



Smithsonian  
*Archives of American Art*

A Finding Aid to the James Britton  
Papers, circa 1905-1984, bulk circa  
1905-1935, in the Archives of American Art

Jayna M. Hanson

Funding for the processing and digitization of this collection  
was provided by the Terra Foundation for American Art

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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

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	James Britton papers
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.britjame
<b>Date:</b>	circa 1905-1984 (bulk 1905-1935)
<b>Extent:</b>	4.3 Linear feet
<b>Creator:</b>	Britton, James, 1878-1936
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	<p>The papers of painter and writer James Britton measure 4.3 linear feet and date from circa 1905-1984, with the bulk of the material dating from circa 1905-1935. The bulk of the papers consist of 49 diaries dating from 1918-1935, plus notebooks of diary excerpts, that chronicle Britton's daily activities and include lists, illustrations, and drafts of correspondence. Additional papers include biographical information compiled by the Britton family; scattered business and financial records; correspondence, including copies of Britton's letters to the editors of the <i>Hartford Courant</i> and the <i>Hartford Times</i>; additional writings and notes that include drafts and manuscripts of an autobiography, drafts of articles for his publication <i>Art Opus</i>, and other writings; sketches and a woodcut print; printed materials, including clippings of his published writings for <i>Art Review International</i>, <i>Book Notes</i>, and <i>Opus</i>; and one photograph of Britton and of works of art. There is a 1.4 linear foot unprocessed addition to this collection donated 2020 that includes correspondence, writings by Britton about art, printed material (some annotated ), lists of works of art by Britton and others, and sketches by Britton.</p>

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## Administrative Information

### Provenance

Donated 1985 and 2020 by Barbara and Ursula Roberts Britton, granddaughters of James Britton.

### Alternative Forms Available

This site provides access to the papers of **James Britton** in the Archives of American Art that were digitized in 2010, and total 6,872 images.

Materials that have not been digitized include photographs of works of art, duplicates, and some printed materials.

## Processing Information

The James Britton papers were arranged and microfilmed shortly upon receipt on reels 3647-3651. In 2010, Jayna Hanson rearranged the papers and wrote a finding aid prior to digitization in 2010 with funding provided by the Terra Foundation for American Art.

## Preferred Citation

James Britton papers, circa 1905-1984, bulk circa 1905-1935. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

## Restrictions on Access

Use of original papers requires an appointment.

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## Biographical Note

James Britton (1878-1936) was a portrait painter and writer active in Connecticut and New York. Britton wrote extensively about American art and artists and was the editor of his own publications *Art Review International* and *Opus*. Also, he was a member of the group of New York painters and sculptors known as The Eclectics.

Born in Hartford, Connecticut in 1878, James Britton began his career as an apprentice working under August Jaccaci at *Scribner's Magazine* in 1895. He studied under George de Forest Brush at the Art Students' League and under Walter Griffin and Charles Noel Flagg in Hartford. He exhibited and worked with many of the American artists associated with the Ash Can school and The Eclectics, a group of New York artists that included Theresa Bernstein, Guy Pene du Bois, Walter Griffin, Philip L. Hale, Eugene Higgins, George Luks, Jane Peterson, Maurice Prendergast, and Mahonri Young. Mainly, Britton worked as a portrait painter but produced many landscapes of Sag Harbor, Long Island, and of his homes in Connecticut. He was a founding member of the New Society of American Artists and the Connecticut Academy of Fine Arts. He exhibited at numerous New York City galleries including Ainslie Galleries, Arlington Galleries, Babcock Galleries, Dudensing Galleries, Folsom Galleries, and at the studio of sculptor Marie Apel.

A prolific writer on American art and artists, as well as an illustrator, Britton worked as staff artist for the *Hartford Times* and as an art critic for *American Art News* and the *Hartford Courant*. He also founded and edited *Art Review International* and *Opus*. Two of his published books include *Copley, Painter of the Revolution* and *Artists of America*. Britton was also interested in classical music and wrote on composers Haydn and Beethoven. Britton's extensive diaries found within his papers chronicle his daily life and commentary.

In 1914, Britton married Caroline Korner and settled mostly in Connecticut. They had three children, Jerome, Teresa, and Ruth. In 1928, a car struck Britton and left him disabled. Although he continued to paint, he suffered from ill-health as a result of the accident. He died in 1936.

James Britton's works are represented at the Wadsworth Atheneum, Mark Twain Memorial, Manchester Public Library and at St. Joseph's College.

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## Scope and Content Note

The papers of painter and writer James Britton measure 4.3 linear feet and date from circa 1905-1984, with the bulk of the material dating from circa 1905-1935. The bulk of the papers consist of 49 diaries dating from 1918-1935, plus notebooks of diary excerpts, that chronicle Britton's daily activities and include lists, illustrations, and drafts of correspondence. Additional papers include biographical information compiled by the Britton family; scattered business and financial records; correspondence, including copies of Britton's letters to the editors of the *Hartford Courant* and the *Hartford Times*; additional writings and notes that include drafts and manuscripts of an autobiography, drafts of articles for his publication *Art Opus*, and other writings; sketches and a woodcut print; printed materials, including clippings of his published writings for *Art Review International*, *Book Notes*, and *Opus*; and one photograph of Britton and of works of art.

Biographical information consists of a file of photocopied materials prepared by the Britton Family. Scattered business and financial records include papers relating to Britton's auto accident, indexes of letters, illustrated indexes and lists of works of art, miscellaneous invoices and receipts, and file relating to Arlington Gallery.

Nine folders of correspondence include letters written to and by Britton along with posthumus materials to his widow, Caroline Britton. Correspondents include artists and friends Gertrude Fiske, Eugene Higgins, Kyonei Inukai, Andrew Kelly, Dewitt McClellan Lockman, Edwin Valentine Mitchell, Maurice Prendergast, Duncan Phillips, Alfred Stieglitz, Robert Vonnoh, and Robert C. Vose.

