

Guide to the James Meller collection of John McHale and Magda Cordell McHale papers

MSS 36



YCBA Library Court. Photograph by Richard Caspole, YCBA, 2016.

Compiled by Meg Rinn

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Yale Center for British Art, Archives
1080 Chapel Street
P. O. Box 208280
New Haven, CT 06520-8280
(203) 432-1992
ycba.archives@yale.edu
<https://britishart.yale.edu/archives>

CALL NUMBER: MSS 36

CREATOR: McHale, John

TITLE: James Meller collection of John McHale and Magda Cordell McHale papers

DATES: 1966–1985

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.83 linear feet (2 document boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The collection comprises correspondence with John McHale and Magda Cordell McHale, copies of articles written by the couple, conference reports, and related reprints of articles that reflect James Meller's interest in futurism and professional relationship with John McHale.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/ycba.mss.0036>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use on site, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/ycba.mss.0036>.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

- b. box
- f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Yale Center for British Art, Gift of the Richard Saltoun Gallery

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

In Copyright

This collection is the physical property of the Yale Center for British Art. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the Archives Department.

Preferred Citation

James Meller collection of John McHale and Magda Cordell McHale papers. Yale Center for British Art, Archives.

Biographical / Historical

James Meller was an associate of Buckminster Fuller and interested in futurism. He edited *The Buckminster Fuller Reader*, published in 1970.

Magda Cordell McHale (1921 June 24 - 2008 February 21) was a Hungarian born artist and professor. As a founding member of the Independent Group, she explored the place of popular culture in art, laying the foundation for Pop Art in Britain. Her work was often expressionist in manner, focused on women's bodies.

She moved with her second husband, John McHale, to the United States in 1962. The two wrote extensively about futurism, including the role of technology, communication, women, and ecology, eventually founding the Center for Integrative Studies. The Center continued after John's death in 1978, establishing a presence at the State University of New York Buffalo, where Magda would become a part of the faculty until her retirement in 1999.

John McHale (1922 August 19 - 1978 November 2) was a Scottish artist, as well as future studies researcher, art theorist, and sociologist. He was among the founding members of the Independent Group, a group of artists who interrogated the place of popular culture in art, paving the way for Pop Art in Britain. His preferred artistic medium was collage.

McHale moved with his second wife, Magda Cordell McHale, to the United States in 1962. The move was prompted by the opportunity to work with Buckminster Fuller on issues related to the environment. He completed a PhD at the State University of New York Binghamton, where he founded the first version of the Center for Integrative Studies with Magda. He published extensively about futurism related topics such as the environment, technology, women, and communication, frequently in collaboration with Magda. He died in 1978.

Scope and Contents

The collection comprises James Meller's letters from John McHale and Magda Cordell McHale, copies of articles written by McHale and Cordell McHale, conference reports, and related reprints of articles that reflect James Meller's interest in futurism and professional relationship with John McHale. The bulk of the collection focuses on articles and conference reports.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into the series: Series I. Articles and reports; Series II. Correspondence; Series III. Printed material.

Collection Contents

Series I. Articles and reports

This series contains articles and conference reports gathered by James Meller written either by John McHale and Magda Cordell McHale or reflecting their active involvement. It also contains two pieces of correspondence that were originally interfiled with the other material.

Material is in original order, which is roughly in reverse chronological order. It is listed in fully reversed chronological order.

| | | |
|-------------|--|---------------------------------|
| b. 1, f. 3 | Magda Cordell McHale letter to James Meller | 1985 September 18 |
| b. 1, f. 2 | "In Memoriam: John McHale." <i>Royal Institute of British Architects Journal</i> | 1979 March |
| b. 1, f. 5 | Ray Fletcher letter to James Meller | 1978 December 11 |
| b. 1, f. 1 | Leonard, John. "Private Lives." <i>The New York Times</i> (New York, NY) | 1978 November 8 |
| b. 1, f. 24 | Educational futures: individual, societal, global perspectives | 1978 October 20-1978 October 22 |
| b. 1, f. 29 | McHale, John. "Forecasting and futures research." Publication unknown. | 1975 July-1975 August |
| b. 1, f. 30 | McHale, John. "Beyond the Exponentials." Publication unknown. | 1975 February 4-1975 February 5 |
| b. 1, f. 14 | McHale, John and Magda Cordell McHale. "Basic Human Needs and Sustainable Growth." <i>The Futurist</i> | 1975 February |
| b. 1, f. 31 | McHale, John. "Systems Simulation - Man Plus.' <i>Behavioral Science</i> vol. 20 no. 1 | 1975 January |
| b. 1, f. 13 | Subject - possible volspkr John McHale | 1975 |
| b. 1, f. 6 | McHale, John, Magda Cordell McHale. "The timetable project, stage 1: an assessment of projected relationships between populations and resources" <i>Ekistics</i> , vol. 37 no. 221 | 1974 April |
| b. 1, f. 7 | Working draft copy, The timetable project[...] | 1973 October |
| b. 1, f. 4 | <i>Pacifica Tape Library</i> | 1971 December |
| b. 1, f. 11 | Typological survey of Futures Research by John McHale | 1969-1970 |
| b. 1, f. 17 | McHale, John. "World energy resources in the future." <i>Futures</i> vol. 1 no. 1 | 1968 September |
| b. 1, f. 33 | McHale, John. "Global Ecology: toward the planetary society." <i>The American Behavioral Scientist</i> | 1968 July-1968 August |
| b. 1, f. 26 | Minutes of the Advisory Council meeting for the Joint Conference of the American Geographical Society and the World Academy of Art and Science, American Division | 1968 January 27-1968 January 28 |

