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Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Carlo Ciampaglia Papers, 1909-1978, in the Archives of American Art

Jean Fitzgerald

Glass plate negatives in this collection were digitized in 2019
with funding provided by the Smithsonian Women's Committee.

2006

Archives of American Art
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Carlo Ciampaglia papers
Identifier:	AAA.ciamcarl
Date:	1909-1978
Creator:	Ciampaglia, Carlo Alberto, 1891-1975
Extent:	5.6 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The collection measures 5.6 linear feet, dates from 1909-1978, and documents the career of mural painter and interior designer Carlo Ciampaglia. Found within the papers are biographical material, correspondence, business records, notes and writings, art work, interior decorating and mural project files, printed material, and photographs.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The Carlo Ciampaglia papers were donated in 1978 by Rosalie Ciampaglia, the artist's widow.

Processing Information

The papers were processed in 2006 by Jean Fitzgerald. Glass plate negatives were re-housed in 2014 with funding provided by the Smithsonian Collections Care and Preservation Fund.

Preferred Citation

Carlo Ciampaglia papers, 1909-1978. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions on Access

The collection is open for research. Use requires an appointment. Glass plate negatives are housed separately and closed to researchers.

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Biographical Note

Carlo Ciampaglia was born March 8, 1891 in Roccaraso, Italy, the son of Natale and Benelde Delmonico Ciampaglia. He came to the United States with his family before his first birthday and became a naturalized

citizen in 1919. After attending public schools in Hoboken, New Jersey, Ciampaglia began studying drawing at Cooper Union in 1909, and painting at the National Academy of Design, receiving his diploma in 1917.

In 1920, Ciampaglia married Annette Paltrinieri, and in the same year, he was awarded the Prix de Rome. This prize entitled him to study at the American Academy in Rome, Italy, for the next three years. During this time, he also traveled to other European countries.

Shortly after returning to New York in 1923, Ciampaglia executed a commission for Philadelphia architect Harry Sternfeld to decorate the house of Mr. Frank Potter of Rome, New York. Other commissions included designs for the ceilings of the Chicago Tribune Building, decorations in the chapel of the Fairmount Mausoleum, Newark, and decoration for the niches and ceilings at the First Slovak Girls' Academy, Danville, Pennsylvania.

In 1936, Ciampaglia was commissioned to undertake a major mural project for the Texas Centennial Exposition, for which he completed murals for the transportation, foods, agriculture, and livestock buildings. Three years later, he completed murals for the foods building at the 1939 New York World's Fair.

Ciampaglia lived on his estate, "Woodpeckers' Point," in Middle Valley, New Jersey and maintained a studio on Broadway in New York City. He was also an instructor at Cooper Union and at the Traphagen School of Fashion in New York. He was a member of the Mural Painters Society of America, the Architectural League, and the Allied Artists of America, and was elected an Associate Member of the National Academy of Design.

Carlo Alberto Ciampaglia died in 1975.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of mural painter and interior designer Carlo Ciampaglia measure 5.6 linear feet and date from 1909 to 1978. Found within the papers are biographical material; correspondence primarily with colleagues discussing projects and the American Academy in Rome Alumni Association's George Washington Bicentennial Exhibition in Washington, D.C.; scattered personal business records including estate documents for various family members and financial material; notes and writings concerning a variety of topics including the Stations of the Cross, decorative encaustic painting, and a typescript about James Whistler; art work including sketchbooks and sketches; printed material including clippings and exhibition catalogs; and photographs of Ciampaglia, family members, and miscellaneous art work. Also found are project files containing correspondence, contracts, financial records, art work, printed material and photographs for fifteen of Ciampaglia's most important commissions.

