



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Ralph Fabri Papers,
circa 1870s-1975, bulk 1918-1975,
in the Archives of American Art

Catherine S. Gaines

2005

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
Biographical Note.....	2
Scope and Content Note.....	3
Arrangement.....	4
Names and Subjects	5
Container Listing	6
Series 1: Biographical Information, 1919-1973, undated.....	6
Series 2: Correspondence, 1904-1975, undated.....	7
Series 3: Subject Files, 1941-1975, undated.....	8
Series 4: Writings, 1911-1975, undated.....	11
Series 5: Art Work, circa 1903-1970s.....	14
Series 6: Financial Records, 1923-1973, undated.....	15
Series 7: Miscellaneous Records, 1931-1975, undated.....	16
Series 8: Scrapbooks, 1911-1971.....	17
Series 9: Printed Material, 1910s-1973, undated.....	18
Series 10: Photographs, circa 1870s-1973, undated.....	21

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Ralph Fabri papers
Identifier:	AAA.fabrralp
Date:	circa 1870s-1975 (bulk 1918-1975)
Extent:	26 Linear feet
Creator:	Fabri, Ralph, 1894-
Language:	Multiple languages The records are in English and Hungarian. English; Hungarian
Summary:	The Ralph Fabri papers measure 26.0 linear feet and are dated circa 1870s-1975, with the bulk of the material dated 1918-1975. Biographical information, correspondence, subject files, writings, art work, financial records, miscellaneous records, scrapbooks, printed material, a videotape of Fabri in his studio, and photographs document the professional career and personal life of the painter, printmaker, commercial artist, writer, and teacher.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The Ralph Fabri papers were donated by Ralph Fabri, 1971-1974. Additional papers were the gift of his estate, 1975-1976.

Related Material

Ralph Fabri donated his correspondence with Theodore and Helen Dreiser, 1929-1955, to the University of Pennsylvania, where it is now part of the Theodore Dreiser papers.

Processing Information

The collection was processed to an intermediate level by Catherine S. Gaines in 2005.

Preferred Citation

Ralph Fabri papers, circa 1870s-1975, bulk 1918-1975. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions on Access

The collection is open for research. Use requires an appointment.

Ownership and Literary Rights

The Ralph Fabri papers are owned by the Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution. Literary rights as possessed by the donor have been dedicated to public use for research, study, and scholarship. The collection is subject to all copyright laws.

Biographical Note

Painter and printmaker, commercial artist, writer, and teacher Ralph Fabri was born Fabri Reszo in Hungary in 1894. He was educated in Budapest, first studying architecture at the Royal Institute of Technology from 1912 to 1914. He then enrolled in the Royal Academy of Fine Arts, from which he graduated in 1918 with a Professor's Diploma (M.A.) "for teaching drawing, painting and geometry - including descriptive and projective geometry - in schools of higher education."

Fabri arrived in New York City in 1921 and soon adopted the anglicized version of his name, Ralph Fabri. He began doing commercial design work and during the academic year of 1923/24 was enrolled as an evening student at the National Academy of Design. After becoming an American citizen in 1927, he traveled extensively in Europe. Upon returning to New York that same year, Fabri decided his financial situation was stable enough to allow him to focus his attention on fine art.

During the Great Depression, Fabri's already inadequate portrait commissions and art sales further declined and he returned to commercial work. He established a workshop known as the Ralph Fabri Studios, that designed theatrical and movie sets, window displays, and retail interiors. But Fabri found the workshop dirty and distasteful, and eventually was able to concentrate on advertising work which could be done from home. The largest clients for his pen and ink drawings were The Stamp and Album Co. of America, Inc. (for which he designed covers for stamp albums and produced illustrations for envelopes housing sets of stamps sold to collectors), Geographica Map Co., and Joseph H. Cohen & Sons (for whom he designed and illustrated mail order catalogs). Another source of income during this period was the design and construction of an addition to "Iroki," Theodore Dreiser's estate in Mt. Kisco, N.Y., for which Fabri acted as architect and contractor.

Soon after arriving in the United States, Fabri began writing art reviews and articles on art and other topics for publication in Hungarian newspapers, and began submitting similar pieces to American newspapers and periodicals. Between 1949 and 1951 *Pictures on Exhibit* published a series of twenty articles by Fabri on materials and techniques, and from 1952 through 1961 he was a critic for that publication. Fabri contributed many articles on a variety of topics to *Today's Art*, starting in 1953, the year the magazine was established. In 1961, Fabri became associate editor of that monthly periodical and was named its editor in 1970, a position he held for the remainder of his life. During his tenure, every issue of *Today's Art* included signed and unsigned articles and editorials by Fabri, as well as some pieces written under pseudonyms. He also worked as a book reviewer for *American Artist* and art editor of Funk & Wagnall's *New Encyclopedia*.

