



**Sharlot Hall Museum Library and Archives**  
**415 West Gurley Street**  
**Prescott, AZ 86301**  
**www.sharlot.org**

**Title:** Kate T. Cory Papers and Photos

**Creator:** Kate T. Cory

**Dates:** 1612-2011 (Bulk Dates 1905-1912)

**Quantity:** 4 Boxes and 1 oversize folder

**System of Arrangement:**

The collection is arranged in the following series:

Series 1: Personal Information

Series 2: Correspondence

Series 3: Published and Unpublished Materials (**See Restrictions**)

Series 4: Photographs (**See Restrictions**)

Series 5: Nancy Kirkpatrick Wright Research Material

Series 6: Oversize Materials

**Abstract:**

The Kate T. Cory collection contains transcripts, notes and photographs depicting Cory's observations of the Hopi Indians, while she lived with the tribe from 1905 to 1912. The collection also includes personal papers and correspondence, as well as correspondence generated by Leroy Eslow in his attempt to have Cory's works published. In addition, there is an assortment of research documents and photographs collected by Nancy Kirkpatrick Wright relating to Cory and her work as an ethnographer.

**Identification:** SHM MS - 24

**Language and Scripts of the Materials:**

All materials are in English

**Biographical History**

Born on February 8, 1861, in Waukegan, Illinois, Kate Cory was a pioneer in more than the usual sense of the word. She was indeed extraordinary. After graduating from high school in Waukegan, her family moved to New York City where she continued her art education at Cooper Union and later The Art Students League. While at the Art Students League she studied under early American Impressionist J. Alden Weir and Classical Realist Kenyon Cox.



A "maiden lady" of forty-four, she journeyed alone to the Hopi mesas of Arizona hoping to become a member of a developing artist colony. The decision to visit Arizona had been planted the previous fall by fellow artist Louis Akin. At the time, Kate Cory was an instructor at The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and the Arts and was at a meeting of the Pen and Brush Club in New York. She was introduced to Akin by her roommate, writer Maude Banks. Akin had just returned after living the year before among the Hopi Indians. He hoped to establish a colony of writers, artists, and musicians in the Hopi Mesas, with the Hopi Indians. When no one else joined her at the colony, she remained; little realizing that she would become a valuable ethnographer of the Hopi. It would be a full seven years before Kate Cory left the Hopi. In the years she lived in the pueblo of Old Oraibi, she became friend and confidant of the Hopi, and, as an artist of great talent, was able to capture their culture in photographs and on canvas.

Although not born in Arizona, it was Prescott, Arizona that Kate considered home. Living in a stone house in the Idylwild Tract on Thumb Butte Road, she continued her work as an artist and sculptor, becoming one of the West's most famous artists. Her paintings can be found today in the Smoki Museum, Sharlot Hall Museum, the Museum of Northern Arizona, the Waukegan Historical Society, the Smithsonian Institution, the First Congregational Church of Prescott, and in the homes of the descendants of her many friends and relatives. Kate belonged to the First Congregational Church of Prescott, and for several years was a member of the Monday Fine Arts Committee, the first women's club in Arizona. Cory Avenue off West Gurley Street in Prescott is named for her.

She left a memorable impression on all who knew and met her. She was not concerned if the clothes she wore were old or her house was in disarray. Her food for the day might consist of eating only beans from a tin. Kate's personal values revolved around her artistic expression, as well as her desire to share with others. Stories of both her generosity and eccentricity still continue to surface. Kate died on June 12, 1958, at the Arizona Pioneers' Home and is buried in the Arizona Pioneers Home Cemetery in Prescott, Arizona.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The materials in this collection consist of Cory's personal and family information, personal journals, correspondence, professional/career artist information, unpublished manuscripts and photographs. The personal documents describe some of Kate Cory's early childhood memories, a coat of arms document, and her family history; specifically, her mother, Eliza Pope Kellogg, maternal grandfather, David Kellogg, maternal grandmother, Sarah Pope Prince and her father, James Y. Cory. It also includes correspondence between Eugene Newman and Kate Cory while she was planning her move to Prescott, Arizona.



