

Lila Morris O'Neale Collection Finding Aid:

Executive Summary (2024-06-13)

A survey of the documentation, media, and accessions within the Lila Morris O'Neale Collection at the Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology, University of California-Berkeley.

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1. Lila O'Neale Biographical Material:

Lila Morris O'Neale (1886 - 1948) was born in Buxton, North Dakota on November 2, 1886 and died from pneumonia on February 2, 1948 at the age of 61. Prior to obtaining her academic degrees, O'Neale was a teacher in San Jose, California. She received her Bachelor of Arts in English from Stanford University in 1910. Then in 1916, O'Neale received a Bachelor's in Household Art from Columbia University. In 1927, O'Neale began studying decorative arts in the Design Department at the University of California-Berkeley, where she received her masters degree and then in 1930 her Doctor of Anthropology at the age of 44. After graduating, O'Neale became a professor at the University of California-Berkeley teaching history, design, and analysis of textiles and costumes. In 1931, O'Neale became the first female professor of Anthropology.

In addition to teaching, O'Neale served as the Associate Curator of Textiles at the Museum of Anthropology at the University of California-Berkeley, now the Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology. That same year, O'Neale was awarded the Guggenheim Fellowship that funded her research in Peru concerning Inca and pre-Inca textiles. O'Neale completed four Monographs throughout her life encompassing her work: *Textile Periods in Ancient Peru* (1930), *Yurok-Karok Basket Weavers* (1932), *Papago Color Designations* (1943, with Juan Dolores) and *Textiles of Highland Guatemala* (1945). Much of O'Neale's lifetime collections were donated to the Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology after her death and resides under several accession numbers (Acc.677; 1064; 1947i; 1948i; 1949a; 1950e; 2234; 3032.03; 4308).

2. Summary of Research Archive (1908-1966):

The O'Neale (Lila M.) Research Archive contains archaeological, ethnographic, and artistic documentation on material culture from Peru, Guatemala, Mexico, and California. A majority of the collection elaborates upon the archaeological endeavors of Max Uhle, a Peruvianist responsible for much of the Incan and pre-Incan material at the Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology (Acc.81; 163; 178; 188; 207; 327). Of particular importance are the

textiles of Paracas, Nazca, and Supe, which are well-represented in the O'Neale Research Archive.

The O'Neale Research Archive contains a diverse array of documentation, media, and archaeological specimens. Textile analyses—including notes on provenience, fabric, color, design, size, pattern measurements, and stitching technique—are present throughout the Research Archive. Various drawings, black-and-white photographs, and photo-negatives of South and Central American textiles are similarly prominent. What is more, the Research Archive originally contained several Peruvian textile and thread samples that have been moved into the museum's permanent collection: 4-7148a.1; 4-7148b.1; 4-7202c.1; 4-7466.1; 4-7474b.1; 4-7474f.1; 4-7480.1; 4-7926.1; 4-7928.1; 4-7931.1 ; 4-7948.1; and uncataloged items: TEMP 2024.0501 through TEMP 2024.0533.

In addition to the Hearst Museum, O'Neale also found great interest in the holdings of the Field Museum, *El Museo de Arqueología Peruana*, *El Museo de Historia Nacional* (Lima), and *El Instituto Nacional de Antropología de la Universidad de San Marcos*. This fact is reflected in the documentation and correspondence of the Research Archive.

Following her death in 1948, O'Neale was succeeded by Anna H. Gayton, an anthropologist and folklorist at the University of California-Berkeley. Throughout the 1950s, Gayton compiled and interpreted a significant portion of O'Neale's scholarship, and therefore her legacy is undoubtedly relevant to the history of the Research Archive.

3. Abridged Box List of Research Archive (DOC1930.1)

An abridged description of boxes ARCV-109 to ARCV-114 located at the Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology's off-site storage facility. An extensive box list can be found [here](#).

