

Griffith Institute Archive Description of material

This description is based on the General International Standard Archival
Description ISAD(G)

1. *Identity statement*

Reference code n/a

Title Ross photographs

Dates of creation of the material 1960s to 1990s.

Extent More than 2,000 colour transparencies, 500 variously sized black & white and colour negatives, 300 prints and 6 volumes of antique postcards.

2. *Context*

Name of creator John G. Ross (1920-2006)

Administrative and biographical history

American photographer. Born, New York, 1920. Died, Oxford, 2006. Studied at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY. He was a ship's communication officer in the US Merchant Navy during WWII. After the war he worked as a navigator for TWA airlines, and worked on the route which included Cairo. It was here that he came in contact with professional photographers which inspired him to hone his own skills and eventually led to a career in free-lance photography. His commercial work incorporated his own varied interests, and is especially noted for his images of Egypt, its people, culture and ancient monuments. He worked for Chicago House in Egypt as well as several American museums with major Ancient Egyptian collections. He also had his own London based photography agency called The John Ross Photographic Archive.

Custodial history Donated to the Griffith Institute by his former wife Mrs Judy Ross in 2007.

Immediate source of acquisition Formerly part of The John Ross Photographic Archive.

Related documentation Griffith Institute Archive MSS Correspondence box file.

3. *Content and structure*

Scope and content More than 2,000 colour transparencies, 500 variously sized black & white and colour negatives, 300 prints and 6 volumes of antique postcards.

System of arrangement Kept as received.

4. *Access and use*

Legal status Property of the Griffith Institute.

Access conditions No restrictions.

Copyright conditions Copyright Griffith Institute, Oxford.

Language of material English.

Physical characteristics No problems.

Finding aids No full catalogue. Online catalogue continually updated.

5. Allied materials area

Location of originals These are originals.

Existence of copies Unknown.

Related units of description None.

Associated material Not known.

Publications Photographs included in many Egyptological publications, most notably: Jenkins, N. *The Boat Beneath the Pyramid. King Cheops' Royal Ship*. London: Thames & Hudson (1980); Peck, W. H. *Drawings from Ancient Egypt*. London: Thames & Hudson (1978), and Jordan, P. *Riddles of the Sphinx*. Stroud: Sutton Publishing (1998).