

# **Lemaire Archive**

## **AAOA-VRA.Lemaire.1**

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Resource Manager, Arts of Africa, Oceania, and the Americas**

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This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Arts of Africa, Oceania, and the Americas  
The Metropolitan Museum of Art  
Arts of Africa, Oceania, and the Americas - Photo Study Collection  
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## Summary Information

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**Repository** Arts of Africa, Oceania, and the Americas

**Title** Galerie Lemaire records

**Date [bulk]** Bulk, 1950-1990

**Date [inclusive]** 1940-1997

**Extent** 20.0 Linear feet 55 binders; 4 boxes.

**Language** Dutch

**Language of Materials note** Dutch and English

## Biographical/Historical note

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Galerie Lemaire is an Amsterdam-based art gallery founded by Matthias “Louis” Lemaire in 1933. Since then, the gallery has been continually run by three generations of the family, with a comprehensive inventory of art that has spanned Africa, Oceania, the Americas, and both Central and Southeast Asia. Between the 1950s-1970s, the gallery became particularly active in Oceanic art, with the notable acquisition of the Sepik art collection of Dr. Lautenbach, which was sold to Volkerkunde Museum in Rotterdam. In addition to being a prominent multicultural art gallery, over the years it has also served as a cultural hub that has hosted such notable Dutch literati and artists including Annie M.G. Schmidt, the architect Aldo Van Eyck, and Eugène Brands, Melle Oldeboerrigter, and the author, painter and sculptor, Jan Wolkers.

Timeline:

1920s- Matthias (M.L.J.) Lemaire began to deal art from his home in Rotterdam, and later, The Hague.

1932- From May to October, Matthias Lemaire sold art in the Indian Exhibition (Indische Tentoonstelling) in The Hague.

1933 – Matthias (M.L.J.) Lemaire officially opened an art gallery in the Leidestraat 29, Amsterdam, under the name Kunsthandel Lemaire.

1960- Kunsthandel Lemaire moved to Prinesengracht 841.

1978- Kunsthandel Lemaire experienced another move to Reguiliersgracht 80, and was renamed Galerie Lemaire. Matthias’ son, Louis Frederik (Frits) Lemaire took over business operations and also ran a photo studio, Fotostudio Lemaire. Frits produced many of the photographs that now reside in this collection. The gallery has remained at this location to the present, and since 2000 it has been owned and operated by Frits's daughter, Finette Lemaire.

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## Scope and Contents note

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Galerie Lemaire records consist of approximately 15,000 photographs (mostly silver gelatin prints with a small percentage of color photographs and transparencies) of art inventory 1940s-1990s. Geographic areas represented include Asia, Africa, North, Central, and South America, Oceania, (with an emphasis on the former German New Guinea, now Papua New Guinea and Papua Province, now Indonesia.) Objects depicted include figurative sculpture, masks, human skulls; a wide range of utilitarian objects including chairs, stools, headrests, neckrests, paddles, weapons, tools, musical instruments, currency, textiles, and garments. The photographs range in size from approximately 4 x 5 inches or smaller to 8 x10 inches or larger, and the majority of them are annotated on the verso with either handwritten or typed labels

indicating object description, dimensions, medium, geographical location, and/or cultural attribution. Other details sometimes include when the object was in possession of the Galerie Lemaire, and its selling price. Galerie Lemaire records also contain bound photocopies of ledger books (1950-1998), ephemera (announcements, invitations, greeting cards, miscellaneous film negatives and correspondence from Finette Lemaire), and two black and white photographic negatives and prints, portraits of Matthais Lemaire.

