



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## A Finding Aid to the Chaloner Prize Foundation Records, 1915-1974, in the Archives of American Art

Camille Larson

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Chaloner Prize Foundation records
<b>Date:</b>	1915-1974
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.chalpriz
<b>Creator:</b>	Chaloner Prize Foundation
<b>Extent:</b>	4 Linear feet
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	The records of Chaloner Prize Foundation measure 4.0 linear feet and date from 1915 to 1974. The records consist of the files of the two Secretaries, George F. Lewis and S. LeRoy French, and four of the Trustees, Charles Platt, William Rand, Olin Dows, and William Platt. Included within these records are correspondence, lists, files on award recipients, and three scrapbooks maintained by Dows. Also found within the collection are legal records, printed material, and financial records.

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## Administrative Information

### Provenance

The collection was donated in 1982 by the American Academy in Rome, along with their records. During the processing of the Academy's records, it was determined that the Chaloner Prize Foundation records were a separate entity, and the collection was separated from the Academy records.

### Related Material

Also available at the Archives of American Art are the American Academy in Rome Records, 1855-circa 1981.

### Alternative Forms Available

The collection is available on 35 mm microfilm reels 5664-5669 at 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 collection was processed in 1999 by Camille Larson.

### Preferred Citation

Chaloner Prize Foundation records, 1915-1974. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

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## Historical Note

The Chaloner Prize Foundation was founded in 1890 by John Armstrong Chaloner in New York, NY, for the purpose of granting awards to individual artists for study of art in Paris. Initially known as the "Paris Prize Fund," held by the United States Trust Company of New York, the fund relied on contributions from art patrons such as Henry and Arthur Astor Carey. Due to personal troubles Chaloner could not manage the account and passed power of attorney to others. By 1917 the Trust had made only two grants. That year Chaloner brought suit against Bankers Trust Company and "others" in order to incorporate the foundation. The subsequent legal judgement by the New York State Supreme Court created the grant-administering institution.

Following the 1917 reorganization, the Foundation's first award for Paris Prize was \$4,800 plus travel expenses to John Ferris Connah for five years (1921-1926). Subsequent awards were \$6,000 with grantees selected every other year. With the beginning of World War II, Europe was no longer a secure place for visiting artists, and the 1939 and 1940 award recipients studied in Mexico. No further grants were given until 1948.

Lawton S. Parker, Charles A. Platt, and William Rand, Jr. were appointed to the first board of trustees. George F. Lewis was appointed as Foundation clerk. He maintained correspondence, set up board meetings, and communicated with artists as needed. When Charles Platt and William Rand, Jr. died in the early 1930s, they were succeeded by their sons, William Platt and Robert Rand. Shortly after Lewis resigned in 1938, S. LeRoy French secretary.

In 1969 national legislation regarding tax-exempt foundations made the future increasingly uncertain for trusts like the Chaloner Prize Foundation. In 1973 a final grant was made to the American Academy in Rome to be used for a fellowship in sculpture. In 1974 the foundation was dissolved and all assets and records were transferred to the American Academy in Rome.

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## Scope and Content Note

The records of Chaloner Prize Foundation measure 4.0 linear feet and date from 1915 to 1974. The records consist of the files of the two Secretaries, George F. Lewis and S. LeRoy French, and four of the Trustees, Charles Platt, William Rand, Olin Dows, and William Platt. Included within these records are correspondence, lists, files on award recipients, and three scrapbooks maintained by Dows. Also found within the collection are legal records, printed material, and financial records.

The Secretaries' Files contain backgroundpapers and photographs of John Chaloner's home in Virginia. Early correspondence includes letters from John Chaloner to Foundation officials on a variety of issues concerning his personal history and legal battles, personal perceptions regarding jurying and applicants, as well as observations about award amounts and duration of grants. Correspondence informed trustees of business transactions,

legal matters, and awardee activities. Also found in this series are examples of competition circulars for other organizations, distribution lists, and rough drafts for the Paris Prize announcements.

Trustees' files are composed primarily of the records of William Platt, but include earlier minutes and bylaws. Within the correspondence are letters and telegrams to awardees. Of particular note are scrapbooks compiled by Trustee Olin Dows on the history of grants, covering activities between 1917 and 1960. A few correspondence files from Lawton Parker, Charles Platt and William and Robert Rand can be found here as well.

Legal records document the New York Supreme Court Judgment of 1917 and the transfer of assets to the American Academy in Rome. Printed material includes a poster; applications, notices, regulations and conditions for prizes; booklets on the activities of the Foundation; and information from other artist organizations. Financial records contain documentation on early expenses and income; receipts and transmittals; and scattered financial holdings statements.