Fabri may be best known for his books in the how-to-do-it vein, some of which were distributed through art supply stores. Among his many books are: *Learn to Draw* (1945), *Oil Painting: How-to-Do-It!* (1953), *A Guide to Polymer Painting* (1966), *Sculpture in Paper* (1966), *Color: A Complete Guide for Artists* (1967), *Complete Guide to Flower Painting* (1968), *The First Hundred Years: History of the American Watercolor Society* (1969), *Painting Outdoors* (1969), *Painting Cityscapes* (1970), and *Artist's Guide to Composition* (1971).

For nearly three decades, Fabri taught art in New York City. He was an instructor in the life and still life classes at the Parson's School of Design from 1947 through 1949. In 1951, Fabri was appointed associate professor at City College of New York, where he taught painting and art history until retiring in 1967. In addition, he was on the faculty of School of the National Academy of Design, teaching painting, drawing, and graphics from 1964 until his death.

Fabri was an active member of many artists' organizations. He was president of the National Society of Painters in Casein, Inc., an organization founded by Fabri in 1953 (it later became the National Society of Painters in Casein and Acrylic, Inc.); he also served as president of the Audubon Artists and the Allied Artists of America, Inc. As historian of The American Watercolor Society, Fabri wrote a book length history of that organization published on the occasion of its centennial. He was the secretary and treasurer of the National Academy of Design, as well as serving on many of its committees.

Paintings and prints by Ralph Fabri have been exhibited widely in solo and group exhibitions throughout the United States and, to a lesser extent, in Europe. A frequent lecturer, his painting demonstrations were quite popular. Fabri received numerous honors and awards, and his work is included in the permanent collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Library of Congress, the New York Public Library, the National Academy of Design, the Norfolk Museum of Art and Science, Smithsonian Institution, the Museum of Fine Arts, the National Gallery in Budapest, and many other public and private collections.

Ralph Fabri died in New York City in February 1975.

Scope and Content Note

The Ralph Fabri papers measure 26.0 linear feet and are dated circa 1870s-1975, with the bulk of the material dated 1918-1975. Biographical information, correspondence, subject files, writings, art work, financial records, miscellaneous records, scrapbooks, printed material, and photographs document the professional career and personal life of the painter, printmaker, commercial artist, writer, and teacher.

Biographical information includes awards and certificates, educational records, passports and travel documents.

Almost one-half of the collection consists of Fabri's correspondence. There is correspondence with friends and relatives, as well as professional correspondence. Much of the early correspondence with friends and family is written in Hungarian and also include small watercolors by Fabri that he used as postcards to send messages to family members. A number of later letters are illustrated with drawings by Fabri and other artists. Extensive correspondence - often daily missives - records romantic liaisons with Mabel Farrar, Mina Kocherthaler, Elly von Marczell, and Mavis Elizabeth Peat, as well as the travels and careers of Hungarian opera singer Maria Samson and composer and impresario Laszlo Schawrtz. In addition, there are large numbers of Christmas cards, many with original artwork, from artist friends and former students. Professional correspondence concerns teaching, writing and publishing, commercial work, exhibitions and sales.

Subject files relate mainly to organizations and institutions in which Fabri was active, and include his correspondence and some official records (minutes, reports, financial records), and printed material. Among the organizations and institutions are: Allied Artists of America, Inc., Artists for Victory, Inc., Audubon Artists of America, Inc., National Academy of Design, and Society of American Etchers. Other subject files concern the schools where Fabri taught and publications with which he was associated.

Among the writings by Fabri are drafts and completed manuscripts of articles, books (including two unpublished titles), music and lyrics, and a few poems. Diaries (75 vols.) covering the period 1918-1975, contain almost daily entries that record in varying degrees of detail his professional and personal activities, special and mundane events, and opinions. Prior to 1939, the diaries are in Hungarian or partially in

Hungarian. Heavily illustrated notes from his studies at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts survive, along with other miscellaneous notes and 7 notebooks containing lists of concerts, operas, and plays attended by Fabri between 1912 and 1974.

Writings by other authors include the manuscript of *Pastel Painting* published by Stephen Csoka, said to have been written by Fabri.

Art work by Fabri includes student work, early commercial work, drawings and sketches, a few early watercolor paintings, and two sketchbooks. Work by other artists consists of a watercolor by his uncle Miklos Fabri, a pencil drawing by Laszlo Schwartz, a gouache painting by Paul Mommer, and an ink drawing by Marantz.

