Guide to the Robert J. Squier Personal Documents

Author: SPK, 05/28/2015

Encoder:

Creator of Collection: Robert J. Squier

Collection Dates:

Accession Number: 2015.03

Repository: Archaeological Research Center (ARC)
Biodiversity Institute
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Abstract:
During the 1950s and early 1960s, Robert J. Squier was finishing his PhD dissertation through the University of California at Berkeley. In the course of his writing he compiled bibliographies, notes, and correspondence with other archaeologists. He finished the dissertation in 1964. In addition to his PhD documents, Robert J. Squier accumulated many personal documents and correspondence related to Olmec archaeology. Personal documents and correspondence related to his personal life and not professional projects were also accumulated over the course of several decades.

During the 1980s, Robert J. Squier participated in the creation of two museum exhibits. One focused on Pre-Columbian Costa Rica archaeology and was exhibited in 1982 at the University of Kansas. Robert Smith was the main organizer of this exhibit. The second exhibit was titled “Art and Life in Ancient Mexico” and was exhibited by the Wichita Art Museum and the University of Kansas in 1984-1985. In preparation of the exhibits, documents were compiled containing story lines and artifacts to be used in display.

Access Restrictions: Prior notification to ARC staff is required.

Use Restrictions: ARC staff may determine use restrictions dependent upon the physical condition of the document. Researchers may be required to either purchase or use photocopies of fragile documents
Extent: 1.5 linear feet

Dimensions: Three 5”x12”x11” Box

Associated Records: Rough drafts of portions of Robert J. Squier’s PhD Dissertation, Notes, Correspondence, Artifact catalogs, Museum Exhibit documents, Teaching documents, unpublished manuscripts, Photograph and Slide inventories

Biographical Name: Robert J. Squier

Biographical Note: Robert J. Squier was born in 1918 in Decatur, Michigan. He received his PhD from the University of California, Berkeley where he trained under Robert F. Heizer and John. H. Rowe, and was initially exposed to California and Mesoamerican archaeology. He joined the University of Kansas faculty in 1958 as an instructor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology and research associate with the Natural History Museum. He became an assistant professor of anthropology when the discipline was formed into a separate department in 1962, and advanced to professor of anthropology by 1968. He held the position of department chair numerous times between 1964 and 1982. Robert J. Squier’s research interests focused on the formative period of Mesoamerica, dynamics of cultural growth in the archaic civilizations of the new world, cultural ecology, and history of anthropology. His fieldwork spanned 1949 to 1971 and included investigations in northern California, Nevada, and eastern Kansas in the United States, and the Valley of Mexico, Tabasco, and Veracruz in Mexico. Robert Squier’s fieldwork and research significantly added to the body of knowledge on Olmec archaeology in Mesoamerica and he frequently corresponded with other renowned Mesoamerican archaeologists such as, Matthew W. Sterling, Phillip Drucker, Michael D. Coe, and Tatiana Proskouriakoff. Additionally, his research added to the collections and created a legacy in Mesoamerican archaeological research at KU that continues today.

Scope and Contents:

This collection is divided into two series based on personal documents and museum exhibit related documents.

Series 1: PhD Related, Personal Correspondence, Non-Project Related Correspondence

This series contains documents, mainly notes and bibliographic compilations, related to Robert J. Squier’s PhD dissertation. Miscellaneous documents on the subject of Olmec archaeology non-related to archaeological projects of Robert J. Squier’s, are included in this series. Correspondence about his dissertation and personal non-dissertation related correspondence concludes the documents in this series.
Series 2: Teaching/Museum Exhibits, and Correspondence from Potential Donors

This series contains documents related to museum exhibits that Robert J. Squier was involved with developing. Two exhibits comprise this series, the 1982 Pre-Columbian Costa Rica exhibit at KU and the Wichita Art Museum, and the 1984-1985 Art and Life in Ancient Mexico exhibit at KU and the Wichita Art Museum. The documents include preparatory exhibit setup plans, artifacts to be included, inventories, catalogs, associated papers, correspondence, and other miscellaneous documents related to the exhibits.

Separated Material: Personal Artifact Collection of Robert J. Squier

Subject Terms: Archaeology, Museum Exhibits, Artifact Collections, PhD Dissertation, La Venta, Costa Rica Archaeology, Mesoamerican Archaeology, Olmec

Geographic Locations: United States, Lawrence, Kansas; Wichita, Kansas


Corporate Names: The University of Kansas, Wichita Art Museum, the University of California at Berkeley

Language: English and Spanish

Acquisition Information: Deposited with the University of Kansas. Materials were donated by the estate of Robert J. Squier.

Custodial History: Contents of the home of the late Robert J. Squier.

Inventory:

Series 1: PhD Related, Olmec Documents, Non-Project Related Correspondence, Personal Correspondence

DISSEMINATION NOTES

Box 1
Folder 1  Robert J. Squier’s rough draft of Dissertation Contents; Chapters 1-4 descriptions. Thesis title with committee members and brief abstract (Rough Draft).

