



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## A Finding Aid to the American Art Research Council Records, 1935-1956, in the Archives of American Art

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Archives of American Art  
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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	American Art Research Council records
<b>Date:</b>	1935-1956 (bulk 1942-1947)
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.amerartr
<b>Creator:</b>	American Art Research Council
<b>Extent:</b>	3 Linear feet
<b>Language:</b>	Collection is in English.
<b>Summary:</b>	The records of the American Art Research Council, a cooperative research group headquartered at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York, measure 3 linear feet and date from 1935 to 1956. The records include Chairman Juliana Force's correspondence, administrative correspondence, advisory committee files, miscellaneous administrative files, scattered financial records, and printed materials.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

The American Art Research Council records were donated by the Whitney Museum of American Art in 1978 as part of a larger donation of museum records.

### Processing Information

A portion of the collection was microfilmed upon receipt on microfilm reels N609-N614. In 2014, filmed and unfiled accretions were merged and re-processed and a finding aid prepared by Rihoko Ueno.

### Preferred Citation

American Art Research Council records, 1935-1956. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

### Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Washington, D.C. Research Facility.

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## Biographical / Historical

The American Art Research Council (AARC) was founded in 1942 when the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York City proposed that museums across the country establish a collaborative centralized organization for American art research. In April 1942, directors and representatives of 15 prominent museums met and founded the AARC.

Headquartered in and administered by the Whitney Museum, the AARC broadened its scope to include staff from over 30 museums and universities across the country. The organization formed a Committee on Research consisting of experts and scholars of American art that authenticated art, shared research records about artists, and conducted multiple surveys on various subjects. The AARC also facilitated researchers by sharing their information in catalogs and publications.

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## Scope and Contents

The records of the American Art Research Council, a cooperative research group headquartered at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York, measure 3 linear feet and date from 1935 to 1956. The records include Chairman Juliana Force's correspondence, administrative correspondence, advisory committee files, miscellaneous administrative files, scattered financial records, and printed materials.

Correspondence consists of Chairman Juliana Force's correspondence with museums, curators, and others, in addition to general AARC correspondence on various subjects. The Advisory Committee series consists of correspondence, lists, reports, and meeting minutes.

Administrative records include assorted material such as reports on paintings owned by private individuals and art centers, correspondence and drafts on a special issue of *Art in America*, a bibliography, and surveys. Survey files consist of survey responses and indexes of results for several surveys conducted by the AARC.

Financial records consist of assorted material such as contribution records, ledgers, bank statements, and cancelled checks. Printed materials include clippings, academic journals, bulletins, and press releases.

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## Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 5 series.

Missing Title:

- Series 1: Correspondence, 1942-1947 (1 linear feet; Box 1)
- Series 2: Advisory Committee, 1942-1947 (0.2 linear feet; Box 2)
- Series 3: Administrative Records, 1935-1950 (0.9 linear feet; Boxes 2-3)
- Series 4: Financial Records, 1942-1956 (0.7 linear feet; Boxes 3-4)
- Series 5: Printed Material, 1942-1947 (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:

Art -- Study and teaching

Names:

Force, Juliana, 1876-1948

Whitney Museum of American Art

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Correspondence, 1942-1947

#### 1 Linear foot (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Correspondence consists of Chairman Juliana Force's alphabetical correspondence and AARC subject correspondence.

Arrangement: This series is arranged as 2 subseries.

Missing Title:

- 1.1: Chairman Juliana Force Correspondence, 1942-1945
- 1.2: Subject Correspondence, 1942-1947

#### 1.1: Chairman Juliana Force Correspondence, 1942-1945

Scope and Contents: Chairman Juliana Force's correspondence is with museums, curators, and others concerning the formation and activities of the AARC.

Arrangement: This subseries is arranged alphabetically.

Box 1, Folder 1-2	Correspondence, A, 1942-1945
Box 1, Folder 3-6	Correspondence, B, 1942-1945
Box 1, Folder 7-8	Correspondence, C, 1942-1945
Box 1, Folder 9-10	Correspondence, D, 1942-1945
Box 1, Folder 11	Correspondence, E, 1942-1945
Box 1, Folder 12-13	Correspondence, F, 1942-1945
Box 1, Folder 14-15	Correspondence, G, 1942-1945
Box 1, Folder 16-17	Correspondence, H, 1942-1945
Box 1, Folder 18-19	Correspondence, I-J, 1943-1945
Box 1, Folder 20-21	Correspondence, K, 1942-1945
Box 1, Folder 22-23	Correspondence, L, 1942-1945
Box 1, Folder 24-25	Correspondence, M, 1942-1945
Box 1, Folder 26-27	Correspondence, N, 1942-1945
Box 1, Folder 28-29	Correspondence, O, 1942-1945
Box 1, Folder 30-31	Correspondence, P, 1942-1945

Box 1, Folder 32-33 Correspondence, R, 1942-1945

Box 1, Folder 34-35 Correspondence, S, 1942-1945

Box 1, Folder 36 Correspondence, T, 1942-1944

Box 1, Folder 37 Correspondence, U-V, 1942-1943

Box 1, Folder 38 Correspondence, V, 1944-1945

Box 1, Folder 39-40 Correspondence, W, 1942-1945

Box 1, Folder 41 Correspondence, Y-Z, 1943

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## 1.2: Subject Correspondence, 1942-1947

Scope and Contents: Subject correspondence concerns various AARC projects and activities, such as committees, publicity, photography, and printing.

