



## Forrest W. Coggan Papers UA.10.3.202

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University Archives and Historical Collections

Conrad Hall

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East Lansing , MI 48824

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	University Archives and Historical Collections
<b>Creator:</b>	Coggan, Forrest Winston
<b>Title:</b>	Forrest W. Coggan papers
<b>ID:</b>	UA.10.3.202
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1947-2013
<b>Physical Description:</b>	3 Cubic Feet
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English .

### Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information:  
"Item title, Collection title, Collection Identifier, Michigan State University Archives & Historical Collections, East Lansing, Michigan."

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## Biographical Note

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Forrest Winston Coggan was born August 27, 1926 near East Lansing, Michigan to Bernard and Blanche Coggan. He attended Michigan State College (now Michigan State University) from 1943 to 1947 and received his B.A. in Public Speaking and Drama. He earned his M.S. from the University of Wisconsin in Physical Education/Dance. Through the years he worked on a number of projects including managing To Yo Za: Theater of the Far East, 1948-1958; general director of Teatro International, Inc., 1966-1983; and founder of the American Mythic Theater.

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## Scope and Contents

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The collection consists of original materials and photocopies associated with various theater projects in which Coggan was involved. Some were performed at Michigan State University. The collection contains newspaper clippings, programs, copies of photographs, histories of the dance companies, and advertising media. The Correspondence folder contains photocopies of correspondence with MSU President Peter McPherson, the MSU Library, and MSU Museum. It also contains a photocopy of a 1947 commencement program. The Wilson Paul folder contains correspondence from Wilson B. Paul, who was head of the Communication Arts department. *The Tradition and Invention: The Art of Native Americans* folder contains a proposal for an exhibit at the Kresge Art Museum.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

University Archives and Historical Collections

Conrad Hall  
943 Conrad Road, Room 101  
East Lansing , MI 48824  
Business Number: 517-355-2330  
[archives@msu.edu](mailto:archives@msu.edu)  
URL: <http://archives.msu.edu/>

### Conditions Governing Access

Collection is open for research.

### Conditions Governing Use

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## Conditions Governing Access

**Legal Status:** Donor(s) have transferred any applicable copyright to Michigan State University but the collection may contain third-party materials for which copyright was not transferred. Copyright restrictions may apply. Property Rights: Michigan State University.

## Custodial History

Papers were donated by Forrest W. Coggan.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Dance -- Study and teaching -- United States
- Dance teachers -- United States
- Kabuki
- Student activities
- Theater
- Clippings (Books, newspapers, etc.)
- Ledgers (account books)
- Legal instruments
- Letters (correspondence)
- Newsletters
- Photographs
- Programs (Publications)
- Scores
- Scrapbooks
- Sound recordings
- Video recordings
- Coggan, Blanche B. (Blanche Brown)
- Paul, Wilson B.
- American Mythic Theater
- Jeremiah Symphony
- Kresge Art Museum
- Michigan Council for the Arts
- Michigan State College. Terrace Theater
- Michigan State University. Class of 1947
- Teatro Internacional, Inc
- ToYoZa
- World Dance Alliance

## Preservica Public URL

<https://msu.access.preservica.com/archive/sdb%3Acollection|133d7d1c-c543-4dcc-96ea-fbe29e7e440d/>

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## Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
Articles and Reviews, 1954-2010		
"Carousel" preview article, <i>Grand Rapids Press</i> , 1954	box 4121	folder 1
ToYoZa, Theatre of the Far East article, <i>Michigan State University Magazine</i> , 1955	box 4121	folder 1
Living Solid Face, La Fiesta Mexicanan, and Earth Trapped reviews, photographs (copies), drawings, and sketches, 1956-1962	box 4121	folder 1
Article on the planned performance of La Fiesta Mexicana and a review of the Labyrinth from the <i>Lansing State Journal</i> , 1957	box 4121	folder 1
La Fiesta Mexicana preview and Ladder to the Stars reviews, <i>Lansing State Journal</i> , 1957	box 4121	folder 1
La Fiesta Mexicana articles and reviews, <i>Lansing State Journal</i> , 1957-1958	box 4121	folder 1
Reviews written by Coggan for the <i>Lansing State Journal</i> and <i>The State News</i> , 1957-1970	box 4121	folder 1
Earth-Trapped reviews, <i>Lansing State Journal</i> , 1962	box 4121	folder 1
"Fundamentals of Labanotation, a System for Recording Human Movement," Dance Notation Bureau, Inc., 1963	box 4121	folder 1
Sinfonia Sacra performance at the lake Edge Congregational Church in Madison, Wisconsin review, 1964	box 4121	folder 1
"The Dance Council, a Guide for Mobilizing Dance Interests in the Local Community", 1967	box 4121	folder 1
Reviews from various Arizona papers covering the Thanksgiving Festival, 1967, 1973	box 4121	folder 1
Notes on Carnival from the Ministry of Education and Culture by M.P. Alladin, 1968	box 4121	folder 1

