Irvine MacManus records related to "Treasures of Tutankhamun" exhibition, 1975-1979

Finding aid prepared by Celia Hartmann

Processing of this collection was funded by a generous grant from the Leon Levy Foundation

This finding aid was generated using Archivists' Toolkit on July 03, 2013

The Metropolitan Museum of Art Archives 1000 Fifth Avenue New York, NY, 10028-0198 212-570-3937 archives@metmuseum.org

Table of Contents

<u>Summary Information</u>	3
<u>Historical note</u>	4
Scope and Contents note	5
Arrangement note	6
Administrative Information_	6
Related Materials	6
Controlled Access Headings	6
Collection Inventory.	8
Series I. Planning and Administration	8
Series II. Exhibition at Other Museums.	10
Series III. Exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum	12
Series IV. Publicity and Promotion	12

Summary Information

.....

Repository The Metropolitan Museum of Art Archives

Title Irvine MacManus records related to "Treasures of Tutankhamun"

exhibition, 1975-1979

Dates 1975-1979 (bulk 1976-1977)

Extent 2.9 Linear feet (6 full-size document cases, 2 half-size document cases, 1

card box)

Language Primarily in English; some documents include Arabic translation.

Abstract Organized by the Metropolitan Museum and the Museum of Egyptian

Antiquities in Cairo, the exhibition "Treasures of Tutankhamun" toured six American museums from 1977 to 1979, culminating in a four month installation at the Metropolitan Museum from December 20, 1978 through April 15, 1979. The records of Irvine MacManus, exhibition coordinator at the Metropolitan Museum, document the organization, transportation, installation, attendance, and publicity surrounding the exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum and its other American venues, including correspondence, both McManus's and copies of Director

Thomas Hoving's; shipping information; condition reports; programs; film

strips; photographs; budgets; press releases; and clippings.

Preferred Citation note

[Title of item], [date], Box [number], Folder [number], Irvine McManus records related to "Treasures of Tutankhamun" exhibition, The Metropolitan Museum of Art Archives.

Historical note

Organized by the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Museum of Egyptian Antiquities in Cairo, also known as the Cairo Museum, the exhibition "Treasures of Tutankhamun" toured six American museums from 1977 to 1979, culminating in a four month installation at the Metropolitan Museum from December 20, 1978 through April 15, 1979. The exhibition was designed to recreate for visitors the drama of the 1922 discovery of the treasure-filled tomb of the young Egyptian king Tutankhamun. Included were fifty-five original objects - one for each year since the tomb's opening - excavated by archaeologist Howard Carter's team, as well as reprints from the original glass-plate negatives in the Metropolitan's collection of the expedition photographer Harry Burton's black and white photographs that had documented the excavation and its spectacular discoveries step by step.

Irvine MacManus, previously an education assistant in the Metropolitan's Department of Community Programs, served as exhibition coordinator from November 1975 until December 1977. MacManus's responsibilities focused on planning for the exhibition at the Metropolitan, including scheduling extra personnel required and answering inquiries; and facilitating communication among the array of staff members working on the project at the Metropolitan and the other American venues, as well as sponsors and vendors. An assistant, Fayez Moharram, was hired to handle the many administrative details. The project progressed under the direction of Christine Lilyquist, curator in the Department of Egyptian Art, and director Thomas Hoving. In his autobiography, Making the Mummies Dance: Inside the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Hoving described the negotiations for the exhibition among the exhibition's venues, the Cairo Museum, Egypt's Organization of Antiquities, and the U.S. State Department as "the high point of my Metropolitan career." He tendered his resignation before the exhibition opened at the Metropolitan, effective June 30, 1977, and the next year published *Tutankhamun: The Untold Story*, about the boy king, the excavation of his tomb, and the history of its contents and their whereabouts.

The exhibition was the result of years of negotiations, including plans for a variety of cross-cultural collaborations, galvanized by President Richard M. Nixon's June 1974 trip to Egypt and finalized in an accord signed by Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger and Foreign Minister Ismail Fahmy in October 1975. In July 1976, director Thomas Hoving visited Egypt to negotiate terms of the traveling exhibition and finalize details of the Museum's collaboration with officials there. He remained involved in decision-making throughout the planning process. Arrangements for the exhibition were made between staff at the recipient museums and Egypt's Organization of Antiquities, under the guidance of the U.S. Department of State. The Metropolitan Museum served as organizer of the traveling exhibition, with International Business Associates of Cairo functioning as their business representative in Egypt.