Arrangement

All series are arranged chronologically. Glass plate negatives have been housed separately in Boxes 6 and 7, and are closed to researchers. Oversized material from various series has been housed in Boxes 8, 9, 10, and OV 11, and is noted in the Series Descriptions/Container Listing section at the appropriate folder title with see also/see references. The collection is arranged as 8 series:

Missing Title:

- Series 1: Biographical Material, 1912-1969, undated (Box 1; 8 folders)
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1912-1978, undated (Box 1; 45 folders)
- Series 3: Business Records, 1923-1961, undated (Box 1; 11 folders)
- Series 4: Notes and Writings, 1927, undated (Box 1; 2 folders)
- Series 5: Art Work, 1920, undated (Boxes 1, 8; 6 folders)
- Series 6: Project Files, 1924-1961, undated (Boxes 1-2, 6-8, OV 11; 2.5 linear feet)
- Series 7: Printed Material, 1913-1975, undated (Boxes 3, 8; 32 folders)
- Series 8: Photographs, 1909-1960, undated (Boxes 3-5, 7, 9-10; 1.4 linear feet)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Interior decorators -- New York (State) -- New York
Muralists -- New York (State) -- New York

Types of Materials:

Business records
Photographs
Sketchbooks
Sketches

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Material, 1912-1969, undated

(Box 1; 8 folders)

Scope and Contents: This series includes biographical accounts, school certificates, identity cards, passports, membership certificates and award certificates.

Box 1, Folder 1-2	Biographical Accounts, 1939-1969, undated
Box 1, Folder 3	School Certificates, 1912-1956
Box 1, Folder 4	Identity Cards and Driver's Licenses, 1917-1940
Box 1, Folder 5	Passports, 1920-1966
Box 1, Folder 6	Visas for Travel to Italy, Mexico, and Nicaragua, 1920-1959
Box 1, Folder 7	Membership Certificates, 1929, undated
Box 1, Folder 8	Award Certificate, 1951

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Series 2: Correspondence, 1912-1978, undated

(Box 1; 45 folders)

Scope and Contents: Correspondence consists of letters exchanged with family and colleagues, primarily with Harry Sternfeld referring to various projects, including a report and 13 photographs, of the deteriorating cyclorama mural at Gettysburg. The photographs were sent in July-August 1947; see Correspondence, 1943-1947. Additional project files are found in Series 6. There are approximately a dozen letters from sculptor Alvin Meyer, and scattered letters from Edward Amateis, Gaetano Cecere, Dean Cornwell, Paul Cret, George Davidson, Barry Faulkner, Eric Gugler, Eugene Savage, and Ezra Winter. Correspondence concerning the George Washington Bicentennial Exhibition consists primarily of letters and scattered notes documenting Ciampaglia's role as Acting Chairman during the planning of this exhibition. Participants were members of the American Academy in Rome Alumni Association and included architects Roderic Barbour Barnes, Cameron Clark, Thomas Harlan Ellett, Moise Goldstein, Douglas Orr, Harry E. Warren, Morris H. Whitehouse, and Edgar I. Williams, landscape architect Edward Lawson, mural painters Allyn Cox, Barry Faulkner, and Eugene Savage, and sculptors John Gregory, C. Paul Jennewein, Alvin Meyer, and Lawrence Tenney Stevens.

Box 1, Folder 9	Letters from Writers with Unknown Surnames, undated
Box 1, Folder 10	Letters from Writers with Surnames "A-C," undated
Box 1, Folder 11	Letters from Writers with Surnames "D-L," undated
Box 1, Folder 12	Letters from Writers with Surnames "M-Z," undated
Box 1, Folder 13	Correspondence, 1912-1920
Box 1, Folder 14-22	Correspondence, 1921-1929
Box 1, Folder 23-36	Correspondence, 1930-1937
Box 1, Folder 37	Correspondence, 1939-1942
Box 1, Folder 38-40	Correspondence, 1943-1947
Box 1, Folder 41	Correspondence, 1948-1954
Box 1, Folder 42-44	Correspondence, 1955-1959
Box 1, Folder 45-48	Correspondence, 1960-1964
Box 1, Folder 49	Correspondence, 1965-1978
Box 1, Folder 50-53	Correspondence Concerning the George Washington Bicentennial Exhibition, 1928-1932, undated

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Series 3: Business Records, 1923-1961, undated

(Box 1; 11 folders)

Scope and Contents: Business Records includes estate documents for various Ciampaglia family members, and miscellaneous financial records including receipts from financial transactions with E. Richard Panzironi.

