



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Ilse Martha Bischoff Papers,
1893-1981, in the Archives of American Art

Jean Fitzgerald

March 2006

Archives of American Art
750 9th Street, NW
Victor Building, Suite 2200
Washington, D.C. 20001
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/>

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Biographical Note.....	2
Scope and Content Note.....	2
Arrangement.....	2
Names and Subjects	2
Container Listing	4
Series 1: Personal Records, 1934-1938, 1955-1968.....	4
Series 2: Correspondence, 1922-1981.....	5
Series 3: Artwork, circa 1920-circa 1959.....	6
Series 4: Notes and Writings, 1929-1975.....	7
Series 5: Printed Material, 1929-1976.....	9
Series 6: Photographs, 1893-1971.....	10

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Ilse Martha Bischoff papers
Identifier:	AAA.biscilse
Date:	1893-1981
Extent:	1.2 Linear feet
Creator:	Bischoff, Ilse, 1901-1990
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of illustrator, writer and collector Ilse Martha Bischoff measure 1.2 linear feet and date from 1893-1981. Found are scattered personal and business records, correspondence, pencil and watercolor sketches, notes and writings, printed material and photographs. Correspondence is primarily with family members and colleagues including Paul Cadmus and Jared French. Photographs are of Bischoff, her family, and colleagues including Paul Cadmus and Jared French.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The Ilse Martha Bischoff papers were donated in 1980-1981 by the artist.

Processing Information

The papers were processed by Jean Fitzgerald in March, 2006.

Preferred Citation

Ilse Martha Bischoff papers, 1893-1981. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions on Access

Use of original papers requires an appointment.

Terms of Use

The Archives of American Art makes its archival collections available for non-commercial, educational and personal use unless restricted by copyright and/or donor restrictions, including but not limited to access and publication restrictions. AAA makes no representations concerning such rights and restrictions and it is the user's responsibility to determine whether rights or restrictions exist and to obtain any necessary permission to access, use, reproduce and publish the collections. Please refer to the [Smithsonian's Terms of Use](#) for additional information.

Biographical Note

Ilse Martha Bischoff was born on November 21, 1901 in New York City, to Adele Maria Timme Bischoff and Ernst Bischoff, founder of the Ernst Bischoff (pharmaceuticals) Company of Ivoryton, Connecticut.

Bischoff began her education at the Horace Mann School, later studying costume design at the Parson's School of Design. At the Art Students League, she studied painting under Frank Du Mond and etching with Joseph Pennell. While at the Art Students League, Bischoff befriended painters Paul Cadmus and Jared French. She also studied art in Paris, France, and Munich, Germany.

From 1928 to 1946, Bischoff illustrated 12 books and wrote two novels about George Washington's Portraitist, Gilbert Stuart: *Painter's Coach* in 1943, and *Proud Heritage* in 1949. Her autobiography, *Drive Slowly: Six Dogs*, was published in 1953. She was also an avid collector of Meissen porcelain.

Bischoff's artwork is represented in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the New York Public Library, the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston and the Hood Museum at Dartmouth.

Ilse Martha Bischoff died December 5, 1990, in Hartland, Vermont.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of illustrator, writer and collector Ilse Martha Bischoff measure 1.2 linear feet and date from 1893-1981. Found are scattered personal and business records, correspondence, pencil and watercolor sketches, notes and writings, printed material and photographs.