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## Arrangement

The collection is arranged as # series:

- Series 1: Secretaries' Files, 1916-1974 (Box 1-2; 1.6 linear feet)
- Series 2: Trustees' Files, 1915-1974 (Box 2-4; 1.6)
- Series 3: Legal Records, 1917-1974 (Box 4; 0.3 linear feet)
- Series 4: Printed Material, 1919-1971 (Box 4; 8 folders)
- Series 5: Financial Records, 1917-1967 (Box 4; 0.3 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 -- Competitions  
Art -- Scholarships, fellowships, etc

Types of Materials:

Drafts (documents)  
Legal records  
Photographs  
Scrapbooks

Names:

Chaloner, John Armstrong  
Dows, Olin, 1904-1981  
French, S. LeRoy  
Lewis, George F.  
Parker, Lawton, 1868-1954  
Platt, Charles A. (Charles Adams), 1861-1933  
Platt, William, 1897-1984  
Rand, Robert  
Rand, William

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Secretaries' Files, 1916-1974

*(Box 1-2; 1.6 linear feet)*

**Scope and Contents:** Files of George F. Lewis, includes correspondence with John Chaloner regarding a variety of issues concerning his personal history, legal battles, jurying, applicants, award amounts and duration of grants; with trustees, informing them of business transactions, legal matters, and awardee activities, with awardess; and with Guillaume Lerolle, artists' representative in Rome, as well as preparatory promotional materials. S. Leroy French's files consist of general correspondence, correspondence with Lord, Day and Lord, 1973; requests of information and applications; and correspondence with awardees. Also found in the Secretaries files are background papers and photographs of John Chaloner's home in Cobham, Virginia.

Box 1, Folder 1	Background Papers, 1916-1956, undated
Box 1, Folder 2	Photographs of John Chaloner's Home in Virginia, 1926-1929
Box 1, Folder	Records of George F. Lewis
Box 1, Folder 3-8	General Correspondence, 1917-1937 (6 folders)
Box 1, Folder 9	Examples of Competition Circulars and Drafts for Announcement of Paris Prize, 1918-1934
Box 1, Folder 10	Distributions List, Undated, 1926-1934
Box 1, Folder	Records of S. LeRoy French
Box 1, Folder 11-24	General Correspondence, 1946-1973 (14 folders)
Box 1, Folder 25	Correspondence, Lord, Day & Lord (lawfirm), 1974
Box 1, Folder 26-27	Correspondence regarding Merger with American Academy in Rome, 1970-1974 (2 folders)
Box 1, Folder 28	Correspondence regarding Grant Award Publications, 1968-1971
Box 1, Folder 29-32	Correspondence, Requests for Applications, 1941-1953 (4 folders)
Box 2, Folder 1-8	Correspondence, Requests for Applications, 1954-1970

(8 folders)

Box 2, Folder 9	Paris Prize Awardee, Judith A. Allen Efstathion, 1971-1972
Box 2, Folder 10	Paris Prize Awardee, Prisilla Bowden, 1970-1973
Box 2, Folder 11	Paris Prize Awardee, Nancy Lee Forte, 1966-1968
Box 2, Folder 12	Paris Prize Awardee, Paul Giovanopalos, 1964-1966
Box 2, Folder 13	Paris Prize Awardee, Robert Irwin, 1956-1957
Box 2, Folder 14	Paris Prize Awardee, Erle L. Johnson, 1964
Box 2, Folder 15	Paris Prize Awardee, Anne Martin, 1954-1956
Box 2, Folder 16	Paris Prize Awardee, John A. Matt, 1962-1965
Box 2, Folder 17	Paris Prize Awardee, Barbara Nordberg, 1956-1958
Box 2, Folder 18	Paris Prize Awardee, Richard H. Rappaport, 1968-1970
Box 2, Folder 19	Paris Prize Awardee, Frank George Roth, 1960-1962
Box 2, Folder 20	Paris Prize Awardee, Claudia Lorraine Widdiss, 1969-1971
Box 2, Folder 21	Paris Prize Awardee, Wayne Francis Williams, 1958-1961
Box 2, Folder 22	Paris Prize Awardee, Kenneth R. Worley, 1965-1967
Box 2, Folder 23	Preliminary Promotional Materials, 12th Competition, 1940, undated
Box 2, Folder 24	Lists of Trustees, circa 1957
Box 2, Folder 25	Form Letters, 1958-1970
Box 2, Folder 26	Files in Storage, 1960s

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## Series 2: Trustees' Files, 1915-1974

(Box 2-4; 1.6)

Scope and Contents: Trustees' files contain by-laws and minutes; correspondence of Charles Platt, William Rand, Olin Dows, William Platt, and Robert Rand; and files on applicants awarded, considered, and withdrawn. The Olin Dows files also contain three scrapbooks which he compiled in the 1950s on the history of the Chaloner Prize Foundation, and some financial records, notes, correspondence, and printed material. Applications Awarded files may overlap with files maintained by the Secretaries in Series 1.

