



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## A Finding Aid to the Elizabeth Nottingham Day Papers, circa 1910-1956, in the Archives of American Art

Jayna M. Josefson

Processing of this collection received support from  
the Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative.

2022/09/21

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.....	2
Biographical / Historical.....	2
Arrangement.....	2
Names and Subjects .....	2
Container Listing .....	3
Series 1: Elizabeth Nottingham Day papers, circa 1910-1956.....	3

## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Elizabeth Nottingham Day papers
<b>Date:</b>	circa 1910-1956
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.dayeliz
<b>Creator:</b>	Day, Elizabeth Nottingham, 1907-1956
<b>Extent:</b>	0.2 Linear feet
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	The scattered papers of painter and arts administrator Elizabeth Nottingham Day measure 0.2 linear feet and date from circa 1910 to 1956. Largely concerning the Works Progress Administration's Federal Art Project, the papers include correspondence, photographs, printed material, and writings. Also found are reports and writings concerning the Federal Art Galleries in Lynchburg and Big Stone Gap, Virginia.

---

## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Horace Talmadge Day, the widower of Elizabeth Nottingham Day, donated his wife's papers in 1964.

### Related Materials

The Archives of American Art also holds the Horace Talmadge Day papers, 1929-1965.

### Available Formats

Portions of the collection are available on 35mm microfilm reel D/NDA/D available at Archives of American Art offices. 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 microfilmed after receipt on 35mm microfilm reel D/NDA/D. It was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Jayna Josefson in 2022 with support from the Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative.

### Preferred Citation

Elizabeth Nottingham Day papers, circa 1910-1956. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

### Restrictions

This collection is open for research. Access to original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C. Research Center.

## Conditions Governing Use

The Archives of American Art makes its archival collections available for non-commercial, educational and personal use unless restricted by copyright and/or donor restrictions, including but not limited to access and publication restrictions. AAA makes no representations concerning such rights and restrictions and it is the user's responsibility to determine whether rights or restrictions exist and to obtain any necessary permission to access, use, reproduce and publish the collections. Please refer to the Smithsonian's Terms of Use for additional information.

---

## Biographical / Historical

Elizabeth Nottingham Day (1907-1956) was a painter, educator, and arts administrator born in Salisbury, North Carolina. She was director of the Federal Art Gallery at Big Stone Gap and at Lynchburg and was the assistant state art supervisor for the Works Progress Administration, Federal Art Project in Virginia. She married Horace Day and together they were co-directors of the art department at Mary Baldwin College.

---

## Scope and Contents

The scattered papers of painter and arts administrator Elizabeth Nottingham Day measure 0.2 linear feet and date from circa 1910 to 1956. Largely concerning the Works Progress Administration's Federal Art Project, the papers include correspondence, photographs, printed material, and writings. Also found are reports and writings concerning the Federal Art Galleries in Lynchburg and Big Stone Gap, Virginia.

---

## Arrangement

Due to the small size of this collection the papers are arranged as one series.

---

## Names and Subject Terms

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

### Subjects:

- Federal aid to the arts
- Landscape painting
- New Deal, 1933-1939
- Women artists
- Women arts administrators
- Women educators
- Women painters

### Names:

- Beverley Studios (Staunton, Va.)
- Federal Art Project (Va.)

### Occupations:

- Arts administrators -- Virginia
- Educators -- Virginia
- Painters -- Virginia

---

## Container Listing

### Series 1: Elizabeth Nottingham Day papers, circa 1910-1956

#### 0.2 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Correspondence is with various arts institutions in the state of Virginia. Among the photographs are one of Day and her husband Horace painting outdoors taken by Beverley Studios, 1948; one of Ella Graham Agnew; and a photo of an exhibition, likely at one of the Federal Art Galleries. Printed material includes exhibition catalogs and clippings. Writings and essays concern such matters as church art, trends in contemporary American art, humor in art, on "seeing" landscape painting, and James J. Sweeney's exhibition in 1950.

Also found are reports, printed material and writings concerning the WPA-FAP in Virginia and the Federal Art Galleries in Lynchburg and Big Stone Gap, Virginia.

Box 1, Folder 1	Correspondence, 1936-1954
Box 1, Folder 2	Photographs, circa 1910-1956
Box 1, Folder 3	Printed Material, 1946-1953
Box 1, Folder 4	WPA-FAP, Federal Art Gallery, Blue Stone Gap, Virginia, 1936
Box 1, Folder 5-6	WPA-FAP, Federal Art Gallery, Lynchburg, Virginia, 1936
Box 1, Folder 7	WPA-FAP, Reports, 1939-1941
Box 1, Folder 8-9	WPA-FAP, Printed Material, 1936-1958
Box 1, Folder 10	WPA-FAP, Writings, 1936-1950

*[Return to Table of Contents](#)*