The bulk of the Britton papers consist of his extensive diaries - 49 volumes, plus notebooks of excerpts and detailed indexes. The diaries date from 1918-1935 and details Britton's daily activities and observations about art figures active in New York and Connecticut, classical music, the Great Depression, Prohibition, the Catholic Church, and politics. In addition, Britton talks of his relationships with his wife and children. The diaries served as a place for Britton to make lists of works of art, portrait subjects, potential clients, etc. Britton also created "Notebooks of Diary Excerpts" and a detailed index of many of the diaries.

Additional writings and notes include a handwritten and incomplete typescript of an autobiography, writings for Britton's publication *Opus*, and miscellaneous writings about art, music and plays. Writings by others include works by Duncan Scott Kent and Blackfield.

Artwork includes a print and sketches by Britton, and children's drawings.

Printed materials include issues of Britton's *Art Review International*, *Opus*, and other publications for which he wrote articles or provided illustration, clippings, exhibition catalogs, and programs.

Photographs include one photo of the artist with a painting and photos of works of art.

There is a 1.4 linear foot unprocessed addition to this collection donated 2020 that includes correspondence, writings by Britton about art, printed material (some annotated ), lists of works of art by Britton and others, and sketches by Britton.

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## Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 9 series:

- Series 1: Biographical Information, 1970-1984 (Box 1; 1 folder)
- Series 2: Business and Financial records, 1919-1933 (Box 1; 7 folders)
- Series 3: Correspondence, 1913-1945 (Box 1; 9 folders)
- Series 4: Diaries, 1918-1935 (Box 1-2; 1.5 linear feet)
- Series 5: Writings and Notes, circa 1910s-1931 (Box 2-3; 0.4 linear feet)
- Series 6: Artwork, circa 1920-1929 (Box 3; 5 folders)
- Series 7: Printed Material, 1910-1982 (Box 4; 0.4 linear feet)
- Series 8: Photographs, circa 1905-1930s (Box 4, OV 5; 3 folders)
- Series 9: Unprocessed Addition, circa 1920-1934 (Boxes 6-7; 1.4 linear feet)

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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:

Art, Modern -- 20th century -- Connecticut  
Art, Modern -- 20th century -- New York (State) -- New York  
Authors -- New York (State) -- New York  
Painters -- New York (State) -- New York  
Painters -- New York (State) -- New York -- Diaries

Types of Materials:

Diaries  
Drafts  
Illustrations  
Notebooks  
Photographs  
Prints  
Sketches

Names:

Arlington Galleries (New York, N.Y.)  
Blackfield  
Fiske, Gertrude, 1878-1961  
Higgins, Eugene, 1874-1958  
Inukai, Kyohei, 1913-  
Kelly, Andrew J.  
Kent, Duncan Scott  
Mitchell, Edwin Valentine, 1890-1960  
Phillips, Duncan, 1886-1966  
Prendergast, Maurice Brazil, 1858-1924  
Stieglitz, Alfred, 1864-1946  
Vonnoh, Robert William, 1858-1933  
Vose, Robert C. (Robert Churchill), 1911-1998

Occupations:

Art critics

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Biographical Information, 1970-1984

#### *1 Folder (Box 1)*

A file of photocopied materials prepared by the Britton family includes correspondence concerning Britton, a list of articles by Britton, and excerpts from reviews written by Britton.

This series has been scanned in its entirety.

Box 1, Folder 1

Biographical Information Compiled by Britton Family, 1970-1984

[Image\(s\)](#)

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## Series 2: Business and Financial Records, 1919-1933

### 7 Folders (Box 1)

There are scattered records relating to Britton's auto accident including a police report; a gallery tag from Arlington Galleries; an index of letters sent and an address book; illustrated indexes of works of art by Britton in which he drew small representative sketches of his portraits and landscapes; a list of works of art; and various receipts and invoices.

This series has been scanned in its entirety.

Box 1, Folder 2	Auto Accident, 1928 March 9 <a href="#">Image(s)</a>
Box 1, Folder 3	Gallery Tag--Arlington Gallery, circa 1920s <a href="#">Image(s)</a>
Box 1, Folder 4	Index, Letters Sent and Address Book, 1924-1925 <a href="#">Image(s)</a>
Box 1, Folder 5	Illustrated Index, Works of Art--Portraits, circa 1930s <a href="#">Image(s)</a>
Box 1, Folder 6	Illustrated Index, Works of Art--Landscapes, circa 1930s <a href="#">Image(s)</a>
Box 1, Folder 7	Lists of Works of Art, 1933 May <a href="#">Image(s)</a>
Box 1, Folder 8	Receipts and Invoices, 1919-1935 <a href="#">Image(s)</a>

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## Series 3: Correspondence, 1913-1945

### 9 Folders (Box 1)

This series consists of general correspondence between James Britton and artists and friends as well as correspondence regarding his publications *Art Review International* and *Opus*. Also found are copies of Britton's letters to the editors of the *Hartford Times* and the *Hartford Courant*. Of note is a draft of a letter written to President Calvin Coolidge urging for the creation of a Secretary of Fine Arts written on another letter dated August 20, 1983. Britton also wrote draft responses on incoming letters. Posthumous letters written to Britton's wife include condolence letters and letters from Katherine Day of the Mark Twain Memorial concerning a donation of Britton's painting of the author.

Correspondents include Caroline Korner Britton, Gertrude Fiske, Eugene Higgins, Kyonei Inukai, Andrew J. Kelly, DeWitt McClellan Lockman, Edwin Valentine Mitchell, Maurice Prendergast, Duncan Phillips, Alfred Stieglitz, Robert Vonnoh, and Robert C. Vose.

This series has been scanned in its entirety.

