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Coggan, Forrest Winston, 1926-2018 (FA 1282)

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Descriptive Inventory

FA 1282 COGGAN, Forrest Winston, 1926-2018

1 box. 10 folders. 299 items. 1963-2006. Originals, typescript, photographs.

2001.124.1

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE (ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY)

Born near Lansing, Michigan on 27 August 1926 to Bernard and Blanche Coggan, Forrest William Coggan showed an affinity towards the arts at an early age. Coggan's parents, along with his older brother, Bernard Jr., and younger sister, Nadine, were extensively immersed in music, theatre arts, and dance, and Coggan's own theatrical experiences began at age 10 with an informal performance of Carl Bohm's "La Zingana." During his time as a student at East Lansing High School, Coggan continued to hone his artistic talents as a choreographer, stage hand, and performer in plays and musicals, which served as the impetus for his decision to attend Michigan State University. In 1947, Coggan graduated from Michigan State with a BA in Public Speaking and Drama.

At the onset of the Korean Conflict in 1950, Coggan was drafted into the U.S. Army Special Service Division Detachment where he toured with a theatre company throughout Japan. He also served as the technical consultant for more than 60 Army, Navy, and Air Corps theatrical productions. Coggan's connections with To Yo Za: The Theatre of the Far East company also solidified during this time, as his partnerships with founding members allowed Coggan to design and create various costumes and set designs. After his honorable discharge in 1952, Coggan performed with an assortment of playhouses and musical revues while also publishing journal reviews and poetry before enrolling in a graduate program at the University of Wisconsin Madison in 1960. Finishing his MS in Physical Education and Dance in 1962, Coggan devoted the rest of his professional career to creating, sustaining, and expanding conceptions of the performing arts and its influence on both national and international culture.

COLLECTION NOTE

This collection contains correspondence chiefly exchanged between Coggan and Sarah Gertrude Knott, founder of the National Folk Festival. The documents were part of Coggan's personal collection and were donated to WKU in February 2001. Additional correspondence between Coggan and business partners, National Folk Festival board members, sponsors, and former professors are also included. Materials have been arranged chronologically; however, a significant portion of the letters are undated and appear in Folders 9 and 10.

SHELF LIST

BOX 1	Name	Dates	234 items
Folder 1	Inventory and biographical chronology	2000	2 items
Folder 2	Correspondence	1963-1964	11 items
Folder 3	Correspondence	1965	62 items
Folder 4	Correspondence	1966	18 items
Folder 5	Correspondence	1967	8 items
Folder 6	Correspondence	1968-1969	26 items
Folder 7	Correspondence	1970-1979	30 items
Folder 8	Correspondence	1982-2006	11 items
Folder 9	Miscellaneous correspondence	n.d.	77 items
Folder 10	Miscellaneous correspondence	n.d.	54 items

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

FA 1282 COGGAN, Forrest Winston, 1963-2006
1282 1926-2018

Correspondence between Forrest Coggan and Sarah Gertrude Knott as well as other board members, sponsors, teachers, and business partners who conducted work with the National Folk Festival Association. .

1 box. 10 folders. 299 items. Originals, typescript, photographs.

2001.124.1

SUBJECT ANALYTICS

Campa, Arthur Leon, 1905-1978
Coggan, Forrest Winston, 1926-2018
Hodges, Patricia Ann (Morgan), b. 1931
Hussey, S. Melville, d. 1965

Knott, Sarah Gertrude, 1895-1984
National Folk Festival – Relating to
National Folk Festival Association, Inc. – Relating to
National Park Service – Relating to
Sacred Dance Guild – Relating to
Teatro Internacional, Inc. – Relating to
To Yo Za: The Theatre of the Far East – Relating to

Bowers/Jeffrey 04/22/2019