Box 1, Folder 54	Miscellaneous Estate Documents, 1933-1954
Box 1, Folder 55	Notebook of Expenses, 1924-1932
Box 1, Folder 56	Ledger Book of Expenses, 1930-1938
Box 1, Folder 57-62	Receipts from Financial Transactions with E. Richard Panzironi, 1930-1959
Box 1, Folder 63	Miscellaneous Receipts, 1923-1961, undated
Box 1, Folder 64	Miscellaneous Business Records, 1932-1960, undated

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Series 4: Notes and Writings, 1927, undated

(Box 1; 2 folders)

Scope and Contents: Miscellaneous notes concern a variety of topics including the Stations of the Cross, decorative encaustic painting, and an illustrated recipe for wine. Writings include a typescript about James Whistler, descriptions of decorations on screens, and a typescript "A Lesson in Socialism" by Thomas J. Shelly.

Box 1, Folder 65 Miscellaneous Notes, 1927, undated

Box 1, Folder 66 Miscellaneous Typescripts, undated

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Series 5: Art Work, 1920, undated

(Box 1, 8; 6 folders)

Scope and Contents: Art work consists of sketchbooks and loose sketches unconnected with specific mural or interior decoration projects.

Box 1, Folder 67	Sketchbook 1, undated
Box 1, Folder 68	Sketchbook 2, undated
Box 1, Folder 69	Rome Sketchbook, 1920
Box 1, Folder 70-72	Sketches, undated (see also Box 8)
Box 8, Folder 10	Oversize Sketches, undated

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Series 6: Project Files, 1924-1961, undated

(Box 1-2, 6-8, OV 10; 2.5 linear feet)

Scope and Contents: Project files contain correspondence primarily with architects, contracts, invoices, receipts, art work, printed material, and photographs concerning Ciampaglia's most important mural and interior decoration commissions. There are glass plate slides of Ciampaglia's work for the Texas Centennial Exposition, New York World's Fair, Isaly Dairy, and the U.S. Military Cemetery at Nettuno, Italy. Sketches for the U.S. Military Cemetery at Nettuno include two paintings on board and cartoons pierced with pin holes for transfer of the various images onto the mural. Glass plate negatives are housed separately and closed to researchers.

Box 1, Folder 73-74	Lobby Ceiling, Tribune Tower, Chicago, Illinois, Correspondence, 1924-1925
Box 1, Folder 75-77	Ceiling Decorations, F. M. Potter Residence, Rome, New York, Correspondence, 1924-1925
Box 1	Pool Decoration, Green Hill Farms Hotel, Overbrook, Pennsylvania
Box 1, Folder 78	Correspondence, 1926-1927
Box 1, Folder 79-80	Photographs, 1926-1927
Box 1, Folder 81	Mosaic Mural, Fairmount Memorial, Newark, New Jersey, Letter and Photographs, 1928
Box 2	Mural, Post Office, Cuthbert, Georgia
Box 2, Folder 1-3	Correspondence, 1937-1938
Box 2, Folder 4	Correspondence and Centennial Program, 1928-1939
Box 2, Folder 5	Photographs, 1937-1938
Box 2	Mural, Bushnell Memorial Hall, Hartford, Connecticut
Box 2, Folder 6-8	Correspondence, July 1929-January 1930
Box 2, Folder 9-11	Photographs, 1929-1930
Box 2, Folder 12-13	Ceiling Mural, Celeste H. Troth Residence, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Correspondence, 1929-1930
Box 2	Mural, First Slovak Girl's Academy, Danville, Pennsylvania
Box 2, Folder 14-17	Correspondence, 1929-1931
Box 2, Folder 18-19	Photographs, 1929-1931