The professional manuscript material reflects several unpublished works written or related by Kate Cory to Virginia Brown and Leroy Eslow regarding Kate's experiences while living with the Hopi Indians. Eslow later attempted to have some of Kate's stories and photographs published, with no success. However, many of Kate Cory's photographs have been printed and/or are displayed at numerous museums.

The vast majority of photographs within this collection cover the period of time Kate lived with the Hopi Indians, 1905-1912. These photographs display some of the daily life routines of the Hopi Indians, as well as some of their ceremonial dances and activities.

Additional material was provided which reflects research notes and information collected by Nancy Kirkpatrick Wright. This material was amassed by Wright as she collected and sought facts regarding Kate Cory in order to write a book regarding Cory and Cory's work with the Hopi Tribe. Some of this material includes slides and notes from a presentation which Nancy Wright also compiled and conducted depicting Cory's work.

## **Restrictions**

The unpublished manuscripts dictated to Brown and Eslow were restricted to no photocopying or use in a publication until 2010. This restriction has been lifted at this time, but permission still needs to be gained from the Hopi Tribe and Museum of Northern Arizona.

**All photographs which depict Hopi ceremonial or sacred activities are RESTRICTED and cannot be viewed or reproduced without the express written consent of:**

**Hopi Tribe, Office of Cultural Preservation  
P.O. Box 123  
Kykotsmovi, AZ 86039.  
Their phone number is (928) 734-3619.**

## **Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use**

Unpublished and published manuscripts are protected by copyright. Permission to publish, quote, or reproduce must be secured from the repository and the copyright holder. The Sharlot Hall Museum may not own copyright to all parts of this collection. It is the responsibility of the user to obtain permission to publish from the owner of the copyright (the institution, the creator of the record, the author or his/her transferees, heirs, legates, or literary executors). The user agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the State of Arizona and the Sharlot Hall Museum - this includes its Board of Trustee officers, employees, outside contractors, and agents from and against all claims made by person asserting that he or she is an owner of copyright.



## Related Archival Materials & Subjects

[Akin, Louis, 1868-1913](#)

[Arizona Pioneers' Home](#)

Brown, Virginia, 1921-2009

[Buffalo dance.](#)

[Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art.](#)

[Cory, James Young, 1828-1901](#)

[Cory, Kate, 1861-1958](#)

Eslow, Leroy, 1898-1970

[First Mesa \(Ariz. : Mesa\)](#)

[Hopi art](#)

[Hopi Indian Reservation \(Ariz.\)](#)

[Hopi Indians](#)

Hopi Indians--Arizona

[Hopi Indians--Social life and customs](#)

[Hopi painting](#)

[Kachina dolls](#)

Monday Fine Arts Committee

[Museum of Northern Arizona](#)

[Oraibi \(Ariz.\)](#)

[Smithsonian Institution.](#)

[Smoki Museum](#)

[Snake dance](#)

[Waukegan Historical Society](#)

[Wright, Nancy Kirkpatrick](#)

See the related collection, PC-4 Leroy Eslow Collection.

See also the Rose Garden file for a biography of Kate Thomson Cory.

The photo vertical files at Sharlot Hall Museum contain a picture of paintings by Kate Cory at the ERA –Arizona State Exhibit – Prescott, call number FA-005pa (formerly MISC-257p).

## Administrative Information

Accession Numbers:

77.269

99.147

2001.168

2013.125



### **Custodial History**

A majority of the photographs and the unpublished manuscripts within this collection were personally donated to the Sharlot Hall Museum by Virginia Brown on September 20, 1977. Within these photographs was an inventory listing of Kate Cory's photographs which are also located at the Museum of Northern Arizona. Hence, some of the photographs donated by Virginia Brown are located at both museums. Kate Cory's personal correspondence was donated by Lila Cook on October 12, 1999. The unpublished thesis titled *Kate Thompson Cory: Artist and Ethnographer of Arizona* by Tricia Diane Loscher was sent to Sharlot Hall Museum Press in 2001, but was never published by the Press. This particular manuscript was found in the Sharlot Hall Museum's internal archives.

