



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## A Finding Aid to the Eliot Candee Clark Papers, 1839-1984, in the Archives of American Art

Jayna M. Josefson

Funding for the processing of this collection was provided by the Smithsonian Institution Collections Care and Preservation Fund. 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

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Eliot Candee Clark papers
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.clarello
<b>Date:</b>	1839-1983
<b>Creator:</b>	Clark, Eliot Candee, 1883-
<b>Extent:</b>	6.14 Linear feet
<b>Language:</b>	The collection is in English.
<b>Summary:</b>	The papers of Virginia painter Eliot Candee Clark measure 6.14 linear feet and date from 1839 to 1984. The papers include biographical materials, correspondence, 21 diaries and notebooks, writings and notes, personal business records, photographs, 9 sketchbooks, and artwork and artifacts. Many of the materials relate to Clark's travels in Europe, India, and throughout the United States.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

The Eliot Candee Clark papers were donated by his widow Margaret Fowler Clark between 1980 and 1984.

### Separated Materials

The Special Collections Research Center at Syracuse University Libraries also holds Eliot Candee Clark papers.

### Available Formats

Portions of this collection are available on 35 mm microfilm reel 2027 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 collection was processed to a minimal level and a finding aid prepared by Jayna Josefson in 2016, with funding provided by the Smithsonian Collections Care and Preservation Fund. The Archives of American Art has implemented accelerated processing tactics when possible in order to increase information about and access to more of our collections.

Processing included arrangement to the series, subseries, and folder levels. Generally, items within folders were simply verified with folder titles, but not arranged further. The collection was rehoused in archival containers and folders, but not all staples and clips were removed.

### Preferred Citation

Eliot Candee Clark papers, 1839-1984. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

## Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment. Use of audiovisual recordings with no duplicate access copy requires advance notice.

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## Biographical / Historical

Eliot Candee Clark (1883-1980) was a landscape painter, writer, and art historian who worked primarily in Virginia.

Eliot Clark was born in 1883 in New York City to artist Walter Clark and Jennie Woodruff Clark. As a child with his father's encouragement and guidance, Eliot Clark began exhibiting as early as the age of nine. submitted works to be exhibited at various New York City clubs as a child. By 1896, at the age of thirteen, he began exhibiting regularly at the National Academy of Design. In 1900, at the age of seventeen, Clark exhibited at the Society of American Artists' Annau. At one point he even shared a studio with his father. From 1904 to 1906, he traveled throughout Europe and painted en plein air. Clark returned to the New York City area and summered in Kent, Connecticut where he continued to paint and exhibit his work. His first one-man show was at Doll & Richards Gallery in New York City.

Eliot Clark was also an art historian, critic, and educator. In 1916 Clark published his first monograph on Alexander H. Wyant. His other works included a book on John Henry Twachtman, published in 1924 and *History of the National Academy of Design* (1954). Clark also served as president of the American Watercolor Society between 1920 and 1923. He taught at the Art Students League in New York City but ultimately settled in Charlottesville, Virginia where he taught summer painting classes.

Throughout his life, Clark travelled throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, India, and to Africa. A lengthy trip to India from 1937 to 1938 inspired his study of the religion, mysticism, and art of the country.

Eliot Clark served as president of the National Academy of Design in the 1950s and exhibited until his death in 1980 at the age of ninety-seven. He was survived by his second wife, Margaret Fowler Clark.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers of Virginia painter Eliot Candee Clark measure 6.14 linear feet and date from 1839 to 1984. The papers include biographical materials, correspondence, 21 diaries and notebooks, writings and notes, personal business records, photographs, 9 sketchbooks, and artwork and artifacts. Many of the materials relate to Clark's travels in Europe, India, and throughout the United States.

Scattered biographical materials include awards, an address book, printed material relating to various memberships, and resumes. Records of the Fowler family are also found. Clark's correspondence is with family including Walter Clark, friends, colleagues, and galleries and institutions. Notable correspondents include Leon Sparks and Andrew Wyeth.

Twenty-one volumes of diaries and notebooks are written by Clark and his wife, Margaret Fowler Clark. The diaries contain traditional dated diary entries; others document travels. The notebooks include drafts of writings, lists of artists, financial notes, sketches, and school assignments.

Writings include drafts of articles, book manuscripts, plays, and essays by Clark. A small amount of personal business records consist of legal records, price lists, receipts for personal purchases, and sales and consignment records for Clark's works of art.

Printed materials include books containing works of art by Clark, clippings, a dismantled clippings scrapbook, exhibition announcements and catalogs, magazines, and blank postcards. Photographs are of Clark, the Clark family, friends, colleagues, events, homes, and of works of art. Travel photographs are from Clark's trips to Europe, India, Morocco, and the United States.