(see also Box 8)	
Box 2, Folder 20	Ceiling Decoration, National Mortgage and Investment Corporation, Colonial Trust Building, Wilmington, Delaware, Correspondence, 1930
Box 2, Folder 21	Ceiling Mural, Forum Building Auditorium, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Photographs (including Eric Gugler), 1931
Box 2, Folder 22	Vestibule Mural, David Milton Residence, New York, New York, Photographs, 1931
Box 2	Murals, Texas Centennial Exposition, Dallas, Texas
Box 2, Folder 23	Correspondence, 1935-1937
Box 2, Folder 24	Financial Records, 1935-1937
Box 2, Folder 25	Typescripts, undated
Box 2, Folder 26	Sketches, undated (see also Box 8)
Box 2, Folder 27	Clippings and Printed Material, 1936 (see also OV 11)
Box 2, Folder 28-38	Photographs, undated Notes: 70 glass plate negatives; Housed in box 6
Box 2, Folder 39	Negatives, undated
Box 2, Folder 40-48	Glass Plate Negative Envelopes, 1935-1937
Box 2	Murals, New York World's Fair, Flushing Meadows, New York
Box 2, Folder 49	Correspondence, May-Oct 1937
Box 2, Folder 50	Correspondence, Nov-Dec 1937 (see also Box 8)
Box 2, Folder 51	Correspondence, March 1938
Box 2, Folder 52	Correspondence, April-May 1938
Box 2, Folder 53-55	Correspondence, June 1938
Box 2, Folder 56	Correspondence, Jul-Dec 1938
Box 2, Folder 57	Correspondence, 1939-1940

Box 2, Folder 58-60	Clippings, 1938-1939
Box 2, Folder 61	Press Release, 1938
Box 2, Folder 62	Booklets, 1939 (see also Box 8)
Box 2, Folder 63	Picture Postcards, 1940
Box 2, Folder 64-66	Photographs, 1937-1940 Notes: 58 glass plate negatives; Housed in boxes 6 and 7
Box 2	Murals, Isaly Dairy, Youngstown, Ohio
Box 2, Folder 67	Correspondence, 1939 June
Box 2, Folder 68	Correspondence, 1939 July-September
Box 2, Folder 69	Correspondence, 1939 October-December
Box 2, Folder 70	Correspondence, 1940-1941
Box 2, Folder 71	Brochures, undated
Box 2, Folder 72	Photographs, 1939-1941 Notes: 7 glass plate negatives; Housed in box 7
Box 2	Murals, U. S. Military Cemetery, Nettuno, Italy
Box 2, Folder 73-81	Correspondence, 1951-1961, undated
Box 2, Folder 82-84	Sketches of Clouds and Airplanes, undated (see also Box 8)
Box 2, Folder 85-87	Sketches of Ships, undated (see also Box 8)
Box 2, Folder 88-90	Sketches of Buildings, undated
Box 2, Folder 91-95	Sketches of Lettering, undated (see also Box 8, OV 11)
Box 2, Folder 96	Printed Material, 1957
Box 2, Folder 97-98	Photographs, undated (see also Box 8) Notes: 43 glass plate negatives; Housed in box 7
Box 2, Folder 99	Color Transparencies, undated

Box 6	Glass Plate Negatives of Murals, undated 178 Glass negatives
Box 7	Glass Plate Negatives of Murals and Unidentified Projects, undated
Box 8, Folder 1	Oversize Photographs of the Mural, First Slovak Girl's Academy, Danville, Pennsylvania, undated
Box 8, Folder 2	Oversize Sketches of Mural, Texas Centennial Exposition, undated
Box 8, Folder 3	Oversize Blueprint for Murals, New York World's Fair, Flushing Meadows, New York, undated
Box 8, Folder 4	Oversize Booklets for New York World's Fair, Flushing Meadows, New York, 1939
Box 8, Folder 5	Oversize Sketches and Paintings on Board of Clouds and Airplanes for Mural, U.S. Military Cemetery, Nettuno, Italy, undated
Box 8, Folder 6	Oversize Sketches of Ships for Mural, U.S. Military Cemetery, Nettuno, Italy, undated
Box 8, Folder 7	Oversize Sketches of Lettering for Mural, U.S. Military Cemetery, Nettuno, Italy, undated
Box 8, Folder 8	Oversize Photographs of Mural, U.S. Military Cemetery, Nettuno, Italy, undated
Box OV 11	Oversize Reproductions of Murals, Texas Centennial Exposition, Dallas, Texas, undated
Box OV 11	Oversize Sketches of Lettering for Mural, U.S. Military Cemetery, Nettuno, Italy, undated

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Series 7: Printed Material, 1913-1975, undated*(Box 3, 8; 32 folders)*

Scope and Contents: Printed material includes clippings, a prospectus, exhibition announcements and catalogs, annual reports from the American Academy in Rome and the Architectural League of New York, reproductions of art work, and miscellaneous printed material concerning various topics including the Mural Painters, and the National Academy of Design.

