



# Smithsonian

## *Archives of American Art*

### A Finding Aid to the Alfred Vance Churchill Papers Regarding Lyonel Feininger, 1888-1944, in the Archives of American Art

Erin Corley

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

December 04, 2006

Archives of American Art  
750 9th Street, NW  
Victor Building, Suite 2200  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>  
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/>

## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	1
Administrative Information .....	1
Biographical Note.....	2
Scope and Content Note.....	3
Arrangement.....	3
Names and Subjects .....	3
Container Listing .....	4
Series 1: Letters to Alfred Churchill, 1890-1920.....	4
Series 2: Printed Material, 1895-1898, 1917-1944.....	5
Series 3: Scrapbook of Artwork, 1888-1913.....	6
Series 4: Photographs, circa 1890, 1911, 1926.....	7

---

## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Alfred Vance Churchill papers regarding Lyonel Feininger
<b>Date:</b>	1888-1944
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.churalfr
<b>Creator:</b>	Churchill, Alfred Vance, 1864-1949
<b>Extent:</b>	0.9 Linear feet
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	This small collection of Alfred Vance Churchill papers regarding Lyonel Feininger measures 0.9 linear feet and dates from 1888 to 1944. Found here are 36 letters from Feininger, a painter and illustrator, to his friend Churchill and a scrapbook compiled by Churchill containing 117 sketches by Feininger, a photograph of Feininger, clippings, and 47 sketches and reproductions by Churchill. There are also additional loose clippings, an exhibition catalog, and three photographs of Feininger.

---

## Administrative Information

### Provenance

The collection was donated in 1956 by Mrs. Alfred (Marie) Churchill.

### Separated Material

The Alfred Vance Churchill papers regarding Lyonel Feininger included approximately 23 photographs of works of art by Feininger. These items were removed from the collection upon receipt and added to Photographs of Works of Art, Collection One, and microfilmed on reel 468.

### Related Material

The Archives of American Art also has several collections related to Lyonel Feininger, including Letters to Beatrice Lippincott (Garvan) from Lyonel and Julia Feininger available on microfilm reel 4909, and a 1939 letter from Feininger to Alfred Neumeyer, available on reel 2804. The archives also has additional collections of loaned papers available only on microfilm: Lyonel Feininger papers loaned for microfilming by Feininger's friend, H. Francis Korthauer and available on reel D5 and D29, and Sketches by Feininger loaned for microfilming by Fred Werner and available on reel D5.

The most complete Lyonel Feininger Archive, donated by the Feininger family, is located at Harvard University. The Alfred Vance Churchill papers, 1828-1948, are located at Smith College Archives.

### Alternative Forms Available

The papers of **Alfred Churchill** regarding Lyonel Feininger in the Archives of American Art were digitized in 2007, and total 394 images.

## Processing Information

The Alfred Vance Churchill papers regarding Lyonel Feininger received a preliminary level of processing at some point after donation. Material was microfilmed in the order that it was donated on reels D5 and 468. The collection was fully processed by Erin Corley in 2006 and digitized in 2007 with funding provided by the Terra Foundation for American Art.

## Preferred Citation

Alfred Vance Churchill papers regarding Lyonel Feininger, 1888-1944. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

## Restrictions on Access

The collection has been digitized and is available online via AAA's website.

## Terms of Use

The Archives of American Art makes its archival collections available for non-commercial, educational and personal use unless restricted by copyright and/or donor restrictions, including but not limited to access and publication restrictions. AAA makes no representations concerning such rights and restrictions and it is the user's responsibility to determine whether rights or restrictions exist and to obtain any necessary permission to access, use, reproduce and publish the collections. Please refer to the [Smithsonian's Terms of Use](#) for additional information.

---

## Biographical Note

Lyonel Feininger (1871-1956), also known as Léonell Feininger, was born in New York City in 1871 to German violinist Karl Feininger and American singer Elizabeth Feininger. He spent his childhood in New York City and became interested in art at a young age. Although born in New York, Lyonel Feininger lived and worked mostly in Germany.

