



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

George Biddle letters to Constance Biddle

Archives of American Art
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	George Biddle letters to Constance Biddle
Date:	1943-1945
Identifier:	AAA.biddgeol
Creator:	Biddle, George, 1885-1973
Extent:	2 Items ((4 p. on partial microfilm reel))
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Lent for microfilming 1994 by Helen Zimmermann, who was raised by Constance Biddle and her sister; the letters were among Constance's effects at her death.

Location of Originals

Originals returned to the lender, Helen Zimmerman, after microfilming.

Available Formats

35mm microfilm reel 4909 (fr. 46-52) available for use at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

Restrictions

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

Biographical / Historical

Biddle, a painter, Croton-on-Hudson, N.Y., is known as the person responsible for recommending to Franklin Roosevelt a federal art program for artists, giving rise to the Public Works of Art Project and subsequent art projects of the Treasury Department and Works Progress Administration.

Biographical / Historical

Biddle's drawings from World War II were published in *Artist At War* (New York: The Viking Press, 1944)

Scope and Contents

To his cousin Constance, 1943 Feb. 7, Biddle writes about being named chairman of the War Department's Art Advisory Board which entailed selecting and sending artists (including himself) to North Africa and Italy

to create a pictorial war record. "...not factual reportage," he adds, "but the emotional impact of the war on an artist...I am very interested to [sic] in inducting writers into the set-up. John Steinbeck is one of my Committee and I hope to make up that question with McCloy [assistant Sec. of War] next week."

Scope and Contents

In the second letter, 1945 Mar. 27, written from San Angel, Mexico, Biddle mostly describes a stabbing accident undergone by his son, Michael; he briefly discusses the gloomy economic situation in Mexico.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Art and war

Names:

Biddle, Constance
United States. War Dept. Art Advisory Committee