

**Marvin Cohodas: Baskets and Basket Weavers of Western North America  
Collection CAE2003**

**Introduction/Abstract**

This archive includes materials from Professor Emeritus for the University of British Columbia Dr. Marvin Cohodas' extensive archive and lifetime of research on Native American basket weavers and basketry.

**Biographical Note: Marvin Cohodas**

Marvin Cohodas, Professor Emeritus for the University of British Columbia's Department of Art History, Visual Art & Theory has interests that encompass both ancient American visual representation (i.e. 'Pre-Hispanic Art'), contemporary ritual and weaving arts of Maya peoples in Southern Mexico and Guatemala, and Native American basket weaving in California and Nevada. Research on late 19th and early 20th century weaving for the curio trade resulted in a book on two Northern California basket weavers, Elizabeth and Louise Hickox. He is also an exhibited basket weaver.

**Scope and Content**

When the Nevada Museum of Art organized the exhibition and book *Tahoe: A Visual History in 2015* under the direction of Senior Curator Ann Wolfe, included was an entire section on Washoe basketry with more than 100 pages in the book dedicated to this subject. One contributor to the project was Dr. Marvin Cohodas, a longtime art historian and professor at the University of British Columbia. Much of his career has been focused on the careful study of Washoe basketry.

Dr. Marvin Cohodas' extensive archive and lifetime of research records focuses on Native American weavers and basketry. In addition to notebooks, interviews, books, journal and magazine articles, and artist files, his gift to the museum includes historic photographs and images of approximately 20,000 Washoe baskets, 5,000 Mono Lake Paiute baskets, and 2,000 Karuk baskets. The research materials do not include any physical baskets or objects, but only research materials related to the artists who made them, and photographs taken during his lifetime of research.

**This archive is currently in process.**