In 1887 Feininger's parents took him to Germany to study violin, but he began taking drawing classes at the Hamburg Kunstgewerbeschule (College of Arts and Crafts) and subsequently moved to Berlin to study art at the Königliche Akademie under Ernst Hancke. During this time he met and befriended a fellow art student, Alfred Vance Churchill, who later became an art historian and curator. They would exchange letters and artwork for many years. For a brief time Feininger studied at the Collège St. Servais in Liège and with Filippo Colarossi in Paris, but returned to Berlin to study at the Akademie der Künste with Karl Schlabitz.

Feininger's career as cartoonist started in 1894. He was working for several German, French and American magazines and illustrated two comic strips "The Kin-der-Kids" and "Wee Willie Winkie's World" for the *Chicago Tribune*. During this period he married Clara Fürst and they had two daughters, Lore and Marianne. He also exhibited drawings at the annual Berlin Secession and the Great Berlin Art Exhibition.

Feininger separated from his wife after starting an affair with Julia Borg. He and Julia traveled to Paris where he became greatly influenced by the French avant-garde. When they returned to Berlin in 1908, he gave up illustration in favor of painting. He and Julia were then married and they had three sons, Andreas, Laurence, and Theodore Lux.

Feininger became a member of the Berlin Secession and exhibited his paintings, primarily landscapes inspired by French cubism. Around 1912, Feininger became affiliated with the German expressionist groups Die Brücke and Der Blaue Reiter, and the Novembergruppe in 1918, where he met Walter Gropius. When Gropius established the Bauhaus in Weimar, Germany in 1919, Feininger became the master artist in charge of the printmaking workshop. He taught there and continued to develop his painting, and in 1925 he formed the Blue Four with Alexei Jawlensky, Paul Klee, and Vasily Kandinsky. When the Bauhaus moved to Dessau in 1926 he became an artist-in-residence and stayed there until it closed in 1933.

After the Nazi's declared Feininger's work "degenerate" in 1937, he moved to California where he taught at Mills College. He settled permanently in New York and had great success exhibiting his work in the United

States, which culminated in a joint retrospective in 1944 with Marsden Hartley. Lyonel Feininger died in 1956 at the age of 84.

---

## Scope and Content Note

This small collection of Alfred Vance Churchill papers regarding Lyonel Feininger measures 0.9 linear feet and dates from 1888 to 1944. Found here are 36 long and detailed letters from Feininger, a painter and illustrator, to his friend Alfred Churchill (many letters from 1890 are illustrated), and a scrapbook compiled by Churchill containing 117 sketches by Feininger, a photograph of Feininger, clippings, and 47 sketches and reproductions by Churchill. There are also additional loose clippings and magazines, an exhibition catalog, three photographs of Feininger and one of his children.

---

## Arrangement

The collection is arranged into 4 series:

Missing Title:

- Series 1: Letters to Alfred Churchill, 1890-1920 (Box 1; 5 folders)
- Series 2: Printed Material, 1895-1898, 1917-1944 (Box 1; 6 folders)
- Series 3: Scrapbook of Artwork, 1888-1913 (Box 1-3; 0.5 linear feet)
- Series 4: Photographs, circa 1890, 1911, 1926 (Box 1; 2 folders)

---

## Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Caricatures and cartoons  
Expressionism (Art)  
Graphic arts -- Germany  
Graphic arts -- United States  
Painting, Modern -- 20th century -- Germany  
Painting, Modern -- 20th century -- United States  
Printmakers -- Germany

Types of Materials:

Scrapbooks  
Sketches

Names:

Feininger, Lyonel, 1871-1956

Occupations:

Cartoonists -- Germany  
Painters -- Germany

---

## Container Listing

### Series 1: Letters to Alfred Churchill, 1890-1920

*(Box 1; 5 folders)*

Scope and Contents: This series contains letters written by Feininger to his friend and fellow artist, Alfred Churchill. These long, detailed letters discuss his time as a student in Berlin, Paris, and Liège, current projects, thoughts on art and the development of his work, the difficulties of being an artist, selling his artwork to magazines, family news, and other general news. Many letters from 1890 are illustrated. Letters are arranged chronologically.

