



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## A Finding Aid to the Grace Albee Papers, 1890-1971, in the Archives of American Art

Jayna M. Josefson

To process this collection, this project received Federal support from the Collections Care Initiative Fund, administered by the Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative and the National Collections Program

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<https://www.aaa.si.edu/>

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Grace Albee papers
<b>Date:</b>	1890-1971
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.albegrac
<b>Creator:</b>	Albee, Grace
<b>Extent:</b>	4.5 Linear feet
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	The papers of printmaker Grace Albee measure 4.5 linear feet and date from 1890 to 1971. Found are biographical material, correspondence, twenty diaries, printed material, photographs, and artwork, including one sketchbook.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Grace Albee donated her papers to the Archives of American Art in 1971.

### Other Finding Aids

Microfilm reels 2845-2847: Inventory of correspondence available at Archives of American Art offices.

### Available Formats

Portions of the collection are available on 35mm microfilm reels 2845-2847, 2977-2978 at the Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan. Researchers should note that the arrangement of the material described in the container inventory does not reflect the arrangement of the collection on microfilm.

### Processing Information

The collection received a preliminary level of arrangement after donation and was microfilmed onto reels 2845-2847 and 2977-2978. In 2020, the collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Jayna Josefson with funding provided by the Collections Care Initiative Fund, administered by the Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative and the National Collections Program.

### Preferred Citation

Grace Albee papers, 1890-1971. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

### Restrictions

This collection is open for research. Access to original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C. Research Center.

## Terms of Use

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## Biographical / Historical

Grace Albee (1890-1985) was a printmaker and wood engraver active in Rhode Island and New York City, New York. Albee's prints were largely inspired by her surroundings while living in New York City, Paris, and rural Rhode Island.

Grace Thurston Arnold was born in 1890 in North Scituate, Rhode Island. During high school, she began weekend classes at the Rhode Island School of Design and enrolled as a student in 1910 where she studied painting, drawing, and printmaking. During her career, Grace concentrated on printmaking with woodcuts and lithographs.

In 1913, Grace married muralist Percy Albee and they raised five sons. The Albees moved to Paris, France in the 1930s where she held her first one-woman show. Later, they lived in New York City, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island, locations which would inspire her throughout her artistic career. She produced prints into her nineties and died in 1985 in Rhode Island.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers of printmaker Grace Albee measure 4.5 linear feet and date from 1890 to 1971. Found are biographical material, correspondence, twenty diaries, printed material, photographs, and artwork, including one sketchbook.

Biographical materials include biographical sketches and family history records. Correspondence is with family, friends and institutions and includes letters from Percy Albee, John Taylor Arms, Ralph Fabri, and A. Hyatt Mayor. Twenty diaries and a fragment date from 1927-1970 and may include information on specific prints and daily activities. Artwork consists of prints by Albee, pencil sketches, and unsigned works.

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## Arrangement

This collection is arranged as 6 series.

- Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1910s-1970 (0.5 linear feet; Box 1, OV6)
  - Series 2: Correspondence, 1890-1971 (0.5 linear feet; Boxes 1-2)
  - Series 3: Diaries, 1927-1970 (1.2 linear feet; Boxes 2-3)
  - Series 4: Printed Material, 1909-1917 (1.6 linear feet; Boxes 3-4)
  - Series 5: Photographic Material, 1910-1971 (0.5 linear feet; Boxes 4-5, OV6)
  - Series 6: Artwork and Artifacts, circa 1910-1960s (0.2 linear feet; Box 5)
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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 printmakers

Types of Materials:

Diaries  
Sketchbooks

Names:

Albee, Percy, 1883-1959  
Arms, John Taylor, 1887-1953  
Fabri, Ralph, 1894-1975

Occupations:

Printmakers -- New York (State) -- New York  
Wood-engravers -- New York (State) -- New York

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1910s-1970

#### *0.5 Linear feet (Box 1, OV6)*

Scope and Contents: Found in this series are awards and certificates given to Grace Albee, including cased medals; biographical sketches and resumes; scattered personal business records; and family history records including a baby book kept by Albee beginning with the birth of her first son in 1914, and a narrative of the Arnold family in Rhode Island. A file concerning Albee's patron and friend William B. Connor includes letters about and from Connor and clippings.

Box 1, Folder 1	Awards and Certificates, 1941-1970
Box 1, Folder 2-4	Awards, Cased Medals, 1931-1965
Box 1, Folder 5	Biographical Sketches and Resumes, 1940s-1966
Box 1, Folder 6	Family Records, 1914-1940s
Box 1, Folder 7	General, Identification Cards and Invitations, circa 1910s-1950s
Box 1, Folder 8	Ledger, Sales, 1928-1960s
Box 1, Folder 9	Price Lists, 1960s
Box 1, Folder 10	on William B. Connor, 1957-1963
Oversize 6	Oversized Awards and Certificates, 1950s-1960s

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## Series 2: Correspondence, 1890-1971

### 0.5 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2)

Scope and Contents: Correspondence is with friends, family, colleagues, and institutions. Notable correspondents include Percy Albee, John Taylor Arms, Fritz Eichenberg, Ralph Fabri, A. Hyatt Mayor, Orin Skinner, Lynd Ward, Fred Wilcox, and others.