Box 1, Folder 42 College Art Association Liaison Committee, 1944-1945

Box 1, Folder 43 Committee on Research, 1944

Box 1, Folder 44-45 Photography Records, 1942-1946

Box 1, Folder 46 Printing, 1942-1946

Box 1, Folder 47 Publicity, 1942-1943

Box 1, Folder 48 [Society of Architectural Historians, 1946-1947](#)

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## Series 2: Advisory Committee, 1942-1947

### 0.2 Linear feet (Box 2)

**Scope and Contents:** Found here are files documenting the activities of the AARC Advisory Committee, including material on the establishment of the AARC, limited correspondence about meeting attendance, lists, reports, and meeting minutes.

**Arrangement:** The material in this series is loosely grouped together by document type, then arranged chronologically within each grouping. Most of the original order and folder headings were retained.

Box 2, Folder 1	<a href="#">Lists and Reports of AARC Establishment, 1942</a>
Box 2, Folder 2	<a href="#">Correspondence about Meeting Attendance, 1942</a>
Box 2, Folder 3	<a href="#">Correspondence about Meeting Attendance, 1942</a>
Box 2, Folder 4	<a href="#">Correspondence about Meeting, 1947</a>
Box 2, Folder 5	<a href="#">Reports and Correspondence, 1943-1944</a>
Box 2, Folder 6	<a href="#">Reports and Correspondence, 1943-1944</a>
Box 2, Folder 7	<a href="#">Meeting Minutes and Reports, 1942-1947</a>
Box 2, Folder 8	<a href="#">Meeting Minutes and Reports, 1942-1947</a>

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## Series 3: Administrative Records, 1935-1950

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

**Scope and Contents:** Scattered administrative records include reports on paintings owned by private individuals and art centers, correspondence and drafts on an issue of *Art in America* about art research with the AARC, a bibliography of exhibitions and publications, "technical data" files, and multiple surveys. Survey files consist of responses and indexed results for AARC surveys of artists, museums, private collections, colleges, and universities.

**Arrangement:** The material in this series are grouped together by document type, then arranged chronologically within each grouping.

Box 2	Reports on Paintings
Box 2, Folder 9	Portrait of Commodore Vanderbilt, 1935-1942
Box 2, Folder 10	Portraits Owned by C. V. Whitney, 1942-1943
Box 2, Folder 11	Portrait Owned by G. Macculloch Miller, 1943-1946
Box 2, Folder 12	Walker Art Center, circa 1945
Box 2, Folder 13	Miscellaneous, 1942
Box 2	Art in America Issue on Art Research
Box 2, Folder 14	Correspondence, A-L, 1945
Box 2, Folder 15	Correspondence, L-Z, 1945
Box 2, Folder 16-17	Original and Revised Manuscripts, circa 1945
Box 2, Folder 18	Bibliography on Books, Bulletins, and Exhibitions, 1942
Box 2, Folder 19	Technical Data File, circa 1946-1950
Box 2, Folder 20	X-Rays and Scientific Material File, 1942-1945
Box 3	Surveys
Box 2, Folder 21-22	Artists Survey, 1943
Box 2, Folder 23	Artist Responses to AARC Survey, 1943
Box 2, Folder 24	AARC Artist List and Records of Work, 1943-1947
Box 2, Folder 25-30	Colleges and Universities Survey, 1943-1948
Box 2, Folder 31-32	College and University Index Cards, 1944-1948

Box 2, Folder 33	Museums and Art Institutions Survey Responses, A-B, 1943-1945
Box 2, Folder 34	Museum and Art Institutions Survey Responses, C-N, 1943
Box 2, Folder 35	Museums and Art Institutions Survey Responses, N-Z, 1943
Box 2, Folder 36	Museum Collections Index of Returned Forms, A-G, circa 1945
Box 2, Folder 37	Museum Collections Index of Returned Forms, H-N, circa 1945
Box 2, Folder 38	Museum Collections Index of Returned Forms, O-Z, circa 1945
Box 2, Folder 39-40	Private Collections Survey, 1936-1945
Box 3	Surveys
Box 3, Folder 1	Private Collections Survey Index of Returned Forms, A-L, circa 1945
Box 3, Folder 2	Private Collections Survey Index of Returned Forms, L-Z, circa 1945

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## Series 4: Financial Records, 1942-1956

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

Scope and Contents: This series consists of contribution records, bank statements, bills, receipts, 3 checking account record books, and 2 ledgers.

Box 3, Folder 3-4 Contribution Records and Correspondence, 1942-1948

Box 3, Folder 5 Contribution Records and Financial Statements, 1942-1947

Box 3, Folder 6-7 Bills and Receipts, 1942-1950

Box 3, Folder 8 Executive Committee Resolutions about Finances, 1945

Box 3, Folder 9 Petty Cash Receipts, 1943-1946

Box 3, Folder 10-12 Checking Account Records Books, 1942-1956

Box 4, Folder 1-2 Ledger Account Books, 1942-1950

Box 4, Folder 3-5 Bank Statements and Cancelled Checks, 1942-1946

Box 4, Folder 6-9 Bank Statements, 1947-1956

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## Series 5: Printed Material, 1942-1947

### 0.2 Linear feet (Box 5)

Scope and Contents: Printed material includes publicity clippings about the AARC, academic journals, and a limited amount of bulletins and press releases.

Box 5, Folder 1	The American Art Research Council Booklet, circa 1942
Box 5, Folder 2	College Art Journal, 1944
Box 5, Folder 3	Art in America "Research in American Art" Issue, 1945
Box 5, Folder 4	"The Problem of Authenticity in American Art", 1942
Box 5, Folder 5	Newspaper Clippings, 1942-1945
Box 5, Folder 6	Press Releases and Bulletins, 1942-1947

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