Box 1, Folder 9	Correspondence, 1913-1914 <a href="#">Image(s)</a>
Box 1, Folder 10	Correspondence, 1920-1924 <a href="#">Image(s)</a>
Box 1, Folder 11	Correspondence, 1925-1929 <a href="#">Image(s)</a>
Box 1, Folder 12	Correspondence, 1930-1935 <a href="#">Image(s)</a>
Box 1, Folder 13	Correspondence, 1936-1938 <a href="#">Image(s): 1936-1938</a>
Box 1, Folder 14	Correspondence, 1945 <a href="#">Image(s)</a>
Box 1, Folder 15	Undated Correspondence, circa 1910s-1930s <a href="#">Image(s): Undated</a>
Box 1, Folder 16	Letters to the Editor, Hartford Courant, circa 1930-1936 <a href="#">Image(s)</a>
Box 1, Folder 17	Letters to the Editor, Hartford Times, circa 1920s <a href="#">Image(s)</a>

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## Series 4: Diaries, 1918-1935

### 1.5 Linear feet (Box 1-2)

James Britton detailed his thoughts, work, and other activities in 49 diaries. He also created 10 notebooks of diary excerpts and a detailed index of subjects and names found in the diaries.

The Diaries series is arranged into 2 subseries:

- Subseries 4.1: Diaries, 1918-1935
- Subseries 4.2: Notebooks of Diary Excerpts, 1918-1934

This series has been scanned in its entirety, except for one incomplete draft diary index created by Britton, which was superseded by a later index.

### 4.1: Diaries, 1918-1935

Britton's diaries cover a wide-range of subjects including current affairs and his thoughts about American art and artists, the art scene in New York and Connecticut, classical music, the Great Depression, Prohibition, the Catholic Church, politics, his artwork and writings, his professional associations, New York galleries and exhibitions, and his relationships with family and friends. The diaries also include lists and sketches, including sketches of paintings in his studio at the time of the diary entry. The diaries provide an intimate and descriptive perspective of the Great Depression and its effect on the American family. Hard economic times forced Britton to reuse his children's school composition notebooks as diaries, often writing in the margins or in between the original lines of writing. He describes the toll of the economy on his relationship with his family.

The diaries contain exhaustive detail about the New York art scene and his fellow artists. He writes about George Bellows, Childe Hassam, Ernest Blumenschein, among many others, and about visiting numerous galleries, museums, and exhibitions, such as Knoedler, Frank Rehn, and Kraushaar Galleries, as well as his membership in various clubs and associations, including the New Society of American Artists.

There are two numbered sets of diaries. The first set is numbered XXV-XL and the second set is numbered Miscellaneous Volumes 1-32. Britton also created a two-volume index of his diaries numbered XXV-XL. Most of the index was transcribed by the processing archivist and a partial list of relevant name/subject entries is found with the link to each individual diary. A more comprehensive list of entries from Britton's index is also included as an addendum.

A Volume XXX B is referenced in Britton's index which does not appear to be in the collection. It may be missing or perhaps the number was changed by Britton at a later date.

The narrative summaries and access points included with the Miscellaneous Volumes 1-32 were created by the processing archivist and should not be considered fully comprehensive.

See Appendix for a list of names and subjects for Diaries XXV-XL from Series 4.1.

This subseries has been scanned in its entirety.

Appendix: List of Names and Subjects from Diary Volumes XXV-XL in Series 4.1.

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[Image\(s\)](#)

(Art Review International: 1, 59; Babcock, E.C.: 28, 41, 49, 73, 80; Bartlett, Paul: 65, 90, 109; Beal, Gifford: 28, 61, 70; Beaux, Cecilia: 54, 69, 119; Cox, Kenyon: 7, 97; Dickinson, S.E.: 40-1, 51, 56-8, 63-4, 70, 73-6, 91, 93; Expressionists: 50, 73; Granville, Smith: 38, 46, 68-9, 100-2; Griffin, Walter: 65, 71, 99-100; Henri, Robert: 53-4, 115-117; Judson, Alice: 5-6, 38-9, 41, 60, 64, 96-7; Lever, Beatrice Sinclair: 26, 33, 36, 61, 69; Luks, George: 48, 56, 85, 87-8, 117; McBride, Henry: 31, 92, 102-3; Merrick, Lula: 50, 69, 73, 96, 117; Murphy, J. Francis: 39, 42-3, 66-8, 84, 95, 100; Nave, Captain Royston: 41, 51, 57-8, 64, 76, 91-7, 107-8; Prendergast, Maurice: 50, 57, 71, 89; Weir, J. Alden: 43, 46; Young, Mahonri: 34, 70)

Box 1, Folder 21

Volume XXVIII (See Addendum List of Names and Subjects for Content Information), 1919 February-July

[Image\(s\)](#)

(Art News, 73; Art Review International: list; Eilshemius, Louis: 89)

Box 1, Folder 22

Volume XXIX (See Addendum List of Names and Subjects for Content Information), 1919 April-June

[Image\(s\)](#)

(Apel, Marie: 40, 70; Bayley, Frank: 4-5, 59; Daniel, Charles: 39, 42; Dickinson, S.E.: 36, 40, 64, 70-1; DuBois, Guy Pene: 72; Duvneek, Frank: 57; Flagg, Charles Noel: 41, 54; Griffin, Walter: 58; Hassam, Childe: 55; Higgins, Eugene: 3-5, 12; Kent, Rockwell: 33, 43; Knoedlers: 115; Lawson, Ernest: 35-6, 56; Macbeth, Robert: 8-9; Marin, John: 39; Price, F. Newlin: 42, 72; Ray, Man: 57; Twachtman, John: 13, 16, 56-7, 61; Yeates, John B.: 65-6)

Box 1, Folder 23

Volume XXX (See Addendum List of Names and Subjects for Content Information), 1919 June-August

[Image\(s\)](#)

(Blakelock, R.A.: 27, 42-3, 46; Borglum, Gutzon: 20; De Valera, Eamon: 1, 11; Dougherty, Paul: 3, 17; Hassam, Childe: 28; Little, Phillip: 3, 89; Young, Mahonri: 3, 17, 20, 28)

Box 1, Folder 24

Volume XXXI (See Addendum List of Names and Subjects for Content Information), 1919 August-December

[Image\(s\)](#)

