



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## A Finding Aid to the Agnes Anne Abbot Papers, 1921-1976, in the Archives of American Art

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Funding for the processing of this collection was  
provided by the Terra Foundation for American Art

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## Collection Overview

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| <b>Repository:</b> | Archives of American Art   |
| <b>Title:</b>      | Agnes Anne Abbot papers  |
| <b>Date:</b>       | 1921-1976  |
| <b>Identifier:</b> | AAA.abboagne   |
| <b>Creator:</b>    | Abbot, Agnes Anne, 1897-1992   |
| <b>Extent:</b>     | 0.6 Linear feet  |
| <b>Language:</b>   | English .  |
| <b>Summary:</b>    | The papers of Agnes Anne Abbot measure 0.6 linear feet and date from 1921 to 1976. The collection consists of biographical information, correspondence, writings and notes, personal business records, printed material, photographs of works of art, and artwork. |

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Agnes Anne Abbot donated her papers to the Archives of American Art in several installments from 1979 to 1987.

### Related Materials

The Archives of American Art holds an oral history with Agnes Anne Abbot conducted by Robert Brown on August 25, 1981 to January 15, 1982.

### Processing Information

The Agnes Anne Abbot papers were processed by Jayna Josefson in 2013 with funding provided by the Terra Foundation for American Art.

### Preferred Citation

Agnes Anne Abbot papers, 1921-1976. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

### Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment.

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## Biographical / Historical

Agnes Anne Abbot (1897-1992) was a watercolorist and educator active in Wellesley and Boston, Massachusetts. Born in Germany in 1897, Agnes Anne Abbot spent summers in the Boston area. In 1917, her family moved to the United States and settled in Boston where Abbot attended the School of Fine Arts and Crafts. From 1920 to 1963, Abbot taught at Wellesley College. She traveled extensively throughout Africa, Europe, and the United States. Agnes Anne Abbot died in Boston, Massachusetts in 1992.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers of Agnes Anne Abbot measure 0.6 linear feet and date from 1921 to 1976. The collection consists of biographical information, correspondence, writings and notes, personal business records, printed material, photographs of works of art, sketchbooks and artwork.

Correspondence is from Abbot's family and friends and includes some letters written by Abbot to her mother, sister, and brother. Other correspondents include Alfred Barr, Alice Van Vechten Brown, Bernard Heyl, and Douglas McKee. Artwork includes ten sketchbooks depicting Abbot's travels throughout Europe, Africa, and the United States.

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## Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 7 series.

- Series 1: Biographical Material, 1927-1949 (3 folders; Box 1)
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1926-1951 (0.1 linear feet; Box 1)
- Series 3: Writings and Notes, circa 1930-circa 1940 (3 folders; Box 1)
- Series 4: Personal Business Records, 1927-1965 (2 folders; Box 1)
- Series 5: Printed Material, 1964-1968 (2 folders; Box 1)
- Series 6: Photographs, 1960-1976 (4 folders; Box 1)
- Series 7: Sketchbooks and Artwork, 1921-1965 (0.3 linear feet; Box 1-2)

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## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Women artists  
Women educators  
Women painters

Types of Materials:

Sketchbooks

Names:

Barr, Alfred H., Jr., 1902-1981  
Brown, Alice Van Vechten  
Heyl, Bernard Chapman, 1905-  
McKee, Douglas

Occupations:

Educators -- Massachusetts -- Boston  
Painters -- Massachusetts -- Boston  
Watercolorists -- Massachusetts -- Boston

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Biographical Material, 1927-1949

#### 3 Folders (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Found are travel materials including airline tickets, vaccination records, and an Italian visa and museum pass.

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Box 1, Folder 1 | Airline Tickets, 1936-1949              |
| Box 1, Folder 2 | Vaccination Records, 1949               |
| Box 1, Folder 3 | Italian Visa and Museum Pass, 1927-1933 |

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## Series 2: Correspondence, 1926-1951

### 0.1 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Found is correspondence from Agnes Anne Abbot's family and friends. A letter from Alfred Barr advises Abbot on contacts in Paris. Also found are letters from Agnes to her siblings, Mary and Frank, and to her mother. Many of the letters from 1946 are condolence letters to Agnes regarding the death of her mother.