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## Arrangement note

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Galerie Lemaire appeared to have arranged their visual materials into labeled envelopes (primarily in Dutch language) containing specific groups of photographs and transparencies. These groupings may have had administrative significance in relation to other business records retained by Galerie Lemaire. The labeling varies with the names of either country and/or cultural group of origin, or by object type. The envelopes and photo groupings therein have been preserved as found, but the archivist has imposed a hierarchical geographic arrangement which is further broken out by country and region when possible, in the following order: Africa (with an additional subdivision for general regions), Americas, Asia (with an additional subdivision for Indonesia), Europe, and Oceania.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Information

Arts of Africa, Oceania, and the Americas

### Conditions Governing Access note

Galerie Lemaire records are open and available for research according to The Metropolitan Museum of Art Archives regulations.

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## Related Materials

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### Related Archival Materials note

The remaining corpus of administrative records for Galerie Lemaire resides with the current proprietor, Finette Lemaire.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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### Genre(s)

- Inventories
- Photocopies
- Photographs

### Personal Name(s)

- Lemaire, Matthias, (Matthias Ludovicus Joannes Lemaire ), 1891-1979
- Louis Frederik (Frits), Lemaire, 1921-1995

### Subject(s)

- Art dealers

## Collection Inventory

	<b>Folder</b>
Binder 1: Africa--Central	1
<b>General note</b>	
Angola; Democratic Republic of Congo.	
Wooden sculpture, jewelry staffs, thumb pianos, masks, knives.	
<b>General note</b>	
Binder 2: Africa--Central	
<b>General note</b>	
Democratic Republic of Congo.	
Knives, drums, pipes, textiles, wooden sculpture, masks, wooden carved boxes and cups.	
Binder 3: Africa--Central	
<b>General note</b>	
Democratic Republic of Congo.	

Wooden sculpture, masks, headrests, staffs, fly whisk.

Binder 4: Africa--Central

**General note**

Democratic Republic of Congo.

Knives, daggers, adzes, spears, sheaths, musical instruments (thumb pianos, marimba.)

Binder 5: Africa--Central

**General note**

Democratic Republic of Congo.

Wooden sculpture, Power Figures (Nkisi), staffs, ivory amulets, bronze currency, swords, adzes, prestige knives.

Binder 6: Africa--West

**General note**

Benin; Burkina Fasso; Cameroon.

Masks, ivory trumpets, bronze sculpture, ivory armllets, carved wooden lidded vessels, beadwork, pipes, stools.

Binder 7: Africa--West



**General note**

Cote d'Ivoire.

Wooden sculpture, masks, heddle pulleys.

Binder 8: Africa--West

**General note**

Cote d'Ivoire.

Masks, metal sculpture, slingshots, gong mallets, staffs, wooden carved spoons, game (wari) boards, chairs, heddle pulleys,

Binder 9: Africa--West

**General note**

Cote d'Ivoire; Liberia; Mali; Sierra Leone; Senegal (some Sudan material within this group.)

Masks, pottery (terra cotta funerary heads), wooden sculpture, metal sculpture, heddle pulleys, staffs, clappers, ivory oracle figures, divination bowls, boards, rattles, musical instruments, stools, hats, wooden sculptures, stone sculptures, wooden boxes, weapons, fly whisks, house posts, lamps, stool, neckrests, spoons, brass hair ornaments, jewelry, ivory horn, and small clay pipes.

Binder 10: Africa--West

**General note**

Ghana; Guinea; Mali.

Jewelry, combs, wooden sculpture, fly whisk, wooden carved stools, drums, fertility figures (Akua'ba), metal sculptures and lidded vessels, masks, headpieces.

Binder 11: Africa--West

**General note**

Mali; Nigeria.

Headresses, wooden sculpture, metal sculpture, textile, jewelry (armlets, anklets, pendants.)

Binder 12: Africa--West

**General note**

Nigeria.

Metal sculpture (Edan staff heads), staffs, masks, wooden sculpture (ibedji),

Binder 13: Africa--Central, West

**General note**

Cameroon; Democratic Republic of Congo; Liberia; Mali; Nigeria; Senegal; Sierra Leone, Western Sudan.

