



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Edith Emerson Papers, 1839-1981,
bulk 1894-1971, in the Archives of American Art

Carrol Park

2012 October 23

Archives of American Art
750 9th Street, NW
Victor Building, Suite 2200
Washington, D.C. 20001
Business Number: Phone: 202-633-7950
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/>

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Edith Emerson papers
Date:	1839-1981 (bulk 1894-1971)
Identifier:	AAA.emeredit
Creator:	Emerson, Edith, 1888-1981
Extent:	2.1 Linear feet
Language:	The collection is in English.
Summary:	The papers of painter, illustrator, and curator Edith Emerson measure 2.1 linear feet and date from 1839 to 1981, with the bulk of the material dating from 1894-1971. Found within the papers are biographical material; letters from friends and colleagues; writings and notes by Emerson and others; artwork, including three sketchbooks; subject files; photographs of Emerson, family, friends, and artwork; and scattered printed material.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Edith Emerson lent the Archives of American Art material for microfilming in 1977. Addition papers were donated in 1990 by the Free Library of Philadelphia, who received them from Emerson.

Separated Materials

Edith Emerson lent four scrapbooks for microfilming in 1977. Loaned material is available on microfilm reels 1186-1187, but is not described in the container listing of this finding aid.

Available Formats

Materials lent for microfilming are available on 35mm microfilm reels 1186-1187 at the Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

Processing Information

The collection was processed by Jean Fitzgerald in 1991. A finding aid was written by Carrol Park in 2012.

Preferred Citation

Edith Emerson papers, 1839-1981, bulk 1849-1971. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment.

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Biographical / Historical

Edith Emerson (1888-1981) was a painter, illustrator, and curator in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Born in Oxford, Ohio, Emerson studied at the Art Institute of Chicago with John Vanderpoel and Thomas Wood Stevens and at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts with Cecilia Beaux, Violet Oakley, and Daniel Garber. She assisted Violet Oakley primarily between 1917 and 1930 and shared her studio from 1918 until Oakley's death in 1961. Emerson served on the Board of Directors of the Woodmere Art Gallery beginning in 1940, subsequently becoming Curator. She was also a founding member of the Violet Oakley Memorial Foundation.

Scope and Contents

The papers of painter, illustrator, and curator Edith Emerson measure 2.1 linear feet and date from 1839 to 1981, with the bulk of the material dating from 1894-1971. Found within the papers are biographical material; letters from friends and colleagues; writings and notes by Emerson and others; artwork, including three sketchbooks; subject files; photographs of Emerson, family, friends, and artwork; and scattered printed material.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged as 7 series:

- Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1950s (Box 1; 1 Folder)
 - Series 2: Letters, 1916-1965 (Box 1, OV 3; 0.2 linear feet)
 - Series 3: Writings and Notes, 1887-1970 (Box 1; 0.3 linear feet)
 - Series 4: Artwork, 1839, 1882-1954 (Box 1, OV 3; 0.2 linear feet)
 - Series 5: Subject Files, circa 1865-1955 (Box 1-2; 0.9 linear feet)
 - Series 6: Photographs, circa 1900-1971 (Box 2; 0.2 linear feet)
 - Series 7: Printed Material, circa 1916-1981 (Box 2, 6 folders)
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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:

Women artists
Women muralists
Women museum curators
Women painters

Types of Materials:

Photographs
Sketchbooks

Occupations:

Art museum curators -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia
Illustrators -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia
Muralists -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia
Painters -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1950s

1 Folder (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: This series contains two pages of typewritten biographical material about Edith Emerson, with a few handwritten annotations.

Box 1, Folder 1 Biographical Summaries, circa 1950s

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Series 2: Letters, 1916-1965

0.2 Linear feet (Box 1, OV 3)

Arrangement: Letters are arranged in chronological order.

Scope and Contents: Within this series are personal and business letters. Included are letters between Edith Emerson and friends, as well as prospective clients for her artwork. Of note are letters from Margaret French Cresson, Elizabeth Shippen Green Elliott, Daniel Garber, Charles Hopkinson, Clare Leighton, and Henry McCarter. Also found are holiday cards to and from Edith Emerson.