Black-and-white Photographs and Photo-negatives

- Peruvian textiles and looms
 - Provenience: Supe, Ancón, Puerto De Supe, Chincha,
- Mexican textiles and thread
 - Provenience: Chihuahua
- Guatemalan textiles and thread
- Indigenous California material

Archaeological/Textile Analyses

- Notes on Peruvian textiles
 - Includes information on fabric, color, design, size, and stitching technique
 - Provenience: Ica Valley, Chincha Valley, Lima Valley, Pisco Valley, Ancón, Chancay, Paracas, Moche, Cerro Del Oro, Soisongo, Ocangalla, Majoro, Cantayo, Aramburu, Huayuri, Poroma, Huayrona, Cahuachi, Aja, Agua Santa, Yauca, Tiahuanaco, and Nievería
 - Associated institutions: Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology, Field Museum, and *El Museo de Historia Nacional* (Lima)

Drawings and Sketches

- Drawings of Peruvian textiles and pottery

Textile Samples

- Peruvian textiles and thread
 - Provenience: Paracas, Supe, La Puntilla, Majoro Chico, Marcahuamachuco, Chilca, Ochangalla, Agua Santa
- Mexican textiles
 - Provenience: Chihuahua

Miscellaneous

- Correspondence between Lila O'Neale and various colleagues
- Indices of Peruvian textiles
 - Organized by provenience and/or museum
- Bibliographic notes
- Alfred L. Kroeber and Constance G. DuBois material
- Copy of *Textiles of Highland Guatemala* (1945) by Lila M. O'Neale

4. Summary of O'Neale Accessions

A summary of the accessions collected and/or donated by Lila O'Neale presently located at the Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology. While relevant to O'Neale's scholarship more broadly, the accessions outlined below are largely unrelated to the Research Archive. The following information is sourced from affiliated accession files and worksheets.

Acc.677 (12-5256, 16-4107 to 16-4361)

Received July 18, 1932. Shipped from Lima, Peru to San Francisco. Collected by Lila M. O'Neale, Lima, Peru. Contains Peruvian archeological specimens

Acc.1064 (1-216308, 16-7824 to 16-7834, 23-426)

Received September 5, 1951 and shipped via Anne H. Gayton for the estate of Lila M. O'Neale. Items found in room 305 of the Anthropology and Art Practice Building. Second lot was donated on May 25, 1955. Contains twenty-two (22) native dyes, one (1) stone, corn (Mito or Huancayo), one (1) bundle gambling sticks (Yurok or Karuk), and (1) small basket.

Acc.1947i (16-7097 to 16-7106)

Received May 1, 1947 as a gift. Contains ten (10) fragments of cotton textiles from Ancon, Peru.

Acc.1948i (16-7206)

Received on March 29, 1948. Contains (1) fur jacket from Peru.

Acc.1949a (16-7207)

Received on January 10, 1949. Contains one (1) cloth fragment

Acc.1950e (2-21243, 2-45404, 3-13176, 16-7211 to 16-7212, 16-18371)

Received in January 1948. Contains five (5) looms: two (2) from Peru, one (1) from Guatemala, and two (2) from Navajo. Found in O'Neale's lab.

Acc.2234 (16-11953 to 16-11968)

Modern Peruvian pottery collected by Lila M. O'Neale at Ayacucho, Peru, 1931. Contains accession sheet, notes, sketches, trial catalog. Received in 1966 after Lila M. O'Neale's death.

Acc.3032.03 (2-62117a,b, 3-27942a,b to 3-27944, 3-27946 to 3-27991, 3-27993 to 3-28014, 3-28016a,b to 3-28046, 3-28048a,b to 3-28065, 3-28068 to 3-28073, 3-28079 to 3-28080, 3-28082 to 3-28087, 3-28090, 3-28093 to 3-28102, 3-28104 to 3-28106, 3-28109, 3-28110, 3-28112, 3-28114, 3-28116 to 3-28150, 3-28152 to 3-28165, 3-28167 to 3-28207, 3-28210 to 3-28213, 3-28215, 3-28216, 3-28218 to 3-28224, 3-28226 to 3-28228, 3-28230 to 3-28240, 3-28242 to 3-28245, 3-28273 to 3-28279, 3-28283, 3-28285 to 3-28288, 3-28290, 3-28293 to 3-28297, 3-28299 to 3-28302, 7-7648, 7-7695, 9-12259, 9-22597, 16-18715 to 16-18717)
Gift to the museum from the Design Department at UC Berkeley. Received in 1970 and 1974. Contains four hundred eighty-one (481) objects from Guatemala and Peru.

Acc.4308 (Not to be cataloged)

Collection of photographs of 'Specimen of the Week' exhibitions (1941-1942) prepared by Lila M. O'Neale and Lucretia Nelson. Total of twenty-eight (28) matted black-and-white photographs.