

Kurt Baer Papers

Biographical Note

Kurt Baer (1903-1979) was born in Switzerland in 1903 and moved to California in 1909 with his family. He went on to study at U.C. Berkeley and worked in the arts before getting his Ph. D. from University of Southern California. In 1947, Baer began teaching art and history at UCSB.

While teaching, Baer became interested in California mission art and architecture. He wrote three books on the topic including: *Painting and Sculpture at Mission Santa Barbara* (1955), *The Treasures of Mission Santa Ines* (1956), and *Architecture of California Missions* (1958).

Baer spent his professional career participating in the excavation and restoration of several missions and mission era buildings. He was appointed the official art historian of Franciscan missions in California.

In 1960, he received a fellowship from the Organization of American States to lecture and conduct research in Mexico. In 1961, Baer moved to Peru under the Fulbright program to continue his research and study before returning to the United States the following year.

Scope and Content

Kurt Baer's papers include photographs, correspondence, research materials, notes, and articles on the art and architecture of Colonial Mexico and the Californian and Sonoran Missions.

Extent: ~ 12 linear feet (27 Documents Boxes, 1 Oversize flat file box)

Collection Overview

1. Colonial Mexico and South America
2. Mission Santa Barbara
3. Alta CA Missions by Name
4. General Reference Materials, Archival Notes, and Articles
5. Religious Art and Symbols
6. Photos and Negatives
7. Personal Correspondence

Inventory/Box List

Series 1: Colonial Mexico and South America

Location	Subject
Box 1	Mexico: Church painting, sculpture and architecture
Box 1	Colonial Art of Mexico: painting
Box 1	Indian Crafts, Architecture

Box 2	Mexican Culture, 16th-20th Centuries: notes
Box 3	Mexico: Colonial Architecture—notes, photos
Box 3	Mexico: Colonial painting notes
Box 4	Mexico Trip 1953: notes photos
Box 4	Mexico Folk Music
Box 4	Latin American slide notes
Box 4	Peru photos
Box 17	Sonora Missions: paintings, sculptures, notes

Series 2: Mission Santa Barbara

Location	Subject
Box 5	Mission Santa Barbara: Interiors, art Stations of the Cross, Misc photographs
Box 6	Mission Santa Barbara: Our Lady of Refuge (Gaviota) Mission Beginnings, Serra, Symbols in Art, Saints invoices, pans, Maps, Clippings
Box 7	Mission Santa Barbara: Sculpture, Exteriors photographs

Series 3: Alta CA Missions by Name

Location	Subject
Box 8	Mission San Miguel Arcangel: painting, sculpture, exteriors, interiors, notes
Box 9	Mission San Juan Bautista
Box 9	Mission Santa Cruz
Box 9	Mission San Jose de Guadalupe
Box 9	Mission San Francisco de Solano
Box 9	Mission San Francisco de Asis Dolores
Box 10	Mission San Fernando Rey de España
Box 10	Mission San Diego de Alcalá
Box 10	Mission San Antonio de Pala
Box 11	Mission Santa Clara de Asís
Box 11	Mission Nuestra Senora de la soledad
Box 11	Mission San Antonio de Padua

Box 12	Mission San Juan Capistrano
Box 12	Mission San Gabriel Arcángel
Box 12	Nuestra Señora de los Ángeles—Plaza Church
Box 13	Mission San Carlos Borromeo de Carmelo
Box 14	Mission San Luis Rey de Francia: paintings, Sculpture, stations of the cross, interiors, exteriors,notes
Box 15	Mission San Buenaventura
Box 15	Mission La Purisima Concepcion
Box 15	Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa
Box 16	Mission Santa Inés: Painting, exteriors, notes, clippings

Series 4: General Reference Materials, Archival Notes, and Articles

Location	Subject
Box 17	Art in California Missions
Box 17	Lists of Equipment in California Missions
Box 18	Work to be completed organized by Mission
Box 19	Archives Notes: Early Missions, 1774-1811
Box 19	Notes: Archivo de la Secretaría de Hacienda, Archivo Colegio San Fernando
Box 20	Reviews of and by Kurt Baer
Box 20	Research Notes and Sources
Box 20	Misc. Articles sent to Baer
Box 21	The Art of Photography (Vol 1-2)

Series 5: Religious Art and Symbols

Location	Subject
Box 22	Male Saints: Notes, painting, sculpture
Box 22	Female Saints: notes, painting, sculpture
Box 23	Life of Christ: Notes, sculpture, Painting
Box 23	Good Shepherd: notes painting
Box 23	Crucifixes and the Passion: Sculpture, notes, painting
Box 23	Madonna Festival

Box 23	Devotions to Mary
Box 23	Mary: Notes, Painting

Series 6: Photos and Negatives

Location	Subject
Box 24	Negatives
Box 25	Negatives
Box 26	Negatives
Box 27	B/W prints (OVR)

Series 7: Personal Correspondence

Location	Subject
Box 28	Personal Correspondence