Kate Cory's personal correspondence with Eugene Newman was a gift from Lila Cook in 1999. Kate Cory's original manuscripts for *People of the Yellow Dawn* and *Children in Hopiland*, as well as 100 photographs were originally part of the Leroy Eslow Collection, and were gifted by Virginia Brown in 1977. Several photographs of Kate Cory and her residence within Prescott, Arizona were taken from the Eugene Newman Collection. The thesis, *Kate Thompson Cory: Artist and Ethnographer of Arizona* was gifted by Tricia Diane Loscher in 2001 and was initially a part of the administrative documents associated with Kate Cory.

Additional miscellaneous material was donated by Nancy Kirkpatrick Wright in 2013. This material was collected by Nancy Wright as she conducted research on Kate Cory which culminated in several books authored by Nancy Wright about Kate Cory. Part of this accession also includes the book, *"The Hopi Photographs Kate Cory: 1905-1912"* published by Chaco Press.

The remainder of the material has no accession number associated with it, as it has been gathered from throughout the Sharlot Hall Museum Archives and Library. All the above items were gathered together to place them into context.

The materials were processed and placed into a standardized DACS compliant archival arrangement and organization scheme. The materials were originally cataloged using a non-standardized organization scheme in Document Box (DB) 146 and 412 and Photo Box (PB) 76. A new DACS compliant number was assigned to the collection - MS-24.

### **Accruals**

There are no expected accruals at this time but any items that are donated to the archives in the future regarding Kate Cory that is not a part of another collection will be added to this collection.



## Description Control

This collection was processed by Daniel E. Waidner using *Describing Archives: a Content Standard (DACs)* in 2013.

## Container List

**Title:** Kate T. Cory Papers and Photos - SHM MS-24

**Dates:** c. 1612 to 1980

**Scope & Content:** This series consists of biographical information, family history items, personal papers and memories, notes Cory wrote regarding various subjects relative to Native Americans and Arizona history. The newspaper clippings cover Cory’s personal and professional life and relate several incidents from her life while living with the Hopi Indians. In addition, there are handwritten daily journals by Kate Cory regarding her day-to-day activities within the Hopi village. Included in the series is a school report by Deborah Templin who interviewed Kate Cory in her home in 1948.

Series 1: Personal Information			
Box	Folder	File/Item Description	Dates
1	1	Family History	1612-1861
1	2	Personal Papers	1865-1943
1	3	Newspaper Clippings	1935-1980
1	4	Daily Journals	1909-1910
1	5	School Report: Interview with Kate Cory	1948

**Title:** Kate T. Cory Papers and Photos - SHM MS-24

**Dates:** c 1910 to 1966

**Scope & Content:** This series consists of personal correspondence and cards from Kate Cory to Eugene Newman. In addition, there is correspondence regarding Leroy Eslow’s unsuccessful attempts to have Kate Cory’s manuscripts published.

Series 2: Correspondence			
Box	Folder	File/Item Description	Dates
1	6	Personal Correspondence	1910-1952
1	7	Professional Correspondence with Leroy Eslow	1951-1966



**Title:** Kate T. Cory Papers and Photos - SHM MS-24

**Dates:** 1913 to 1944

**Scope & Content:** This series consists of articles and booklets written by Kate Cory, as well as some typewritten manuscripts. These manuscripts depict Kate Cory's experiences while living with the Hopi Indian tribe from 1905 to 1912. Leroy Eslow attempted, unsuccessfully, to have these manuscripts published.

<b>Series 3: Published &amp; Unpublished Materials</b>			
<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>File/Item Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
1	8	Published Articles and Information	1913-1944
1	9	Unpublished Papers	1940s-2000
1	-	<i>People of the Yellow Dawn</i> Unpublished Manuscript	
1	-	Manuscripts (2) bound, Kate T. Cory's Story of <i>People of the Yellow Dawn</i> as told to Leroy E. Eslow	
1	-	<i>Children in Hopiland</i> as told to Virginia Brown and Leroy Eslow by Kate Cory	
1	-	Manuscript, unbound, <i>People of the Yellow Dawn</i> , typewritten with loose hand written notes.	
2	-	Manuscript, semi-bound, Kate T. Cory's Story of <i>People of the Yellow Dawn</i> as told to Leroy Edwin Eslow.	
2	1	Thesis, unpublished manuscript, 175 loose leaf pages, <i>Kate Thompson Cory: Artist and Ethnographer of Arizona</i> written by Loscher, Tricia Diane	December 2000





**Title:** Kate T. Cory Papers and Photos - SHM MS-24

**Dates:** 1905 - 1952 (Mostly 1905 – 1912)

**Series Scope & Content:** This series consists of photographs of Kate Cory, her home in Prescott, Arizona and photos she took while living with the Hopi Indians from 1905 to 1912.

