

Miguel Covarrubias Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2011

Contact information: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm82056515>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms011099>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2011
Revised 2021 March

Collection Summary

Title: Miguel Covarrubias Papers

Span Dates: 1871-1948

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1931-1948)

ID No.: MSS56515

Creator: Covarrubias, Miguel, 1904-1957

Extent: 100 items

Extent: 3 containers

Extent: 1.2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English and Balinese

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm82056515>

Summary: Mexican author, artist, and anthropologist. Drafts of his writings and notes on the peoples and cultures of Bali, Indonesia, and Tehuantepec, Mexico.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Covarrubias, Miguel, 1904-1957.

Covarrubias, Miguel, 1904-1957. Island of Bali. 1937.

Covarrubias, Miguel, 1904-1957. Mexico south, the isthmus of Tehuantepec. 1946.

Subjects

Anthropology--Indonesia--Bali Island.

Anthropology--Mexico--Tehuantepec, Isthmus of.

Balinese (Indonesian people)--Social life and customs.

Indians of Mexico--Mexico--Tehuantepec, Isthmus of.

Indians of Mexico--Social life and customs.

Places

Bali Island (Indonesia)--History.

Bali Island (Indonesia)--Social life and customs.

Tehuantepec, Isthmus of (Mexico)--History.

Tehuantepec, Isthmus of (Mexico)--Social life and customs.

Occupations

Anthropologists.

Artists.

Authors.

Provenance

The papers of Miguel Covarrubias, Mexican author, artist, and anthropologist, were given to the Library of Congress by Luis Barragan via Charles H. Woodford and transferred to the Manuscript Division from the Library's Prints and Photographs Division in 1975.

Processing History

The papers of Miguel Covarrubias were housed and described in 1984. The finding aid was revised in 2011.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Miguel Covarrubias is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Miguel Covarrubias are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Miguel Covarrubias Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1904, Nov. 22	Born, Mexico City, Mexico
1923	Moved to New York, N.Y.
1924	First caricature illustrations published in <i>Vanity Fair</i> magazine
1925	Published <i>The Price of Wales and Other Famous Americans</i> . New York: Alfred A. Knopf
1927	Published <i>Negro Drawings</i> . New York: Alfred A. Knopf
1930	Married Rosemond (Rosa) Cowan
1933	Conducted research in Bali
1936	Moved back to Mexico
1937	Published <i>Island of Bali</i> . New York: Alfred A. Knopf
1939	Painted a series of mural maps illustrating the cultures of the Pacific Rim for the 1940 Golden Gate International Exposition, San Francisco, Calif.
1940	Researched the art and culture of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, Mexico
1943	Invited to teach at the National School of Anthropology and History, University of Mexico, Mexico City, Mexico
1946	Published <i>Mexico South, the Isthmus of Tehuantepec</i> . New York: Alfred A. Knopf
1950	Directed Academy of Dance, National Palace of Fine Arts, Mexico City, Mexico
1954	Published <i>The Eagle, the Jaguar, and the Serpent; Indian Art of the Americas: North America: Alaska, Canada, the United States</i> . New York: Alfred A. Knopf
1957, Feb. 4	Died, Mexico City, Mexico

Scope and Content Note

The papers of José Miguel Covarrubias Duclaud (1904-1957) span the years 1871-1948 with the bulk of the material dating from 1931-1948. Covarrubias was a Mexican artist, author, and anthropologist. His papers consist mainly of writings and notes on the peoples and cultures of Bali, Indonesia, and the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, Mexico. They include typescript drafts of his books *Mexico South, the Isthmus of Tehuantepec* (1946) and *Island of Bali* (1939). Most of the material is in English, but there are a few items in Balinese.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged by type of material.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Writings file
BOX 1	"The Fashionable Women of Tehuantepec"
BOX 1	<i>Mexico South</i> (2 folders)
BOX 1	Notes
BOX 1	Notebooks
BOX 2	<i>Island of Bali</i> (2 folders)
BOX 2	Notes on Bali not used in book
BOX 3	Index cards on Balinese customs
BOX 3	Miscellany
BOX 3	Checkbook stubs, 1936-1948
BOX 3	Printed matter
BOX 3	Book catalogs, 1942-1944
BOX 3	Miscellaneous, 1871, 1885, 1931-1933