(Ainslie, George: 66, 94; Aitken, Robert J.: 38-40, 44, 46; Bellows, George: 52, 73; DuBois, Guy Pene: 62; Duvneek, Frank: 67; Flanagan, John: 38-9, 61-2;

Groll, Albert: 61-2, 79; Hafner, Charles: 38, 80; Innes, George: 66; Kronberg, Louis: 3-4, 83; Milch Galleries: 3; Pennell, Joseph: 44; Prendergast, Maurice: 53; Reynolds, Sir Joshua: 15-6; Roosevelt, Theodore: 104; Twachtman, John: 39, 45, 48-9, 67; Walcott, Albert: 12, 15, 51, 79, 83; Weir, J. Alden: 62, 83, 87-9; Zorach, William: 86)

Box 1, Folder 25

Volume XXXII (See Addendum List of Names and Subjects for Content Information), 1920 January-March

[Image\(s\)](#)

(Bartlett, Paul: 1, 34-5; Dickinson, S.E.: 5, 32-3; Dudensing: 40, 46; Flagg, Charles Noel: 41, 45; Granville, Smith W.: 4; Levy, John: 2, 43; Macbeth, Robert: 37; Palmer, Erastus: 10; Sloan, John: 46; Society of American Artists: 11-27; Vanderbilt, Gertrude: 4; Walcott, Albert: 94-6; Weir, J. Alden: 1, 4; Young, Howard: 33)

Box 1, Folder 26

Volume XXXII B (See Addendum List of Names and Subjects for Content Information), 1920

*(list of subscribers)*

[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 1, Folder 27

Volume XXXIII, 1920 March-April

[Image\(s\)](#)

(Art Review International; Beaux, Cecilia: 2; Bellows, George: 8; Bowdoin, W.G.: 2; Carroll, John: 20-4; Cortissoz, Royal: 9; Frazen, August: 33; Gay, Edward: 26, 31, 33; Groll, Albert: 8, 15; Henri, Robert: 25; Higgins, Eugene: 8, 23; Hunt, William Morris: 35, 37; Johnson, Eastman: 19; Laurens, Jean Paul: 21; McBride, Henry: 11; Murphy, J. Francis: 17-8, 33; Price, F. Newlin: 13; Rittenberg, Henry: 7; Robinson, Theodore: 1, 13, 15; Ringuis, Carl: 9; Vinton, F.P.: 1; Vonnoh, Robert: 7; Weir, J. Alden: 2, 13)

Box 1, Folder 28

Volume XXXIV (See Addendum List of Names and Subjects for Content Information), 1920 May-July

[Image\(s\)](#)

(Barry, James: 84; Blakelock, R.A.: 37; Dickinson, S.E.: 1-4; Groll, Albert: 1-2; Hafner, Charles Andrea: 1, 14; Hoppin, Charles A.: 14, 23-4; Judson, Alice: 13; Luks, George: 37; Nave, Captain Royston: 3-4, 13-4, 23; Nelson, W.H.: 14-5; Norton, Clara: 13; Regnault, Henri: 21; Shee, Sir Martin A: 11-2; Wallace, Ruth: 3, 55, 77; )

Box 1, Folder 29

Volume XXXV (See Addendum List of Names and Subjects for Content Information), 1920 July-1921 May

[Image\(s\)](#)

(Aitken, Robert J.: 7-8, 20, 43; Babcock, E.C.: 60, 108; Bellows, George: 43; Bunce, W. Gedney: 6, 120; Cole, Thomas Casilear: 77, 120, 123, 126, 131, 136; Cross, Amy: 116; Damrosch, Helena: 134; Downey, Chris: 29; DuBois, Guy Pene: 117; Eakins, Thomas: 111; Ennis, George Pierce: 131; Foster, Ben: 107; Gay, Edward: 45, 58; Giles, Howard: 107; Goldthwait, Anne: 82; Hafner, Charles Andrew: 1, 44, 55, 57, 60, 63, 67, 77, 90-2, 120, 129-30, 133; Hassam, Childe: 25, 80-2, 119; Higgins, Eugene: 6, 9, 20, 23, 108-109; Inman, Henry: 87; Kimbel, Richard: 123-4, 131, 169; Manning, Rose: 92, 124; Metcalf,

Willard: 43, 81; Stuart, Gilbert: 85; Valenfampf, Theo: 16; Vanderlyn, John: 87; West, Benjamin: 85)

Box 1, Folder 30

Volume XXXVI (See Addendum List of Names and Subjects for Content Information), 1921 September-1922 April

[Image\(s\)](#)

(Clivette, Merton: 48-50; Cole, Thomas Casilear: 82, 85; Cooney, John: 6, 9-10 28, 39; Detweiller, F.: 6, 20-1, 37, 54-5, 77-8, 80-2, 85-7; Donner, Herman Montago: 18; Dorr, C.H.: 102; Dudensing: 88; Eakins, Thomas: 21; Fiedler, Max: 17; Frazen, August: 23; Hafner, Charles Andrew: 14, 20, 25, 73; Hassam, Childe: 10; Kitson, Henry Hudson: 66-7; Levy, John: 61-3; McBride, Henry: 22; Merrick, Lula: 29; Potter, Nathan D.: 5, 20, 27, 30-2, 27-8, 42-5, 69-74, 86; Rio, Anita: 11; A.P. Ryder: 1, 13; Vezin, Charles: 65-6; Wallace, Cornelia: 7-8, 19, 26, 30, 46, 85, 87; Young, Mahonri: 24)

Box 1, Folder 31

Volume XXXVII (See Addendum List of Names and Subjects for Content Information), 1922 April-September

[Image\(s\)](#)

(Barile, Xavier: 29; Bellows, George: 14; Brandegeee, Robert B.: 24; Crews, Floyd: 22; Daniel, Charles: 16; Escobal: 42; Haverty, J.J.: 17-21; Higgins, Eugene: 14-5; Inukai, Kyohei: 16, 39, 42; Kronberg, Louis: 23; McCormick, William B.: 16-7; Myers, Jerome and Ethel: 14; Pennell, Joseph: 15; Ranger, Henry W.: 63; Stevenson, Gordon: 33; Vezin, Charles: 24)