An estimated 1.3 million visitors viewed the exhibition at the Metropolitan, which was made possible by a near-doubling of public hours during its run. More than 8 million visitors in total viewed the show at all the American venues combined. Based on its record-breaking attendance, international press coverage, and influence on popular culture, it is considered the prototype "blockbuster" exhibition. Net proceeds from the sale of exhibition-related printed materials and reproductions benefited renovations of the Museum of Egyptian Antiquities in Cairo undertaken by the Egyptian government's Organization of Antiquities in consultation with the Metropolitan Museum.

The exhibition traveled to The National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. (November 1976); The Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago (April 1977); The New Orleans Museum of Art (September 1977); The Los Angeles County Museum of Art (February 1978); The Seattle Art Museum (July 1978); and the Metropolitan Museum (December 1978).

Works Consulted

Edwards, I.E.S. *Tutankhamun: His Tomb and Its Treasures*. New York: The Metropolitan Museum of Art, and Alfred A. Knopf, 1976.

Hoving, T. Tutankhamun: The Untold Story. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1978.

Hoving, T. Making the Mummies Dance: Inside the Metropolitan Museum of Art. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1993.

Hoving, T., and C. Lilyquist. Director's Note. *The Metropolitan Museum of Art Bulletin*, New Series, Vol. 33, No 2 (Summer 1975), pp. 53-55.

Macomber, William B. Report of the President. *Annual Report of the Trustees of the Metropolitan Museum of Art*, No. 109 (July 1, 1978 - June 30, 1979), pp. 4-8.

Metropolitan Museum of Art. *Treasures of Tutankhamun*, 1976.

Scope and Contents note

The Irvine MacManus records related to "Treasures of Tutankhamun" exhibition contain the exhibition coordinator's documentation of the organization, transportation, installation, attendance, and publicity surrounding the exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum and its other American venues. Records include correspondence - both McManus's and copies of Director Thomas Hoving's - shipping information, condition reports, programs, film strips, photographs, budgets, press releases, and clippings. Because MacManus's tenure predated the opening of the exhibition at the Metropolitan, the records relate predominantly to the exhibition's planning.

Arrangement note
The Irvine McManus records related to "Treasures of Tutankhamun" exhibition are arranged in four series: I. Planning and Administration, II. Exhibition at Other Museum III. Exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum, IV. Publicity and Promotion.
Administrative Information
Conditions Governing Access note
Collection is open for research. Photographs and slides should be handled with care, and may require the use of gloves.
Conditions Governing Use note
Copyright restrictions apply. Consult Archives staff regarding permission to quote or reproduce.
Related Materials
Related Archival Materials note
Loan exhibition - 1978 - Tutankhamun files, Office of the Secretary Records, The Metropolitan Museum of Art Archives.
Indexing Terms

- Page 6 -

Subjects - Corporate Bodies

• Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York, N.Y.). -- Treasures of Tutankhamun

Genres and Forms of Materials

- Administrative records
- Correspondence
- Photocopies.
- Photographs
- Reports

Subjects - People

- Hoving, Thomas, 1931-2009 -- Correspondence
- Tutankhamen, King of Egypt -- Exhibitions

Collection Inventory

Series I. Planning and Administration 1975-1979

Scope and Contents note

The series documents the planning and administration of the exhibition's shipment to and presentation at the Metropolitan Museum and other American venues, related projects, funding, and staffing, and includes correspondence, reports, budgets, photographs, and film strips. The Cairo-related materials are predominantly photocopies of director Thomas Hoving's extensive correspondence with Egyptian officials and the Museum's in-country business representative, International Business Associates.

Arrangement note

The series is arranged alphabetically by subject.

Box	Folder	
1	1	Attendance. Blank timelines. 1976-1979
1	2	Attendance. Dates, projected attendance. 1976-1979
1	3	Attendance. Study of out of town visitors to the Museum. September 1975
9	1	Budgets (1 of 2). July 1975-August 1976 Access note: Folder restricted due to salary information. Folder may be accessed on or after August 20, 2061 at the discretion of Archives staff.
9	2	Budgets (2 of 2). June 1976-October 1977
		Access note: Folder restricted due to salary information. Folder may be accessed on or after October 18, 2062 at the discretion of Archives staff.
1	4	Budgets. Exhibition budget. February 1976
1	5	Cairo. Agent: International Business Associates. May 1976-April 1977
6	1	Cairo. Background and statistical information. 1974-1976
1	6	Cairo. Contacts list. 1975
1	7	Cairo. Correspondence Thomas Hoving and Gamal Mokhtar (Egyptian Organization of Antiquities). April, June 1975
1	8	Cairo. Telexes. February 1976-October 1977
1	9	Cairo Museum. Correspondence. November 1976-November 1977
1	10	Cairo Museum. Materials needed for renovation. 1977 Note: Includes Arabic translation of some materials.
1	11	Cairo Museum. Reports and correspondence. December 1975-July 1976 <i>Note</i> : Includes Arabic translation of some materials.
1	12	Cairo Museum. Sales materials and amounts. [1976]

