



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

A Finding Aid to the Ex Libris Records,  
1973-2007, in the Archives of American Art

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2015 November 6

## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	
Administrative Information .....	1
Biographical / Historical .....	2
Scope and Contents .....	2
Arrangement .....	2
Names and Subjects .....	
Container Listing .....	
Series 1: Professional Files, 1973-2007 .....	4
Series 2: Sales Records, 1979-1998 .....	6
Series 3: Printed Material, 1973-circa 1991 .....	7
Series 4: Photographic Material, circa 1980s .....	8

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Ex Libris records
<b>Date:</b>	1973-2007
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.exlibr
<b>Creator:</b>	Cohen, Arthur A. (Arthur Allen), 1928-1986 Cohen, Elaine Lustig, 1927- Ex Libris (Firm)
<b>Extent:</b>	2 Linear feet
<b>Language:</b>	Collection is in English
<b>Summary:</b>	The records of Ex Libris measure 2.0 linear feet and date from 1973-2007. Ex Libris was a New York City based antiquarian establishment that dealt in rare 20th century avant-garde books and periodicals, and was founded by Elaine Lustig Cohen and her husband Arthur A. Cohen. The records include professional files, sales records, printed material, and photographic material.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

The records were donated in 2015 by Elaine Lustig Cohen, co-founder of Ex Libris.

### Related Materials

Also found in the Archives of American Art are the Elaine Lustig Cohen papers concerning Alvin Lustig, 1982, available on microfilm reel 2802.

### Processing Information

The collection was processed to a minimal level and a finding aid prepared by Hilary Price in 2015.

### Preferred Citation

Ex Libris records, 1973-2007. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

### 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.

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## Biographical / Historical

Ex Libris, a New York City based antiquarian establishment that dealt in rare 20th century avant-garde books, periodicals, and archives, operated from 1973-circa 2000, and was founded by Elaine Lustig Cohen (1927- ) and her husband Arthur A. Cohen (1928-1986). Elaine Lustig Cohen is a graphic designer, previously married to the graphic designer Alvin Lustig (1915-1955), who later married her long-time friend Arthur A. Cohen, a scholar, theologian, and author, in 1956.

The Cohens began collecting avant-garde books and ephemera from antiquarian bookstores and artists in Europe. Ex Libris began when the couple amassed a surplus of material and Arthur placed an ad in the *New York Times* that said, "send for my list of Dada, Surrealist, Avant-Garde periodicals and ephemera." The inventory of Ex Libris grew to include other movements of modernism including Bauhaus, Futurism, Cubism, De Stijl, German Expressionism, Constructivism, and Fluxus.

Ex Libris published catalogs of their inventory, designed by Elaine, which were sent to libraries and museums all over the world. The catalogs are now collector's items. Exhibitions were organized at Ex Libris that complemented their inventory, and they often loaned material to be included in exhibitions elsewhere.

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## Scope and Contents

The records of Ex Libris measure 2.0 linear feet and date from 1973-2007. Ex Libris was a New York City based antiquarian establishment that dealt in rare 20th century avant-garde books and periodicals, and was founded by Elaine Lustig Cohen and her husband Arthur A. Cohen. The records include professional files, sales records, printed material, and photographic material.

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## Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 4 series

- Series 1: Professional Files, 1973-2007 (0.9 linear feet; Box 1)
  - Series 2: Sales Records, 1979-1998 (0.1 linear foot; Box 1)
  - Series 3: Printed Material, 1973-circa 1991 (0.9 linear feet; Box 2)
  - Series 4: Photographic Material, circa 1980s (0.1 linear foot; Box 2)
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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:

Dadaism  
Futurism (Art)  
Surrealism

Types of Materials:

Photographs

Functions:

Bookstores -- New York (State)

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Professional Files, 1973-2007

#### 0.9 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Professional files date from 1973-2007 and record Ex Libris's involvement with collectors, exhibitions, and works by specific artists. Items include correspondence, invoices, price lists, inventories, photographic material, exhibition brochures, and consignment and purchase agreements.

