



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Porter Blanchard papers, 1914-1983, in the Archives of American Art

Sabine Lipten

The processing of this collection received Federal support from the Smithsonian Collections Care and Preservation Fund, administered by the National Collections Program and the Smithsonian Collections Advisory Committee.

2023 August 11

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Porter Blanchard papers
Date:	1914-1983
Identifier:	AAA.blanport
Creator:	Blanchard, Porter, 1886-1973
Extent:	0.5 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of Porter Blanchard measure 0.5 linear feet and date from 1914-1983. The collection documents Blanchard's life and career as a functional silversmith through personal correspondence, autobiographical and creative writings, personal business records such as client notes and an administrative file, printed material and photographs. Also found are technical design sketches.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The papers were donated by Blanchard's daughters Rebecca Adler and Alice E. Wise in 1985.

Processing Information

The collection was processed and a finding aid prepared by Sabine Lipten in 2023.

Preferred Citation

Porter Blanchard papers, 1914-1983. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C. Research Center.

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Biographical / Historical

Porter Blanchard (1886–1973) was a functional American silversmith living and working in Pacoima, California. Born in Gardner, Massachusetts Blanchard learned the trade of the silversmith from his father, George Porter Blanchard. In 1923, Porter Blanchard moved to Burbank, California, where he established a studio for silversmithing. Between the 1930s and 1950, he operated a shop in Hollywood, then worked from his home in Pacoima from the 1940s until his death in 1973. Blanchard was a member of the Boston Society of Arts and Crafts and was awarded their title of medalist in 1944.

Scope and Contents

The papers of Porter Blanchard measure 0.5 linear feet and date from 1914-1983. The collection documents Blanchard's life and career as a functional silversmith through personal correspondence, autobiographical and creative writings, personal business records such as client notes and an administrative file, printed material and photographs. Also found are technical design sketches.

Arrangement

Due to the small size of this collection the papers are arranged as one series.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

American studio craft movement

Types of Materials:

Drawings

Occupations:

Jewelers -- California

Silversmiths -- California

Container Listing

Series 1: Porter Blanchard papers, 1914-1983

0.5 Linear feet (Box 1, OV 2)

Scope and Contents: Correspondence is personal with letters from Blanchard to his family, and sympathy letters to his family following his death. Also found are letters from the Famous Writers School to Blanchard regarding a writing course he was taking there and two letters from researchers regarding Blanchard's family history with enclosures of typed notes and questions. Writings consist of fictional short stories and an autobiography draft from Blanchard. Personal Business records include a gold operations license application, an administrative file titled *The Story of Porter Blanchard* which includes biographical brochures, photographs of Blanchard's artwork, and price lists. Also included are project and client notes. Printed material includes clippings, exhibition catalogs, brochures on Blanchard and two books on silversmithing titled *The Renaissance of an Ancient Art* and *The Story of Sterling* with written dedications to Blanchard. Photographic material consists of disbound photo albums and loose photographs of Blanchard, his family and friends, studio, and artwork. Many of the photographs are annotated on the back with names and/or prices. The papers also include technical design sketches.

Box 1, Folder 1	Correspondence, 1942-1962, 1973, 1983
Box 1, Folder 2	Correspondence, Famous Writers School, 1966-1969
Box 1, Folder 3	Writings, Autobiography Draft, circa 1966-1969
Box 1, Folder 4-5	Writings, Short Stories, circa 1966-1969
Box 1, Folder 6	Personal Business, Gold Operations License Application, 1966
Box 1, Folder 7	Personal Business, The Story of Porter Blanchard Administrative File, circa 1964
Box 1, Folder 8	Personal Business, Technical and Project Notes, circa 1932-1975
Box 1, Folder 9	Personal Business, Client Notes, circa 1932-1975
Box 1, Folder 10	Printed Material, Brochures on Blanchard, 1929-1969
Box 1, Folder 11	Printed Material, Exhibition Catalogs, 1960
Box 1, Folder 12	Printed Material, Clippings, circa 1927-1979
Box 1, Folder 13	Printed Material, Books on Silversmithing, 1930, 1937
Box 1, Folder 14	Photographs, Blanchard, Family, Friends and Studio, 1914-1972
Box 1, Folder 15	Photographs, Works of Art, circa 1949-1957

Box 1, Folder 16-17	Photograph Albums, circa 1957
Box 1, Folder 18	Artwork, Technical Design Sketches, circa 1932-1975
Oversize 2	Artwork, Technical Design Sketches, circa 1932-1975

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