"Executive of the Month: Mr. B.F. "Sandy" Coggan," <i>San Diego Executive Magazine</i> , 1971	box 4121	folder 1
"Teatro Internacional Aids Rediscovery of America," <i>Lansing State Journal</i> , 1972	box 4121	folder 1
Article about the American Mythic Theatre's \$15,000 NEA grant, <i>Lansing State Journal</i> , 1973	box 4121	folder 1
Sacred Dance Guild newsletter about Living Solid Face, Chebakunah, Earth-Trapped, and The Sacred Pipe, 1973	box 4121	folder 1
T.I.'s plans in the Inca area of South America, <i>Lansing State Journal</i> , 1973	box 4121	folder 1
Sacred Dance Guild, <i>Grand Rapids Press</i> , 1975	box 4121	folder 1
Guest column in the Sacred Dance Guild newsletter describing the fourth T.I. Trek into the Northwest and Hawaii, 1975-1976	box 4121	folder 1
"Fifty Year Backward Look," <i>Sacred Dance Guild Journal</i> Vol. XXV #3, Spring (May) 1982-1983	box 4121	folder 1
Reflections on Constance Louise Fisher, <i>Sacred Dance Guild Journal</i> , Vol. XXX #1, Fall 1990	box 4121	folder 1
"Better than Gold, a Hidden Culture Comes to Light," <i>Perspectives</i> , Southern Illinois University, 2002	box 4121	folder 1
"Church/Religious Art Early Connection," Sacred Dance Guild newsletter, Fall 2002	box 4121	folder 1
Coggan's Letter from 1964 describing his philosophy of dance and teaching, Sacred Dance Guild newsletter, 2003	box 4121	folder 1
"Pioneers Honored at Festival Fiesta," Sacred Dance Guild newsletter, Fall 2003	box 4121	folder 1
Recollection of phone interviews between Meredith Martin and Coggan, Michigan Oral History Association newsletter, March 2007	box 4121	folder 1
"Forrest Coggan's ToYoZa, Theatre of the Far East" published in <i>In the Noh</i> , October 10, 2010	box 4121	folder 1
Robert Mieras obituary, 2010	box 4121	folder 1
Articles, 1965, 1973, 1980, circa 1984	box 4121	folder 41
Blanche Coggan		
Books, 1955-1986		
Out of the Past into the Future: A Pageant of the Growth of a Historic Michigan Community, by Blanche B. Coggan (1956), 1956	box 4124	
Soul-Turner: A Historical Story based on The Diary of a Pioneer Bride - Volume 1: Handful of Stars (Ohio-Kansas), by Blanche B. Coggan (1961), 1961	box 4124	

The Soul-Tuner: A Historical Story based on The Diary of a Pioneer Bride - Volume 2: Look to the Mountain (Kansas-Colorado), by Blanche B. Coggan (1986) [2 copies], 1986	box 4124	
When God Quit: A Science Fiction Novel of the Days After the Bomb, by Blanch B. Coggan (1955) [2 copies], 1955	box 4124	
Blanche Coggan: "Ladder to the Stars" master copy (by Blanche Coggan, 1957); photos, obituary, and remembrances of Blanche Coggan	box 4121	folder 2
Che-Bu-Kun-Ah (includes photographs), 1960, 1971, 1974, Undated	box 4121	folder 42
Correspondence		
Postcards from Forrest Coggan to Robert Mieras re: travels, friends, and everyday life, 1967	box 4121	folder 3
Coggan to Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp's Board of Directors re: financial agreement to bring Coggan to Blue Lake, 1967	box 4121	folder 3
Coggan to Sarah Gertrude re: National Folk Festival, 1968	box 4121	folder 3
Coggan to Robert Mieras re: check from Greater Grand Rapids Dance Council, 1970	box 4121	folder 3
Coggan to Mieras re: sale of property and future of T.I., 1972	box 4121	folder 3
Mieras to G.M. Sollenberger of Imperial Properties re: acquisition of property in Sedona, AZ for the T.I. Southwest Center, 1969	box 4121	folder 3
Coggan to Carylnn Reed listing photos and sketches from performances for possible publication in the History of Sacred Dance Guild, 1978	box 4121	folder 3
Mieras to NEA re: H. Owen Reed's request for Category IV assistance from Composer/Librettist Program, 1975	box 4121	folder 3
John F. Colson to Mieras -- Thank You, 1976	box 4121	folder 3
Coggan to Mary Black Junttonen -- Greeting Cards	box 4121	folder 3
Coggan to Denver Post Office re: request new forwarding address, 1983	box 4121	folder 3
"Your Laddie" to Mieras re: family and everyday life, 1983	box 4121	folder 3
Lists of donations and collections containing Forrest Coggan and Blanche Coggan's work, 2006	box 4121	folder 3
Coggan -- recollections of phone interviews with Meredith Martin and lists of depositories for CD recordings of those interviews, Undated	box 4121	folder 3
Proposal for the production of the Mainto Masks Suite by Coggan and H. Owen Reed, 1982	box 4121	folder 3



