

## Summary Information

**Title:** The Philippine Expedition Collection

**Collector:** Expedition led by Carl E. Guthe

**Donor:** University of Michigan Expedition

**Dates:** 1922-1925

**Extent:** 5,558 catalog records representing approximately 29,485 objects.

**Abstract:**

Carl E. Guthe was an American Anthropologist and the first director of the University of Michigan Museum of Anthropology. From 1922-1925, Guthe headed the University of Michigan sponsored Philippine Expedition, whose primary directive was the collection of pre-colonial Chinese ceramics.

**Accession number:** 220, 232, 233, and 234

**Language:** English

**Repository:**

University of Michigan Museum of Anthropological Archaeology

3600 Varsity Drive

Ann Arbor, MI 48108

734.764.0485

e-mail: [ummaa-collection-mgr@umich.edu](mailto:ummaa-collection-mgr@umich.edu)

Home Page: <https://lsa.umich.edu/ummaa>

**Other Repositories:**

Bentley Historical Library

1150 Beal Avenue

Ann Arbor, MI 48109

734.764.3482

Sterns Collection of Musical Instruments

School of Music, Theatre & Dance

E.V. Moore Building, 1100 Baits Dr.,

Ann Arbor, MI 48109

**Collection Guide Created by:** Sara Reed and Sophie Wolf

**Year Collection Guide Created:** 2023

**Funding for collection guide provided by:** ReConnect/ReCollect: Reparative Connections to Philippine Collections at the University of Michigan

## Access and Use

### Acquisition Information:

The collection was a University of Michigan expedition.

### Access Restrictions:

The collection is open to research.

### Copyright:

Copyright is held by the Regents of the University of Michigan but the collection may contain third-party materials for which copyright is not held. Patrons are responsible for determining the appropriate use or reuse of materials.

### Preferred Citation:

UMMAA Object #/Document title. Accession #. The Guthe Collection, University of Michigan Museum of Anthropological Archaeology. Date Accessed.

## Biography

Carl E. Guthe (1893-1974) was an American Anthropologist. He received his B.S. degree from the University of Michigan in 1914, and completed his M.A. and Ph.D. at Harvard. In 1922 he was hired as the first anthropologist on the faculty at Michigan, and there served as the first chair of anthropology, as well as the first director of the Museum of Anthropology. He was a founding member of the Society for American Archaeology and the journal *American Antiquity*.

The Philippine Expedition was initiated largely based on the recommendation of Dean C. Worcester, former Secretary of the Interior for the American colonial government in the Philippines. Worcester had, during previous excursions, discovered Chinese ceramics in caves and burial grounds. The expedition began in October 1922, and ended in May 1925. During these two and a half years over twenty trips of largely exploratory fieldwork were undertaken. The information and labor that made the fieldwork possible was overwhelmingly provided by the local and indigenous people of the Philippines.

## Collection Scope and Content Note

This material was collected from across the Philippines by Carl E. Guthe and his associates during the Philippine Expedition, which took place from 1922 to 1925. Much of the material is archaeological, most of which was retrieved from caves or collected by local agents. Many of the collection sites were burial grounds or graves. Some of the material was purchased. A small portion of the collection is ethnographic.

The collection has not been attributed to any Philippine ethnolinguistic groups. The collection has also not been reviewed by an individual with expertise in Philippine ethnolinguistic cultures. The catalog information reflects what has been previously provided by the donor and the Museum's historic naming conventions. At this time, it cannot be stated with specificity when, where, or by whom the objects were created.

The collection contains human remains and associated burial items.

