

**Colket Family
Collection, 1845-1998
Accession Number 1090
.45 cubic feet (1 document box)**

Charles Howard Colket was born in Philadelphia on July 2, 1859. He graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1879. Shortly afterwards he embarked on an extended trip through the Middle East. Beginning in Beirut, Colket traveled 1,336 miles to Bagdad and back again, passing the ancient cities of Telloh, Corinth, Ninevah, Baalbek, Tell Billa, and Rayy. He also traveled to Damascus and Palmyra before returning home. On these journeys Colket began collecting the momentos, artifacts, and curios which make up the Colket Collection. The three limestone funerary reliefs which he brought back from Palmyra were the first steles to be seen in America.

Colket married Almira Little Peterson (1859-1944) in April of 1887. In 1890-1891 the couple traveled around the world. The Colkets also visited parts of Africa, India, China, and Japan, adding to the artifact collection along the way. C.H. Colket died in 1924 at the age of 65.

Tristram Coffin Colket II was the only son of Charles Howard and Almira Colket. Tristram Colket was born May 31, 1896, in Philadelphia. He married Gertrude Crawford (d. 1979) on October 8, 1921. The couple had three sons and a daughter. Tristram Colket also added items to the artifact collection. In 1941 he and his wife bought a ranch (T bar T) south of Sheridan, Wyoming, where they lived for thirty-three years. Tristram C. Colket died September 9, 1986.

The collection includes a small amount of correspondence; newspaper clippings regarding the artifact collection; a transcript of an interview with Tristram Colket II; photographs of Charles Howard Colket, Tristram Colket II, and the Colket artifact collection; plans for the Colket Room at the University of Wyoming; a copy of the inventory and appraisal of the Colket artifact collection (1963); information on the Colket Family and artifact identifications researched by Alfred Radloff in 1998; and some printed material.

The Colket artifact collection is listed separately.

The Colket Collection was received from Mr. and Mrs. T.C. Colket between 1964 and 1979. Other material has been added by the staff of the American Heritage Center.