**THE PHOTOS WITHIN FOLDER TWO AND THE PHOTO MANUSCRIPT ARE RESTRICTED AND NOT FOR PUBLIC VIEWING OR COPYING WITHOUT THE EXPRESS WRITTEN APPROVAL OF THE HOPI TRIBE.**

<b>Series 4: Photographs</b>			
<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>File/Item Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
2	2	Personal & Family Photos, Hopi Portraits Photos	1905–1952
2	3	Hopi Ceremonial Photographs - <b>RESTRICTED</b>	1905 – 1912
2	–	Photo manuscript depicting Kate T. Cory’s Story of the <i>People of the Yellow Dawn</i> – <b>RESTRICTED</b>	





**Title:** Kate T. Cory Papers and Photos - SHM MS-24

**Dates:** 1842 – 2011

**Series Scope & Content:** This series consists of items which were donated by Nancy Kirkpatrick Wright. Wright collected this material while conducting research on Kate Cory. Wright authored several books regarding Kate Cory. The material was accessioned to Sharlot Hall Museum in 2013. Includes 6 books and a box of 45 slides.

<b>Series 5: Nancy Kirkpatrick Wright Accession Material</b>			
<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>File/Item Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
3	1	Miscellaneous research notes about various aspects of Kate Cory compiled by Nancy Wright.	1990-1995
3	2	Newspaper clippings (mostly copies) regarding Kate Cory, collected by Nancy Wright, 1891 to 2001.	1891-2001
3	3	Photographs (51) collected by Nancy Wright of various matters relating to Kate Cory	Various, undated
3	4	Correspondence from Nancy Wright to various organizations requesting information regarding Kate Cory, 1991 to 2011.	1991-2011
3	5	Kate Thomsen Cory Chronology and Bibliography, compiled by Nancy Wright, 1842 – 2011..	1842-2011
3	6	Notes written by Nancy Kirkpatrick Wright which accompany a slide show presentation she provided to various organizations. 1998 and 2002.	2002
3	7	Article written by Nancy Kirkpatrick Wright published in <i>Cactus &amp; Pine, No. 9 - Kate Thompson Cory &amp; Albert William Bork: Remarkable Westerners</i> , includes two computer floppy disks, 1997.	1996-1997
3	8	Programs and gallery guides from various museum exhibitions which presented Kate Cory's work, 1993 to 2002.	1993-2002
3	-	Book, <i>The Hopi Photographs Kate Cory: 1905-1912</i> , published by Chaco Press in 1986.	
4	-	Periodical booklet, <i>Out West</i> , published by Out West Company, August 1903.	
4	-	Periodical booklet, <i>Out West</i> , published by Out West Company, September 1904.	
4	-	Periodical booklet, <i>Out West</i> , published by Out West Company, February 1906.	
4	-	Periodical booklet, <i>Out West The Making of Los</i>	



		Angeles, published by Out West Company, Special Issue, ND.	
4	-	Periodical booklet, <i>Out West, Program Ideas for Public Libraries</i> , published by Arizona Historical Society, 1983.	
4	-	Box containing (45) slides of Kate Cory and her work.	

**Collection Title & Number:** Kate T. Cory Papers and Photos - SHM MS-24

**Dates:** 1909 & 1930's

**Series Scope & Content:** This series consist of a diploma from the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition held in 1909 and two oversize photograph of Kate Cory. One c 1930's (formerly XPO 2288) and the other labeled Feb. 8, 1861-June 12, 1958 (formerly PO 2607p).

<b>Series 6: Oversize Materials</b>		
<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>File/Item Description</b>
MS Oversize Drawer 8	1	Oversize certificate and photographs