Box 3, Folder 1-5	Clippings, 1919-1968, undated
Box 3, Folder 6	Prospectus, 1916
Box 3, Folder 7-21	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1913-1975
Box 3, Folder 22	American Academy in Rome Annual Report, 1923
Box 3, Folder 23-25	Architectural League of New York Annual Reports, 1926-1932
Box 3, Folder 26	The Mural Painters Constitution and By-Laws, 1930
Box 3, Folder 27	Program from the National Academy of Design, 1915
Box 3, Folder 28	Reproductions of Art Work by Ciampaglia, undated
Box 3, Folder 29	Reproductions of Art Work by Others, undated
Box 3, Folder 30	Passenger List for Ship President Garfield, 1923
Box 3, Folder 31	Miscellaneous Brochures, 1921-1926, undated
Box 8, Folder 9	Book, Italian Doorways, 1929

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Series 8: Photographs, 1909-1960, undated

(Box 3-5, 9-10; 1.4 linear feet)

Scope and Contents: Photographs are of Ciampaglia, family members, colleagues, his home and studio, travel scenes, and art work. Album 1 contains photographs of Ciampaglia with friends at Cooper Union, mural projects including the Potter Residence Ceiling Decorations, Green Hill Farms Hotel Pool Decoration, the Bushnell Memorial Hall Murals with Barry Faulkner, the First Slovak Girl's Academy Mural, and the Forum Building Auditorium Ceiling Mural with Eric Gugler, miscellaneous art work, and photographs of a trip to Mason Island, Connecticut. Album 2 contains photographs of trips to Italy, Tangiers, Brussels, Paris, and Canterbury. Album 3 contains photographs of family members and Ciampaglia's home at Woodpecker's Point, Middle Valley, New Jersey. Album 4 contains photographs of Ciampaglia's studio, miscellaneous art work, the U.S. Military Cemetery Murals in Nettuno, Italy, and photographs of trips to Italy, Mexico, Paris, Panama, and within the United States, including views of Niagara Falls, the Grand Canyon, and New Orleans.

Box 3, Folder 32-36	Photograph Album 4, 1939-1960
Box 3, Folder 37-40	Photographs of Carlo Ciampaglia, 1909-1922, undated (see also Box 10)
Box 3, Folder 41-43	Photographs of Ciampaglia with Friends, 1916-1955, undated
Box 4, Folder 1-7	Photographs of Ciampaglia with Friends, 1916-1955, undated (see also Box 10)
Box 4, Folder 8	Photographs of Models, undated
Box 4, Folder 9	Photographs of the Studio, undated
Box 4, Folder 10-15	Photographs of Italy, 1920-1921, undated
Box 4, Folder 16-17	Miscellaneous Travel Photographs, undated
Box 4, Folder 18-19	Photographs of Unidentified Projects, undated Notes: 33 glass plate negatives; Housed in box 7
Box 4, Folder 20	Photographs of Designs for Ceilings, undated
Box 4, Folder 21-23	Photographs of Designs for Over-Mantels, undated
Box 4, Folder 24	Photographs of Miscellaneous Designs, undated
Box 4, Folder 25-28	Photographs of Portraits of Women, undated
Box 5, Folder 1-3	Photographs of Portraits of Men, undated
Box 5, Folder 4-6	Photographs of Landscapes, undated

Box 5, Folder 7-10	Photographs of Miscellaneous Paintings, undated
Box 5, Folder 11	Photographs of Art Work by Others, undated
Box 9	Photograph Album 1, undated
Box 9	Photograph Album 2, undated
Box 10	Photograph Album 3, 1929-1941
Box 10	Oversize Photographs of Ciampaglia, undated
Box 10	Oversize Photographs of Unidentified Woman, undated

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