Ruth St. Denis to "Toni" for the Guild Newsletter, 1990	box 4121	folder 3
Donald A. Pash to Coggan -- Thank You note for his work on "La Fiesta Mexicana", 1958	box 4121	folder 3
Coggan to Carlynn Reed re: photos and sketches of American Mythic Theatre Project works sent for publication, 1978	box 4121	folder 3
Coggan to Dorothy Tifal re: the Three Masks, 1993	box 4121	folder 3
Coggan to Margaret Taylor re: his life and work, 1988	box 4121	folder 3
Correspondence, 1983, 1997, 1998	box 4121	folder 4
Forrest W. Coggan papers at the Huntington Library finding aid, 2013	box 4121	folder 40
Jeremiah Symphony, 1947, 1989	box 4121	folder 5
Manitou Masks - background material for Earth Trapped, Living Solid Face, Undated	box 4121	folder 45
Michigan Council for the Arts		
Michigan Council for the Arts Grant Proposals, Correspondence and Reports, 1965-1977	box 4121	folder 6
Michigan Council for the Arts Proposals, Dance Committee, 1969-1970	box 4121	folder 8
Michigan Council for the Arts, Teatro Internacional Proposals, 1968-1970	box 4121	folder 6
MSU - Music Programs and Clippings, 1964-1970	box 4121	folder 9
Pieces		
Armistice: a Truce for Dancers and Musicians -- Score and Performing Notes, 1966	box 4123	folder 1
Hosana -- musical score with cover page dedication and instructions, 1964-1965	box 4121	folder 11
The Manito Masks: a Suite of Three Dance-Operas -- cover pages, programs notes, and libretti, 1960-1980	box 4121	folder 10
Taiwa: a Myth for Actors, Dancers, and Musicians -- Score and Dance Notations, 1967	box 4123	folder 2
Photographs		
Photographs (copies)	box 4121	folder 12
Photographs (copies), 1977-1982, 2011	box 4121	folder 13
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Photographs (copies, possibly from a scrapbook)	box 5416	
The Bernard Coggan Family, and their houses (copies)	box 4122	folder 4

Photoalbum Living Solid Face, Algonquin (photocopy), 1976, Undated	box 4121	folder 43
Photos - Earth Trapped (copies and original, 1972, Undated	box 4121	folder 44
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Robert D. Mieras meets Forrest W. Coggan and the Origin of Teatro International Inc., 1968, 1969, Undated	box 4121	folder 46
Teachers of Dance meeting minutes, Aquinas College, May 11, 1970	box 4121	folder 15
Teatro Internacional (T.I.)		
Account Ledger, 1967-1983	box 4121	folder 16
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Cable Guides, 1979	box 4121	folder 38
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History, 1967, 1969, 1983	box 4121	folder 20
Information Booklets (for fund raising) and Organizational Diagrams, 1965-1978, Undated	box 4121	folder 21
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Michigan Folk Festival Steering Committee, 1970	box 4121	folder 23
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ToYoZa, Theatre of the Far East		
To Yo Za (Theatre of the Far East), 1955, Undated	box 4121	folder 30
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"Tradition and Invention: The Art of Native Americans"- Kresge Art Museum, Undated	box 4121	folder 32
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## World Dance Alliance

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Writings, 1956-2008		
"Follow Me" memoirs of a trip to Mexico and Guatemala undertaken by the T.I. TRX unit of Teatro Internacional Inc. by Kate Daniel, 1974	box 4121	folder 34
Notes on Production of Pieces, 1947-1971	box 4121	folder 36
Writings, 1956-2008	box 4121	folder 35

## Audiovisual materials

**Preservica Public URL**

<https://msu.access.preservica.com/archive/sdb%3Acollection|501b9930-1606-4c22-af7b-948a6dd964da/>

## Cassettes

Che-Ba-Kun-Ah -- rehearsals and performance in Kalamazoo, MI, 1971	box 4122	folder 1
Taiwa - The Spirit Bride, Ohio University Theatre, April 30, 1966	box 4122	folder 1

## Compact Disc

**Preservica Public URL**

<https://msu.access.preservica.com/archive/sdb%3Acollection|818bc2c4-56e5-4f23-b3ca-6c02e2c953ed/>

American Mystic Theatre Sampler, 1995	box 4122	folder 2
<u>Digital Object: <a href="#">Sight Seer Radio: 2021-12-22</a></u>		

**Scope and Contents**

Sight Seer Radio, Coggan via Pat Muth. Live Performance Exerpts.