Folder 2  Notes on Olmec settlement patterns in different periods. Post-Olmec notes and notes on manipulative use of La Venta 14C dates.

Folder 3  Dissertation Bibliography notecards.

Folder 4  Dissertation notes (1 of 4).

Folder 5  Dissertation notes (2 of 4).

Folder 6  Dissertation notes (3 of 4).

Folder 7  Dissertation notes (4 of 4).

Folder 8  Dissertation notes with illustrations and tables. List of objects purchased.

**PHD CORRESPONDENCE**

Box 1


Folder 10  Robert J. Squier correspondence with dissertation committee; Gareth W. Lowe, John H. Rowe, James F. King.

**OLMEC DOCUMENTS**

Box 1

Folder 11  Robert J. Squier’s miscellaneous notes and notebook on Olmec archaeology.

Folder 12  Diagram / chart of Olmec sequencing and phase designation.

**MISCELLANEOUS OLMEC PAPERS**

Box 1


OLMEC CORRESPONDENCE

Box 1

Folder 15  Robert J. Squier with Alfonso Medellin Zenil, Richard S. MacNeish, Melvin L. Fowler.


PERSONAL BIBLIOGRAPHIES

Box 2


Folder 2  Annotated Bibliography of Jimenez Moreno, Michael D. Coe, Berlin, and Roman Pina Chan. Smithsonian Institute selected references.

GENERAL MISCELLANEOUS AND PERSONAL CORRESPONDENCE

Box 2

Folder 3  Robert J. Squier with Michael D. Coe and Tatiana Proskouriakoff.

Folder 4  Robert J. Squier with Clement Meighan regarding Meighan’s work at Amapa.


Folder 6  Robert J. Squier with Evelyn Squier (1 of 4).

Folder 7  Robert J. Squier with Evelyn Squier (2 of 4).

Folder 8  Robert J. Squier with Evelyn Squier (3 of 4).
Folder 9  Robert J. Squier with Evelyn Squier (4 of 4).

Folder 10  Blank Postcards, addressed postcards and letters separated by acid-free paper.

PERSONAL DOCUMENTS

Box 2


Folder 12  Miscellaneous etchings made by Robert J. Squier. Unknown sites and monuments.

Series 2: Teaching/Museum Exhibits, and Correspondence from Potential Donors

EXHIBIT DOCUMENTS – 1982 COSTA RICA EXHIBIT

Box 1


CORRESPONDENCE

Box 1

Folder 2  Robert J. Squier with Jim Seaver regarding collections on loan for the exhibit. Robert J. Squier with Alfred Johnson, Robert J. Smith and Charles L. Stansifer about the exhibit.

MEDIA

Box 1

Folder 2  Newspaper clippings about the Exhibit.

EXHIBIT DOCUMENTS – 1984-1985 ART AND LIFE IN ANCIENT MEXICO
Box 1

Folder 3  Exhibit Labels and descriptions based on locations and artifact types (1 of 2).

Folder 4  Exhibit Labels and descriptions based on locations and artifact types (2 of 2).

Folder 5  Storyline rough draft. A bibliography in relation to the exhibit (one). “Civilizations of Ancient Mexico,” a selected bibliography (two).

CATALOGS

Box 1


Folder 7  Checklist of objects from KU not installed in the exhibit. KU material on loan to the Wichita Art Museum. Objects on loan from the Kurdian collection.

Folder 8  Lists of photographs to be used. Wall case photographs. Exhibit photograph list for the Wichita Art Museum. Slides on loan to the Wichita Art Museum. “Many Mexico” slide and photograph descriptions.

Folder 9  Kurdian gallery floor plans, checklists of artifacts on display at KU or the Wichita Art Museum. Kurdian objects displayed with descriptions. Kurdian collection descriptions and appraisal. Floor plan for Kurdian gallery exhibit at Wichita Art Museum.

Folder 10  Heflin collection inventory. Correspondence between Robert J. Squier and the Heflin’s. Notes about the Heflin collection.

PUBLICATIONS

Box 1

Folder 10  “The Archaeology of Saline County, Missouri and Daily Life Among the Aztecs.”

KU VERSION OF THE EXHIBIT-DOCUMENTS
Box 1
Folder 11  Exhibit description at KU (Edited and Final versions). General terms used in the exhibit. Hands on specimen list.

Folder 12  Exhibit Schedule.

MEDIA

Box 1
Folder 13  Newspaper clippings, Flyers, and a Press Release.

Folder 14  Wichita Art Museum Brochure, Newsletter about the exhibit, Wichita Eagle-Beacon Article about the exhibit.

CORRESPONDENCE

Box 1
Folder 15  Robert J. Squier with; Betty Anderson, Bill Griffin, Gregory Kurdian, Alfred Johnson, Reinheld, Novalene Ross.

FINANCIAL

Box 1
Folder 16  Robert J. Squier’s personal vehicle travel expenses for transporting material to the Wichita Art Museum.

TEACHING RELATED DOCUMENTS

Box 1
Folder 17  Peruvian Slides list and descriptions. Early hominid slides and descriptions.