



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Henry Botkin papers

Archives of American Art
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Washington, D.C. 20001
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Henry Botkin papers
Date:	1917-1979
Identifier:	AAA.botkhenr
Creator:	Botkin, Henry, 1896-1983
Extent:	3.5 Linear feet ((on 10 microfilm reels)) 4 Sound tapes (7 & 5 in.)
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated 1969-1982 by Henry Botkin and by his son Glenn and his assistant Rene Barilleaux. Many items were returned to Botkin after microfilming.

Location of Originals

Portions returned to Botkin after microfilming.

Related Materials

Henry Botkin papers also at Syracuse University.

Other Finding Aids

Microfilm inventory available in all Archives of American Art offices.

Available Formats

35mm microfilm reels D388, N69-67 - N69-68, N69-91, N70-25, N70-48, 2895-2897, and 4314 available at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

Reproduction Note

Some photocopies.

Restrictions

Patrons must use microfilm copy. Use of untranscribed tapes requires an appointment at the Washington, D.C. office.

Biographical / Historical

Painter; New York, N.Y. and Provincetown, Mass. Born in Boston and attended art schools there from 1913-1917. From 1917-1920, he attended the Art Students League and was employed as an illustrator for prominent magazines until 1929. Traveling abroad between 1926 and 1933, he attained his first one-man show in 1927 at the Billiet Galleries in Paris. Through his cousin, composer George Gershwin, Botkin became

acquainted with people active in the performing arts, such as Harold Arlen, Fanny Brice, Harry Kurnitz, and Bert Lahr. Botkin was also involved in the American Abstract Artists, Artists Equity Association, Federation of Modern Painters and Sculptors, and Gallery 256 in Provincetown, Massachusetts.

Scope and Contents

Biographical material (1945-1965), letters (1917-1979), notes (1950-1970), writings (1944-1970), business records (1927-1977), art works (1932-1964), subject files (1952-1955), scrapbook (1927-1939), printed material (1923-1977), and photographs (1922-1968) documenting Botkin's career and his friendship with George and Ira Gershwin and other entertainment and artistic figures.

Scope and Contents

Among the correspondents and subjects of photographs or letters are: George and Ira Gershwin, their sister Frances Godowsky, Botkin's brother Benjamin, Botkin's daughter Toinette Botkin Laurent, and grandson Alexander Laurent, composer Harold Arlen, Fanny Brice and her son William Brice, artists Chaim Gross, Saburo Hasegawa, Hans Hofmann, Karl Knaths, Paul Manship, Paul Mocsanyi, Robert Motherwell, Louise Nevelson, Barnett Newman, Pablo Picasso, Wallace Putnam, Abraham Rattner, Hugo Robus, Arnold Schoenberg, Jack Shadbolt, John Von Wicht, and Abraham Walkowitz. Also included are photographs of Botkin's studio, night picnic in Provincetown attended by many artists; and material relating to American Abstract Artists, New School Art Center, Provincetown Art Association, and the Federation of Modern Painters and Sculptors. [See Finding Aid for information on location of items on the microfilm].

Scope and Contents

UNMICROFILMED: 3 untranscribed interviews of Botkin, 1 done for the "Today" show, NBC, June 4, 1965; 1 for Colette Roberts "Meet the Artist" Program, undated, and 1 by an unidentified interviewer. Also included is an untranscribed monologue, Oct. 11, 1970.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Art, Abstract

Types of Materials:

Drawings
Scrapbooks

Names:

American Abstract Artists
Arlen, Harold, 1905-1986
Artists Equity Association
Botkin, Benjamin Albert, 1901-1975
Brice, Fanny
Brice, William, 1921-2008

Federation of Modern Painters and Sculptors
Gallery 256 (Provincetown, Mass.)
Gershwin, George, 1898-1937
Gershwin, Ira, 1896-1983
Godowsky, Frances
Gross, Chaim, 1904-1991
Hasegawa, Saburō, 1906-1957
Hofmann, Hans, 1880-1966
Knaths, Karl, 1891-1971
Laurent, Toinette Botkin
Mocsanyi, Paul
Motherwell, Robert
Nevelson, Louise, 1899-1988
Newman, Barnett, 1905-1970
Picasso, Pablo, 1881-1973
Putnam, Wallace, 1899-1989
Rattner, Abraham
Robus, Hugo, 1885-1964
Schoenberg, Arnold, 1874-1951
Shadbolt, Jack, 1909-
Siqueiros, David Alfaro
Von Wicht, John, 1888-1970

Occupations:

Composers
Painters -- Massachusetts -- Provincetown
Painters -- New York (State) -- New York

Functions:

Artists' studios -- New York (State)