## Preservica Public URL

<https://msu.access.preservica.com/archive/sdb%3Acollection|bcaf0ef6-c360-47b4-a876-2cc964e9ef6b/>

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American Mystic Theatre dance rituals [2 copies], 1973, 1990      box 4122      folder 2

Digital Object:

[American Mythic Theatre 2 Dance Rituals Tracks: 2021-12-22](#)

## Scope and Contents

AMT - two dance rituals with narration by Coggan: Aimuari (Song of the Harvest) performed at the Chapel of the Holy Cross, Sedona, AZ in 1973 and Mass for Global Peace performed at Old St. Joseph Church, St. Norbert College, DePere, WI in 1990.

## Preservica Public URL

<https://msu.access.preservica.com/archive/sdb%3Acollection|59012bee-915a-4180-85a9-f78b7ad9733f/>

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Che-Ba-Kun-Ah Chippewa "Road of Souls", 1971, Undated      box 4122      folder 2

Digital Object: [Che Ba Kun Ah Chippewa Road of Souls Recordings: 2021-12-22](#)

## Scope and Contents

Track 1: Che-Ba-Kun-Ah Chippewa "Road of Souls" -- recorded at the Miller Auditorim at Western Michigan University on April 3, 1971. H. Owen Reed was the composer, Forrest Coggan the choreographer, and Carl Bjerregaard the conductor. Peformance included 7 dancers and 54 muscicians all on stage. Track 2: a later performance in Okemos, MI at a later unknown date. Stanley de Rusha was conducting.

## Preservica Public URL

<https://msu.access.preservica.com/archive/sdb%3Acollection|78b48d09-65f3-4ddb-a870-0a48736c49d1/>

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Coggan on Teatro Inc, July 4, 2009      box 4122      folder 2

Digital Object: [Coggan CD: 2021-12-22](#)

## Scope and Contents

Forrest Coggan on Teatro IncDisc Label includes "#5 No Text".

## Preservica Public URL

<https://msu.access.preservica.com/archive/sdb%3Acollection|67792ab0-ccbe-4961-9b7f-b83e1c6137c4/>

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DVD

## Preservica Public URL

<https://msu.access.preservica.com/archive/sdb%3Acollection|23b0d64d-1f1d-497b-a374-3e3261b9d257/>

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Michigan Underground Railroad with Historian Blanche B. Coggan [2 DVDs], 1980      box 4122      folder 3

Digital Object: [Michigan Underground Railroad Video: 2021-12-22](#)

## Scope and Contents

Michigan Underground Railroad with Historian Blanche B. Coggan presented by T.I. Inc. and the Grand Rapids Schools: Overview & Routes #1-#7.

## Preservica Public URL

<https://msu.access.preservica.com/archive/sdb%3Acollection|75b07f56-46bb-4c35-aa9d-f9207cdca78/>

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La Fiesta Mexicana, Earth Trapped, Turning Mind (silent) (2 copies), 1958-1966      box 4122      folder 3

Digital Object: [La Fiesta Earth Trapped Turning Mind Silent Video: 2021-12-22](#)

## Scope and Contents

See description for DVD with audio on Turning Mind.

## Preservica Public URL

<https://msu.access.preservica.com/archive/sdb%3Acollection|5544d1e0-2ba6-427f-95bc-087fdffe951c/>

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La Fiesta Mexicana, Earth Trapped, Turning Mind (with audio), 1958-1966      box 4122      folder 3

