



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

Alfred Hamilton Barr papers

Archives of American Art
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<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Alfred Hamilton Barr papers
Identifier:	AAA.barralfr
Date:	[ca. 1915-1983]
Extent:	61 Microfilm reels
Creator:	Barr, Alfred H., Jr., 1902-1981
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The Museum of Modern Art was responsible for the selection, organization and arrangement of the papers microfilmed. Five series were not microfilmed, including Matisse (6 ft.), Picasso (7 ft.), Russian culture (6 ft.), family letters (2 ft.), and education (2 ft.).

Location of Originals

Originals in the Museum of Modern Art, New York, N.Y.

Other Finding Aids

A microfilm inventory prepared by the Archives of American Art and an inventory for record groups 5-10 compiled by the Museum of Modern Art is available in all Archives of American Art offices and at the Museum of Modern Art.

Available Formats

35mm microfilm reels 2164-2199, 3145-3160 and 3259-3266 available at Archives of American Art offices, the Museum of Modern Art Archives, and through interlibrary loan.

Citation

Alfred H. Barr, Jr. papers, [ca. 1915-1983]. Owned by the Museum of Modern Art. Museum of Modern Art requires full citation to include microfilm reel and frame numbers, and reference to MoMA as the owner of the Alfred H. Barr papers.

Restrictions

The Archives of American art does not own the original papers. Use is limited to the microfilm copy.

Biographical / Historical

Museum director, curator, and critic; New York, N.Y. Died 1981. Became the first director of the Museum of Modern Art in 1929. He was married to Margaret Scolari Barr, art historian and teacher.

Scope and Contents

Files kept during Barr's tenure at the Museum of Modern Art, including personal and professional correspondence with museum officials, curators, writers, historians, critics, art associations, foundations, magazines, artists, and collectors, including John Canaday, Stanton Catlin, Camilla Gray, Rene d'Harnoncourt, John Hightower, Roland Penrose, and James Thrall Soby; files on staff, exhibitions, publications and collections of MoMA, and abstract art, cubism and futurism, some related to Barr's book CUBISM AND ABSTRACT ART, 1936; files on the Foundation for Arts, Religion and Culture (ARC), Barr's travels, lectures, speeches, exhibitions, publications, political controversies, and artists and collections in the U.S.S.R.; writings, including travel notebooks regarding his trip to Russia, 1959, visits with Pablo Picasso, 1956, and Henri Matisse, 1952; exhibition catalogs, clippings and printed material; and photographs.

Scope and Contents

Also included are material collected by Margaret Scolari Barr, including Alfred's obituaries, A MEMORIAL TRIBUTE, 1981, an invitation and guest list to the memorial service, and condolence letters; and photocopies of autograph letters, ca. 1920s-1970s, from the Barr's collection sold to Arthur A. Cohen in 1975.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Art, Abstract
Art, Modern -- 20th century
Art, Russian
Cubism

Names:

Barr, Margaret Scolari, 1901-1987
Canaday, John, 1907-1985
Catlin, Stanton L. (Stanton Loomis)
D'Harnoncourt, Rene, 1901-1968
Foundation for Arts, Religion and Culture
Gray, Camilla
Hightower, John Brantley, 1933-
Matisse, Henri, 1869-1954
Museum of Modern Art (New York, N.Y.)

Penrose, Roland, Sir
Picasso, Pablo, 1881-1973
Soby, James Thrall, 1906-1979

Occupations:

Art museum directors -- New York (State) -- New York
Museum directors -- New York (State) -- New York

Functions:

Art museums -- New York (State) -- New York