



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

A Finding Aid to the Lilian Bridgman Papers,  
circa 1860-circa 1983, bulk circa 1885-  
circa 1940s, in the Archives of American Art

Stephanie Ashley

Glass plate negatives in this collection were digitized in 2019  
with funding provided by the Smithsonian Women's Committee.

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Lilian Bridgman papers
<b>Date:</b>	circa 1860-circa 1983 (bulk circa 1885-circa 1940s)
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.bridlili
<b>Creator:</b>	Bridgman, Lilian, 1866-1948
<b>Extent:</b>	0.24 Linear feet
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	The papers of California architect, Lilian Bridgman, measure 0.24 linear feet and date from circa 1860 to circa 1983, with the bulk of the material dating from circa 1885 to circa 1940s. The collection provides scattered documentation of Bridgman's life including records of her certification as an architect, personal stationery, a booklet about her written by her niece, photographs of Bridgman, and two glass plate negatives of her in the studio.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

The collection was donated to the Archives of American Art in 1994 by Alan W. Ford, owner from circa 1987-1994 of a house designed by Bridgman.

### Processing Information

The glass plate negatives were re-housed in 2015 with a grant from the Smithsonian Collections Care and Preservation Fund. The collection was processed and a finding aid written by Stephanie Ashley in 2018.

### Preferred Citation

Lilian Bridgman papers, circa 1860-circa 1983, bulk circa 1885-circa 1940s. 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

Kansas-born architect and designer Lilian Bridgman (1866-1948), designed houses in Berkeley, California, during the Arts and Crafts movement and contributed significantly to the area's architectural heritage.

Bridgman gained a master's degree in science and taught physics and chemistry in high schools and junior colleges in California, before enrolling at the University of California, Berkeley, in 1912 to study drawing and architecture. She was licensed as an architect by the State of California in 1915 and subsequently designed more than fifteen homes in and around Berkeley. Bridgman was influenced by her mentor, Bernard Maybeck, and embraced the Arts and Crafts style which was at its peak during her career.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers of California architect, Lilian Bridgman, measure 0.24 linear feet and date from circa 1860 to circa 1983, with the bulk of the material dating from circa 1885 to circa 1940s. The collection provides scattered documentation of Bridgman's life including records of her certification as an architect, personal stationery, a booklet about her written by her niece, photographs of Bridgman, and two glass plate negatives of her in the studio.

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## Arrangement

The collection is arranged as one series.

- Lilian Bridgman Papers, circa 1860-circa 1983 (0.2 linear feet; Box 1, MGP2)

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## Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Women architects  
Women artists  
Women designers

Types of Materials:

Glass negatives  
Photographs

Occupations:

Architects -- California -- Berkeley  
Designers -- California -- Berkeley

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Lilian Bridgman Papers, circa 1860-circa 1983

#### 0.2 Linear feet (Box 1, MGP2)

**Scope and Contents:** The series includes receipts from the California State Board of Architectural Examiners documenting Bridgman's certification as an architect; city and county tax bills for Bridgman's residence in Berkeley, California; blank copies of Bridgman's personal stationery; a booklet, and a copy of the booklet, *Lilian Bridgman, Architect* by Lillian Bridgman Davies, Bridgman's niece, published in 1983; photographs; and glass plate negatives. Photographs include two cased ambrotypes of three unidentified individuals, in addition to images of Bridgman in college and at her graduation, in her studio, with her dogs, and with an unidentified friend. One of the copies of the photograph of Bridgman and her friend is hand colored. Glass plate negatives are two circa 1913 images of Bridgman at work in the studio.

**Available Formats:** Glass plate negatives have been scanned.

Box 1, Folder 1	California Board of Architectural Examiners Receipts, 1917-1940
Box 1, Folder 2	City and County Tax Bills and Receipts, 1900-1923
Box 1, Folder 3	Personal Stationery, circa 1920s-cira 1940s
Box 1, Folder 4	Printed Material Lilian Bridgman, Architect, 1983
Box 1, Folder 5	Printed Material Lilian Bridgman, Architect, Copy, circa 1983
Box 1, Folder 6	Photographs, circa 1885-circa 1930s
Box 1, Folder 7	Photographs, Ambrotypes, circa 1860
Box 1, Folder 8	Photograph, Negative, circa 1910 Notes: Nitrate negative closed to researchers.
Box MGP 2	<a href="#">Glass Plate Negatives, circa 1913</a>

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