Business letters typically concern job details, sales of artwork, or art related events. Of note are referral letters from McCall Magazine editors and letters between the Philadelphia Art Alliance concerning Mr. Bart Tourison's housing projects. There are handwritten notes by Edith Emerson on a few of the letters.

Box 1, Folder 2 Personal Letters, undated

Box 1, Folder 3-8 Personal Letters, 1919-1965

Box 1, Folder 9-14 Business Letters, 1916-1922

Oversize 3 Oversize Christmas Cards from Berta and Elmer Hader, 1916-1965

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Series 3: Writings and Notes, 1887-1970

0.3 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: This series contains writings and notes by Edith Emerson and others. Found here are an address book; a journal by Emerson's cousin, Mary Ingham, describing trips to Italy, Yellowstone, Holland, France, Germany, and Canada; an incomplete journal concerning travel to Great Britain and Germany; and notes on painting by Huger Elliott. Also found are a list of students at the Pennsylvania Museum School, a record of Emerson's exhibitions (1937-1970), and a manuscript "Cogslea Chronicles." Miscellaneous writings include a brief manuscript "Tales of Francis Joseph Fitz-Patrick."

Box 1, Folder 15	Address Book and Notebook Listing Books Read, 1887-1900, undated
Box 1, Folder 16	Travel Journals, 1897-1903, 1928
Box 1, Folder 17	Notebook of Travel Expenses, 1911
Box 1, Folder 18	Notes by Huger Elliott, 1921-1925
Box 1, Folder 19	List of Students at Pennsylvania Museum School, 1929-1933
Box 1, Folder 20	Exhibition Record Notebook, 1937-1970
Box 1, Folder 21	Material Inserted in Exhibition Record Notebook, 1937-1970
Box 1, Folder 22	Notes on Artists, circa 1942
Box 1, Folder 23	"Cogslea Chronicles", 1943
Box 1, Folder 24	Miscellaneous Writings, undated

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Series 4: Artwork, 1882-1954, 1839

0.2 Linear feet (Box 1, OV 3)

Scope and Contents: Within this series is artwork, mainly paintings and drawings, by Edith Emerson and others. Included are 33 drawings and three annotated sketchbooks by Emerson, including one of India; a painting by Jessie Arms Botke; and prints by John H. Beatty, Anna Lea Merritt, and others.

Box 1, Folder 25	Annotated Sketchbook, 1919-1926
Box 1, Folder 26	Annotated Sketchbook: "Journey to India", 1936
Box 1, Folder 27	Annotated Sketchbook, 1943-1954
Box 1, Folder 28	Loose Drawings Inserted in Annotated Sketchbook, 1943-1954
Box 1, Folder 29	Drawings, undated
Box 1, Folder 30	Painting by Jessie Arms Botke, 1911
Box 1, Folder 31	Artwork by Others, 1839, 1882-1912
Oversize 3	Oversize Drawings

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Series 5: Subject Files, circa 1865-1955

0.9 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2)

Arrangement: Files are arranged alphabetically by subject.

Scope and Contents: Subject files were maintained by Edith Emerson. Files may contain letters, notes, photographs, and printed material. Of note are subject files on Cecilia Beaux, Elizabeth Shippen Green Elliott, Thornton Oakley, Ruth St. Denis, the Moorestown Trust Company, the Philadelphia Art Alliance, "Song of Roland" illustrations, the WPA Women's Activities Division, the Writers and Illustrators Exchange, and other topics.

