.	3
1982 Notes (1 of 3).	3
1982 Notes (2 of 3).	3
1982 Notes (3 of 3).	3
Apollo 1982 Jkd B Kd 2/3 (1 of 2).	3
Apollo 1982 Jkd B Kd 2/3 (2 of 2).	3
Apollo 1982 Jkd B Kd 2/3 Duplicate Baulk (1 of 2).	3
Apollo 1982 Jkd B Kd 2/3 Duplicate Baulk (2 of 2).	3
Apollo 1982 Jkd Quads A-D (1 of 5).	4
Apollo 1982 Jkg Quads A-D (2 of 5).	4
Apollo 1982 Jkd Quads A-d (3 of 5).	4
Apollo 1982 Jkd Quads A-d (4 of 5).	4
Apollo 1982 Jkd Quads A-d (5 of 5).	4

Apollo 1982 Kd4-Kd6 (1 of 3).	4
Apollo 1982 Kd4-Kd6 (2 of 3).	4
Apollo 1982 Kd4-Kd6 (3 of 3).	4
Apollo 1982 Kd7-Kd12.	4
1982 Registry (1 of 2).	4
1982 Registry (2 of 2).	4
1983 Notes (1 of 5).	4
1983 Notes (2 of 5).	4
1983 Notes (3 of 5).	4
1983 Notes (4 of 5).	4
1983 Notes (5 of 5).	4
Kourion Bronzes.	4
Misc.	4
Jf Jef Jf4 and Kf3.	4
Jg.	4
Jkd/Kd 1-6 Pottery Catalogue. .	4
Jkg.	4
Kd 7-12.	4
Kd 4,5,6 (1 of 2).	4

Kd 4,5,6 (2 of 2).	4
Lg and Hg Jkde and Jkd Pottery.	4
McFadden Pottery.	4
Loose Papers.	4
Seals.	4
Assorted Field Notes.	4
Field Notebook Untitled (Bound).	5
Kourion 1978 Field Notebook.	5
Kourion 1978 Pottery Field Notebook. .	5
Kourion 1979 Field Notebook.	5
Kourion 1979 Pottery Field Notebook.	5
Kourion 1980-1981 Terracottas Field Notebook.	5
Kourion 1980 Pottery Field Notebook.	5
Kourion 1981 Pottery and Terracotta Field Notebooks.	5
Kourion 1982 Pottery I Field Notebook.	5
Kourion 1982 Pottery II Field Notebook.	5
Apollo 1982 Field Notebook.	5
Walls Field Notebook, 1982.	5
Apollo 1983 Field Photos Notebook. .	5

Apollo 1983 Field Notes (Top Plans) Field Notebook.	5
Apollo 1983 Black and White Field Notebook.	5
Kourion 1983 Field Notebook.	5
ASOR KS 1986 Field Notebook.	5
Pottery Field Notebook. .	5
Field Notebook Untitled (Spiral).	5

REPORTS AND SUMMARIES, 1978-1995.

Scope and Contents note

The Reports and Summaries series is arranged chronologically, or by subject area when dates are not apparent or there is a distinct subject area warranting its' own folder. This series contains Dr. Buitron-Oliver's notes and research about the excavation that was used for her publications, lectures, and/or symposiums. There is some correspondence in this series that relates to people she worked with or advised on publications, etc.

	Box
Reports 1978.	6
Apollo 1979 Field Summaries. .	6
Lectures and Apollo Sanctuary 1979.	6
Summaries 1980.	6
Summaries 1981.	6

Summaries 1982.	6
Summaries 1983-1984.	6
Colloquium: Cyprus Between Occident and Orient 1985.	6
Hellenic Trends 1985.	6
Bazemore, Bonny Cyp. Syll. Inscr.	6
Bourgeois, B. (1 of 2).	6
Bourgeois, B., (2 of 2).	6
Bulls.	6
Cult.	6
Conservation Reports 1978-1979.	6
Excavation (1 of 2).	6
Excavation (2 of 2).	6
Davis, Simon.	6
Film.	6
INO Final.	6
Circular Monument, 1980. . .	6
Newspaper Clippings, 1977-1984. .	6
Kourion Pottery.	6
Limestone Sculpture, 1989.	6

Misc. Reports (1 of 3).	6
Misc. Reports (2 of 3).	6
Misc. Reports (3 of 3).	6
Warden, G. Kourion Bronzes.	6
Terracotta.	6
Summaries 1978.	6

PHOTOGRAPHS.

Excavations.

Pottery.