Financial records mainly concern banking transactions and taxes. In addition there are receipts for personal and business expenses and packages sent to family in Hungary.

Included among the miscellaneous records and artifacts are art sales and donations, six medals awarded to Fabri, and guest books. A videotape (SONY Helical Scan recording) of Fabri in his studio, made by Jerome Bona and Rick Brown that aired on NYC public access television station Channel C in 1973, is also included.

Scrapbooks (10 vols.) contain reproductions of Fabri's early commercial work, clippings, printed material, and a few photographs documenting his career.

Printed material by Fabri includes articles, books, commercial designs, reproductions, and works translated by Fabri for publication in Hungarian. Also included are issues of *Today's Art* containing signed and unsigned articles and editorials by Fabri, and some pieces he wrote using pseudonyms. Exhibition related items include catalogs, announcements, and invitations for Fabri's group and solo exhibitions and exhibitions of other artists. Also included are posters, and prospectuses.

Photographs are of art work, people, places, and miscellaneous subjects. People pictured are Ralph Fabri, his family (including a few ancestors), friends, and unidentified individuals and groups. Places documented include exterior views of Pension Villa-Fabri in Hungary (the family's restaurant and hotel), as well as photographs of foreign lands visited by Fabri or sent to him by friends. An item of note filed with miscellaneous subjects is a parade float titled "Give a Thought to Music," designed and constructed by Fabri. Included in ten photograph albums are views of paintings and commercial work by Fabri, various friends, his studio, the Dreiser estate in Mt. Kisco, N.Y., and group portraits of City College of New York faculty.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into 10 series::

- Series 1: Biographical Information, 1919-1973, undated (Box 1, OV 31; 0.2 linear ft.)
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1904-1975, undated (Boxes 1-12; 11.0 linear ft.)
- Series 3: Subject Files, 1941-1975, undated (Boxes 12-14, 25; 2.1 linear ft.)
- Series 4: Writings, 1911-1975, undated (Boxes 14-17; 3.8 linear ft.)
- Series 5: Art Work, circa 1903-1970s, undated (Boxes 17, 26; 0.4 linear ft.)
- Series 6: Financial Records, 1923-1973, undated (Box 18; 0.6 linear ft.)
- Series 7: Miscellaneous Records and Artifacts, 1931-1975, undated (Box 18; 0.4 linear ft.)
- Series 8: Scrapbooks, 1911-1971 (Boxes 27-30; 1.3 linear ft.)
- Series 9: Printed Material, 1910s-1973, undated (Boxes 19-23, OV 32; 4.8 linear ft.)
- Series 10: Photographs, circa 1870s-1973, undated (Boxes 23-25; 1.4 linear ft.)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Art -- Societies, etc. -- New York (State) -- New York
Art -- Study and teaching -- New York (State) -- New York
Art criticism -- New York (State) -- New York
Art critics -- New York (State) -- New York
Educators -- New York (State) -- New York
Painters -- New York (State) -- New York
Painting, American -- New York (State) -- New York
Sculptors -- New York (State) -- New York -- Interviews

Types of Materials:

Christmas cards
Diaries
Drawings
Illustrated letters -- Local
Photographs
Scrapbooks
Sketchbooks
Sketches
Video recordings
Watercolors

Names:

American Watercolor Society
Artists for Victory, Inc
Society of American Etchers
Today's art

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Information, 1919-1973, undated

(Box 1, OV 31; 0.2 linear ft.)

Biographical information includes awards and certificates, educational records, passports and travel documents.

Box 1, Folder 1-2	Awards and Certificates, 1946-1973, undated (see: OV 31)
Box 1, Folder 3	Biographical Notes, 1961-1973, undated
Box 1, Folder 4	Crystal Reading of Fabri's Character by M. Williams, undated
Box 1, Folder 5	Educational Records (includes contemporary typescript copy), 1920-1924
Box 1, Folder 6	Jury Duty Certificates, 1933-1943
Box 1, Folder 7	Literacy Certificate, 1932
Box 1, Folder 8	Membership and Identification Cards, 1919-1974, undated
Box 1, Folder 9	Passports and Travel Documents, 1921-1968
Box 1, Folder 10	Will (codicle), 1971
Box OV 31	Oversized Awards and Certificates from Box 1, Folders 1-2, 1946, 1964

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 2: Correspondence, 1904-1975, undated

(Boxes 1-12; 11.0 linear ft.)

This large series of mainly correspondence with relatives and friends --is in Hungarian. Among the earliest pieces of correspondence are small watercolors by Fabri that he used as postcards to send messages to family members. A number of later letters are illustrated with drawings by Fabri and other artists.

