



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Arthur B. Carles papers,
1912-1983, in the Archives of American Art

Jayna M. Josefson

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

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Arthur B. Carles papers
Identifier:	AAA.carlarth
Date:	1912-1983
Extent:	0.92 Linear feet
Creator:	Carles, Arthur B., 1882-1952
Language:	The collection is in English
Summary:	The papers of Philadelphia painter Arthur B. Carles measure 0.92 linear feet and date from 1912 to 1983. Found are biographical materials, correspondence, writings and notes, personal business records, printed materials, and photographs.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

A portion of the Arthur B. Carles collection was loaned for microfilming by Steven Casamassima in 1976. Sara F. Swanson and Perry Ottenberg, Philadelphia collectors, donated papers in 1985 and Ottenberg lent additional material for microfilming in 1989.

Separated Materials

The Archives of American Art also holds microfilm of material lent for microfilming (reels 1052 and 4270-4273) including correspondence, writings and notes, business material, artwork, photographs, and business records. Loaned materials were returned to the lenders and are not described in the collection container inventory.

Other Finding Aids

An inventory of the papers was prepared by art historian Barbara Wolanin and is available by request at the Archives' Washington, DC office. The inventory does not follow the order of the papers as currently arranged, but provides detailed information about items.

Available Formats

Portions of the collection and material lent for microfilming are available on 35mm microfilm reels 1052, 3667, 4076, and 4207-4273 at the Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan. Researchers should note that the arrangement of the material described in the container inventory does not reflect the arrangement of the collection on microfilm.

Processing Information

The Arthur B. Carles papers were microfilmed upon receipt on two sets of microfilm. In 2013, the papers were processed and a finding aid prepared by Jayna Josefson with funding provided by the Terra Foundation for American Art. An additional "finding aid" was prepared by Barbara Wolanin, a Carles scholar. Glass plate negatives were re-housed in 2015 with a grant provided by the Smithsonian Collections Care and Preservation Fund.

Preferred Citation

Arthur B. Carles papers, 1912-1983. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment. Glass plate negatives are housed separately and closed to researchers.

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Biographical / Historical

Arthur B. Carles (1882-1952) was a painter and art instructor active in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Born in 1882 in Philadelphia, Arthur B. Carles studied at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts from 1900-1907. There he studied with Thomas Pollock Anshutz, Hugh Breckenridge, Henry McCarter, Cecilia Beaux, and William Merritt Chase. Carles traveled to France in 1907 and stayed until 1910, becoming close friends with John Marin and Eduard Steichen. He displayed his work in the Salon d'Automne of 1908.

Upon Carles' return to Philadelphia, he accepted a position at the Pennsylvania Academy as an instructor of French and American modernism. In 1910 his work was included in the "Younger American Painters" show held at Alfred Stieglitz's New York gallery, 291. Also, Stieglitz gave Carles his first one-man show in 1912. Carles exhibited at the Armory Show of 1913.

Arthur Carles had one daughter, painter Mercedes Matter. He married Carolina Robinson as his second wife in 1912. Later in life, he suffered from alcoholism and had a stroke in 1941 that left him an invalid. Carles died in 1952.

Scope and Contents

The papers of Philadelphia painter Arthur B. Carles measure 0.92 linear feet and date from 1912 to 1983. Found are biographical materials, correspondence, writings and notes, personal business records, printed materials, and photographs.

Correspondence is found for Carles and his wife Caroline Robinson Carles and includes letters from Sarah Baker, R. Sturgis Ingersoll, Henry McCarter, John Marin, Leopold Seyffert, Maurice Speiser, Carroll and Henry Tyson, and Franklin Watkins, among others. One diary contains brief entries. Additional writings are by Carles and Perry Ottenberg. Photographs are of Carles, his studio, family and friends, exhibitions, and works of art.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged as 1 series. Glass plate negatives are housed separately and closed to researchers.

- Series 1: Arthur B. Carles papers, 1912-1983 (0.6 linear feet; Box 1-2, MGP 3)
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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 -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia
Artists' studios -- Photographs
Painters -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia
Painting, Abstract -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia

Types of Materials:

Diaries
Photographs

Names:

Baker, Sarah, 1899-
Carles, Caroline Robinson
Ingersoll, R. Sturgis (Robert Sturgis), b. 1891
Marin, John, 1870-1953
McCarter, Henry, 1866-1942
Ottenberg, Perry, 1924-
Seyffert, Leopold
Speiser, Maurice J. (Maurice Joseph), 1880-
Tyson, Carol
Tyson, Henry
Watkins, Franklin Chenault, 1894-1972

Container Listing

Series 1: Arthur B. Carles papers, 1912-1983

0.6 Linear feet (Box 1-2, MGP 3)

Biographical materials include the marriage certificate and wedding announcement of Carles and Carolina Robinson. Correspondence includes letters from Sarah Baker, R. Sturgis Ingersoll, Henry McCarter, John Marin, Leopold Seyffert, Maurice Speiser, Carroll and Henry Tyson, and Franklin Watkins. Also, there is correspondence for Carolina Robinson Carles. Writings by Carles include two small notebooks, one containing telephone numbers and brief, irregular entries; and photographs of writings. Writings by others are found for Perry Ottenberg. Business records include receipts and a price list. Printed material includes clippings and other printed miscellany. Also found are photographs including photos of Carles, his family and friends (including one of Carles and his daughter Mercedes and Hans Hofmann), exhibitions, and of works of art. Glass plate negatives are housed separately and closed to researchers.

Glass plate negatives have been scanned.

Box 1, Folder 1	Biographical Material, 1927-circa 1950
Box 1, Folder 2	Correspondence, 1930s
Box 1, Folder 3-4	Correspondence, 1940s
Box 1, Folder 5	Correspondence, 1950s
Box 1, Folder 6	Correspondence, 1969
Box 1, Folder 7	Correspondence, circa 1930s-circa 1960s
Box 1, Folder 8	Diary and Notebook, 1927-circa 1930
Box 1, Folder 9-10	Writings and Notes by Carles, circa 1940s
Box 1, Folder 11	Writings by Perry Ottenberg, 1983
Box 1, Folder 12	Business Records, 1934-circa 1945
Box 1, Folder 13	Periodicals, 1925, 1912
Box 1, Folder 14	Maps, 1918
Box 1, Folder 15	Clippings, 1910s-1930s
Box 2, Folder 1	Clippings, 1977

Box 2, Folder 2	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1940-1972
Box 2, Folder 3	Photographs, Exhibition, circa 1930s
Box 2, Folder 4	Photographs, Carles with Family and Friends, circa 1920s-1940s
Box 2, Folder 5	Photographs, Studio, circa 1930
Box 2, Folder 6	Photographs, Works of Art, 1930s
Box 2, Folder 7	Photographs, Installations--Calder Mobile, circa 1940
Box 2, Folder 8	Copyprints, circa 1980s
Box 2, Folder 9	Negatives, circa 1930
Box MGP 3	Glass Plate Negatives, circa 1920 <i>6 Glass negatives</i> Image(s)

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