Box 1, Folder 32

Volume XXXVIII (See Addendum List of Names and Subjects for Content Information), 1922 October-1923 June

[Image\(s\)](#)

(Ainslie, George: 9, 28, 33; Belcher, Hilda: 29; Burrows, Carlyle: 10, 31, 72; Chase, William M.: 3; Cheney, Russell: 18; Daniel, Charles: 3; Detweiller, F.: 14, 49, 52, 81, 88-9; Donohue, William Howard: 49; Dreier, Katherine: 89; Ennis, George Pearse: 9; Frazen, August: 36-40; Gaspard, Leon: 90-1; Granville-Smith, W.: 9; Gruppe, Charles P.: 40, 43; Hardie, Robert Gordon: 51; Hooker, J.: 105, 107; Inukai, Kyohei: 4, 8-9, 18, 20, 34-5, 40-1, 82, 88, 90-100; Judson, Alice: 9-90; Keller, Deane: 94, 103; Lawson, Ernest: 64; Luks, George: 4; Macbeth, Robert: 85; Manning, Rose: 54-9, 63; McBride, Henry: 93; McManus, James G.: 74, 105; Miller, Charles Townsend Abercrombie: 16; Morse, S.F.B.: 79; Nuni, Grove: 95; Pierpont, J.: 12, 20; Potter, Nathan D.: 20, 91, 101; Stuart, Gilbert: 50; Szopory, Baron Imre: 8, 83; Vose, Robert: 91; Young, Mahonri: 72, 92)

Box 1, Folder 33

Volume XXXIX (See Addendum List of Names and Subjects for Content Information), 1923 June-December

[Image\(s\)](#)

(Crews, Floyd: 1; Detweiller, F.: 5; Keller, Deane: 3; Muller, Michael: 3-4; Potter, Nathan D.: 3-7)

Box 1, Folder 34

Volume XL (See Addendum List of Names and Subjects for Content Information), 1923 October-1924 October



- [Image\(s\)](#)  
(Copley, John Singleton: 1-2; Palmer, Erastus: 1; Shurtleff, Roswell M.: 1)
- Box 1, Folder 35 James Britton's Draft Index to Diaries, XXV-XL, circa 1920s  
(*not scanned*)
- Box 1, Folder 36 James Britton's Final Index to Diaries, XXV-XL, circa 1930s  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 37 Miscellaneous Volume 1, 1925 January-February, June  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
(discusses George Bellows and Childe Hassam exhibiting at Macbeth Galleries; the death of George Bellows; visits Dwight William and Mrs. Tryon in New York City, discusses the Freer Gallery of Art at length; travels to Kraushaar Galleries to see paintings by Sloan and Bellows.)
- Box 1, Folder 38 Miscellaneous Volume 2, 1925 February-March  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
(Britton participates in the First Exhibition of the Charter Members of the New Society of American Artists; list of members of the New York Portrait Society; exhibition at Babcock Galleries in April; New Society of Artists Committee meeting; list of portraits by year and sitter)
- Box 1, Folder 39 Miscellaneous Volume 3, 1925 March-April  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
(attends a meeting of the New Society of American Artists at the studio of George Lobens with George Pease Ennis, Bruce Crane of the Salmagundi Club who nominate Ernest Blumenschein to join the committee; discusses Kyohei Inukai; discusses Babcock Galleries' poor treatment of artists; meets Milton Avery; talks of *Opus*)
- Box 1, Folder 40 Miscellaneous Volume 4, 1925 October-1926 March  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
(travels to Knoedler's and meets Jim Weiland; goes to Metropolitan Museum of Art with son Jerome; attends a George Bellows memorial exhibition; description of the New Britain Institute with a list of artists represented; visits James Goodwin McManus's studio; discusses "The Chess Players" by Robert Bolling Brandegee; talks with Frank Rehn; sees Frederick Detweiller; list of pictures over which to "make a big ex" (35); visits Louis Comfort Tiffany; list of portraits by others of which Britton wanted copies for inspiration and admiration (90-91) )
- Box 1, Folder 41 Miscellaneous Volume 5, circa 1925 October-1926 May  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
(discusses industry versus art in America; a draft of "Art and New Business"; list of works of art in Waterbury, CT by Britton; second annual exhibition of the New Society of American Artists; discusses the Connecticut Academy; the relationship between painting and writing)

- Box 1, Folder 42      Miscellaneous Volume 6, 1926-1927  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
(consists of notes on Copley and Haydn and Beethoven; list of Copley portraits of British and Americans painted in England; notes on Copley at the Royal Academy)
- Box 1, Folder 43      Miscellaneous Volume 7, 1926 July-1928 January  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
("notes on the literature of American Art"; has an exhibition at M. Knoedler and Co. Galleries; information about his Copley book; notes on Pyle and Stewart; suggests creating a Mark Twain group portrait; a list of books by W.M. Howells; list of woodcuts by Britton organized by date; notes on Mozart, Haydn and Beethoven; visits Kraushaar Galleries and the Morgan Museum; visits with Norwegian artist Lars Thorsen; discusses the pub culture of Hartford, CT; list of woodcuts by Walter Eitel; talks with Frank Gay of the Wadsworth Athenaeum; talks of Borglum and Caffin in Hartford reminiscences)
- Box 1, Folder 44      Miscellaneous Volume 8, 1928 February-1929 October  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
(sells book on Copley; visits Walter Eitel and Frederick Detweiler; list of portraits painted by Hartford artists or of Hartford sitters; list of paintings--various; a draft of a letter to Edwin Valentine Mitchell and one to F. Detweiler; Mr. Bartlet, an engraver visits; gives an interview for The Republican with Miss Cullen; a list of books with Howell's; goes to Morgan Museum and cannot find his portrait of Charles Flagg; talks of his father Captain J. Britton; invited to exhibit at the Women's Club of Hartford with Maud Monnier--includes a list of paintings possible for exhibition; commentary on Hartford Philharmonic Orchestra; discusses "The Banquet of the Presidents" and his intent for the painting)
- Box 1, Folder 45      Miscellaneous Volume 9, 1929 December-1931 March  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
(talks with Father Andrew Kelly; lists of sales from the Women's Club Art Committee exhibition with a description of the event; talks of his portrait of Inukai; complaints of those considered "Rich Hartford"; visits Morgan Museum exhibitions including French, Italian, and Mexican paintings; draft of "The Battle of American Art" (53); sees an exhibition of Higgins etchings; a draft of a letter to Phillip Hardy; list of ideas for "Modern Life" series; two lists of paintings: for patrons in Hartford and of subjects residing in Hartford or the vicinity; a list of old paintings received from storage; comment on New York Tribune announcing the publication of the Copley book; a list of paintings to exhibit at Women's Club in November; pressures Morgan Museum for more paintings to cover all American Art movements and time periods; list of visitors to visit the Women's Club exhibition; a list of portraits for Britton to see or write about; comments on business during the depression)
- Box 1, Folder 46      Miscellaneous Volume 10, 1931 March-August  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
(list of visitors to the Women's Club exhibition, November 3, 1930; draft of a letter to Charles A Goodwin with a list of artists that should be represented at