Professional correspondence concerns teaching, writing and publishing, commercial work, exhibitions and sales. Extensive correspondence - often daily missives - records romantic liaisons with Mabel Farrar, Mina Kocherthaler, Elly von Marczell, and Mavis Elizabeth Peat, as well as the travels and careers of Hungarian opera singer Maria Samson and composer and impresario Laszlo Schawrtz . In addition, there are large numbers of Christmas cards, many with original artwork, from former students and artist friends.

Additional correspondence is included with Subject Files (Series 3) and also among the loose items removed from, but retained with, Fabri's diaries (Series 4: Writings).

Box 1, Folder 11-28	Correspondence, 1904-June 1923
Box 2, Folder 1-20	Correspondence, July 1923-Feb. 1928
Box 3, Folder 1-19	Correspondence, March 1928-July 1930
Box 4, Folder 1-20	Correspondence, Aug. 1930-Oct. 1934
Box 5, Folder 1-18	Correspondence, Nov. 1934-June 1938
Box 6, Folder 1-19	Correspondence, July 1938-1943
Box 7, Folder 1-20	Correspondence, 1944-1949
Box 8, Folder 1-19	Correspondence, 1950-1956
Box 9, Folder 1-20	Correspondence, 1957-1965
Box 10, Folder 1-20	Correspondence, 1966-1973
Box 11, Folder 1-4	Correspondence, 1974-1975
Box 11, Folder 5-14	Correspondence, 1910s-1970s, undated
Box 11, Folder 15-22	Correspondence, undated (Jan.-Dec.)
Box 12, Folder 1-3	Correspondence, undated (Dec.)
Box 12, Folder 4-5	Correspondence, undated

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 3: Subject Files, 1941-1975, undated

(Boxes 12-14, 25; 2.1 linear ft.)

Subject files relate mainly to organizations and institutions with which Fabri was associated. They include correspondence, and some official records (minutes, reports, financial records), and printed material. Files for publications (*American Artist* and *Today's Art*) include manuscripts for articles and reviews by Fabri, and correspondence with readers. Files for schools where Fabri taught include correspondence with students and faculty, school catalogs, teaching materials, examinations, class rosters and grade sheets. The Theodore Dreiser file includes information about the Dreiser papers Fabri gave to the University of Pennsylvania and a few typescripts of Dreiser letters.

Box 12	Allied Artists of America, Inc.
Box 12, Folder 6	Administrative Records, 1973-1974, undated
Box 12, Folder 7	Correspondence, 1964-1974, undated
Box 12	<i>American Artist</i>
Box 12, Folder 8	Article by Fabri, 1971
Box 12, Folder 9-12	Book Reviews by Fabri, 1972-1975
Box 12, Folder 13	Correspondence, 1971-1974
Box 12, Folder 14	American Watercolor Society, 1964-1972, undated
Box 12	Artists for Victory, Inc.
Box 12, Folder 15	Correspondence, 1943-1946, undated
Box 12, Folder 16	Minutes of Executive Board, 1945
Box 12, Folder 17	Audubon Artists of America, Inc., 1944-1975
Box 12	City College of New York
Box 12, Folder 18	Correspondence, 1951-1972, undated
Box 12, Folder 19	Examinations, 1950-1965
Box 12, Folder 20	Grade Sheets, 1952-1966
Box 12, Folder 21	Miscellaneous, 1948-1963, undated
Box 12, Folder 22	Reports by Fabri, 1952-1963
Box 12, Folder 23	Teaching Notes, 1950s-1960s
Box 12, Folder 24	Technical Building Mural, 1961-1963
Box 12, Folder 25	Dreiser, Theodore, 1951-1972

Box 12	National Academy of Design
Box 12, Folder 26-29	Correspondence, 1943-1971, undated
Box 12, Folder 30	Minutes, Committee on the Constitution (with reports, drafts of revisions, and related correspondence), 1961-1962
Box 12, Folder 31	Minutes, Council Meetings, 1949-1950
Box 12, Folder 32	Minutes, Executive Committee, 1949-1950, 1964
Box 12, Folder 33	Minutes, Finance Committee, 1949, 1961
Box 12, Folder 34	Minutes, Publicity Committee, 1949
Box 12, Folder 35	Miscellaneous Notes, undated
Box 12, Folder 36	150th Anniversary Planning, 1971-1974
Box 13, Folder 1	Annual Reports, 1946-1971
Box 13, Folder 2	Printed Material, Miscellaneous, 1949-1973
Box 13, Folder 3	Printed Material, School Circulars, etc., 1950-1973, undated
Box 13, Folder 4	School Budget and Expense Analysis, 1950-1951
Box 13, Folder 5	Report of Treasurer, 1961
Box 13	National Society of Painters in Casein, Inc.
Box 13, Folder 6	Constitution and By-Laws, undated
Box 13, Folder 7	Correspondence, 1954-1975, undated
Box 13, Folder 8	Financial Records, 1954-1964, undated
Box 13, Folder 9	Lists (membership, awards, etc.), undated
Box 13, Folder 10	Minutes of Annual Meeting and Board Meeting, 1965, 1973
Box 13, Folder 11	Publicity and Scrapbook, 1952-1965, undated (see: Box 25)
Box 13, Folder 12	Reports, 1950s-1968, undated
Box 13, Folder 13	Parsons School of Design, 1947-1950, undated
Box 13, Folder 14	Pen and Brush, 1963-1973
Box 13, Folder 15	Society of American Etchers (John Taylor Arms), 1941-1947