1	13	Cairo Museum. White paper on proposed renovation. June 1976
1	14	Catalog. Editorial style sheet, correspondence. April-August 1976
1	15	Funding. Exxon correspondence. March 1976
1	16	Funding. National Endowment for the Humanities application. May 1976
1	17	General. Background information on project. 1975-1977
-	-,	Note: Includes Arabic translation of some materials.
	10	
1	18	General. Briefing paper Hoving trip to Cairo, Moscow, Leningrad, Paris. July 1976
1	19	General. British Museum Tutankhamun installation. Black and white photographs. Undated
1	20	General. Canadian consulate and museums correspondence. August 1976-December 1977
6	2	General. Conservation. 1975-1977, undated
		Access note: Redacted copies of documents with salary information replace originals in this folder. Restricted documents may be accessed on or after June 30, 2062 at the discretion of
		Archives staff.
1	21	General. Designers' meeting, Field Museum. December 1975-January 1976
2	1	General. Educational program. 1977
2	2	General. Hoving correspondence to museum directors. 1976
2	3	General. Indemnity. 1976
2	4	General. Intra-museum memos. September 1976-November 1977
2	5	General. McManus correspondence with nonprofit organizations. March-July 1977
6	3	General. Messages received. August 1976
6	4	General. Metropolitan Museum Annenberg Center (clipping). March 16, 1977
2	6	General. Museum staff distribution list. December 1975
2	7	General. Proposal re: operations. [1976]
2	8	General. Requisitions for supplies and travel. 1976-1977
6	5	General. Unusual correspondence. 1976-1977
2	9	General. U.S. State Department correspondence. July 1977
6	6	Objects and photographs. Boltin photographs. Captions. [1976]
2	10	Objects and photographs. Burton photographs. Black and white prints. Undated
2	11	Objects and photographs. Condition reports. 1976
2	12	Objects and photographs. Films in Metropolitan Museum's inventory. 1974-1976
2	13	Objects and photographs. Individual objects. Polaroid prints. Undated
2	14	Objects and photographs. Object descriptions. [1976]
3	1	Objects and photographs. Photo orders and captions. 1976-1977
3	2	Objects and photographs. Postcard captions. August 1976
3	3	Objects and photographs. Slide list. March 1976
3	4	Objects and photographs. Text for labels and panels [drafts]. 1976
3	5	Related projects. Charlie/Papa Productions film, funded by Exxon Corporation. July 1976- June 1977
6	7	Related projects. CBS Films. Correspondence. November 1976-January 1977
3	6	Related projects. Film ideas. June-December 1976

8	-	Related projects. Film strips: <i>Tutankhamen Treasures</i> , <i>The Story of Tutankhamen</i> , <i>Tomb and Treasures</i> . [1976]		
3	7	Related projects. Film strips. Correspondence. July 1976		
3	8	Related projects. Franklin Mint. August 1975-August 1977		
3	9	Related projects. Kodak exhibition. June-September 1977		
3	10	Related projects. New York Public Library correspondence. March-April 1977		
6	8	Related projects. North Dakota Committee for the Humanities and Public Issues. October 1977		
3	11	Related projects. Requests. 1977		
3	12	Related projects. Robeck Corporation film. July-September 1976		
3	13	Staffing. Assistant Fayez Moharram. June 1976-November 1977 <i>Note</i> : Includes Arabic translation of some materials.		
		Access Note: Documents with sensitive personnel information have been removed from this folder. Restricted documents may be accessed on or after November, 2062 at the discretion of Archives staff.		
9	5	Staffing. Correspondence re: conservator Yale Kneeland, Communications Center. March-April 1977		
		Access note: Folder restricted due to salary information. Folder may be accessed on or after March 21, 2062 at the discretion of Archives staff.		
3	14	Staffing. Job descriptions and applications for assistant position. June-July 1976 <i>Access note</i> : Documents with sensitive personnel information have been removed from this folder. Restricted documents may be accessed on or after May, 2062 at the discretion of Archives staff.		
3	15	Staffing. Museum grades and salary levels. 1973-1977		

Series II. Exhibition at Other Museums 1975-1978

Scope and Contents note

The series documents the exhibition's travel to and presentation at venues in the United States apart from the Metropolitan Museum and includes correspondence, clippings, floor plans, attendance lists, and local travel information.