the Wadsworth Athenaeum; discusses Max Weber portrait; describes how he varnishes his paintings; a sketch of his studio space; essays entitled "Men's Mission" and "Women's Mission"; talks of Connecticut Shore Art Guild summer exhibition and a list of possible exhibitions; a price list from an exhibition at Folsom Gallery in New York City)

Box 1, Folder 47

Miscellaneous Volume 11, 1931 September-1932 April

[Image\(s\)](#)

(essay entitled "Dialog in a Portrait Painter's Studio"; contains an essay by Caroline Britton concerning Christian Science and prayer of Man and God; lists of portraits based on the age of the painting; commentary on European versus American artists; begins to discuss his health problems; a review of *Jane Eyre* and *Shirley*; a list of sales to Father Kelly; death of Maud Monnier; writes for the catalog for the Edith Stevens memorial exhibition; visit from Max and Mrs. Bengs; describes the role of Hartford's Cheney family in Prohibition; expresses frustration over having one of his woodcuts produced without permission; old friend Russel Northman commits suicide)

Box 1, Folder 48

Miscellaneous Volume 12, 1932 May-October

[Image\(s\)](#)

(vivid commentary on the effect of the Depression on the Britton family and the country in general; talks of Guy Pene du Bois; a critique of the American Intelligensia and their lack of focus on American Art(12); talks of Socialism in America at length-20; talks of Edith Stevens and her suicide; describes legal troubles and that a judge ruled his paintings as collateral; comments on suicide during Depression; discusses Father Kelly's art collection and his new O'Keeffe works; a description of the Presidents within "The Presidents Banquet"; discusses the election of Franklin Roosevelt; gives commentary on Irish politics; having difficulty with his wife; a list of paintings with Father Kelly; discusses falling out with Father Kelly because Britton will not convert to Catholicism)

Box 2, Folder 1

Miscellaneous Volume 13, 1932 November-1933 February

[Image\(s\)](#)

(visit from Henry Nord; discusses Roosevelt's election; talks of problems with his relationships with Father Kelly and wife, Caroline; reflections on the art scene in New York City-57; list of data on "The Presidents Banquet"; death of Tom Brabazon; looting and petty theivery during the Depression)

Box 2, Folder 2

Miscellaneous Volume 14, 1933 February-March

[Image\(s\)](#)

(contains many details of the poor economic conditions and the effect on society and his own familial relationships; Socialist and Communist activities of his wife; discusses attempted shooting of Roosevelt in Florida; visit from Tom Supples, a baseball player; financial conditions of museums in Hartford; discusses the Beer Bill and the end of Prohibition and the Bank Holiday; recollections of Ida Tarbell; a list of paintings lost-93)

Box 2, Folder 3

Miscellaneous Volume 15, 1933 April-May

- [Image\(s\)](#)  
(many notes on classical music and composers; discussion of the new beer after Prohibition; suffers from ill health and talks of the activities of his children; visits from the son of E.C. Potter, sculptor)
- Box 2, Folder 4      Miscellaneous Volume 16, 1933 May-July  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
(contains many sketches; discusses Civil War photography; a sketch of a surgery done by his brother-in-law Dr. Boucher; list of paintings; discusses the job market for post-high school students; list of paintings owned by Father Kelly; descriptions of landscape paintings and comments on painting over old canvases-54; list of paintings owned by Walter Eitel and E.V. Mitchell)
- Box 2, Folder 5      Miscellaneous Volume 17, 1933 July-August  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
(discusses article about Father Kelly's art collection in The Transcript; essay "Modernism Blows Up"; talks of the quality of paper available in America-9; concern with his copyright over images; anger of the patronage of Father Kelly; observations on New York City and the effects of Prohibition; Knights of Columbus activities in Connecticut)
- Box 2, Folder 6      Miscellaneous Volume 18, 1933 August  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
(notes on Copley's "Death of Chatham"; essay "New Art Modernism"; reminiscences of Hartford Art Institute and Art League; list of American portraits for potential exhibition; list of Copley reproductions owned by Britton; proposal for a political party called The Heroes-51; draft of a letter to the Hartford Courant concerning "Cure d'Arts")
- Box 2, Folder 7      Miscellaneous Volume 19, 1933 September-October  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
(comments on children's activities and schooling; copies music of Beethoven and Haydn; talks of Roosevelt's presidency; discusses having prints made from engravings with Father Kelly)
- Box 2, Folder 8      Miscellaneous Volume 20, 1933 October-November  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
(death of George Luks; Tom Spellacy as the mayor of Hartford; further discusses Socialist and Libertine activities of Caroline)
- Box 2, Folder 9      Miscellaneous Volume 21, 1933 December  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
(Father Kelly holds exhibition at the Andrea Art Gallery in Hartford; writes on the difference between professional and amateur artists; copy of a letter to Father Kelly; reelection of President Roosevelt; memo "Petition of Artist for a Break")
- Box 2, Folder 10      Miscellaneous Volume 22, 1934 January-February