Box 13	<i>Today's Art</i>
Box 13, Folder 16-27	Correspondence, 1960-1974, undated
Box 13, Folder 28-35	Manuscripts of Articles and Reviews by Fabri and Other Authors, 1958-1972, undated
Box 14, Folder 1-4	Manuscripts of Articles and Reviews by Fabri and Other Authors, 1973-1974, undated
Box 25	Oversized National Society of Painters in Casein, Inc., Scrapbook from Box 13, Folder 11, 1952-1962

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 4: Writings, 1911-1975, undated

(Boxes 14-17; 3.8 linear ft.)

Among the extensive writings by Fabri are drafts and completed manuscripts of articles, books, music and lyrics, and a few poems. Manuscripts for Fabri's books include two unpublished titles: a partial draft and outline for *Flower Painting in Every Medium* that may have become *Complete Guide to Flower Painting*, and *The Romance of Architecture*.

Diaries (75 vols.) covering the period 1918-1975 (entirely or partially in Hungarian prior to about 1938) contain almost daily entries recording in varying degrees of detail professional and personal activities, special and mundane events, and his opinions. Of particular interest are Fabri's heavily illustrated notes from his student days at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts.

Notebooks (7 vols.) mainly contain lists of concerts, operas, and plays attended by Fabri between 1912 and 1974, noting the performers. Writings by other authors include the manuscript of *Pastel Painting*, a book published by Stephen Csoka, said to have been ghostwritten by Fabri.

The series is arranged into 2 subseries:

- 4.1: Writings By Fabri, 1911-1975, undated
- 4.2: Writings By Other Authors, 1962, undated

4.1: Writings By Fabri, 1911-1975, undated

Box 14	Addresss
Box 14, Folder 5-9	Address Books, circa 1920s-1969, undated (6 volumes)
Box 14, Folder 10	Card File and Loose Slips of Paper, undated
Box 14	Articles
Box 14, Folder 11	Various Titles, 1921-1971, undated
Box 14, Folder 12	"Methods and Materials" (series in <i>Pictures on Exhibit</i>), 1949-circa 1955
Box 14	Books
Box 14, Folder 13	<i>Advanced Techniques and Styles in Oil Painting</i> (partial manuscript and outline; unpublished), 1953
Box 14	<i>The Art of Polymer Painting</i>
Box 14, Folder 14	Edited First Draft, circa 1966
Box 14, Folder 15	Revised Manuscript, circa 1966
Box 14, Folder 16	Final Manuscript, circa 1966
Box 14, Folder 17	Notes and Information Concerning Publicity, 1966
Box 14	<i>Artist's Guide to Composition</i>

Box 14, Folder 18-19	Manuscript, 1969
Box 14, Folder 20	Illustrations, Captions, Invoices for Photo Orders, 1969
Box 14	<i>Color: A Complete Guide for Artists</i>
Box 14, Folder 21-22	Edited Draft, circa 1967
Box 14, Folder 23	Partial Draft and Notes, circa 1967
Box 14, Folder 24-25	<i>Complete Guide to Flower Painting</i> Manuscript, circa 1968
Box 14	<i>The First Hundred Years: A Brief History of the American Watercolor Society</i>
Box 14, Folder 26	Manuscript, 1968
Box 14, Folder 27	Notes, 1968
Box 15, Folder 1	<i>Flower Painting in Every Medium</i> (partial draft and outline), circa 1966
Box 15, Folder 2	<i>Learn To Draw</i> (manuscript), 1945
Box 15, Folder 3	<i>Oil Painting: How To Do It!</i> (dummy), circa 1953
Box 15	<i>Painting Cityscapes</i>
Box 15, Folder 4-5	Manuscript, circa 1969
Box 15, Folder 6	Illustration Captions, 1969
Box 15, Folder 7-8	<i>Painting Outdoors</i> (manuscript), circa 1968-1968
Box 15	<i>The Romance of Architecture</i> (unpublished)
Box 15, Folder 9	Draft, circa 1959
Box 15, Folder 10	Manuscript, circa 1959
Box 15	<i>Sculpture in Paper</i>
Box 15, Folder 11	Draft, circa 1966
Box 15, Folder 12	Manuscript, circa 1967
Box 15, Folder 13-21	Diaries (vols. 1 -21), 1918-1952
Box 16, Folder 1-15	Diaries (vols. 22-61), 1953-1969
Box 17, Folder 1-5	Diaries (vols. 62-75), 1970-1975, undated