Metal sculpture, oracle boards, divination cups, Ile Ori (House of the Head) shrine objects, beadwork, knives, swords, textiles, masks (Bundu, helmet), musical instruments.

Binder 14: Africa--East, North, South

**General note**

Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Kenya, Namibia, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania.

Reliquary figures, masks, painted icons (Coptic), wooden sculpture, textiles, headrests, neckrests, jewelry.

Binder 15: Africa--East, North, South

**General note**

Madagascar; Kenya, Somalia, South Africa; Tanzania; Uganda; Zanzibar; Zambia.

Jewelry, wooden sculpture, masks, headrests, neckrests, musical instruments, shields, staffs, snuff boxes, daggers.

Binder 16: Central America

**General note**

Anitlla; Costa Rica; Ecuador; Guatemala; Mexico (Chupicuaro, Colima, Estado de México--Teotihuacan Jalisco, Nayarit, Tlatilco); Panama.

Metal sculptures, stone sculptures, clay figures, vessels.

Binder 17: North America

**General note**

Canada; United States, Alaska (Eskimo--Inuit), Eastern Woodlands (Iriquois--Haudenosaunee), Mid-Atlantic, Northeast, Northwest Coast, Plains.

Carved maritime ivory, beadwork, textiles, bowls, boxes, stone pipes, tools, war bonnets, clothing, beaded shoes.

Binder 18: North America

**General note**

United States, California; Pacific Northwest coast (Kwakiutl, Haida, Nootka/Nuu-chahnulth), Southwest, Arizona and New Mexico (Hopi, Pueblo); Plains; Mexico.

Bowls, baskets, clothing, tools, totem poles, weapons, wooden spoons, rattles.

Binder 19: South America

**General note**

Brazil (Kaijapo peoples, Karajá peoples, Tapirapé peoples, Xingu peoples); Peru (Chimú, Inca, Nazca).

Feather works, shrunken heads, stone sculpture, pottery, weapons, textiles, necklaces, carved wooden figures, embossed gold and silver works.

Binder 20: South America

**General note**

Peru (Nazca).

Stone sculptures, pottery, textiles.

Binder 21: Asia

**General note**

India; Japan.

Stone sculptures, metal sculptures, masks, textile, pottery.

Binder 22: Asia

**General note**

China, Taiwan; India; Japan; Mongolia; Pakistan; Vietnam.

Metal sculptures, wooden sculpture, textiles, porcelain, tools, necklaces, weapons, puppets, drums.

Binder 23: Asia

**General note**

Afghanistan; Egypt; Iran; Lebanon; Nepal; Syria; Uzbekistan.

Textiles, paintings, calligraphy, stone sculptures, metal sculpture, pottery.

**General note**

Textiles, paintings, calligraphy, stone sculptures, metal sculptures, pottery.

Binder 24: Asia

**General note**

Nepal; Tibet.

Metal sculptures, stone sculptures, tools, weapons, wooden furniture, stupas, boxes, musical instruments (trumpets, skull drums, cymbals), vessels, teapots.

Binder 25: Asia--Indonesia

**General note**

Tibet.

Bone aprons, jewelry, amulet boxes, prayer wheels, daggers, skull bowls, thanks.

**General note**

Tibet.

Binder 26: Asia--Indonesia

**General note**

Bali; Borneo.

Kris knives, textiles, masks, stone sculpture, polychrome and wooden sculpture; 20th century wooden sculpture, rattan basket work, woven straw mats, clothing, hats.

**General note**

Bali; Borneo.

Binder 27: Asia--Indonesia

**General note**

Borneo.

Carved wooden architectural elements, metalwork, vessels, tun-tun-babi ("pig sticks"), embellished skulls, swords, knives, shields, musical instruments.

Binder 28: Asia--Indonesia

**General note**

Java.

Gilt and polychrome masks, belt buckles, hairpins, jewelry, metalwork, bowls, boxes, kris knives, musical instruments.

