

Support Materials for the Larry Dalrymple Basket Collection Collection CAE2402

Introduction/Abstract

This archive contains support materials for the Larry Dalrymple Basket Collection, gifted to Nevada Museum of Art in 2023. Materials include basketmaker images and correspondence, collecting activity and outreach materials, basket making tools and materials, and additional artisanal objects.

Biographical Note: Larry Dalrymple

During his thirty years of collecting, Larry Dalrymple developed a progressive approach to working with weavers, bypassing traditional galleries or auction houses. His goal was to directly support basket makers and to get to know them personally. Dalrymple has published two books on his collection: *Indian Basketmakers of California and the Great Basin*, and *Indian Basketmakers of the Southwest*. He has a third book manuscript prepared for publication. Larry Dalrymple now lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Scope and Content

The Larry Dalrymple Basket collection consists of 359 contemporary Native American baskets made by weavers from Northern California, the Great Basin, and the Southwest. Many of the weavers are widely known, and many are no longer living. Dalrymple has published two books on his collection: *Indian Basketmakers of California and the Great Basin*, and *Indian Basketmakers of the Southwest*. He has a third book manuscript prepared for publication.

The contemporary focus of Dalrymple's collection is unique. Many traditional private collectors of Native American basketry feel that all the great basket "masterpieces" and great weavers are only those of the distant past—what is known as the "Golden Age" of Indigenous American basketry of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

During his thirty years of collecting, Larry Dalrymple developed a progressive approach to working with weavers, bypassing traditional galleries or auction houses. His goal was to directly support basket makers and to get to know them personally. Most often, Dalrymple would visit the weavers at their homes, often commissioning them to create new work, and sometimes purchasing what they had available. Over time, as he got to know the weavers personally, he began to interview them (and with permission) to photograph them. During his interviews, he hoped to learn about their backgrounds in weaving, motivations to weave, teachers, relationships to materials, inspirations for design, difficulties they'd faced pursuing their art, and their lives in general. Dalrymple has kept much of his correspondence with the weavers, photographs, notes, as well as his purchase records.

This archive is currently in process.