Box 17, Folder 6	Epicomedy, 1911
Box 17, Folder 7	Exhibition Reviews (probably for <i>Pictures on Exhibit</i>), 1952-1956
Box 17, Folder 8	Lecture Notes, 1933-1947
Box 17, Folder 9	Lists of Art Work, undated
Box 17, Folder 10	Music and Lyrics, 1910-1913
Box 17, Folder 11	Notes from Architecture Courses, Hungarian Royal Academy of Fine Arts, 1915-1916
Box 17, Folder 12-13	Notebooks, 1912-1974, undated (7 vols)
Box 17, Folder 14	Notes, Miscellaneous, undated
Box 17, Folder 15	Poems, 1959, 1962, undated

4.2: Writings By Other Authors, 1962, undated

Box 17, Folder 16	Hoffman Irwin D. Tribute to Ralph Fabri, undated
Box 17	Csoka, Stephen, <i>Pastel Painting</i> (ghostwritten by Fabri)
Box 17, Folder 17	Corrected Draft, 1962
Box 17, Folder 18	Final Manuscript, 1962

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 5: Art Work, circa 1903-1970s

(Box 17, 26; 0.4 linear ft.)

Art work by Fabri includes student work, early commercial work, drawings and sketches, a few early watercolor paintings, and two sketchbooks. Other artists represented are Fabri's uncle Miklos Fabri, Laszlo Schwartz, Paul Mommer, and Marantz.

In addition, illustrated letters by Fabri are filed with Series 1: Correspondence. Notes from the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Budapest, which are heavily illustrated, can be found with Series 4: Writings.

The series is arranged into 2 subseries:

- 5.1: Art Work By Fabri, circa 1903-1970s, undated
- 5.2: Art Work By Other Artists, circa 1903, undated

5.1: Art Work By Fabri, circa 1903-1970s, undated

Box 17, Folder 19	Commercial and Student Work, 1912-1918, undated (see: Box 26)
Box 17, Folder 20	Designs, Textiles and Jewelry (see: Box 26), 1921
Box 17, Folder 21-26	Drawings and Sketches (pencil; ink), circa 1903-1970s, undated (see: Box 26)
Box 17, Folder 27	Paintings (oil; watercolor), circa 1903-1906
Box 17, Folder 28	Paintings (watercolor; gouache), 1910s-1920s
Box 17, Folder 29	Sketchbooks (2 vols.), 1920s, 1940s-1950s
Box 26	Oversized Artwork by Fabri, Jewelry Designs from Box 17, Folder 20, 1921
Box 26	Oversized Artwork by Fabri, Drawings (pencil) from Box 17, Folders 21-26, 1932
Box 26	Oversized Student Work by Fabri (Royal Academy of Fine Arts, Budapest) from Box 17, Folder 19, 1915-1918

5.2: Art Work By Other Artists, circa 1903, undated

Box 17, Folder 30	Painting (watercolor) by Miklos Fabri [uncle]; Drawing (pencil) by László Schwartz; Painting (gouache) by Paul Mommer; and Drawing (ink) by Marantz, circa 1903, undated (see: Box 26)
Box 26	Oversized Painting (gouache) by Paul Mommer; Drawing (ink) by Marantz from Box 17, Folder 30, undated

Return to Table of Contents

Series 6: Financial Records, 1923-1973, undated*(Box 18; 0.6 linear ft.)*

Box 18	Banking
Box 18, Folder 1	American Union Bank (cancelled checks), 1925-1931
Box 18, Folder 2	Chemical Bank (cancelled checks; account statements), 1970-1973
Box 18, Folder 3	Corn Exchange Bank Trust Company (savings passbooks), 1933-1938
Box 18, Folder 4	International Money Order Receipts, 1923-1924; 1925; 1931; 1956
Box 18, Folder 5	Manufacturers Trust Company (cancelled checks), 1931-1932
Box 18, Folder 6	Ledger, 1958-1968
Box 18	Receipts
Box 18, Folder 7	Packages Sent to Family in Hungary, 1928-1956, n.d
Box 18, Folder 8-9	Personal and Business Expenses, 1917-1969, undated
Box 18	Taxes
Box 18, Folder 10-15	Income Tax (federal, state, local), 1924-1925; 1939-1970; 1973-1974
Box 18, Folder 16	Sales Tax (New York City), 1935-1956

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 7: Miscellaneous Records, 1931-1975, undated

(Box 18; 0.4 linear ft.)