Digital Object: [LaFiesta EarthTrapped TurningMind](#)  
Videos: 2021-12-22

## Scope and Contents

Introduction by Forrest Coggan. A Teatro Internacional Inc. production. La Fiesta Mexicana: studio recording of a performance broadcast by WMSB-TV 1958 Michigan State University Television. A music visualization created expressly for Michigan State University. Composer: Harry Reed, Choreographer: Forrest Coggan, Associate Director and Producer: Bob Page, Producer: Don Pash, Music by: H. Owen Reed (used by permission, Performed by the Michigan State University Band (Conductor: Leonard Falcone). Cast: Theda Assiff, Patti Hill, Bobbie Waite, Jim Barnett, Forrest Coggan, Bill Farner, Margie Clark, Andy Clark, Carol Dressel, Mike Farmer, Joanner Handkerson, Jack Hartzell, Zaiga Kuze. Mary Phillips, Mark Phillips, Mac Ryder, Dick Schuller, Dick Schloemer, Pat Walker. Production Jack Dunlevy, Matt Woods, Charles Cassel, John Drabelle. Engineering Millard Elsner, Don Dombrausky, Randy Rudolph, Lionel Mills. (see also Collection UA 3.3.5.1 Instructional and Public Television records, Resource A009804). Earth Trapped recording broadcast 1962 by WHA-TV of a stage performance rearranged for television (University of Wisconsin). Cast: Trapped Man, Gene Olson; Vocalist, Ethel Armelling; Michigan State University Orchestral Ensemble; directed by Bob Leu (WHA-TV); 16mm film transfer by Wyoming (Michigan) Community Ed. The Turning Mind broadcast in 1966 by WOUB-TV (Ohio University). Created specifically for television (with Temporary Music Audio - by John Adams). Conceived by Forrest W. Coggan, Executive Producer N. Joseph Welling, Produced and Directed by Richard A. Hauser, with appearances by Forrest W. Coggan, Mary Jo Orehovec, Felix Rice, Beth Robinson, Carol Robinson, David Schacker, Douglas Smith, Tracy Smith, Robert Wodzinski, Graphics by Thomas Psinka, Staging and Lighting by Arthur F. Hastings.

## Preservica Public URL

[https://msu.access.preservica.com/  
archive/sdb%3Acollection|  
5f479ea7-6914-4275-80cf-9e0a9be436fd/](https://msu.access.preservica.com/archive/sdb%3Acollection|5f479ea7-6914-4275-80cf-9e0a9be436fd/)

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Great Lakes Indian Basketry as Art Object, 1980-1981

box 4122

folder 3

Digital Object: [Great Lakes Indian Basketry Video: 2021-12-22](#)

## Scope and Contents

Great Lakes Indian Basketry As Art Object from the collections of Robert D. Mieras of Michigan. Bob Fitzgeralds on the Ikegma. Camera with display and Lightning by Forest Coggan. Woodland flute recorded by Doc Tate Nevaquaya. A project of Teatro Internazionale Inc.

## Preservica Public URL

<https://msu.access.preservica.com/archive/sdb%3Acollection|94ffd948-fb86-469c-8e35-fd626cfa00f1/>

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Promotional Interview with F.W. Coggan, 1979	box 4122	folder 3
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Digital Object: [F W Coggan 1979 Interview: 2021-12-22](#)

## Scope and Contents

A Teatro Internacional Inc production. Interview with T.I. founder F. W. Coggan plus 12 promo spots aired on Channel E, Historic Public Access ED TV in Wyoming, MI. A digital copy of Coggan's Obituary is included.

## Preservica Public URL

<https://msu.access.preservica.com/archive/sdb%3Acollection|c68d6bde-61cb-42b3-9d79-3d0e111ae43f/>

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Michigan Indian Musical Heritage, T.I. Inc., 1971	box 4122
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Digital Object: [Reel 1](#)

## Videotapes

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CHEBAKUNAH - Road of Souls, 1975	box 4122
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Great Lakes Indian Basketry - As Art Object (lighting and display by Coggan), 1980-1981	box 4122
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La Fiesta Mexicana, Earth Trapped, Turning Mind (silent) [2 copies], 1958-1966	box 4122
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Michigan Indian Arts/Crafts/Lifeways 140slides with Narration by Coggan, 1971	box 4122
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Rediscover the Americas!, T.I. Inc. programs covering South America, Colombia, Peru, the Caribbean, Yucatan, Guatamala, Mexico, and the USA presented in English and Spanish (includes two contents sheets, hand written schedule of production, airing dates, and cable guides) [9 videotapes], 1978-1979	box 4122
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Earth Trapped - Alexander/ Reed/ Coggan WHA-TV w/ new sound 9/2001 restructured 1962	box 4122
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Chebakunah – Road of Souls (8 min.) Sampler film at box 4122  
Aquinas College with Mide Priest-Robert Mieras, Soul  
Journey – Gene Olsen with H. Owen Reed Music Complete  
WMU recording. Coggan choreo/staging minus Dance  
Chorus etc. Algonquin 4 Day Journey after Death River  
Crossing to Dancing Lodge, Undated