



Smithsonian
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

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| Repository: | Archives of American Art |
| Title: | Carlo Ciampaglia papers |
| Identifier: | AAA.ciamcarl |
| Date: | 1909-1978 |
| Extent: | 5.6 Linear feet |
| Creator: | Ciampaglia, Carlo Alberto, 1891-1975 |
| 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:

- 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)

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)*

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.

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| 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)

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

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|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 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)

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)

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 <i>(see also Box 8)</i> |
| 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)*

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.

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| 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 Image(s) |
| 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 |

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| 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 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 |

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|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 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 58 glass plate negatives; Housed in boxes 6 and 7 |
| Box 2 | Murals, Isaly Dairy, Youngstown, Ohio |
| Box 2, Folder 67 | Correspondence, 1939 June Image(s) |
| Box 2, Folder 68 | Correspondence, 1939 July-September Image(s) |
| Box 2, Folder 69 | Correspondence, 1939 October-December Image(s) |
| Box 2, Folder 70 | Correspondence, 1940-1941 Image(s) |
| Box 2, Folder 71 | Brochures, undated Image(s) |
| Box 2, Folder 72 | Photographs, 1939-1941 Image(s) 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)
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
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 7 Glass Plate Negatives of Murals and Unidentified Projects, undated
[Image\(s\)](#)
- 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

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| 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)

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.

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| 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 <i>President Garfield</i> , 1923 |
| Box 3, Folder 31 | Miscellaneous Brochures, 1921-1926, undated |
| Box 8, Folder 9 | Book, <i>Italian Doorways</i> , 1929 |

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Series 8: Photographs, 1909-1960, undated

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

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 <i>(see also Box 10)</i> |
| 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 <i>(see also Box 10)</i> |
| 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 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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