| | | |
|-------------|---|-----------------------|
| b. 1, f. 27 | Summary minutes of general discussion advisory council (first day) | 1968 January 27 |
| b. 1, f. 28 | Interdisciplinary coordination working group report | 1968 January |
| b. 1, f. 20 | McHale, John. "A Global View." <i>Social Policies in the Seventies: nine divergent views</i> edited by Robert Theobald, Doubleday and Company | 1968 |
| b. 1, f. 19 | McHale, John. "Toward the Future." <i>The Teilhard Review</i> vol. 3 no. 1 | 1968 |
| b. 1, f. 8 | McHale, John. "2000+." <i>Ekistics</i> , vol. 24 no. 142 | 1967 September |
| b. 1, f. 10 | "World Resources inventory uses, 'total systems approach'" [extract], <i>The Futurist</i> | 1967 August |
| b. 1, f. 18 | McHale, John. "On the ecology of political violence: 'the long hot summer' as hypothesis." <i>American Behavioral Scientist</i> Vol. XI no. 6 | 1968 July-1968 August |
| b. 1, f. 9 | McHale, John. "The future of "the future" will be what we make of it." <i>The Futurist</i> vol. 1 no. 3 | 1967 June |
| b. 1, f. 21 | Conference on the Planetary Society | 1967 April 17 |
| b. 1, f. 15 | World literacy re: world problems | 1967 |
| b. 1, f. 22 | McHale, John. "World University - a global state of mind." <i>Matrix '67</i> | 1967 |
| b. 1, f. 16 | Report of the developments since the conference of overseas sponsors held in London in November 1965 | 1966 August |
| b. 1, f. 35 | McHale, John. "Education for real." Publication unknown | 1966 June |
| b. 1, f. 25 | McHale, John. "Sharing Not Enough....world literacy on global problems.", <i>Society</i> | 1966 March 14 |
| b. 1, f. 12 | Levels of Technology [extract] from unidentified publication | undated |
| b. 1, f. 23 | Educational futures, Houston Style. Observations on the first conference of the World Future Society's education section | undated |
| b. 1, f. 32 | McHale, John and Magda Cordell McHale. "Management: the larger perspective." <i>Challenge to Leadership: managing in a changing world.</i> The Free Press, New York. Collier-Macmillan publishers | undated |
| b. 1, f. 34 | McHale, John. "This Runaway World - can man gain control? Man Plus." <i>The P. Teilhard de Chardin Association of Great Britain and Ireland</i> | undated |

Series II. Correspondence

The correspondence series is primarily focused on communication between James Meller and John McHale, with some letters signed by both John and Magda and addressed to both James and his wife Gillian. Originally, John and James were in contact due to a mutual interest in the World Design Science Decade and future studies in general, as well their individual working relationships with Buckminster Fuller. John and James exchange book recommendations, articles, and other resources. There is also the occasional request from John to help the Center for Integrative Studies make a purchase. The correspondence tapers off around 1971, with references to phone calls suggesting that the primary form of communication changed.

Material is arranged chronologically.

| | | |
|--------------|------------------------|-----------|
| b. 2, f. 1 | Envelopes and reports | 1967-1976 |
| b. 2, f. 2-9 | Correspondence | 1967-1976 |
| b. 2, f. 10 | Correspondence wrapper | undated |

Series III. Printed material

The printed material series contains publications by John McHale and Magda Cordell McHale along with works of others relevant to Meller's interest futurism.

Material is arranged chronologically.

| | | |
|-------------|---|---------------------------|
| b. 2, f. 11 | The Triple Revolution (reprint) | 1963 |
| b. 2, f. 12 | Science, Technology, and Change by John McHale | 1967 |
| b. 2, f. 13 | The Changing Pattern of Future Research in the USA by John McHale | 1973 June |
| b. 2, f. 14 | Human Requirements, Supply Levels, and Outerbounds: a framework for thinking about the planetary bargain by John McHale and Magda Cordell McHale | 1975 |
| b. 2, f. 15 | The Planetary Bargain: proposals for a new international economic order to meet human needs, report of an international workshop convened in Aspen Colorado | 1975 July 7-1975 August 1 |
| b. 2, f. 16 | Women in World Terms: facts and trends | 1975 |
| b. 2, f. 17 | International conference on the future of the past: change and cultural transformation | 1980 |
| b. 2, f. 18 | New Perspectives on Changing Relationships: Canada, Mexico, United States summary report | 1980 May 20-1980 May 22 |
| b. 2, f. 19 | International conference on the future of the past: historical identity? And permanence and change | 1980 July 11-1980 July 13 |

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Architecture -- Environmental aspects
Futurism (Art)

Genres / Formats

Correspondence

Contributors

McHale, John
McHale, Magda Cordell

Acquired From

Meller, James