

Theos Casimir Bernard Collection Finding Aid:

Executive Summary (2024-06-14)

A survey of the documentation, media, and accessions within the Theos C. Bernard Collection at the Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology, University of California-Berkeley.

Prepared by Ian Mitchell (June 2024), Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship Program
Supervised by Linda Waterfield, Head Registrar

Contents:

1. Biographical Material
2. Summary of Research Archive (DOC2004.1)
3. Summary of Accession (Acc.4737)

1. Biographical Material

Theos Casimir Bernard (1908-1947) was born on December 10, 1908 in California, United States. Bernard received a law degree from the University of Arizona in 1931 and a Master of Arts from Columbia in 1936. Bernard then spent a year traveling in India and Tibet, returning to the U.S. in 1937. Following his return, Bernard published a memoir titled *Penthouse of the Gods*, along with other lecture series. He became well known for his experiences and interest in Tibetan Buddhism.

In 1941, Bernard and his wife, Ganna Walska, purchased land in Montecito, California which they named Tibetland. This property was intended to house Bernard's Tibetan collections and provide accommodations for visiting Tibetan lamas. Bernard and Walska divorced in 1946 and the property was renamed Lotusland. Bernard died in 1947 in Punjab, Pakistan. The Bernard-Murray collection is currently housed at the Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology; the Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive; and the Bancroft, C.V. Starr, and Doe libraries.

2. Summary of Research Archive (DOC2004.1)

The Theos C. Bernard Research Archive contains pertinent documentation concerning the acquisition and study of the Bernard Accession (Acc.4737). This includes correspondence, registration materials, appraisal lists, inventories, receipts of delivery, etc. In addition, the Bernard Research Archive houses various articles relevant to Theos Bernard's travels and Buddhist scholarship. An extensive survey of the Bernard (Theos C.) Research Archive can be found [here](#).

Publications

- April 3, 2003: "The Bernard-Murray Tibetan Collections at The University California, Berkeley" by Robert Warren Clark, Ph.D
- April 22, 1938: *The Family Circle*
- November 18, 1938: *The Family Circle*
- August 25, 1939: *The Family Circle*

- March 1939: *Everyday Photography Magazine*
- May 1937: *Asia (Magazine)*
- March 1939: *Asia (Magazine)*

Museum Documentation

- Theos C. Bernard and Eleanore Murray Collection summary/description
- Appraisal lists by Richard Kohn and Charles A. Goldsmid
- Correspondence between University of California-Berkeley and Bernard Estate
- Registration and collection management documentation
- Conservation estimates for storage and exhibition of Bernard Collection
- Several inventories of Bernard Collection

Personal Documentation

- June 24, 1937 to September 15, 1937: Theos Bernard's diary
- Handwritten accounts of Theos Bernard's travels

Media

- Sixteen (16) photographs of various objects in the Bernard Collection

3. Summary of Accession (Acc.4737)

Acc.4737: Catalogued: #13-6825; 15-26913 to 15-29913; 9-21791 to 9-22136.

Acquired in 2004 by the Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology, the Theos C. Bernard Accession contains four thousand three hundred fifteen (4,315) objects and media from South and Southeast Asia. Said objects include domestic items, musical instruments, ritual items, clothing, ornaments, and sheep skin samples. In regard to media, the Bernard Accession contains black-and-white negatives, black-and-white photographs, phonograph records, and Buddhist scrolls.