**The associated archival material contains the following information:**

- Records of Information 1923-1925: Shipping Information and Site Leads. Box 21.
  - This box contains shipping information and site leads. The first section of cards details original shipping boxes and the objects they include. The objects are either described or the original field numbers are included. The cards give dates of packing, shipping, arrival, and unpacking. The second section of cards contains information related to possible sites of the expedition. These site leads are compiled from information given to Dean C. Worcester, Carl Guthe, or both. Cards include location information, dates, occasionally the names of informants, and what is expected to be found at the site. A small number of cards include Guthe's handwritten notes on the dates a particular site was visited. Included among site leads are several business cards and the names of various contacts in the relevant area.
- Relevant Philippine Sites Information Cards. Box 6.
  - A compilation of sites related to the Guthe Expedition. The University of Michigan sites are sorted by type (burial ground, cave, grave, misc., unknown), and have Guthe's originally assigned site numbers. Two sites are included that are unrelated to the University of Michigan expedition. Each card gives a varying amount of information, but typically the specific site name is included (if applicable), as well as municipality and barrio. A small number of cards have relative directions (e.g., "One hour's walk up river"), though most contain only general information.
- Miscellaneous: Object Descriptions, Relevant Informational Materials and Studies, Exhibit Labels, Expense Reports, Perry School Photographs. Box 12.

- A variety of files relevant to the expedition. A large portion of the box is dedicated to typed and handwritten object descriptions, primarily pottery and bracelets. There are a number of papers concerned with shell identification, especially of shells related to the aforementioned bracelets. There are several studies present, including: a translation of a Japanese study on celadons; a survey on the distribution of blue and white ware of Chinese origin in caves; attribute studies of a portion of the collection's ceramics; a stoneware storage jar sampling report; and a paper on the Golden teeth of the Visayans. Additionally, there are exhibit labels, one of Guthe's expense reports, and photographs labeled "Perry School."
- Photocopies of Notes, photographs, newspaper clippings, etc.-- Originals at Bentley. Box 18.
  - A collection of material photocopied from the Guthe Papers at the Bentley Historical Library. The first object in the box is a copy of the University of Michigan President's Report for the year 1922-1923. This report describes the activities of Guthe's Philippine expedition. There are both photographs of Guthe and photographs taken by him, some relevant to the Philippines, and some relevant to other areas. There are also photocopies of manuscripts and other writings, some written while in the Philippines. Additionally, there are copies of newspaper clippings related to Guthe and the expedition.
- Original Field Notes 1922-1925. Box 22.
  - A collection of organized site notes related to the expedition. Includes typed notes that specify site, description, objects found at the site, informants, broad location, and the original site number. Some of the notes are handwritten, and those include notes of purchases, notes taken on site, notes of original dig crews with names and record of payment. All are presumably written by Guthe himself. At the end of the box there are several charts of object types (by material) found at each site.
- Miscellaneous: Typological Pottery Notes, Object Acquisition Notes, Citation Cards, Related Articles. Box 10.
  - The box includes a number of notes, the bulk of which are detailed typological notes on certain pieces of pottery in the collection. There are also other notes which primarily relate to how certain objects were obtained, from whom or from where. There are a number of citation cards, some of books which seem relevant to the study of the collection but necessarily to the collection itself, and articles which seem to have direct relevance to the collection.
- Dragon Jars. Box 13.

