

Finding Aid for the Hereward Lester Cooke Papers, 1954–1976

Summary Information

Repository	National Gallery of Art Archives Sixth Street and Constitution Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20565 archives@nga.gov
Title	Hereward Lester Cooke Papers
Identifier	SC.008
Creator	Cooke, Hereward Lester
Date	1954–1976
Extent	1.5 cubic feet (3 boxes)
Abstract	This collection consists of research notes, correspondence, writings, and other material related to art curator Hereward Lester Cooke's professional and personal life.

Biographical Note

Hereward Lester Cooke was born in Princeton, NJ in 1916. He received a bachelor's degree from Oxford University in 1937. He went on to earn both a Master of Fine Arts and doctorate from Princeton University in 1949 and 1956, respectively. Cooke began his career at the National Gallery of Art as an aide in 1955 and would eventually serve as the Curator of Painting from 1961 to 1973. From 1963 to 1973, he was an art advisor for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). He died on October 5, 1973.

Scope and Content

This collection mostly consists of material created and compiled by art curator H. Lester Cooke, documenting his biography, professional and research activities, and his participation in the NASA Art Program. Contents include correspondence, handwritten drafts and research notes, photographs, biographical sketches, exhibition brochures, writings, and articles.

Arrangement

Folders are arranged by subject.

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access	This collection is open for research by appointment under the conditions of the National Gallery of Art Archives Access Policy. For all inquiries or to schedule an appointment, please contact archives@nga.gov .
Preferred Citation	National Gallery of Art Archives. Hereward Lester Cooke Papers.
Rights Status	In copyright
Language	English
Processing Information	Processed by archives staff in 1988.
Acquisition	Gift of Roma Harlan, 1987.
Related Archival Materials	National Gallery of Art Archives. Records of the Curatorial Departments.

Hereward Lester Cooke Papers

Box 1

- 1-1 Personal and Biographical - H. Lester Cooke personal

- 1-2 Personal and Biographical - H. Lester Cooke photographs

- 1-3 Personal and Biographical - H. Lester Cooke correspondence, 1956–1973

- 1-4 Personal and Biographical - Hereward Lester Cooke Foundation

- 1-5 Professional Activities - Expert Opinion Service

- 1-6 Professional Activities - machine messages

- 1-7 Professional Activities - Index to American Design

- 1-8 Professional Activities - articles written on or by H. Lester Cooke

- 1-9 Professional Activities - names and addresses

- 1-10 Professional Activities - non-H. Lester Cooke correspondence, 1954–1976

- 1-11 Professional Activities - magazines and articles on art

Box 2

- 2-1 Research Notes - British paintings

- 2-2 Research Notes - watercolor book

- 2-3 Research Notes - conservation

- 2-4 Research Notes - miscellaneous

- 2-5 NASA Art Program

- 2-6 NASA Art Program (Eyewitness to Space) - correspondence, October 1969–March 1973

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2-7 NASA - photographs

2-8 NASA - watercolor print

Includes inscription "It was a pink and blue cotton candy kind of morning - Skylab II."

2-9 Roma Harlan (assistant to H. Lester Cooke)

Box 3

3-1 H. Lester Cooke - disposition of art and effects from his office