- [Image\(s\)](#)  
(discusses political and social situations in Germany; talks about Katherine Hepburn's family in Connecticut; letter to Father Kelly concerning prices of works of art)
- Box 2, Folder 11      Miscellaneous Volume 23, 1934 March-May  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
(Caroline elected as an honorary member to the local labor union of textile workers; talks of Civil Works Administration and government sponsored art; discusses Juliana Force closing Whitney Museum for fear of violence; moves in with sister due to family troubles; issues with Father Kelly's patronage; Britton family is evicted and forced to find a new place to live)
- Box 2, Folder 12      Miscellaneous Volume 24, 1934 May-June  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
(draft of a letter to Father Kelly; outlines his problems with Father Kelly-23; discusses racial tension in the South; death of Frank B. Gay; sketches; discussion of "The Presidents Banquet")
- Box 2, Folder 13      Miscellaneous Volume 25, 1934 July  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
(mostly sketches and artworks including color)
- Box 2, Folder 14      Miscellaneous Volume 26, 1934 August-September  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
(troubles with his family concerning his disagreement with wife's affiliation with labor unions; Jerome has an exhibition; Mr. Monnier dies; Caroline urges workers of Cheney Mills to join labor unions; draft of a letter to Tom Spellacy)
- Box 2, Folder 15      Miscellaneous Volume 27, 1934 September-December  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
(this diary was recycled twice and is therefore difficult to read--it was used by Jerome as a school book, by Britton in 1930, then Britton returned to it in 1934; essays from 1930 "Everybody to Work" "Untitled Play"; essay from 1934 "Truce and the Pope"; concerning Senator John Blackwell; sketch of paintings-113)
- Box 2, Folder 16      Miscellaneous Volume 28, 1935 January-February  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
(memoranda concerning prints for publication; list of possible purchasers of Roosevelt painting; sketches; list of paintings to be duplicated or printed; discussion of Huey Long)
- Box 2, Folder 17      Miscellaneous Volume 29, 1934 February-July  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
(discusses Roosevelt's cabinet and Huey Long; draft of letters to Detweiller; death of Augustus Lukeman, sculptor; sketches; talks of the Andrea Art Guild)

turning into a Catholic lending library; recalls time spent with Cecilia Beaux in 1909)

- Box 2, Folder 18      Miscellaneous Volume 30, 1934 July-December  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
(moves into sister's home due to health problems; list of people in the Connecticut State Offices along with salaries and locations; sketches; list of potential portrait subjects and landscapes)
- Box 2, Folder 19      Miscellaneous Volume 31, 1935 January-February  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
(talks of "foreign policy" of the Morgan Museum; letter by Joanna Boucher for school; letter to Senator Blackwell; sketches; inscriptions of books on composers; proposal for a Copley Society in Connecticut; form letter for solicitation of Roosevelt painting)
- Box 2, Folder 20      Miscellaneous Volume 32, 1935 February-July  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
(list of members of the Copley Society of America, 1908; sketches; list of trustees and members of the Museum Arts Committee; draft of letter to the editor of the Herald addressed to Democrats)

#### 4.2: James Britton's Notebooks of Diary Excerpts, 1919-1934

James Britton created ten volumes of excerpts from his diary, presumably those that he felt were the most significant.

- Box 2, Folder 21      Volume 1, 1918-1919 January  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 2, Folder 22      Volume 2, 1919 January-March  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 2, Folder 23      Volume 3, 1919 March-July  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 2, Folder 24      Volume 4, 1919 July-1920 February  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 2, Folder 25      Volume 5, 1920 March-September  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 2, Folder 26      Volume 6, 1920 September-1921 April  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 2, Folder 27      Volume 7, 1921 April-1923 February

[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 2, Folder 28

Volume 8, 1928

[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 2, Folder 29

Volume 9, 1929

[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 2, Folder 30

Volume 10, 1934 August-November

[Image\(s\)](#)

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## Series 5: Writings and Notes, circa 1910s-1935

### 0.4 Linear feet (Boxes 2-3)

Writings and notes by Britton include a handwritten and incomplete typescript of an autobiography, writings for his publication *Opus*, draft writings for his book, *Artists of America*, drafts of "Copley, Modern Old Master", writings about Charles Noel Flagg, and essays about art and classical music, and plays. There are also three notebooks and notes. There are also writings by Duncan Scott Kent and Blackfield.

Writings and Notes are arranged into 2 subseries:

- Subseries 5.1: Writings By James Britton, circa 1910s-1935
- Subseries 5.2: Writings By Others, circa 1910s-circa 1928

This series has been scanned in its entirety.

### 5.1: Writings by James Britton, circa 1910s-1935

Box 2, Folder 31	Autobiography, circa 1930s <a href="#">Image(s)</a>
Box 2, Folder 32	Autobiography, circa 1930s <a href="#">Image(s)</a>
Box 2, Folder 33	Autobiography, circa 1930s <a href="#">Image(s)</a>
Box 2, Folder 34	Autobiography, circa 1930s <a href="#">Image(s)</a>
Box 2, Folder 35	Autobiography, circa 1930s <a href="#">Image(s)</a>
Box 2, Folder 36	Autobiography, typescript, circa 1930s <a href="#">Image(s)</a>
Box 2, Folder 37	"American Portraits," circa 1920s <a href="#">Image(s)</a>
Box 2, Folder 38	"Art Museum Ethics," circa 1920s <a href="#">Image(s)</a>
Box 2, Folder 39	"Art-Position of America," circa 1920s <a href="#">Image(s)</a>
Box 2, Folder 40	"Art-Opus 8," circa 1924 <a href="#">Image(s)</a>
Box 3, Folder 1	"Artists of America, Pt 1," circa 1926



