# A Finding Aid to the Tom L. Freudenheim Papers

**Manuscript Collection No. 787** 

#### **Collection Summary**

Title Tom L. Freudenheim Papers

Dates 1958-1989 (bulk: 1972-1989)

**Collection Number** MS-787

**Repository** The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives

**Creator** Freudenheim, Tom L.

**Extent** 3 linear feet (3 record cartons)

Language of the Material English

#### **Administrative Information**

#### **Biographical Sketch**

Tom L. Freudenheim was born in Stuttgart, Germany on July 3, 1937. In 1942, he was naturalized as a U.S. citizen. He is married to Leslie M. Freudenheim, who is an architectural historian, museum curator/director, and writer. They have two grown sons.

Freudenheim has served as director of several museums, including the Baltimore Museum of Art, Worcester Art Museum, and London's Gilbert Collection. As Assistant Secretary for Museums at the Smithsonian Institutions, he had oversight responsibility for all the national museums. An art historian with degrees from Harvard College (1959) and New York University's Institute of Fine Arts (1966), he also was director of the Museum Program at the National Endowment for the Arts. After receiving his bachelor's degree at Harvard College, he attended the Cincinnati campus of the Hebrew Union College —Jewish Institute of Religion from 1959—1961. Currently, he serves as president of the American Federation of Arts and writes regularly for the Wall Street Journal, Curator: The Museum Journal, and other publications.

--Adapted from "Consultant Biographies", by Annenberg Learner (http://www.learner.org/courses/globalart/consultants.html) & "Curriculum Vitae", by Tom L. Freudenheim (http://www.culturalconsulting.com/TLFCVMar08.pdf), accessed November 3, 2011.

#### **Scope and Content**

This collection consists of correspondence, committee minutes, and museum exhibit plans. Dr. Tom L. Freudenheim was very concerned with the preservation of Jewish culture and the wider American culture through museums, which led him to posts with national prominence with the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Smithsonian Institute. He was also involved with the National Foundation for Jewish Culture. This collection strongly represents various organizations for museum professionals such as the Association of Art Museum Directors, Museum Management Institute, and the American Association of Museums. It also provides insight into the process of museum accreditation and professional standards.

**Arrangement** The collection is arranged in one (1) series: A. General.

**Terms of Access** The collection is open for use; no restrictions apply.

**Preferred Citation** Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the Tom L. Freudenheim Papers and the

American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-787. Tom L. Freudenheim Papers. American Jewish

Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Provenance Received from Laura MacCarthy, Archives Specialist, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.,

February 2007.

**Processing Information** Processed by Michelle Wirth, August 2011.

This collection was arranged and described according to minimal-processing standards. Processing was made possible through a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

#### **Index Terms**

Subjects American Association of Museums / Association of Art Museum Directors / Museum Management

Institute / Museums

Personal Names Freudenheim, Tom L.

**Media** Minutes

## Series A. General, 1958-1989

**Arrangement** Material arranged topically and roughly chronologically.

### **Container List**

Box 1-25. Papers.

Box 1-44. Papers.

Box 1-10. Papers.