Box 1, Folder 1	Bauhaus Textile, 1984
Box 1, Folder 2	Bayer, Herbert, 1974-1976
Box 1, Folder 3-4	Bayer, Herbert, 1981-1995
Box 1, Folder 5	Bayer, Herbert, 1996-1997
Box 1, Folder 6	Beinecke - Futurism, 1982-1988
Box 1, Folder 7	Berman, Merrill, 1979-1989
Box 1, Folder 8	Bollinger, Hans, 1976-1994
Box 1, Folder 9	Breitfeld, Alfredo - Pataphysical Archive, 1993
Box 1, Folder 10	Dada Purchases, 1973-2000
Box 1, Folder 11	Dexel, Bernhard, 1983-1984
Box 1, Folder 12	Fricke Antiquariat, 1980-1984
Box 1, Folder 13	Fricke Antiquariat and Marzona, 1979-1986
Box 1	Getty
Box 1, Folder 14	General, 1984-1998
Box 1, Folder 15	Arnold Eagle and Hans Richter Archive, 1997
Box 1, Folder 16	Huidobro Archive, 1995-2006
Box 1, Folder 17	F. T. Marinetti Archive, 1992-1993
Box 1, Folder 18	Barbara Rose Archive, 1993-1994

Box 1, Folder 19	Russian Constructivism, 1985-1988
Box 1, Folder 20	Holstein, Jurgen, 1974-1984
Box 1, Folder 21	Kandinsky Manuscript, 1983
Box 1, Folder 22	Kolodny, Frank, 1983-1986
Box 1, Folder 23	Malburet, Martin, 1976-1996
Box 1, Folder 24	Marinetti, 1984-1985
Box 1, Folder 25	Marzona, 1981-1986
Box 1, Folder 26	Modotti Exhibition, 1977-1979
Box 1, Folder 27	Phillips, Elizabeth, 2007
Box 1, Folder 28	Pinto, Judy, 1995-1996
Box 1, Folder 29	Schwarz Gallerie D'Arte, 1975-1977
Box 1, Folder 30	Taguchi, Tatsuya, 2000
Box 1, Folder 31	Vloemans, H. A., 1978
Box 1, Folder 32	Zwort, Piet, 1983-2007
Box 1, Folder 33	Zwort, Piet - Exhibition, 1980-2000

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Series 2: Sales Records, 1979-1998

### *0.1 Linear feet (Box 1)*

Scope and Contents: Sales records date from 1979-1998 and include invoices for purchased material.

Contents:

Box 1, Folder 34      Sales Records, 1979-1998

Box 1, Folder 35      Sales Records, 1994-1998

[Return to Table of Contents](#)



## Series 3: Printed Material, 1973-circa 1991

### 0.9 Linear feet (Box 2)

Scope and Contents: Printed material dates from 1973-circa 1991 and includes an article about Ex Libris, a bibliography of catalogs, exhibition announcements and lists, and inventory mailings. The majority of the printed material relates to Ex Libris's inventory and includes bulletins, catalogs, pamphlets, short lists, and special lists mailed to their collectors.

Box 2, Folder 1	Article, "From Bauhaus to Their House", 1983
Box 2, Folder 2	Bibliography of Publications, circa 1991
Box 2, Folder 3	Brochures, circa 1980s
Box 2, Folder 4	Bulletins, circa 1980s
Box 2	Catalogs
Box 2, Folder 5	Numbers 1-5, 1974-1976
Box 2, Folder 6	Numbers 3, 6, 9, 1975-1982
Box 2, Folder 7	Numbers 10, 11, Bauhaus 11, 13, 16, 17, 1983-1990
Box 2, Folder 8	Miscellaneous, 1973-circa 1979
Box 2, Folder 9	Essays by Arthur A. Cohen, circa 1980s
Box 2, Folder 10	Exhibition Announcements, circa 1976-1990
Box 2, Folder 11	Exhibition List, circa 1980s
Box 2, Folder 12-13	Pamphlet Short Lists, 1978-1983
Box 2, Folder 14	Press Release, 1980
Box 2, Folder 15-16	Short Lists, 1973-circa 1980s
Box 2, Folder 17-18	Special Lists, 1973-circa 1978

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Series 4: Photographic Material, circa 1980s

### *0.1 Linear feet (Box 2)*

Scope and Contents: Photographic material dates from circa 1980s and includes prints and negatives of inventory items.

Box 2, Folder 19      Photographic Material, circa 1980s

[Return to Table of Contents](#)