Nine sketchbooks depict Nova Scotia, Canada, Albemarle County, Virginia, and India. Artwork and artifacts consist of scattered sketches by Clark, and prints by others.

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## Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 9 series

Missing Title:

- Series 1: Biographical Material, 1839-1980 (5 folders; Box 1, OV7)
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1874-1984 (1 linear foot; Box 1-2)
- Series 3: Diaries and Notebooks, circa 1900-1977 (0.8 linear feet; Box 2)
- Series 4: Writings and Notes, circa 1940-1978 (1.6 linear feet; Box 2-4)
- Series 5: Personal Business Records, 1917-1983 (0.2 linear feet; Box 4)
- Series 6: Printed Material, 1878-1975 (1.0 linear feet; Box 4-5)
- Series 7: Photographs, 1880s-1980 (0.5 linear feet; Box 5-6, OV7, MGP2)
- Series 8: Sketchbooks, 1916-1940s (0.5 linear feet; Box 6)
- Series 9: Artwork and Artifacts, circa 1900-circa 1940s (0.5 linear feet; Box 6, OV7)

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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:

Painting, American -- Virginia

Types of Materials:

Diaries  
Photographs  
Scrapbooks  
Sketchbooks  
Sketches  
Travel diaries

Names:

Clark, Margaret W. Fowler  
Clark, Walter, 1848-1917  
Sparks, Leon  
Wyeth, Andrew, 1917-2009

Occupations:

Painters -- Virginia

Places:

Europe -- description and travel  
India -- description and travel  
Morocco -- description and travel  
United States -- description and travel

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Biographical Material, 1839-1980

#### 5 Folders (Box 1, OV7)

Scope and Contents: Found are an address book, awards and certificates for the American Water Color Society and the Allied Artists of America; printed materials related to Clark's membership to various organizations; and resumes and biographical notes. Also found are the State of Virginia military and justice of the peace appointments of Christopher Fowler, possibly the father of Clark's wife, Margaret Fowler Clark.

Box 1, Folder 1	Address Book, circa 1930s
Box 1, Folder 2	Awards and Certificates, 1944-1972 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV7
Box 1, Folder 3	Membership Materials, 1949-1980
Box 1, Folder 4	Resumes and Biographical Notes, 1950s-1960s
Box 1, Folder 5	Fowler Family Records, 1839-1863
Box OV7	Oversized Awards, from Box 1, F2, 1944

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## Series 2: Correspondence, 1874-1984

### 1 Linear foot (Box 1-2)

Scope and Contents: Clark's correspondence is with family members including his father Walter Clark, Leon Sparks, Margaret Wilson, Andrew Wyeth, as well as friends, acquaintances, galleries, and institutions. Some letters discuss Indian Mysticism, especially those written in the late 1930s.

Box 1, Folder 6	Holiday Cards, 1930s-1960s
Box 1, Folder 7	Drafts, Outgoing Letters, 1950s
Box 1, Folder 8-9	Family, 1874-1928
Box 1, Folder 10	General, Undated, circa 1920-circa 1960
Box 1, Folder 11	General, 1930-1939
Box 1, Folder 12-13	General, 1940-1949
Box 1, Folder 14	General, 1950-1959
Box 1, Folder 15	General, 1960-1969
Box 1, Folder 16	General, 1970-1973
Box 1, Folder 17	General, 1974-1975
Box 1, Folder 18	General, 1976-1977
Box 1, Folder 19	General, 1978
Box 1, Folder 20-21	General, 1979
Box 1, Folder 22	General, 1980
Box 2, Folder 1	General, 1981-1984

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## Series 3: Diaries and Notebooks, circa 1900-1977

## 0.8 Linear feet (Box 2)

Scope and Contents: Twenty-one volumes of notebooks and diaries are written by Clark and span his childhood to 1977. Many are a combination of a notebook and a diary and may include notes, scattered diary entries, drafts of writings, lists, sales records and other financial notes. Other volumes are more traditional diaries, particularly those kept while traveling through Europe, the American Southwest, and India. Two volumes are written by Margaret Fowler Clark and include diary entries and writings about her husband.

