



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

Charles C. Dawson papers

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
Scope and Contents.....	1
Biographical / Historical.....	1
Names and Subjects .....	2
Container Listing .....	

## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Charles C. Dawson papers
<b>Date:</b>	1910-1980
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.dawschar
<b>Creator:</b>	Dawson, Charles C., b. 1889
<b>Extent:</b>	2 Microfilm reels
<b>Language:</b>	English .

---

## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Lent for microfilming by the DuSable Museum of African American History, Chicago, Illinois, 1988.

### Location of Originals

Originals in the possession of DuSable Museum of African-American History.

### Available Formats

35mm microfilm reels 4191-4192 available at all Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

### Restrictions

The Archives of American art does not own the original papers. Use is limited to the microfilm copy.

---

## Biographical / Historical

Charles C. Dawson (1889-1981) was an African American painter, printmaker, and illustrator in Chicago, Illinois. He studied at the Tuskegee Institute, the Art Students League of New York, and at the Art Institute of Chicago and chronicled experiences as an art student in his unpublished autobiography. From 1919 to 1922 he worked for Chicago Engravers before leaving the firm to work as a freelance artist. Dawson also curated museum exhibitions to promote the work of other African American artists. He worked as the curator of the Museum of Negro Art and Culture and the George Washington Carver Museum from 1944 to 1951. In 1933 Dawson published a children's book, *ABCs of Great Negroes* which featured linoleum prints of 26 major figures in Black history.

---

## Scope and Contents

This microfilm collection of the papers of African American artist and museum curator Charles C. Dawson dates from 1910 to 1980. It includes biographical material; a 536 page draft of an autobiography; and correspondence. Correspondence includes United States Infantry correspondence and records, 1912-1923;

general correspondence, 1917-1980; correspondence and financial records dealing with Dawson's book *ABCs of Great Negroes*, 1932-1945; and drafts and fragments of letters written by Dawson. Also included in the collection are miscellaneous business and financial records; writings and notes, including rough drafts, notes, and typescripts; printed material including news releases, newsletters, program notices, newspaper clippings, and miscellaneous published items; and photographs of Dawson, his family, friends, and others.

---

## Names and Subject Terms

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

### Subjects:

- African American art museum curators
- African American artists
- African American military personnel
- Art -- Illinois -- Chicago
- HBCUs (Historically Black Colleges and Universities)

### Names:

- George Washington Carver Museum (Tuskegee, Ala.)
- Museum of Negro Art and Culture
- Tuskegee Institute

### Occupations:

- Museum curators