Arrangement note

The series is arranged alphabetically by subject, followed by folders arranged alphabetically by name of institutions to which the exhibition traveled.

Box	Folder	
4	1	Correspondence. Consortium meeting (June 22, 1977). May-June 1977
6	9	Correspondence. Consortium meeting (June 22, 1977). Agenda and minutes. June 1977
4	2	Correspondence. Memos to partner museums (1 of 2). March 1976-February 1977

Box

6	10	Correspondence. Memos to partner museums (2 of 2). March-November 1977	
4	3	Correspondence. National Endowment for the Humanities. 1977	
4	4	Correspondence. National Museum of Anthropology, Mexico City. October, December 1977	
4	5	Correspondence. San Francisco institutions. March-July 1977	
4	6	Correspondence. From partner museums. December 1975-August 1977	
4	7	Correspondence. To partner museums. January-August 1976	
4	8	Correspondence. Puerto Rican Cultural Institute. 1975, 1977	
4	9	General. Background information on museums. 1977	
6	11	General. Benefits to cities of museum exhibitions. 1976	
6	12	General. Guest lists for openings. November 1976-August 1977	
4	10	General. Inter-museum agreements. 1975-1977	
4	11	General. Local climatological information. 1975	
6	13	General. Shipment logistics. 1976-1977	
6	14	Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago. Attendance. 1977	
4	12	Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago. Background information. 1976 <i>Note</i> : Oversized materials from this folder have been removed to flat file 18, drawer 1, folder 5.	
Flat-file			
18/1	5	Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago. Background information. Oversize floor plans. 1974-1977	
		<i>Note</i> : Oversized material removed from Box 4, folder 12.	
18/1 Box	6	Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago. Clippings. April 1977	
4	13	Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago. Correspondence. January-May 1977	
4	14	Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago. Installation photographs. Black and white prints, color slides. 1977	
4	15	Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago. Promotional information. 1977	
5	1	Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Background information. [1976]	
5	2	Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Burton stills. March 1977	
6	15	Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Correspondence and clippings. 1976-1977	
5	3	Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Education programs. February-June 1977	
5	4	National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. Background information. 1976 <i>Note</i> : Oversized materials from this folder have been removed to flat file 18, drawer 1, folder 7.	
Flat-file			
18/1	7	National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. Background information. Oversize floor plans. 1976 Note: Oversized material removed from box 5, folder 4.	

7	1	National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. Attendance reports. November 1976-October 1977	
5	5	New Orleans Museum of Art. Attendance figures. 1977-1978	
7	2	New Orleans Museum of Art. Background information. 1976-1977 <i>Note</i> : Oversized clippings have been removed to flat file 18, drawer 1, folder 8.	
Flat-file			
18/1	8	New Orleans Museum of Art. Background information. Oversized clippings. September 1977	
		Note: Oversized materials removed from box 7, folder 2.	
Box			
5	6	New Orleans Museum of Art. Correspondence and projections. January-March 1977	
7	3	Seattle Art Museum. Background information. 1977-1978	
		<i>Note</i> : Oversized material from this folder have been removed to flat file 18, drawer 1, folder 9.	
Flat-file			
18/1	9	Seattle Art Museum. Background information. Floor plan. July 1978 <i>Note</i> : Oversized materials removed from box 7, folder 3.	

Series III. Exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum 1976-1978

Scope and Contents note

The series includes information related to the exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, including travel information on New York City, correspondence, a telephone log, and photographs of a planned sales area.

Arrangement note

The series is arranged alphabetically by subject.

Box	Folder	
5	7	Exhibition cases. 1977
5	8	New York City tourist information. [1976]
5	9	Requests for merchandise and reproductions (1 of 2). May 1976-April 1977
5	10	Requests for merchandise and reproductions (2 of 2). May-November 1977
5	11	Requests for group tours. Telephone log. October-November 1978
5	12	Sales area model. Black and white, and color photographs. [1976]

Series IV. Publicity and Promotion 1976-1977

Scope and Contents note

The series documents some of the publicity surrounding the exhibition and includes clippings, a proposal, fact sheets, and press releases.

Arrangement note

The series is arranged alphabetically by subject.

Box	Folder	
5	13	Australian Arts Council correspondence. May-July 1977
7	4	Clippings. May-November 1976
5	14	Clippings and photocopies. 1976
5	15	Draft proposal from public relations firm. August 1976
5	16	Fact sheets and press releases. 1976