Box 2, Folder 27	Bylaws, 1917
Box 2, Folder 28-31	Minutes, 1917-1970 (4 folders)
Box 2, Folder 32	Minutes, 1923-1969
Box 2, Folder 33	Minutes, undated
Box 3, Folder 1	Charles Platt, Correspondence, 1915-1922
Box 3, Folder 2	William Rand, Correspondence, 1917-1928
Box 3, Folder 3	Robert Rand, Correspondence, 1934-1937
Box 3, Folder	Records of Olin Dows
Box 3, Folder 4	Correspondence, 1968-1970
Box 3, Folder 5	"Data Collected for Olin Dows," Financial Records and Histories, 1956- 1958
Box 3, Folder 6	"Data Collected for Olin Dows," Foundation Letters and Printed Matter, 1919-1935, 1960
Box 3, Folder 7	"Data Collected for Olin Dows," Notes, Correspondence, and Summaries, 1957-1958, undated
Box 3, Folder 8	Scrapbook Vol. 1, 1917-1922
Box 3, Folder 9	Scrapbook Vol. 2, 1933-1956
Box 3, Folder 10	Scrapbook Vol. 3, 1956-1962
Box 3, Folder	Records of William Platt
Box 3, Folder 11-12	Correspondence, General, 1935-1959, undated

(2 folders)

Box 3, Folder 13-14	Correspondence, General, 1965-1974, undated (2 folders)
Box 3, Folder 15	Correspondence, Lewis Iselin, Jr., 1969-1970
Box 3, Folder 16-17	Correspondence, Lord, Day, & Lord, 1970-1974 (2 folders)
Box 3, Folder 18	Paris Prize, Awardee Lists, 1957, undated
Box 3, Folder 19	Paris Prize, Applications Withdrawn, 1923-1924
Box 3, Folder 20	Paris Prize Awardee, Judith Allen (Efstathiou), 1971-1972
Box 3, Folder 21	Paris Prize Awardee, Priscilla Bowden, 1970-1972
Box 3, Folder 22	Paris Prize Awardee, Henri Brenner, 1932
Box 3, Folder 23	Paris Prize Awardee, John Ferris Connah, 1921
Box 3, Folder 24	Paris Prize Awardee, Philip Clarkson Elliot, 1928-1930
Box 3, Folder 25	Paris Prize Awardee, Herbert Fink, 1953
Box 3, Folder 26	Paris Prize Awardee, Nancy Lee Fort, 1965-1968
Box 3, Folder 27	Paris Prize Awardee, Paul Giovanopoulos, 1964-1965
Box 3, Folder 28	Paris Prize Awardee, Robert Irwin, 1957
Box 3, Folder 29	Paris Prize Awardee, Erle Loran Johnson, 1926
Box 4, Folder 1	Paris Prize Awardee, Michael Lenson, 1928
Box 4, Folder 2	Paris Prize Awardee, Anne Martin, 1953-1955
Box 4, Folder 3	Paris Prize Awardee, John A. Matt, 1962, 1964
Box 4, Folder 4	Paris Prize Awardee, Barbara Nordberg, 1957
Box 4, Folder 5	Paris Prize Awardee, Eleanor Platt, 1964
Box 4, Folder 6	Paris Prize Awardee, Richard H. Rappaport, 1967-1970
Box 4, Folder 7	Paris Prize Awardee, Frank Roth, 1959-1960