Box 2	Eliot Candee Clark
Box 2, Folder 2	Volume 1, circa 1900 Notes: School notebook
Box 2, Folder 3	Volume 2, circa 1900 Notes: School notebook
Box 2, Folder 4	Volume 3, circa 1900 Notes: School notebook, French
Box 2, Folder 5	Volume 4, circa 1904 Notes: Diary kept in Europe
Box 2, Folder 6	Volume 5, 1912-1913 Notes: Diary kept on a trip to the American West
Box 2, Folder 7	Volume 6, 1912 Notes: Price lists, lists, and sales records
Box 2, Folder 8	Volume 7, circa 1920s Notes: Writings on the Turner Collection
Box 2, Folder 9	Volume 8, circa 1930 Notes: Book synopses and notes
Box 2, Folder 10	Volume 9, circa 1930s Notes: Sketches and book notes
Box 2, Folder 11	Volume 10, circa 1930s Notes: on religion
Box 2, Folder 12	Volume 11, circa 1930s Notes: Writings
Box 2, Folder 13	Volume 12, circa 1930s Notes: Diary entries, loose notes and writings
Box 2, Folder 14	Volume 13, circa 1930s

	Notes:	Notes on artists
Box 2, Folder 15	Volume 14, 1937-1938 Notes:	Travel diary kept in India
Box 2, Folder 14	Volume 15, circa 1930s-1960s Notes:	Annotated bibliography, notes and writings, likely for a book
Box 2, Folder 17	Volume 16, 1935 Notes:	Travel and expense diary
Box 2, Folder 18	Volume 17 and 18, circa 1937 Notes:	Diary entries and notes from India
Box 2, Folder 19	Volume 19, 1940s Notes:	Lists of artists
Box 2, Folder 20	Volume 20, circa 1973 Notes:	Diary entries and notes
Box 2, Folder 21	Volume 21, 1977 Notes:	Lists of books read
Box 2	Margaret Fowler Clark	
Box 2, Folder 22	Volume 1, 1948-1968 Notes:	Scattered yearly diary
Box 2, Folder 23	Volume 2, 1970s Notes:	Diary entries and writings about Eliot Candee Clark

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## Series 4: Writings and Notes, circa 1940-1978

### 1.6 Linear feet (Box 2-4)

Scope and Contents: Writings consist of manuscripts of books, and drafts of articles, plays, and criticisms. Subjects include history, biography, fiction, art, artists, and Eastern religions. A cassette tape of Eliot Clark and H. Barr is entitled "Eastern Thoughts." Also found are lecture notes, a project proposal for an exhibition at the United Nations, and writings on his father, Walter Clark. Writings by Margaret Fowler Clark are on Eliot Candee Clark and also includes a copy of *The Golden Age of the Performing Arts*.

Box 2, Folder 24-26	The Art of India, circa 1940s-1950s
Box 3, Folder 1	The Art of India, 1950s
Box 3, Folder 2	"Contemporary Art in India", circa 1950s
Box 3, Folder 3	"Criticisms", 1944-1959
Box 3, Folder 4	"The Development of Being", circa 1950s
Box 3, Folder 5	"Eastern Thoughts," by Eliot Clark and H. Barr, 1950s 1 Cassette tape
Box 3, Folder 6	"The Glory of God's Way: an Artist's Journey Through Life", circa 1970
Box 3, Folder 7-8	"Madame Jumel--the Magnificent Adventuress: a Senario" , circa 1940
Box 3, Folder 9-10	"Peace and Plenty: a Comedy in Three Acts", circa 1947
Box 3, Folder 11-13	"Revelation" or "The Path of Enlightenment", circa 1950
Box 3, Folder 14	"Romantic Rajputana-Udaipur", circa 1950
Box 3, Folder 15	"Samuel Morse," Introduction for Catalog, circa 1950s
Box 3, Folder 16	"Theodore Robinson", circa 1950s
Box 3, Folder 17	"Turner: the Eccentricity of Genius", circa 1960-1978
Box 3, Folder 18	"What is the Destiny of India?", circa 1950
Box 3, Folder 19-20	"Winds of Destiny", circa 1960s
Box 3, Folder 21-25	Lecture Notes, circa 1940-1960
Box 3, Folder 26	Project Proposal, United Nations, circa 1960
Box 3, Folder 27-29	on Art and Artists, 1930s-1970s

Box 4, Folder 1-3	on Art and Artists, 1940s-1970s
Box 4, Folder 4-5	on Art, Oulines, circa 1950
Box 4, Folder 6	on Clark, Walter, circa 1950
Box 4, Folder 7-11	Notes, circa 1940-1960
Box 4, Folder 12-13	by Margaret Fowler Clark, circa 1960-1976

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## Series 5: Personal Business Records, 1917-1983

### 0.2 Linear feet (Box 4)

Scope and Contents: Clark's personal business records include legal records, price lists, bills, sales records for his paintings, and lists of slide requests submitted to the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Legal records contain wills and estate disputes concerning the R. H. Love Gallery. Receipts and bill are for personal purchases.