Included among the miscellaneous records and artifacts are art sales and donations, six medals awarded to Fabri, and guest books. A videotape (SONY Helical Scan recording) of Fabri in his studio, made by Jerome Bona and Rick Brown that aired on NYC public access television station Channel C in 1973, is also included.

The videotape (SONY Helical Scan recording) of Fabri in his studio was made by Jerome Bona and Rick Brown and aired on NYC public access television station Channel C in 1973.

Box 18, Folder 17	Volume "Art Reocords" listing Art Sales and Donations, 1931-1975
Box 18	Artifacts
Box 18, Folder 18	Leather Wallet or Passport Case (with insignia and inscription in Hungarian) and Leather Card Case, undated
Box 18, Folder 19-20	Medals, 1950-1958 <i>(6 items)</i>
Box 18, Folder 21	Guest Books, 1946, 1949-1971 <i>(2 vols.)</i>
Box 18, Folder 22	Videotape of Fabri, 1973

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 8: Scrapbooks, 1911-1971

(Boxes 27-30; 1.3 linear ft.)

Ten volumes of scrapbooks document Fabri's career and consist mainly of clippings and other printed material. Also included are samples of his early commercial work.

An additional scrapbook of the National Society of Painters in Casein, Inc. is included with Series 3: Subject Files.

Box 27	Vol. 1: Reproductions of early work, clippings, linoleum cuts, and commercial work, 1911-1941/42
Box 27	Vol. 2: Clippings, reproductions, other printed material including samples of commercial work (disbound), 1940s, undated
Box 27	Vol. 3: Clippings and printed material, 1921-1943
Box 28	Vol. 4: Clippings and printed material, 1943-1945
Box 28	Vol. 5: Clippings and printed material, 1945-1951
Box 29	Vol. 6: Clippings and printed material, 1952-1957
Box 29	Vol. 7: Clippings and printed material, 1957-1963
Box 30	Vol. 8: Clippings and printed material, 1963-1967
Box 30	Vol. 9: Clippings, printed material, and photograph, 1966-1969
Box 30	Vol. 10: Clippings, printed material, and photograph, 1969-1971

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 9: Printed Material, 1910s-1973, undated

(Boxes 19-23, 25, and OV 32; 4.8 linear ft.)

Printed material by Fabri includes articles, books, commercial designs, reproductions, and works he translated for publication in Hungarian. A fairly complete run of *Today's Art* is included. Fabri contributed articles to the magazine starting in 1953, its first year of publication.

Exhibition related items include catalogs, announcements, and invitations for Fabri's exhibitions and exhibitions of other artists. Also included are posters, and prospectuses. Miscellaneous printed items on a variety of topics include a fair number of blank postcards, and reproductions of art work by other artists.

This series is arranged as 4 subseries:

- 9.1: About/Mentioning Fabri, 1920s-1973, undated
- 9.2: By Fabri, 1910s-1973, undated
- 9.3: Exhibitions, 1917-1971, undated
- 9.4: Miscellaneous Printed Items, 1919-1973, undated

9.1: About/Mentioning Fabri, 1920s-1973, undated

Box 19, Folder 1	Announcements of Painting Demonstrations and Lectures by Fabri, 1959-1973, undated
Box 19, Folder 2-3	Articles, 1929-1975, undated
Box 19, Folder 4	Book Reviews, Publicity, Advertisements for Books by Fabri, 1966-1971, undated
Box 19, Folder 5	Business Cards. Receipt Form, Announcement (R.F. Studios); Calling Card, 1920s, undated
Box 19, Folder 6	Catalogs of Art Collections, 1958-1964
Box 19, Folder 7	Miscellaneous Items, 1953-1973, undated
Box 19, Folder 8	Reports, 1943-1969

9.2: By Fabri, 1910s-1973, undated

Box 19, Folder 9	Articles [in Hungarian], 1921-1932 (see: Box 25)
Box 19	Books
Box 19, Folder 10	<i>History of the American Watercolor Society: The First Hundred Years</i> , 1969
Box 19, Folder 11	<i>Learn to Draw: A Comprehensive Handbook for Art Students and Art Lovers</i> , 1945
Box 19, Folder 12	<i>Oil Painting: How to Do It!</i> , 1953
Box 19	Commercial Designs by Fabri