Correspondence is primarily with family members and colleagues including Paul Cadmus and Jared French. Artwork includes pencil and watercolor sketches, and notes and writings consist primarily of typescripts of Bischoff's short stories. Printed material includes clippings, exhibition announcements and catalogs, and miscellaneous printed material relating to Bischoff's European travel. Of special interest are photographs of Bischoff, her family, and colleagues including Paul Cadmus and Jared French.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 6 series:

- Series 1: Personal Records, 1934-1938, 1955-1968 (Box 1; 3 folders)
 - Series 2: Correspondence, 1922-1981 (Box 1; 47 folders)
 - Series 3: Artwork, circa 1920-circa 1959 (Box 1; 1 folder)
 - Series 4: Notes and Writings, 1929-1975 (Box 1; 33 folders)
 - Series 5: Printed Material, 1929-1976 (Box 1; 15 folders)
 - Series 6: Photographs, 1893-1971 (Box 2; 20 folders)
-

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Art -- Collectors and collecting
Authors -- Vermont
Illustrators -- Vermont

Types of Materials:

Photographs
Sketches
Writings

Names:

Cadmus, Paul, 1904-1999
French, Jared, 1905-1988

Container Listing

Series 1: Personal Records, 1934-1938, 1955-1968

3 Folders (Box 1)

This series contains a description and blueprint of Bishchoff's property in Hartland, Vermont, a kennel name certificate, and miscellaneous receipts, as well as Bischoff's passport documenting trips to Germany, France and Great Britain.

Box 1, Folder 1	Blueprint and Description of Bishchoff's Property and a Kennel Name Certificate, 1955-1965
Box 1, Folder 2	Miscellaneous Receipts, 1967-1968
Box 1, Folder 3	Passport, 1934-1938

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 2: Correspondence, 1922-1981

47 Folders (Box 1)

Correspondence consists primarily of an exchange of letters between Bischoff and her sister Carola Bischoff and her husband, Harold Graves Terwilliger, whose nicknames were "Ollie" and "Twig." There are also letters exchanged with colleagues including artists Paul Cadmus, Jared French, Felix Kelly, and Ivan Albright, writers Mabel Louise Robinson, and Glenway Wescott, and design consultant John Wisner. One letter from Cadmus is illustrated with cartoons of road signs and gives directions to his house. There are several letters from collector of porcelain Ralph H. Wark. There is also a postcard from Prince Karlos Biorn von Kurland displaying a photograph of the Prince and his wife.

Undated correspondence is followed by chronological correspondence.

Box 1, Folder 4-6	Letters from Gerald, undated
Box 1, Folder 7	Letters from Correspondents Whose First Initials Begin "H-V," undated
Box 1, Folder 8	Letters from Correspondents Whose Surnames Begin "A," undated
Box 1, Folder 9	Letters from Ilse Bischoff to Carola Terwilliger, undated
Box 1, Folder 10	Letters from Ilse Bischoff to Miscellaneous Recipients, undated
Box 1, Folder 11	Letters from Correspondents Whose Surnames Begin "C-M," undated
Box 1, Folder 12	Letters from Correspondents Whose Surnames Begin "N-Q," undated
Box 1, Folder 13	Letters from Correspondents Whose Surnames Begin "R-S," undated
Box 1, Folder 14	Letters from Members of the Terwilliger Family, undated
Box 1, Folder 15	Letters from Correspondents Whose Surnames Begin "T-Z," undated
Box 1, Folder 16-50	Correspondence, 1922-1981

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 3: Artwork, circa 1920-circa 1959

1 Folder (Box 1)

Artwork consists of pencil and watercolor sketches of human figures and poodles, primarily for use as book illustrations.

Box 1, Folder 51

Pencil and Watercolor Sketches, circa 1920-circa 1959

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 4: Notes and Writings, 1929-1975

33 Folders (Box 1)

This series includes research notes for Bischoff's writing, notes about daily activities written in text form, an inventory list of her porcelain collection, and manuscripts and typescripts of miscellaneous writings. There is also a carbon copy of a manuscript about Bischoff written by Paul Cadmus.