|                  |  |  |
|------------------|--|--|
| Box 1, Folder 4  | Family Correspondence, 1927-1949<br>Notes: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Frank Abbot</li> <li>• Mary Abbot</li> <li>• Mary O. Abbot</li> </ul>                   |
| Box 1, Folder 5  | A, 1944<br>Notes:                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• American Red Cross</li> </ul>   |
| Box 1, Folder 6  | B, 1926-1946<br>Notes:                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alfred Barr</li> <li>• Mrs. Henry Beerits</li> <li>• Alice Van Vechten Brown</li> </ul> |
| Box 1, Folder 7  | D, 1946-1947<br>Notes:                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• L. Deheneman</li> </ul>   |
| Box 1, Folder 8  | G, 1946<br>Notes:                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agnes Olney Gilmore</li> </ul>  |
| Box 1, Folder 9  | H, 1946<br>Notes:                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enid Heidbraden</li> <li>• Bernard C. Heyl</li> <li>• Mildred Horton</li> </ul>         |
| Box 1, Folder 10 | M, 1942-1946<br>Notes:                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Douglas McKee</li> </ul>  |
| Box 1, Folder 11 | P, 1946<br>Notes:                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kate Pigott</li> </ul>  |
| Box 1, Folder 12 | R, 1942-1951<br>Notes:                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adele Robinson</li> </ul>   |
| Box 1, Folder 13 | S, 1935<br>Notes:                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marielle (?) Solbrig</li> </ul>   |
| Box 1, Folder 14 | W, circa 1940<br>Notes:                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ola E. Winslow</li> </ul>   |

Box 1, Folder 15

First Names Only, 1946

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## Series 3: Writings and Notes, circa 1930-circa 1940

### 3 Folders (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Found are scattered writings by Agnes Abbot regarding the art department at Wellesley College and notes. Also found are poems written by Adele Robinson.

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Box 1, Folder 16 | Regarding Art Department, by Agnes Abbot, circa 1940 |
| Box 1, Folder 17 | Notes, circa 1930                                    |
| Box 1, Folder 18 | Poetry, by Adele Robinson, 1937                      |

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## Series 4: Personal Business Records, 1927-1965

### 2 Folders (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Found are materials regarding travel including financial notes and receipts.

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Box 1, Folder 19 | Receipts, 1927-1965                    |
| Box 1, Folder 20 | Financial Notes, circa 1940-circa 1960 |

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## Series 5: Printed Material, 1964-1968

### 2 Folders (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Found is a magazine clippings and information regarding travel to Jerusalem.

Box 1, Folder 21          Clipping, 1968

Box 1, Folder 22          Jerusalem Information, 1964

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## Series 6: Photographs, 1960-1976

### 4 Folders (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Found are photographs and slides of works of art. Included are five photos of works of art shown at the Jewett Arts Center in Wellesley, MA.

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Box 1, Folder 23 | Works of Art, Shown at Jewett Arts Center, Wellesley College, 1960 |
|------------------|--|

|                     |                         |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Box 1, Folder 24-26 | Works of Art, 1960-1976 |
|---------------------|-------------------------|

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## Series 7: Sketchbooks and Artwork, 1921-1965

### 0.3 Linear feet (Box 1-2)

Scope and Contents: Found are loose sketches and 10 sketch books by Agnes Abbot. Also found are scattered unsigned sketches. Sketchbooks date from 1921-1965, and illustrate Abbot's travels in the United States and abroad. They contain drawings of street scenes, city and landscapes, sculptural and architectural details, people, and animals. 7 of the 10 sketchbooks are of Italy. Also included are sketches of Germany (including one entitled "Nazis collecting" that depicts Nazi soldiers with donation buckets on a street with pedestrians), Spain, Africa, and within the U.S. rural scenes of Colorado and Iowa.

|                   |                                      |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Box 1, Folder 27  | Loose Sketches, 1932-1933            |
| Box 1, Folder 28  | Sketchbook, 1921                     |
| Box 1, Folder 28  | Sketchbook, 1927                     |
| Box 1, Folder 29  | Sketchbook, 1927 or 1928             |
| Box 1, Folder 30  | Sketchbook, 1929                     |
| Box 1, Folder 31  | Sketchbook, 1932                     |
| Box 2, Folder 1-3 | Sketchbook, Dismantled, 1932-1933    |
| Box 2, Folder 4   | Sketchbook, 1934                     |
| Box 2, Folder 5   | Sketchbook, 1959                     |
| Box 2, Folder 6   | Sketchbook, 1959                     |
| Box 2, Folder 7   | Sketchbook, 1965                     |
| Box 2, Folder 8   | Loose Sketches, Unsigned, circa 1930 |

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