**General note**

Java.

Binder 29: Asia--Indonesia

**General note**

Java; Myanmar; Sumatra.

Textiles, stone sculpture, metal sculpture, swords, daggers, bettel-nut cutters, cabinets, jewelry, drum.

Binder 30: Asia--Indonesia

**General note**

Java; Sumatra (Batak peoples.)

Wayang Golek polychrome rod puppets, carved wooden figures, stone sculpture, house models, architectural elements, daggers, staffs, divination tools, jewelry, shields.

Binder 31: Asia--Indonesia

**General note**

Sumatra (Batak peoples); Sri Lanka.

Polychrome masks, bowls, furniture, bamboo containers, weapons, bullet holders, powder horns, kris swords.

**General note**

Polychrome masks, bowls, furniture, bamboo containers, weapons, bullet holders, powder horns, kris swords.

Binder 32: Asia--Indonesia

**General note**

Myanmar; Sumatra (Nias Island); Thailand.

Metal and wooden sculptures, textiles, book, cowbells, bowls, necklaces, drums, swords, daggers, shields.

Binder 33: Asia--Indonesia

**General note**

Islands (mixed): Endeh, Flores, Lombok, Sumba, Tenimbar, Timor.



Mortar and pestles, jewelry, wooden sculptures, metalwork, textiles (Ikat), boat models, drums, house altars,

Binder 34: Asia--Indonesia

**General note**

Islands (mixed): Bali, Borneo (Dayak peoples), Celebes, Kalimantan, Malaya, Sumatra, Sulawesi, Sumba, Timor.

Jewelry (necklaces, earrings, bracelets), wooden sculpture, basket work, clothing, kris knives, masks, house models, dance skirts, beaded neck ornament (kandaure.)

Binder 35: Australia

**General note**

Bark paintings, woomeras (spearthrowers), weapons, tools, pearl shell ornaments, bull roarers, shields, jewelry, textiles, masks, musical instruments.

Binder 36: Europe

**General note**

Balkan Peninsula; Lapland; Yugoslavia.

Sculptures, musical instruments, clothing, textiles.

Binder 37: Melanesia--Islands

**General note**

Admiralty Islands; New Britain; New Caledonia; Fiji; French Island; Milne Bay Province (Massim, Trobriands.)

Wooden sculptures, fern wood sculptures, spears, shields, bowls, combs, jewelry (kap-kap), masks, axes.

Binder 38: Melanesia--Islands

**General note**

Milne Bay Province (Massim, Trobriand); New Ireland.

Funerary Carving (Malagan); masks, kap-kap, clubs, masks.

Binder 39: Melanesia--Islands

**General note**

Milne Bay Province (Massim, Trobriand); Santa Cruz Islands; Solomon Islands.

Feather currency (in spools), textiles, clubs, lime spatulas, wooden sculptures, canoe prows, kap-kap, axes, clubs, spears.

Binder 40: Melanesia--Islands

**General note**

Solomon Islands.

Textiles, combs, kap-kap, shell ornaments, bowls, paddles, fish hooks, canoe prows, clubs, shields, fish hooks, neckrests, drums.

Binder 41: Melanesia--Islands; Papua New Guinea

**General note**

Vanuatu; Northeastern Papua New Guinea (Maprik region.)

Jewelry, masks, fern sculptures, skulls, wooden sculptures, clay and mixed media figural sculptures, clubs, spears, chest ornaments, bone dagger.

Binder 42: Melanesia--Papua New Guinea

**General note**

Maprik region; Sepik region.

Pottery (sago jars), lime spatulas, bone daggers, neckrests, spears, masks, turtle shell jewelry, skulls, houseposts, Yipwons, spathes, shields.

Binder 43: Papua New Guinea

**General note**

Sepik region.

Pottery (sago jars), lime spatulas, bone daggers, neckrests, spears, masks, turtle shell jewelry, skulls.

