A Legacy of Excellence, Artistic Achievements of Older Pennsylvanians was both an oral history project and an art exhibition. The exhibit ran in the Susquehanna Art Museum in Harrisburg from Dec. 14, 2003 to Feb. 29, 2004. The project, exhibition and dialogue with elder artists initiated when Clyde M. McGeary and Patricia Murray began selecting art for a small exhibition by senior citizens. The goal of the exhibition and its supplementary programs was to recognize the contributions of visual artists and crafts people with at least four generations of experience, focusing particularly on artists of 80-plus years. McGeary wrote, “Our work with this exhibition and its accompanying texts, oral history reports and video, is about developing a vision of the future, a future in which aging and being an elder is considered a natural, important part of life and held in high esteem.” WITF ran a companion piece to the exhibition, a public television program also titled A Legacy of Excellence. Six visual artists were featured: Jerry Caplan (b. 1922), Aaronel deRoy Gruber (b. 1918), Evelyn Keyser (b. 1924), Michael Lasuchin (b. 1923), Charles LeClair (b.1914), and Thaddeus Mosley (b. 1926). Oral histories were completed for five of the artists in the exhibit by Kim Lacy Rogers, Nancy Miller Batty and Lonna Malmsheimer. The Legacy of Excellence project staff included Nancy Miller Batty, Kim Lacy Rogers, Lonna Malmsheimer, Richard Hamwi, Emerson Lesher, Sheri Peifer, Clyde McGeary and Patricia Murray.

The collection is divided into 3 series. Series 1 consists of 8 interview transcripts typed accounts of artist interviews conducted by Kim Lacy Rogers and Nancy Miller Batty. Series 2 consists of 6 folders of miscellaneous project materials, including notes, disks, transcript invoices, and a catalogue and discussion guide from the presentation, “A Legacy of Excellence”: Artistic Achievements of Older Pennsylvanians, Susquehanna Art Museum.” Series 3 consists of corresponding media: 6 audio cassette tapes, 6 video tapes and 9 DV tapes.
1.6 Leclair, Charles, interviewed by Kim Lacy Rogers. Jul. 21, 2003 [Tape CTX00973, VHS00286, DVX00228-229]
1.7 Mosley, Thaddeus, interviewed by Kim Lacy Rogers and Nancy Batty. Jun. 23, 2003 [No Tape]
1.8 Mosley, Thaddeus, interviewed by Kim Lacy Rogers and Nancy Batty. Jun. 24, 2003 [No Tape]

SERIES 2 – MISCELLANEOUS MATERIALS
SERIES INVENTORY

2.1 Contact Information
2.2 Disks
2.3 Transcript Invoices

SERIES 3 – MEDIA
SERIES INVENTORY

AUDIO CASSETTE TAPES


VIDEO TAPES


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VHS00287: *A Legacy of Excellence: Artistic Achievement in Older Pennsylvanians* – Susquehanna Art Museum, 2003 (WITF, Inc.)

DV TAPES

DVX00221: Evelyn Keyser [DV Tape 1]
DVX00222: Evelyn Keyser [DV Tape 2]
DVX00223: Michael Lasuchin [DV Tape 1]
DVX00224: Michael Lasuchin [DV Tape 2]
DVX00225: Michael Lasuchin [DV Tape 3]
DVX00226: Michael Lasuchin [DV Tape 4]
DVX00227: Michael Lasuchin [DV Tape 5]
DVX00228: Charles Leclair [DV Tape 1]
DVX00229: Charles Leclair [DV Tape 2]

This collection register was prepared by Jessica Bylander, Jan. 2006.