Box 1, Folder 32	Agnes Irwin School, 1920-1950
Box 1, Folder 33-35	American Architecture, circa 1894-1940
Box 1, Folder 36	Beaux Arts Institute of Design, Philadelphia Atelier of Mural Painting, 1932-1939
Box 1, Folder 37	Cecilia Beaux, 1930-1942
Box 1, Folder 38	Alison Mason Kingsbury Bishop, 1931
Box 1, Folder 39	Margaret Hittle Chapin, undated
Box 1, Folder 40	Cosmopolitan Club, 1930-1932
Box 1, Folder 41	Elizabeth Shippen Green Elliott - Family Photographs, 1865, undated
Box 1, Folder 42	Elizabeth Shippen Green Elliott - Photographs of Elizabeth Shippen Green Elliott, Huger Elliott, Wedding, 1911, undated
Box 1, Folder 43	Elizabeth Shippen Green Elliott - Photographs of Elizabeth Shippen Green Elliott, Huger Elliott, 1934, undated
Box 1, Folder 44	Elizabeth Shippen Green Elliott - Sketches and Designs, undated
Box 1, Folder 45	Elizabeth Shippen Green Elliott - Biography and Artwork, 1911-circa 1954
Box 2, Folder 1	Berta and Elmer Hader, 1937-1955
Box 2, Folder 2	Bertha E. Jaques, 1923-1940
Box 2, Folder 3	Elsa Laubach Jemne, 1916-1943
Box 2, Folder 4	Rockwell Kent, 1925
Box 2, Folder 5	Charles Z. Klauder, 1938
Box 2, Folder 6	Lake George- "Sylviana", 1939-1947

Box 2, Folder 7	Mrs. Ferris J. Meigs, 1949
Box 2, Folder 8-9	Mexico, 1929-1943
Box 2, Folder 10	Mildred Stern Miller, 1911-1931
Box 2, Folder 11	Moorestown Trust Co., 1925-1927
Box 2, Folder 12	Musical Instruments, undated
Box 2, Folder 13	Gertrude Norman, 1938
Box 2, Folder 14	Thornton Oakley, 1933-1953
Box 2, Folder 15-16	Philadelphia Art Alliance, 1924-1939
Box 2, Folder 17	Philadelphia "Art Notes" (For American Magazine of Arts), 1930-1931
Box 2, Folder 18	Katharine Rhoades, 1931-1935
Box 2, Folder 19-20	"Song of Roland" Illustrations, circa 1938-1940s
Box 2, Folder 21	Ruth St. Denis, 1941-1943
Box 2, Folder 22	Treasury Department: Painting and Sculpture, 1935-1937
Box 2, Folder 23	Edward Warwick, undated
Box 2, Folder 24	Rebecca Whelan, 1950-1951
Box 2, Folder 25	Works Progress Administration, 1935-1938
Box 2, Folder 26	Writers and Illustrators Exchange, 1917-1918
Box 2, Folder 27	Zettler Studios, N.Y. (Stained Glass), 1936

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Series 6: Photographs, circa 1900-1971

0.2 Linear feet (Box 2)

Scope and Contents: Found in this series are photographs of Edith Emerson and her friends, including a few with Violet Oakley. Also found are photographs of Emerson's family, photographs from a Mexico trip, interior views of her home and studio in Cogslea, works of art by Emerson, photographs of child models, and works of art by others.

Box 2, Folder 28	Edith Emerson and Friends, circa 1915-1930s
Box 2, Folder 29-30	Emerson Family, 1921, 1932-1971
Box 2, Folder 31	Cogslea Interiors, undated
Box 2, Folder 32	Mexico Trip, circa 1930s
Box 2, Folder 33	Model, circa 1930s
Box 2, Folder 34-36	Children, circa 1900-1930
Box 2, Folder 37	Sundial Mural, undated
Box 2, Folder 38-40	Works of Art, circa 1920s-1940s
Box 2, Folder 41	Works of Art by Others, circa 1920s-1940s
Box 2, Folder 42	Negatives of Works of Art, circa 1940

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Series 7: Printed Material, circa 1916-1981

6 Folders (Box 2)

Scope and Contents: Printed materials include brochures; clippings documenting Emerson's career; exhibition announcements and catalogs for Emerson, Violet Oakley, and others; as well as other miscellaneous published items and printed reproductions of her work.

Box 2, Folder 43	Brochures, 1921-1941
Box 2, Folder 44	Clippings, circa 1916-1981, undated
Box 2, Folder 45	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1936-1940
Box 2, Folder 46	Exhibition Catalogs for Emerson/Oakley, 1923-1969
Box 2, Folder 47	Reproduction of Art Work, circa 1920s-1940s
Box 2, Folder 48	Miscellaneous, 1919-1924

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