Binder 44: Melanesia--Papua New Guinea

**General note**

Sepik region.

Masks, musical instruments (drums, slit drums, shell trumpets), suspension hooks, bullroarers.

Binder 45: Melanesia--Papua New Guinea

**General note**

Sepik region.

Wooden pestles, paddles, bamboo pipes, bone spatulas, slit drums, canoe prows, jewelry (chest ornaments, necklaces), shields, spear throwers, drums, neckrests, skulls, bone daggers, spathes.

Binder 46: Melanesia--Papua New Guinea

**General note**

Sepik region.

Wooden sculptures, masks.

Binder 47: Melanesia--Papua New Guinea

**General note**

Sepik region; Massim region; Huon Gulf; Papuan Gulf.

Wooden sculptures, Yipwans, spathes, bone daggers, canoe prows, armlets, kap kap, wooden belts, Gope boards.

Binder 48: Melanesia--Papua New Guinea; Micronesia

**General note**

Massim region; Huon Gulf; Papuan Gulf; Eastern highlands (some north coast Papua objects included here.) Kirabati (formerly Gilbert Islands.)

Gope boards, drums, wooden sculptures, clubs, axes, shields, jewelry (necklaces), clothing, woven fiber belts, masks, fish hooks, axes.

Binder 49: Indonesia--Papua (Irian Jaya) Province

**General note**

Asmat region; Cenderawasih Bay; Mimika region; Lake Sentani region; Yos Sudarso Bay.

Kowar (ancestor figures), canoe prow ornaments, bowls, headrests, staffs, bone daggers, drums, chest ornaments.

Binder 50: Indonesia--Papua (Irian Jaya) Province

**General note**

Asmat region; Mimika region.

Skulls, shields, chest ornaments, girdles, belts, costumes, musical instruments (drums, flutes, horns), paddles, canoe prow ornaments, masks.

Binder 51: Polynesia--Islands

Wooden sculptures, tools; neck rests, stools, paddles, clubs, adzes, fish hooks,

**General note**

Cook Islands; Hawaii; Hervey Islands; Fiji.

Binder 52: Polynesia--Islands

**General note**

Fiji; Rapa Nui.

Clubs, necklaces, bowls, fish hooks.

Binder 53: Polynesia Islands

**General note**

Marquesas Islands; Raratonga; Samoa; Tokelau.

Wooden sculptures, stone sculptures, paddles, clubs, spears, shell ornaments, tapa cloths, neckrests.

Binder 54: Polynesia--New Zealand

Clubs, wooden sculptures, carved boxes, carved architectural ornaments, Hei tikis, flax textiles, feather textiles, flutes.

Binder 55: Polynesia--New Zealand

**General note**

Also a small amount of Cook Islands.

Feeding funnels, flutes, wooden sculptures and utilitarian objects, fish hooks, clubs, spears, carved boxes, flax capes and textiles, jewelry (jade ear ornaments), house models.

Box 1: Oversize photographs

Folder 1: Melanesia--Papua New Guinea. Sepik textile.

Folder 2: Melanesia--Papua New Guinea. Sepik wooden sculpture.

Folder 3: Melanesia--Papua New Guinea. Sepik wooden sculpture.

Folder 4: Melanesia--Papua New Guinea. Sepik wooden sculpture.

Folder 5: Asia--polychrome and wood carved figure.

Box 2: Lemaire Gallery ledgers (bound photocopies)

Folder 1: 1950-1956

Folder 2: 1957-1960

Folder 3: 1961-1968

Box 3: Gallerie Lemaire ledgers (bound photocopies)

Folder 1: 1968-1976

Folder 2: 1978-1997

Box 4: Ephemera, portraits of Matthias Lemaire (1952)

Folder 1: Ephemera (holiday cards, gallery events)

Folder 2: Black and white film negatives (4) and prints, portraits of Matthias Lemaire.