

Register to the Papers of
Acee Blue Eagle

Bonnie Wheatley
1976

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Introduction

The private papers and a collection of paintings of Accee Blue Eagle, a Pawnee Creek artist, were donated to the National Anthropological Archives by Mrs. Mae Abbott of Tulsa, Oklahoma. Literary property rights to unpublished material in the collection in the National Anthropological Archives has been given to the public.

Scope and Content Note

This collection reflects the life and work of Accee Blue Eagle, internationally famed Indian artist of Oklahoma. Identified for his brilliant paintings of tribal ceremonies, legend, and dance, Blue Eagle's work is represented in numerous private collections and museums both in this country and abroad.

A portion of the papers contains correspondence. Fan mail written by school children to Chief Blue Eagle of the *Chief Blue Eagle* television program is included. Letters regarding Blue Eagle's work, his participation in Indian festivals and events, art shows and exhibitions, his speaking engagements on Indian life and culture are found in the collection. Personal correspondence is included; most frequent correspondents are Devi Dja and Mae Abbott. Letters addressed to these two individuals from other friends and acquaintances are also within this collection. Correspondence to Solomon McCombs from Blue Eagle can be found in the McCombs collection at the National Anthropological Archives.

Photographs comprise a large portion of the Blue Eagle collection. Included are not only portraits of the artist himself and photographs of his art work, but a large number of prints of Blue Eagle in full costume and other Indians engaged in tribal ceremonies, identified by tribe, whenever possible. Photographs of Mae Abbott, Devi Dja, and the latter's Balinese dance troupe are identified. A file of negatives is arranged in the same subject order as the prints. Newspaper and magazine clippings regarding Blue Eagle's work and activities are also included in the collection. These clippings have not been arranged. In addition, Mae Abbott's recipes and notes for her cookbook, wood blocks, greeting cards, and other miscellaneous publications can be found in the collection. These items have been sorted, but not arranged.

The entire collection occupies thirty-three linear feet of shelf space.

Chronology of the Life of Accee Blue Eagle

- 1907 Born August 17, 1907 on the Wichita Reservation, north of Anadarko, Oklahoma
- 1928 Graduated Chilocco High School
- 1929-34 Attended Bacone College, University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma State Tech
- 1935 Toured United States and Europe giving lecture-exhibition program, "Life and Character of the American Indian"
- 1935-38 Established and headed art department at Bacone College at Muskogee
- 1936 Exhibited at the National Exhibition of Art, Rockefeller Center, New York
- 1942-45 World War II, U.S. Air Force (Army)
- 1947-49 Free-lance work in New York and Chicago
- 1951-52 Artist-in-residence at Oklahoma Tech
- 1950-54 Conducted TV program, Muskogee, Oklahoma
Toured U.S. West Coast exhibiting and lecturing about ways to improve TV programs for children
- 1958 Named Indian-of-the-Year by the American Indian Exposition at Anadarko, Oklahoma
- 1959 Died June 18, 1959

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTAINER LISTS

SERIES 1. FAN MAIL 1953-1955. 15 inches.

Arranged chronologically. This file contains letter written to chief Blue Eagle of KTVX TV by school children who were expressing affection and appreciation for the Chief and his television program.

Box 1	1953-1954
Box 2	1954-1955
Box 3	1955

SERIES 2. INCOMING LETTERS 1935-1959. 25 inches.

Arranged chronologically. Undated letters at the end. This correspondence includes letters about Blue Eagle's work, his participation in Indian festivals and art exhibitions, letters from Devi Dja and Mae Abbott. There are also letters to Devi Dja and Mae Abbott from other friends and acquaintances.

Box 4	1935-1945 Others to Blue Eagle
Box 5	1946-1952 Others to Blue Eagle
Box 6	1953-1956 Others to Blue Eagle
Box 7	1957-1959 Others to Blue Eagle
Box 8	1944 Devi Dja to Blue Eagle 1947-1948 Devi Dja to Blue Eagle 1948-1955 Mae Abbott to Blue Eagle Undated. Mae Abbott to Blue Eagle 1947 Others to Devi Dja 1949-1972 Others to Mae Abbott

SERIES 3. OUTGOING LETTERS 1948-1958. 5 inches.

Arranged chronologically. Undated letters at the end. This group of correspondence is primarily composed of personal letters to Mae Abbott and a few other friends. Included also are responses to inquiries about Blue Eagle's work and art exhibitions, to requests for his participation in Indian festivals, special events, and speaking engagements.

Box 9 1950-1958 Blue Eagle to Others
 Undated. Blue Eagle to Others
 1948-1954 Blue Eagle to Mae Abbott
 1955-1958 Blue Eagle to Mae Abbott
 Undated. Blue Eagle to Mae Abbott

SERIES 4. PHOTOGRAPHS. 42 inches.

Arranged by subject. This series contains portraits of Accee Blue Eagle - the artist himself as subject, in full Indian costume, during his Army career, as Chief Blue Eagle for KTVX. There are photographs of Devi Dja, her Balinese Dance troupe, of Mae Abbott, and other identified people. There is also a group of autographed pictures of show business personalities. Of primary interest are photographs of Blue Eagle's artwork; prints of artwork of other Indian artists are also included. Photographs of Indians in full costume are arranged by tribe whenever possible. There is a large number of photographs taken at Sheridan, Wyoming during the "All American Indian Days" in 1954. Unidentified and miscellaneous photographs are found at the end. There is also a file of duplicates. Negatives are arranged in the same subject order as the prints, but are filed separately.

Box 10 Accee Blue Eagle - Portraits
 Accee Blue Eagle - Army - 1942-1945
 Accee Blue Eagle - KTVX TV show - 1955
 Accee Blue Eagle - In costume

Box 11 Accee Blue Eagle - In costume

Box 12 Accee Blue Eagle - In costume
 Accee Blue Eagle and Devi Dja
 Devi Dja and Bali Java Dance Troupe

Box 13 Mae Abbott
 Accee Blue Eagle and Mae Abbott
 Identified People
 Tessie Mobley
 Reginald and Gladys Laubin

Show Business Personalities

- Box 14 Accee Blue Eagle - Artist at work
 Artwork by Accee Blue Eagle
 Artwork by other Indian artists
 Mopope
 Black Bear Bo Sin
 Alln Houser
 Hokeah
- Box 15 Unidentified Indians - By tribe
 Unidentified Indians - Sheridan, Wyoming
 "All American Indian Days" - 1954
 Unidentified Indians - In costume
- Box 16 Unidentified Indians - In costume
 Unidentified
- Box 17 Duplicates and Negatives.