Box 1, Folder 11	Correspondence, 1890
Box 1, Folder 12	Correspondence, 1916-1917
Box 1, Folder 13	Correspondence, 1929
Box 1, Folder 14	Correspondence, 1930-1939
Box 1, Folder 15	Correspondence, 1940-1945
Box 1, Folder 16	Correspondence, 1946-1949
Box 1, Folder 17	Correspondence, 1950-1959
Box 1, Folder 18	Correspondence, 1960-1963
Box 1, Folder 19	Correspondence, 1964-1965
Box 1, Folder 20-21	Correspondence, 1966
Box 1, Folder 22	Correspondence, 1967
Box 1, Folder 23	Correspondence, 1968-1969
Box 1, Folder 24	Correspondence, 1970-1971
Box 2, Folder 25	Correspondence, 1920s-1960s

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## Series 3: Diaries, 1927-1970

### 1.2 Linear feet (Boxes 2-3)

Scope and Contents: Twenty diaries date from 1934 to 1970; one fragment consists of a few pages from April 1927. Diaries 1 and 2 are five-year diaries and are sporadically used. Diaries 3-20 vary between calendar style diaries and daily diaries. These may contain detailed notes of each day's activities, sketches, and wood engravings created and worked.

Box 2, Folder 2	Diary, Fragments, 1927
Box 2, Folder 3	Diary 1, 1934-1937
Box 2, Folder 4	Diary 2, 1945-1949
Box 2, Folder 5	Diary 3, 1952
Box 2, Folder 6	Diary 4, 1955
Box 2, Folder 7	Diary 5, 1956
Box 2, Folder 8	Diary 6, 1957
Box 2, Folder 9	Diary 7, 1958
Box 2, Folder 10	Diary 8, 1959
Box 2, Folder 11	Diary 9, 1960
Box 2, Folder 12	Diary 10, 1961
Box 2, Folder 13	Diary 11, 1962
Box 2, Folder 14	Diary 12, 1962
Box 2, Folder 15	Diary 13, 1963
Box 2, Folder 16	Diary 14, 1964
Box 2, Folder 17	Diary 15, 1965
Box 2, Folder 18	Diary 16, 1966
Box 2, Folder 19	Diary 17, 1967
Box 2, Folder 20	Diary 18, 1968
Box 3, Folder 1	Diary 19, 1969



Box 3, Folder 2

Diary 20, 1970

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## Series 4: Printed Material, 1909-1971

### 1.6 Linear feet (Boxes 3-4)

Scope and Contents: Printed materials consist of art related publications and press releases, published books, clippings, exhibition announcements and catalogs, and magazines and periodicals. Published books include works by Robert McIntyre and Paul Bornet. Also found are books illustrated by George Buday and a copy of *Unicorns and Tadpoles*, written by Frederick Wilcox and illustrated by Grace Albee.

Box 3, Folder 3	Art Newsletters, Press Releases, and Publications, 1950s-1960s
Box 3, Folder 4-7	Books, circa 1910-1958
Box 3, Folder 8-13	Clippings, 1909-1971
Box 3, Folder 14-21	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1919-1953
Box 4, Folder 1-10	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1950s-1970s
Box 4, Folder 11-21	Magazines and Periodicals, 1930-1971

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## Series 5: Photographic Material, 1910-1971

### 0.5 Linear feet (Box 4-5, OV6)

Scope and Contents: Albee family photographs include portraits of Grace and Percy Albee; snapshots of Albee with her children and family; photos of homes; photos of Albee at work carving woodblocks; wedding photos of family members; and photos of events, dinners, and gatherings, including a neoclassical themed event held at the Rhode Island School of Design in 1921 and at the Salmagundi Club. Also found are photographs of works of art by Grace and Percy Albee.

Box 4, Folder 22	<a href="#">Albee Family Photographs, 1910-1953</a>
Box 4, Folder 23	<a href="#">Albee Family Photographs, 1910-1953</a>
Box 4, Folder 24	Albee Family Photographs, 1910-1953
Box 4, Folder 25	<a href="#">Albee Family Photographs, 1910-1953</a>
Box 4, Folder 26	Albee Family Photographs, 1910-1953
Box 4, Folder 27	<a href="#">Albee Family Photographs, 1910-1953</a>
Box 5, Folder 1-2	Albee Family Photographs, 1950-1971
Box 5, Folder 3	Works of Art, by Grace Albee, circa 1960s
Box 5, Folder 4	Works of Art, by Percy Albee, 1940s
Box 5, Folder 5	Slides, 1960s
Oversize 6	Oversized Photographs, Portraits and Groups, 1950s

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## Series 6: Artwork and Artifacts, circa 1910s-1960s

### 0.2 Linear feet (Box 5)

Scope and Contents: Artworks by Grace Albee include a sketchbook kept during her time in Europe, specifically Germany and France; a book composed of loose wood engravings and accompanying pencil drawings; and a proof of her design for a Lucky Strike cigarette advertisement. Also found are unsigned works by others including an unfinished watercolor scene of figures dressed in military uniform.

Box 5, Folder 6	Sketchbook, Europe Trip, 1931
Box 5, Folder 7-8	Book, of Wood Engravings with Pencil Designs and Sketches, 1950s-1960s
Box 5, Folder 9	Prints by Grace Albee, 1950s-1960s
Box 5, Folder 10	Proof, Lucky Strike Advertisement, circa 1950
Box 5, Folder 11	Artwork by Others and Unsigned, circa 1910s-1970s
Box 5, Folder 12	Pressed Flowers, circa 1940

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