Box 1, Folder 52-54	Notes for a Biography of Madame Vigée-Le Brun, undated
Box 1, Folder 55	Notes on Daily Activities, 1950-1975, undated
Box 1, Folder 56	Inventory of Bischoff's Porcelain Collection, 1964
Box 1, Folder 57-58	Notes on Joseph II, 1970
Box 1, Folder 59	Miscellaneous Notes, 1929, undated
Box 1, Folder 60	Miscellaneous Untitled Manuscripts, undated
Box 1, Folder 61	Manuscript "Richie," undated
Box 1, Folder 62-67	Miscellaneous Untitled Typescripts, 1955-1963, undated
Box 1, Folder 68	Typescript "Catherine the Great and Frederick Melchior Grimm as Revealed Through Their Correspondence," undated
Box 1, Folder 69	Typescript "The Dog with the Three-Way Tail," undated
Box 1, Folder 70	Typescript "Fluke," undated
Box 1, Folder 71	Typescript "The Humperdinck's Christmas Eve," undated
Box 1, Folder 72-73	Typescript "Jeppy," undated
Box 1, Folder 74	Typescript "No One Need Know," undated
Box 1, Folder 75	Typescript "My Onkel Karl," undated
Box 1, Folder 76-78	Typescript "Poodle in Paris," undated
Box 1, Folder 79	Typescript "Single Accommodations," undated
Box 1, Folder 80	Typescript "Treasures of a Woodland Floor," undated

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| Box 1, Folder 81 | Typescript "A Warm Place," undated |
| Box 1, Folder 82 | Typescript "Pumpernickle the Lonely Dachshund," 1943 |
| Box 1, Folder 83 | Typescript "Old Holden: A Portrait," 1965 |
| Box 1, Folder 84 | Manuscript about Bischoff by Paul Cadmus, 1966 |

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 5: Printed Material, 1929-1976

15 Folders (Box 1)

Printed material includes clippings, exhibition announcements and catalogs, a press release, programs for Italian and German opera performances, German tour booklets, brochures for children's books and a festival in Salzburg, Austria, picture postcards of artwork and scenic European views, and a calling card for Ernst Bischoff.

Box 1, Folder 85	Clippings, 1934-1968
Box 1, Folder 86-88	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1935-1976, undated
Box 1, Folder 89	Press Release, 1976
Box 1, Folder 90-93	Programs, 1960-1968
Box 1, Folder 94	German Tour Booklets, undated
Box 1, Folder 95	Miscellaneous Brochures, 1949-1962
Box 1, Folder 96	Picture Postcards of Miscellaneous Artwork, undated
Box 1, Folder 97	Picture Postcards of Germany, undated
Box 1, Folder 98	Picture Postcards of Italy and France, undated
Box 1, Folder 99	Miscellaneous Printed Material, 1929, undated

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 6: Photographs, 1893-1971

20 Folders (Box 2)

Photographs are of Bischoff, her family, and her colleagues including painters Paul Cadmus and Jared French, and design consultant John Wisner. There are also photographs of artwork executed between 1935-1965 and of figurines and dishes from Bischoff's porcelain collection.

Box 2, Folder 1	Photographs of Ilse Bischoff, 1926-1938, undated
Box 2, Folder 2-4	Photographs of Bishcoff Family Members, 1893-1934, undated
Box 2, Folder 5-6	Photographs of Ilse Bischoff and Friends, 1924-1958, undated
Box 2, Folder 7	Photographs of a Costume Party, 1961
Box 2, Folder 8	Photographs of Bischoff's Home "High Meadows," 1961-1971
Box 2, Folder 9	Photographs of the Home of Bischoff's Grandparents, undated
Box 2, Folder 10	Photographs of Uncle Karl's Castello on Lake Lugano, undated
Box 2, Folder 11-12	Photographs of Drawings, 1965, undated
Box 2, Folder 13-15	Photographs of Paintings, 1965, undated
Box 2, Folder 16	Photographs of Porcelain Figurines, 1965, undated
Box 2, Folder 17-19	Photographs of Porcelain Dishes, 1965, undated
Box 2, Folder 20	Reference Photographs, undated

[Return to Table of Contents](#)