- This box comprises a collection of research and associated materials done on the Guthe “Dragon Jars” between 1995-2005. The box includes two major papers: Dr. Carla Sinopoli’s Characterizing the Stoneware “Dragon Jars” in the Guthe Collection: Chemical, Decorative, and Formal Patterning, which robustly categorizes the jars within the collection through multiple interdisciplinary means. The second paper is the predoctoral work of Stephen A. Dueppen entitled A Technological Analysis of Dragon Jars: The Guthe Collection, which discusses and analyzes production techniques of the jars. Much of the accompanying information is data collected, by Dueppen, for this project.
- Articles & Reports (Non-Ceramic). Box 15.
  - This box contains a variety of informational records, including two comprehensive works respectively on Philippine shell bracelets and glass beads (specific to the UM Philippine Expedition Collection). A student paper titled “Beads, Bracelets, and Beyond” is also included. A folder on metals contains the details of an iron analysis on a series of spearheads, blades, knives, and other similar objects. A photocopy of an article by A. Nicholas discusses “Gongs, Bells, and Cymbals: The Archeological Record in Maritime Asia From the Ninth to the Seventeenth Centuries”. The rest of the box pertains to the human remains found and collected on the Philippine Expedition. A photocopied article by B.O. Hughes generally discusses uncovered skeletal materials, whereas a series of student group projects focus on specific groupings of caves and what was found there.
- Human Remains Reports. Box 14.
  - The bulk of this box is made up of a collection of student reports on individual human crania. These are hand-drawn within an outline of a skull, including anterior, posterior, superior, inferior, and lateral views. Abnormalities such as various forms of bone damage, weathering, and missing teeth are marked and noted on these reports. A photocopy of B. O. Hughes’ “Philippine Skeletal Material from Guthe’s Collection ” is included, along with other assorted publications. A number of works regarding decorated teeth and cranial deformation make up the remainder of the box.
- Ceramic Reports and Articles. Box 16.
  - This box comprises printed works regarding a myriad of ceramics, generally focusing either on a specific era or type. The majority are published papers and booklets, but one Kalamazoo College senior project was supervised by Dr. Carla Sinopoli. Some of these works are thematic or historical overviews, while others are scientific analyses on specific

pieces. Philippine, Thai, Chinese, and Hong Kongese ceramics are represented, although information on ceramics from various other regions is also included.

- Guthe Handwritten Catalog Notes. Box 23.
  - These notes have likely been reintegrated into collections at least in part. They are object specific.
- Description Cards: Chinese Celadon I & II. Box 2.
- Descriptions of Blue and White Porcelain by Plate Number. Box 4.
- Description Cards: Chinese Blue and White. Box 1.
- Photographs: Yüeh and Celadon. Box 9.
- Photographs I: Chinese Blue and White. Box 7.
- Photographs II: Chinese Blue and White. Box 8.
- Description Cards: Indo-Chinese Wares, Enameled, Monochrome, Ch'ing-pai, Shu-fu, Miscellaneous. Box 3.
- Description Cards: Philippine Metal Blades. Box 20.
- Publications and Documents by Guthe, Aga Oglu, Beyer, Solheim and Notes on Guthe. Box 17.
- Dragon Jar Research 1995-2005: Photos and Negatives. Box 24.
- Notes on Chinese Ceramics by Benjamin Marsh, Joyce Gnau (Black), J.M. Plumer, Mr. Bailey. Box 5.
- Ceramic Cards/Notes. Box 11.
- Guthe's photographs and descriptions of Chinese & Siamese ceramics and non-ceramic objects. Box 19.

**The collection contains the following objects (organized by the museum's historic naming conventions):**

- Agriculture and Subsistence–Fishing Object–Net Sinker (4)
- Agriculture and Subsistence–Hunting Object–Harpoon
- Agriculture and Subsistence–Hunting Object–Lance (4)
- Agriculture and Subsistence–Hunting Object–Point (non-lithic)
- Agriculture and Subsistence–Hunting Object–Spear (15)
- Architecture–Post
- Architecture–Key
- Armour and Weapons–Armour–Shield
- Armour and Weapons–Weapon–Cannon (7)
- Armour and Weapons–Weapon–Dagger (11)
- Armour and Weapons–Weapon–Kris (13)
- Armour and Weapons–Weapon–Rifle
- Armour and Weapons–Weapon–Sheath (14)
- Armour and Weapons–Weapon–Spear (6)

