



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Bessie S. Callender Papers, circa 1880s-1955, in the Archives of American Art

Jayna M. Josefson

Processing of this collection received support from
the Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative.

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Bessie S. Callender papers
Date:	circa 1880s-1955
Identifier:	AAA.callbess
Creator:	Callender, Bessie Stough, 1889-1951
Extent:	0.8 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of sculptor Bessie S. Callender measure 0.8 linear feet and date from circa 1880s-1955. The papers focus on Callender's personal life and travel and include biographical materials, two books, correspondence, and photographs.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The collection was transferred to the Archives of American Art from the National Collection of Fine Arts on June 6, 1979.

Processing Information

The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Jayna Josefson in 2023 with support from the Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative.

Preferred Citation

Bessie S. Callender papers, circa 1880s-1955. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

This collection is open for research. Access to original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C. Research Center.

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Biographical / Historical

Bessie S. Callender (1889-1951) was a sculptor known for her direct carving of animals. Born in Kansas, Callender studied in New York City and married reporter Harold Callender. The Callenders travelled abroad and lived in London.

Scope and Contents

The papers of sculptor Bessie S. Callender measure 0.8 linear feet and date from circa 1880s-1955. The papers focus on Callender's personal life and travel and include biographical materials, two books, correspondence, and photographs.

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:

Women artists
Women sculptors

Names:

Callender, Harold, 1892-1959

Occupations:

Animal sculptors -- New York (State) -- New York
Sculptors -- New York (State) -- New York

Container Listing

Series 1: Bessie S. Callender Papers, circa 1880s-1955

0.8 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2)

Scope and Contents: Biographical materials include a passport, a diary from 1946, a receipt, and writings on Callender compiled by her husband, Harold Callender. A book entitled *Fun Tomorrow: The Story of an Artist and of a Way of Life*, is by Harold Callender concerning his wife and her career. Also found is a book of poetry owned by Bessie Callender. Correspondence is from friends and family and largely dates from 1950 to 1951. Letters discuss travel, family news and updates, and get well wishes to Callender. The bulk of the collection consists of photographs including: portraits of Bessie Callender, Harold Callender as an infant, and other members of the Callender family; snapshots of travel in England, France, Switzerland, and throughout the United States, particularly within National Parks; photos of works of art; and photos of other family, friends, dogs, castles, gardens, and homes. Also found are empty negative envelopes, some of which note locations.

Box 1, Folder 1	Biographical Material, 1913-1955
Box 1, Folder 2-3	Books, 1937-1953
Box 1, Folder 4	Correspondence, 1948-1951
Box 1, Folder 5	Photographs, Portraits of Bessie Callender, circa 1930s-1950s
Box 1, Folder 6	Photographs, Portraits of Callender Family, circa 1880-1950s
Box 1, Folder 7-8	Photographs, Snapshots, circa 1930-1950s
Box 2, Folder 1	Photographs, Snapshots, circa 1930-1950s
Box 2, Folder 2-3	Photographs, Snapshots, Dogs, circa 1930-1950s
Box 2, Folder 4-5	Photographs, Negative Envelopes, 1930s

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