

Paul Oliver Vernacular Architecture Archival Collection

A Finding Aid for the Paul Oliver Vernacular Architecture
Archival Collection

Special Collections, Oxford Brookes University

Prepared by Rosa Teira Paz, November 2016

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Archival description

- Descriptive summary

Title:	Paul Oliver Vernacular Architecture Archival Collection
DocRef:	POVAL
Origin:	Professor Paul Oliver, 1927-
Extent:	<i>Encyclopedia of Vernacular Architecture of the World</i> , related material; Other publications, related material; General correspondence; General graphic material; Conferences, related material; Academic related material; Personal material. 193 boxes.
Repository:	Special Collections. Oxford Brookes University. Gipsy Lane Campus, Headington, Oxford OX3 0BP United Kingdom (+44) 01865 484139

-Biographical introduction to the author

Paul Oliver (1927) is an art historian who graduated from the University of London in 1955. During his career he has taught at various institutions, including the National Gallery, the Architectural Association, Dartington College of Arts, and Oxford Brookes University. He has written and edited a large number of books on vernacular architecture, most notably the monumental *Encyclopedia of Vernacular Architecture of the World* (Cambridge University Press), which won the Sir Bannister Fletcher Award for Art and Architecture in 1998.

Other work includes a study of early 20th century suburban housing in the UK, published in *Dunroamin: The suburban semi and its enemies* (1981, Barrie and Jenkins); *Dwellings: The House across the World* (1987, Phaidon)(second edition published in 2003 entitled *Dwellings: The Vernacular House Worldwide*); *Built to Meet Needs: Cultural Issues in Vernacular Architecture* (2006, Architectural Press); and the *Atlas of Vernacular Architecture of the World* (2007, Routledge; with Marcel Vellinga). From the early 1960s onwards he has documented and studied vernacular architecture traditions in many parts of the world, most notably in Ghana, Turkey, Costa Rica, the UK and various parts of the US. Paul Oliver is an Honorary Fellow of the RIBA and received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Association for the Study of Traditional Environments (IASTE) in 2002. In 2003 he received an MBE in recognition of his contribution to architectural education. In addition to his work on vernacular architecture, he is also a leading scholar in the field of African-American music and has written a large number of books on the blues.

-Brief description of the collection

The collection contains Paul Oliver's architectural archive and mainly comprises material related to the *Encyclopedia of Vernacular Architecture of the World* (EVAW), as well as to his other publications (including the *Shelter* series, *Dwellings*, *Built to Meet Needs*, and *Dunroamin*). It also includes general correspondence, unclassified graphic material of various sorts, conference papers, and material related to other projects (such as exhibitions). Moreover, it incorporates material related to his teaching activities at Dartington School of Arts, the Architectural Association, and Oxford Brookes University, and more personal material such as notebooks, travel logs and press cuttings.

-Collection overview

The Paul Oliver Vernacular Architecture Archival Collection is stored in a total of 190 boxes, plus 3 oversized boxes. It has been organized into nine categories:

I. <i>Encyclopedia of Vernacular Architecture of the World</i>	(81 boxes)
II. General: Correspondence	(6 boxes)
III. General: Unclassified graphic material	(29 boxes)
IV. Publications and projects	(33 boxes)
V. Conference material	(11 boxes)
VI. Academic	(10 boxes)
VII. Other	(2 boxes)
VIII. Personal	(18 boxes)
IX. Oversize	(3 boxes)

-Administrative information

Access: This collection is available for research by appointment only.

Preferred collection citation: Paul Oliver Vernacular Architecture Archival Collection, Special Collections, Oxford Brookes University.

Acquisition: Gift of Paul Oliver, 2016

Preparation: The collection was processed and the finding aid prepared by Rosa Teira Paz.

Support: Preparation of the collection for deposit at Special Collections has been made possible through the generous support of the Wenner-Gren Foundation.

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 Paul Oliver Vernacular Architecture Archival Collection Finding Aid
Detailed contents

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