- Armour and Weapons–Weapon–Sword (9)
- Art–Figurine (3)
- Container–Basket (2)
- Container–Bottle (13)
- Container–Bowl (705)
- Container–Box (38)
- Container–Cigarette Case (6)
- Container–Container (generic) (37)
- Container–Cup (73)
- Container–Cylindrical Vase (9)
- Container–Ewer (2)
- Container–Incense Burner
- Container–Jar (445)
- Container–Jug (75)
- Container–Lid (cover) (21)
- Container–Olla (3)
- Container–Pitcher (3)
- Container–Plate (491)
- Container–Pot (10)
- Container–Saucer (18)
- Container–Sherd (2723)
- Container–Tea Pot (28)
- Container–Tube (4)
- Container–Vase (25)
- Container–Water Dropper
- Currency–Coin (5)
- Dress and Personal Adornment–Accessory–Armband
- Dress and Personal Adornment–Accessory–Button (2)
- Dress and Personal Adornment–Clothing–Hat (4)
- Dress and Personal Adornment–Clothing–Pants
- Dress and Personal Adornment–Clothing–Shirt (5)
- Dress and Personal Adornment–Clothing–Skirt
- Dress and Personal Adornment–Jewelry–Bead (81)
- Dress and Personal Adornment–Jewelry–Bracelet (113)
- Dress and Personal Adornment–Jewelry–Earring (7)
- Dress and Personal Adornment–Jewelry–Ear Spool (2)
- Dress and Personal Adornment–Jewelry–Gorget
- Dress and Personal Adornment–Jewelry–Ornament (3)
- Dress and Personal Adornment–Jewelry–Pendant (2)
- Dress and Personal Adornment–Jewelry–Pin

- Dress and Personal Adornment–Jewelry–Ring (15)
- Dress and Personal Adornment–Toiletries–Comb
- Food Preparation and Consumption–Ladle
- Food Preparation and Consumption–Mortar (2)
- Food Preparation and Consumption–Spoon (3)
- Furnishings and Furniture–Sheet
- Furnishings and Furniture–Stand (2)
- Heating and Lighting–Candle Holder (2)
- Human Remains–Human Remains (200)
- Information Technology–Seal/Stamp
- Information Technology–Parchment
- Music–Gong Stick (3)
- Music–Percussion Instrument–Bell
- Music–Percussion Instrument–Drum (2)
- Music–Percussion Instrument–Drum Stick (2)
- Music–Percussion Instrument–Gong (6)
- Music–Unspecified–Musical Instrument
- Music–Wind Instrument–Flute (4)
- Religion or Ritual–Charm (3)
- Religion or Ritual–Coffin (4)
- Religion or Ritual–Cross
- Religion or Ritual–Figurine (2)
- Religion or Ritual–Pipe (13)
- Reproductions or Casts–Model (4)
- Sports and Games–Game
- Stone Tools and Tool Production–Chipped Stone–Flake
- Stone Tools and Tool Production–Chipped Stone–Knife (2)
- Stone Tools and Tool Production–Chipped Stone–Stone Implement, unknown (11)
- Textile–Cloth Fragments (2)
- Textile–Textile (2)
- Tools and Equipment–Adze (3)
- Tools and Equipment–Axe
- Tools and Equipment–Brush (2)
- Tools and Equipment–Celt
- Tools and Equipment–Digging Stick
- Tools and Equipment–Hammerstone
- Tools and Equipment–Handle (7)
- Tools and Equipment–Knife (49)
- Tools and Equipment–Peg
- Tools and Equipment–Rubbing Stone (2)



- Tools and Equipment–Scraper
- Tools and Equipment–Spindle Whorl (2)
- Tools and Equipment–Whetstone
- Unassigned–Ball
- Unassigned–Botanical Sample
- Unassigned–Disc (4)
- Unassigned–Metal Fragment (37)
- Unassigned–Modified Animal Bone (4)
- Unassigned–Modified Shell (3)
- Unassigned–Modified Wood
- Unassigned–Sample (15)
- Unassigned–Stake
- Unassigned–Unknown (28)
- Unassigned–Unworked Animal Bone (6)
- Unassigned–Unworked Shell (6)
- Unassigned–Various Archaeological Material (26)

## Subject Terms

- Guthe, Carl E. (Carl Eugen), 1893-1974.
- Worcester, Dean C. (Dean Conant), 1866-1924.
- Archaeology.
- Anthropology.
- Expeditions and surveys.
- Philippines -- History -- 1898-1946.
- University of Michigan -- Archaeological expeditions.
- University of Michigan Philippine Expedition (1922-1925)

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