Box 4, Folder 14	Legal Records, 1925-1983
Box 4, Folder 15	Price Lists, 1945-1966
Box 4, Folder 16	Receipts and Bills, 1926-1928
Box 4, Folder 17	Sales and Consignment Records, 1917-1976
Box 4, Folder 18	Slide Requests, circa 1940

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## Series 6: Printed Material, 1878-1975

### 1 Linear foot (Box 4-5)

Scope and Contents: Printed materials include clippings and exhibition announcements and catalogs on Walter and Eliot Clark including a dismantled clippings scrapbook. Blank photo postcards date from Clark's walking tour of Europe between 1904 and 1905. Also found are books of reproductions of works of art by others, menus from an ocean liner, and printed materials from Clark's travels through India in the 1930s.

Box 4, Folder 19-21	Books, Reproductions of Works of Art, circa 1913-circa 1940
Box 4, Folder 22	Clippings, Clark, Walter, 1918-1920
Box 4, Folder 23-26	Clippings, from Scrapbook, 1878-1950s
Box 5, Folder 1-2	Clippings, 1920s-1950s
Box 5, Folder 3-8	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1925-1975
Box 5, Folder 9-12	Magazines and Periodicals, 1920-1960s
Box 5, Folder 13-14	Menus, 1937-1938
Box 5, Folder 15-17	Postcards, 1904-1905
Box 5, Folder 18	Travel, India, 1937-1938

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## Series 7: Photographs, 1880s-1980

0.5 Linear feet (Box 5-6, OV7, MGP2)

**Scope and Contents:** Found are snapshots and portraits of Eliot Candee Clark and members of the Clark family, friends, and colleagues. Other photos depict events including meetings, exhibitions, and parties; Clark's homes in Kent, Connecticut and Albemarle County, Virginia; the interior of the National Academy of Design building; and of works of art by Clark, of Clark, by his father, and by others. Travel photographs are from Clark's trips to Europe, India, Morocco, and throughout the United States including the American Southwest, the eastern shore of Maryland or Virginia, and the Great Smoky Mountains. Two glass plate negatives are portraits of Clark.

**Available Formats:** Glass plate negatives have been digitized.

Box 5, Folder 19-22	Eliot Clark and with Others, 1880s-1980
Box 6, Folder 1	Events, 1920s-1950s
Box 6, Folder 2-3	Homes, 1923-1980s
Box 6, Folder 4-8	Travel, 1930s-1950s
Box 6, Folder 9	National Academy of Design, circa 1940s
Box 6, Folder 10	Works of Art, by Eliot Clark, circa 1930s-1950s Notes: Oversized material housed in OV7
Box 6, Folder 11	Works of Art, by Others of Eliot Clark, 1940s-1950s
Box 6, Folder 12	Works of Art, by Walter Clark, circa 1940s
Box 6, Folder 13-14	Works of Art, by Others, 1940s-1960s
Box 6, Folder 15	Slides and Negatives, 1960s
Box OV7	Oversized Photographs of Works of Art by Eliot Clark, from Box 6, F10, 1930s
Box MGP2	<a href="#">Glass Plate Negatives, circa 1900</a>

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## Series 8: Sketchbooks, 1916-1940s

### *0.5 Linear feet (Box 6)*

Scope and Contents: Nine sketchbooks are by Clark and depict Nova Scotia, Albemarle County, Virginia, and India.

Box 6, Folder 16      Sketchbook 1, 1916  
Notes:                Nova Scotia

Box 6, Folder 17      Sketchbook 2, circa 1930s-1940s  
Notes:                Albemarle County, Virginia

Box 6, Folder 18-24    Sketchbooks 3-9, 1937-1938  
Notes:                India

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## Series 9: Artwork and Artifacts, circa 1900-circa 1940

### *0.5 Linear feet (Box 6, OV7)*

Scope and Contents: Scattered sketches by Clark date from the 1940s. Works of art by others include a woodcut by Rockwell Kent, and a published book and periodical of prints. Artifacts include an engraving plate and carved figurines, likely from India.

Box 6, Folder 25	Pencil Sketches, by Eliot Clark, 1940s
Box 6, Folder 26	Woodcut, by Rockwell Kent, 1921
Box 6, Folder 27	Block Prints, by the Government School of Arts and Crafts at Lucknow, 1936
Box 6, Folder 28	Book of Etchings, Etched Monthly, 1929, 1931
Box 6, Folder 29	Engraving Plate, 1930s
Box 6, Folder 30	Feather and Painted Board, undated
Box 6, Folder 31	Carved Figurines, 1930s
Box OV7	Oversized Unsigned Works of Art and Works of Art by Others, circa 1900-circa 1940

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