



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Winslow Ames papers

Archives of American Art
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Victor Building, Suite 2200
Washington, D.C. 20001
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Winslow Ames papers
Identifier:	AAA.ameswins
Date:	1787-1989 (bulk 1960-1979)
Creator:	Ames, Winslow
Extent:	929 Items ((on 5 microfilm reels)) 11 Linear feet (Unmicrofilmed)
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Material on reels NAM and 1428-1429 lent for microfilming 1978 by Winslow Ames; he donated the remaining microfilmed material 1977-1984. The unfiled papers were donated in 1996 by Ames' daughter, Alison Ames.

Location of Originals

Reels NAM, 1428-1429: Originals returned to Winslow Ames after microfilming.

Available Formats

35mm microfilm reels NAM, 1428-1429, 3134, and 3768 available at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C., Research Center. Microfilmed materials must be consulted on microfilm. Contact Reference Services for more information.

Biographical / Historical

Museum director, art and architecture historian, collector, connoisseur of drawings; b. 1907; d. 1990.

Scope and Contents

Correspondence; research material; writings; diaries; family papers; and printed material.

Scope and Contents

REEL NAM: The Mastery of Drawing, an English translation revised and brought up to date by Winslow Ames, of Joseph Meder's Die Handzeichnung; ihre Technik und Entwicklung, 1923.

Scope and Contents

REELS 1428-1429: Three diaries, 1940-1942; correspondence, 1931-1978; writings; and printed material. Among the correspondents are Leonard Baskin, Kenneth Clark, Krick Hawkins, Hans Huth, William Ivins, Jr., Walt Killam, Lincoln Kirstein, Gaston Lachaise, Agnes Mongan, Nelson Rockefeller, Michael E. Sadler, Meyer Schapiro, Wolfgang Stechow, Francis Henry Taylor and William Zorach.

Scope and Contents

REEL 3134: Correspondence, 1934-1959, (16 items) regarding Gaston Lachaise's "Standing Woman" and its purchase by the Museum of Modern Art, N.Y.C. Included are 3 letters from Lachaise to Ames, 1934, one containing a sketch and description of the statue.

Scope and Contents

REEL 3768: Annotated photographs of a silver sugar basket designed by Arthur J. Stone. The basket was a wedding gift to Ames' grandparents, Katharine Milicent Ames and Edward Winslow Ames in 1905. The photographs were taken by Todd Studios of St. Louis, Mo., 1983-1984.

Scope and Contents

UNMICROFILMED: Papers, 1787-1989, mainly documenting Ames' writing and research projects, as well as family papers and professional correspondence, and Ames' personal library. Correspondence relates to his work as an appraiser, his activities in the Drawing Society and the Victorian Society, and general professional activities. Among the correspondents are Lincoln Kirstein, Michael E. Sadler, Agnes Mongan, Hubert Humphrey, and Senator Claiborne Pell. Research material consists primarily of photographs of art work and decorative art and some printed material. Writings (5 ft.) consist of Ames' addresses and lectures, articles, reviews, books, his autobiography (unpublished), and fiction; 2 ft. relates to his never published book, American Taste. Included also are material relating to his books The Mastery of Drawing (1978) and Prince Albert and Victorian Taste (1968). Family papers consists mainly of correspondence, among which is a 1787 letter from a distant relative and journals, 1869-1906, kept by Elizabeth Winthrop Ames during her travels throughout the western U.S.; also found are biographical materials and papers relating to Ames' volunteer work during 1945-56 for the Quaker Transport.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Historic preservation -- United States

Types of Materials:

Drawings

Names:

Lachaise, Gaston, 1882-1935
Lyman Allyn Museum (New London, Conn.)
Meder, Joseph, 1857-1934
Stone, Arthur J., 1847-1938

Occupations:

Art historians

Functions:

Art museums -- New York (State)