



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Charles Fergus Binns papers

Archives of American Art
750 9th Street, NW
Victor Building, Suite 2200
Washington, D.C. 20001
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Charles Fergus Binns papers
Date:	1875-1934
Identifier:	AAA.binnchar
Creator:	Binns, Charles Fergus, 1857-1934
Extent:	6 Microfilm reels
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The Charles Fergus Binns papers consist of three sections, each given to the New York State College of Ceramics by different donors. Biographical materials and photographs were donated by Binns grandchildren. The "Office Files" of the collection, which primarily contain general correspondence, were discovered on the ceramic school campus in March, 1981, by W. Richard Ott, Dean of the College, and placed in the College Archives. The lectures, speeches, and writings (listed on the Alfred University inventory as "Manuscripts and Typescripts") were given circa 1978 by John McMahon, former Dean of the College.

Acquisition Information

Correspondence for the years 1910-1920 has not been found, except for the letters between Binns and Adelaide and Samuel Robineau from 1914 to 1920. In addition, no letters from Binns, filed under A-L, have been located for the year 1922. Only selected portions of the lectures, speeches, and writings have been filmed. Technical correspondence, correspondence with prospective students, and requests for clay analyses have not been filmed.

Location of Originals

Originals in Alfred University, New York State College of Ceramics.

Available Formats

35mm microfilm reels 3606 through 3611 available at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

Citation

Charles Fergus Binns papers, 1875-1934. Alfred University, New York State College of Ceramics. Microfilmed by the Smithsonian Institution, Archives of American Art.

Restrictions

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

Biographical / Historical

Charles Fergus Binns (1857-1934) was a ceramist, educator, and art administrator. From 1900 until his retirement in 1931, Charles F. Binns was Director of the New York State School of Clayworking and Ceramics at Alfred University. Binns was a frequent contributor to ceramic periodicals and publications including monthly columns of technical advice. He helped found the American Ceramics Society in 1899 and served as its president in 1901 and secretary from 1918 to 1922. Among the awards Binns received for his work in art pottery and glazes are the Logan Medal from the Art Institute of Chicago in 1919 and the Medal of the Boston Society of Arts and Crafts in 1922.

Scope and Contents

Biographical materials, including an autobiographical sketch, brief biographies by family members, and certificates of naturalization and membership; correspondence, 1897-1931, with family members, ceramic manufacturers, potters, art educators, museum curators and administrators, and former students; subject files on: the American Ceramic Society, the Charles Fergus Binns Medal; Ceramic Alumni Association, and exhibitions of Binns' work. Subject files include correspondence, meetings minutes, and printed materials. Also included are lectures and speeches by Binns; writings; and 10 photographs, undated & 1901-1935, of Binns and of his works of art.

Arrangement

Correspondence is organized chronologically and then alphabetically within each year or group of years.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Ceramics
- Decorative arts

Names:

- American Ceramic Society
- American Federation of Arts
- Society of Arts and Crafts (Boston, Mass.)

Occupations:

- Ceramicists

Container Listing

Series 1: Charles Fergus Binns papers

Reel 3606, Frame 125-1441	Biographical Material
Reel 3606, Frame 230-1441	Correspondence, 1900-1906
Reel 3607, Frame 1-1376	Correspondence, 1906-1921
Reel 3608, Frame 1-1084	Correspondence, 1921-1926
Reel 3609, Frame 1-1457	Correspondence, 1926-1928
Reel 3610, Frame 1-1407	Correspondence, 1929-1930
Reel 3610, Frame 580-1407	American Ceramic Society Files
Reel 3610, Frame 938-1407	Charles Fergus Binns Medal File
Reel 3610, Frame 1024-1407	Ceramic Alumni Association File
Reel 3610, Frame 1069-1407	Exhibition Files
Reel 3610, Frame 1259-1407	Lectures and Speeches
Reel 3611, Frame 1-233	Lectures and Speeches
Reel 3611, Frame 85-233	Writings
Reel 3611, Frame 216-233	Photographs

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