- [Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 3, Folder 2 "Artists of America, Pt 2," circa 1926  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 3, Folder 3 "Artists of America, Pt 2," draft, circa 1926  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 3, Folder 4 "Copley, Modern Old Master," circa 1920  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 3, Folder 5 "Copley, Modern Old Master," draft, circa 1920  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 3, Folder 6 "Modern Art," circa 1910s  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 3, Folder 7 "No Czar for Artists," circa 1920s  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 3, Folder 8 "Painting of String Quartet", circa 1910s  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 3, Folder 9 "Painter's Wife", circa 1920s  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 3, Folder 10 Concerning Charles Noel Flagg, 1925 August  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 3, Folder 11 Miscellaneous, Concerning Art, 1925, circa 1910s  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 3, Folder 12 "Haydn the Master, Beethoven the Pupil," circa 1926  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 3, Folder 13 Notes on Haydn and Beethoven, 1925-1926  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
(notebook also contains essays on Sag Harbor, NY and Colonel Freemont)
- Box 3, Folder 14 Notes on Literature Concerning Haydn, 1935  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 3, Folder 15 Notes Concerning Music, circa 1920s-1930s  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 3, Folder 16 Play- "Home", circa 1910s

[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 3, Folder 17      Play- Untitled, circa 1910s  
[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 3, Folder 18      Notebook, 1927  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
(Includes 3 drafts of correspondence)

Box 3, Folder 19      Notebook, circa 1927  
[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 3, Folder 20      Notebook, circa 1920s  
[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 3, Folder 21      Notes, circa 1920s  
[Image\(s\)](#)

## 5.2: Writings by Others, circa 1910s-1928

Box 3, Folder 22      "London," by Duncan Scott Kent, circa 1910s  
[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 3, Folder 23      "New History of American Art," by Blackfield, circa 1928  
[Image\(s\)](#)

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## Series 6: Artwork, circa 1920-1929

### *5 Folders (Box 3)*

There are sketches by Britton including gallery renderings, pen and ink, and pencil; a woodcut by Britton; and pencil and crayon drawings presumably by the Britton children.

This series has been scanned in its entirety.

Box 3, Folder 24	Woodcut Print, 1920s <a href="#">Image(s)</a>
Box 3, Folder 26	Sketch, Pencil, circa 1920s <a href="#">Image(s)</a>
Box 3, Folder 25	Sketch, Ink, 1929 <a href="#">Image(s)</a>
Box 3, Folder 27	Sketch of Gallery Plans, circa 1925 <a href="#">Image(s)</a>
Box 3, Folder 28	Children's Drawings, circa 1920s <a href="#">Image(s)</a>

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## Series 7: Printed Material, 1910-1982

### 0.4 Linear feet (Box 4)

Printed materials include publications containing writings or illustrations by Britton including *Art Review International*, *Book Notes*, *Opus*; clippings and articles; exhibition announcements and catalogs for Britton's work or that contain essays written by Britton; programs for musical performances; a copy of *Morocco Bound* by Edwin Valentine Mitchell; and miscellany.

This series has been partially scanned. For some exhibition catalogs and published materials, only the cover and pages with references to Britton or essays written by Britton have scanned.

Box 4, Folder 1	<i>Art Review International</i> , 1919-1920 <a href="#">Image(s)</a>
Box 4, Folder 2	<i>Book Notes</i> , Articles by Britton, 1926, 1920s <a href="#">Image(s)</a> (partially scanned)
Box 4, Folder 3	<i>Book Notes</i> , Illustrations by Britton, 1927-1928 <a href="#">Image(s)</a> (partially scanned)
Box 4, Folder 4	<i>Opus</i> 6 and 7, circa 1922-1923 <a href="#">Image(s)</a>
Box 4, Folder 5	Articles Written by or Illustrated by Britton, 1928, circa 1920s <a href="#">Image(s)</a>
Box 4, Folder 6	Clippings, Hartford Courant, 1910-1912 <a href="#">Image(s)</a>
Box 4, Folder 7	Clippings, Art Related, 1914-1971 <a href="#">Image(s)</a>
Box 4, Folder 8	Clippings, General, circa 1920s <a href="#">Image(s)</a>
Box 4, Folder 9	Exhibition Articles and Catalogs for Britton, 1917-circa 1936, 1982 <a href="#">Image(s)</a>
Box 4, Folder 10	Exhibition Articles and Catalogs, Introductions by Britton, circa 1920 <a href="#">Image(s)</a>
Box 4, Folder 11	Exhibition Articles and Catalogs, Connecticut Academy of Fine Arts, 1937-1938 <a href="#">Image(s)</a> (partially scanned)

- Box 4, Folder 12      Exhibition Articles and Catalogs, Miscellaneous, circa 1920s-1930  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 4, Folder 13      Order Form for *Copley, Painter of the Revolution*, circa 1920  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 4, Folder 14      Music Programs, 1920s-1935  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
(partially scanned)
- Box 4, Folder 15      Miscellaneous Printed Material, 1920s-1932  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 4, Folder 16      *Morocco Bound*, by Edwin Valentine Mitchell, 1929  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
(partially scanned)

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## Series 8: Photographs, circa 1905-1930s

*3 Folders (Box 4, OV 5)*

There is one photograph of James Britton sitting in front of a painting of Tom Brabazon and photographs of portraits by Britton.

This series has been partially scanned. Photographs of works of art have not been scanned.

Box 4, Folder 17	Photograph of James Britton, circa 1905 <a href="#">Image(s)</a>
Box 4, Folder 18	Photographs of Works of Art, 1908-1930s Oversized materials housed in OV 5
Box OV 5, Folder	Oversized Photographs of Works of Art, 1908-1930s Oversized material from Box 4, Folder 18.

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## Series 9: Unprocessed Addition, circa 1920-1934

### *1.4 Linear feet (Boxes 6-7)*

The unprocessed addition is comprised of correspondence, writings, personal business records, rare published materials, and preliminary works of art, including studies and plans.

Box 6                      Unprocessed Addition, circa 1920-1934

Box 7                      Unprocessed Addition, circa 1920-1934

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