Box 4, Folder 8	Paris Prize Awardee, Daniel Snyder, 1973
Box 4, Folder 9	Paris Prize Awardee, Martina Steere (Hoffman), 1924-1934
Box 4, Folder 10	Paris Prize Awardee, Frede Vidar, 1935-1937
Box 4, Folder 11	Paris Prize Awardee, Claudia Widdiss, 1969-1972
Box 4, Folder 12	Paris Prize Awardee, Wayne Williams, 1960
Box 4, Folder 13	Paris Prize Awardee, Kenneth Worley, 1965-1966
Box 4, Folder 14	Paris Prize, Applications Considered, 1967-1968
Box 4, Folder 15	Paris Prize, Application Considered, Samuel Brecher, 1924
Box 4, Folder 16	Paris Prize, Application Considered, Arnold T. Grindon (de Grendon), 1931-1932
Box 4, Folder 17	Paris Prize, Application Considered, Osvaldo Louis Gugliemi, 1926
Box 4, Folder 18	Paris Prize, Application Considered, Nathan Hoffman, 1924
Box 4, Folder 19	Paris Prize, Application Considered, Paul Raphael Meltsner, 1926
Box 4, Folder 20	Paris Prize, Application Considered, Anatde Shulkin, 1923
Box 4, Folder 21	Paris Prize, Application Considered, Maxwell B. Starr, 1924
Box 4, Folder 22	Paris Prize, Application Considered, Alfred J. Wands, 1926
Box 4, Folder 23	Paris Prize, Application Considered, Robert E. Weaver, 1937

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## Series 3: Legal Records, 1917-1974

*(Box 4; 0.3 linear feet)*

Scope and Contents: Legal files primarily document the U.S. Supreme Court Judgement, 1917, and the transfer of the Foundation's assets to the American Academy in Rome.

Box 4, Folder 24	U.S. Supreme Court Decision, 1917
Box 4, Folder 25-26	New York Supreme Court Decision, 1917 (2 folders)
Box 4, Folder 27-29	Bonds, Accounts, and Appointments, 1923-1959 (3 folders)
Box 4, Folder 30	Tax Exemptions, 1937
Box 4, Folder 31	Complaint Regarding Grantee Travel and Investments, 1940-1941
Box 4, Folder 32	New York Supreme Court Settlement, Trustee Accounts, 1973
Box 4, Folder 33	New York Supreme Court Settlement, Petition, 1973
Box 4, Folder 34	New York Supreme Court Settlement, Receipts, Release and Supplemental Accounts, 1974
Box 4, Folder 35	New York Supreme Court Settlement, 2nd Supplemental Account, 1974
Box 4, Folder 36	New York Supreme Court Settlement, Trustee Accounts, 1974

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## Series 4: Printed Material, 1919-1971

*(Box 4; 8 folders)*

Scope and Contents: Printed material includes a comprehensive selection of items published by the Chaloner Prize Foundation in the early 1920s, a few foundation materials up to 1971 and miscellaneous booklets published by other organizations.

Box 4, Folder 37-38	Applications, Notices, Regulations, and Conditions for Prizes, 1921-1971 (2 folders)
Box 4, Folder 39	Announcement Poster, 1924
Box 4, Folder 40	Booklets Reporting the Prize Winners, 1919-1923
Box 4, Folder 41	Proof and Draft for Booklet, 1923-1924
Box 4, Folder 42	Press Clippings, 1927-1970
Box 4, Folder 43	Publications from other Artist Organizations, 1919-1920, 1926-1927
Box 4, Folder 44	Report on American Foundations and their Fields, 1934

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## Series 5: Financial Records, 1917-1967

*(Box 4; 0.3 linear feet)*

Scope and Contents: This series includes journal and ledger postings of early income and expenses, some detailed information regarding transmittals of stipends to artists, and some financial holdings statements. Additional holdings statements are found in the correspondence of the Secretary and the Trustees.

Box 4, Folder 45	Journal (Posting of Expenses), 1917-1938
Box 4, Folder 46	Ledger (Posting of Income), 1917-1937
Box 4, Folder	Receipts and Transmittals
Box 4, Folder 47	Correspondence and Lists, 1917-1937
Box 4, Folder 48	American Express Co., 1927-1929
Box 4, Folder 49	Chase National Bank, 1930-1937
Box 4, Folder 50	Equitable Trust of NY, 1922-1930
Box 4, Folder 51	John Munroe & Co., 1924-1927
Box 4, Folder 52	Miscellaneous, 1928-1937
Box 4, Folder 53	National Academy of Design, 1920-1924
Box 4, Folder 54	Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, 1920-1937
Box 4, Folder 55	Pennsylvania Railroad Co., 1940
Box 4, Folder 56	Societe du Gazde Paris, 1935-1936
Box 4, Folder 57	United States Fidelity and Guaranty Co., 1917-1937
Box 4, Folder 58-59	Financial Holding Statements, 1954-1967 (2 folders)

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