



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Olive Thompson Cowell papers

Archives of American Art
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Washington, D.C. 20001
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Olive Thompson Cowell papers
Identifier:	AAA.coweoliv
Date:	[ca. 1950-1982]
Creator:	Cowell, Olive Thompson, 1887-1984
Extent:	0.3 Linear feet
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated 1994 and 1998 by Alan W. Ford, who inherited and resided in Cowell's home and received the papers from Cowell. He destroyed all other Cowell papers at her request. Ford subsequently resided in a house designed by architect Lilian Bridgman, and donated a group of Bridgman's papers as well; these are cataloged separately.

Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C., Research Center. Contact Reference Services for more information.

Biographical / Historical

Art and music patron, professor of International Relations; San Francisco, Calif.; b. 1887; d. 1984 Olive Cowell was founder of the international relations department of San Francisco State University, where she taught until 1956.

Scope and Contents

A handwritten memoir, photographs, house plan, three cassette tapes related to Cowell's anniversary and birthday (1973), materials and a letter from sculptor Claire Falkenstein, and letters from California potters Frans and Marguerite Wildenhain. Also included is one spiral-bound photograph album containing ca. 40 photographs of Olive Cowell, her husband, Harry, and his son, pianist and composer Henry taken in their home in San Francisco, Calif., and a photograph of architect Lilian Bridgman taken in her studio.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Women educators

Types of Materials:

Sound recordings

Names:

Bridgman, Lilian, 1866-1948 -- Photographs
Cowell, Henry, 1897-1965
Falkenstein, Claire, 1908-1997
Wildenhain, Frans, 1905-1980
Wildenhain, Marguerite

Occupations:

Art patrons -- California -- San Francisco
Educators -- California -- San Francisco