Box 1, Folder 1      [Letters, 1890](#)

Box 1, Folder 2      [Letters, 1891](#)

Box 1, Folder 3      [Letters, 1892-1894](#)

Box 1, Folder 4      [Letters, 1896-1901](#)

Box 1, Folder 5      [Letters, 1904, 1913, 1920](#)

*[Return to Table of Contents](#)*

## Series 2: Printed Material, 1895-1898, 1917-1944

(Box 1; 6 folders)

Scope and Contents: Printed material depicts Feininger's illustration work and one exhibition. Also found are a few news clippings about Feininger and newspaper cartoons he contributed to the German satirical magazine, *Ulk*. Some of the material is in German.

Box 1, Folder 6      [Exhibition Catalog, 1931](#)

Box 1, Folder 7      [Magazine, Das junge Deutschland, 1919](#)

Box 1, Folder 8      [Magazine, Das Kunstblatt, 1922, 1924](#)

Box 1, Folder 9      [Magazine, The International Studio, 1917](#)

Box 1, Folder 10      [News Clippings, 1890, circa 1915, 1944](#)

Box 1, Folder 11      [Newspaper Cartoons, 1895-1898](#)

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Series 3: Scrapbook of Artwork, 1888-1913

(Box 1-3; 0.5 linear feet)

**Scope and Contents:** This scrapbook was created by Alfred Churchill and was begun during the period that he and Feininger became friends in Berlin. Included are 117 sketches by Feininger, several reproductions of his work, one photograph of Feininger and one photograph of his children, a few newsclippings, and 47 sketches and reproductions by Churchill. Several of the sketches by Feininger include a note or letter to Churchill on the back. For more secure preservation housing, the scrapbook was dismantled and items were removed from the scrapbook pages and arranged in their original order within folders.

Box 1, Folder 12	<a href="#">Scrapbook of Artwork (dismantled), 1888-1913</a> Conserved items housed in box 3
Box 1, Folder 13	<a href="#">Scrapbook of Artwork (dismantled), 1888-1913</a>
Box 1, Folder 14	<a href="#">Scrapbook of Artwork (dismantled), 1888-1913</a>
Box 1, Folder 15	<a href="#">Scrapbook of Artwork (dismantled), 1888-1913</a>
Box 1, Folder 16	<a href="#">Scrapbook of Artwork (dismantled), 1888-1913</a>
Box 1, Folder 17	<a href="#">Scrapbook of Artwork (dismantled), 1888-1913</a>
Box 1, Folder 18	<a href="#">Scrapbook of Artwork (dismantled), 1888-1913</a>
Box 1, Folder 19	<a href="#">Scrapbook of Artwork (dismantled), 1888-1913</a>
Box 1, Folder 20	<a href="#">Scrapbook of Artwork (dismantled), 1888-1913</a>
Box 1, Folder 21	<a href="#">Scrapbook of Artwork (dismantled), 1888-1913</a>
Box 1, Folder 22	Copy print negatives of scrapbook pages, 1888-1913
Box 2, Folder 1	Scrapbook cover, 1888-1913
Box 3	Conserved Sketches from Scrapbook, 1888-1913 Items scanned with box 1, folders 12-21

[Return to Table of Contents](#)



## Series 4: Photographs, circa 1890, 1911, 1926

(Box 1; 2 folders)

Scope and Contents: Found here are two photographs of Lyonel Feininger on a bicycle, and one photograph of him on a postcard sent to his friend Alfred Churchill. Also found is a photograph of Feininger's three sons, Theodore, Laurence, and Andreas. Two photographs are also found in the scrapbook of artwork in Series 3.

Box 1, Folder 23	<a href="#">Photographs of Lyonel Feininger, circa 1890, 1926</a>
------------------	---

Box 1, Folder 24	<a href="#">Photograph of Theodore Lux, Laurence, and Andreas Feininger, circa 1911</a>
------------------	---

[Return to Table of Contents](#)