- Box 19, Folder 13 Envelopes and Album Covers for Stamp and Album Co. of America, 1938-1942
- Box 19, Folder 14 Map Covers for Geographica Map Co.; Covers for All-In-One Suppliers Catalogs, 1940s
- Box 19, Folder 15 Miscellaneous Items, Posters, and Calendar for All-In-One Suppliers, 1910s-1920s and 1940s
(see: *Box 25 and OV 31*)
- Box 19, Folder 16 Sheet Music Covers (Laszlo Schwartz, composer), 1923-1924
- Box 19, Folder 17 Stamps for American Hungarian Relief, 1940s
- Box 19, Folder 18 Letter to the Editor, *New York Times Magazine*, 1972
- Box 19, Folder 19 Reproductions of Work by Fabri (postcard and Christmas card), undated
- Box 19, Folder 20-28 *Today's Art* (Ralph Fabri, associate editor), 1953-1969
- Box 20, Folder 1-3 *Today's Art* (Ralph Fabri, editor), 1971, 1973
- Box 20 Translated by Fabri
- Box 20, Folder 4 *Akit Nem Szabad Szeretni* by Giudo da Verona, 1920
- Box 20, Folder 5 *A nó a XVIII. Száladban* by Edmund and Jules de Goncourt and *Levelek a Malmamból* by Daudet, 1921, 1922
- Box 25 Oversized Articles by Fabri from Box 19, Folder 9, 1921-1932
- Box 25 Oversized Calendar for All-In-One Suppliers; Miscellaneous Items from Box 19, Folder 15, 1943 and undated
- Box OV 31 Oversized Commercial Posters Designed by Fabri (advertisement for Arthur Allen Clothiers; announcement of weekly stamp collectors' broadcasts) from Box 19, Folder 15, 1940s

9.3: Exhibitions, 1917-1971, undated

- Box 20, Folder 6-16 Catalogs, Announcements, Invitations (Fabri shows), 1917/18-1948
- Box 21, Folder 1-16 Catalogs, Announcements, Invitations (Fabri shows), 1949-1959
- Box 22, Folder 1-22 Catalogs, Announcements, Invitations (Fabri shows), 1960-1971
- Box 23, Folder 1-4 Catalogs, Announcements, Invitations (Fabri shows), 1972-1974, undated
- Box 23, Folder 5 Catalogs, Announcements, Invitations (Other artists), 1956-1968, undated
- Box 23, Folder 6 Prospectuses, 1943-1971

9.4: Miscellaneous Printed Items, 1919-1973, undated

Box 23	Art Topics
Box 23, Folder 7	Audubon Artists, 1950-1952, undated
Box 23, Folder 8	General, 1919-1972, undated
Box 23, Folder 9	National Academy of Design, 1949-1950
Box 23, Folder 10	National Society of Painters in Casein, Inc., 1955-1966
Box 23, Folder 11	Menu from Magyar Ház (restaurant operated by Henrik Fabri) and Advertisement for Strand-Pensió (hotel run by Henrik Fabri), undated
Box 23, Folder 12	Miscellaneous Topics (not art), 1921-1973, undated
Box 23, Folder 13	Newsletters (Regun Theatre; 14th Street Theatre), 1925
Box 23	Postcards (blank)
Box 23, Folder 14	Art, undated
Box 23, Folder 15	Canada; England; France, undated
Box 23, Folder 16	Hungary; India, Ceylon, and Burma; Italy; Romania, undated
Box 23, Folder 17-18	Miscellaneous U.S. States, 1948-1950, undated
Box 23, Folder 19	Programs, Concert, 1921-1937, undated
Box 23, Folder 20	Programs, Theater, 1921, undated
Box 23, Folder 21	Reproductions of Art Work by Other Artists, undated
Box 23, Folder 22	War Ration Books, 1942-1943

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 10: Photographs, circa 1870s-1973, undated

(Boxes 23-25; 1.4 linear ft.)

Photographs are of Ralph Fabri, his family (including a few ancestors), friends, and unidentified individuals and groups. Among the places depicted are Pension Villa-Fabri in Hungary, the family's restaurant and hotel. An item of particular note filed with miscellaneous subjects is a view of "Give a Thought to Music," a parade float designed and constructed by Fabri. Ten volumes of photograph albums include views of paintings and commercial work by Fabri, various friends, his studio, the Dreiser estate in Mt. Kisco, N.Y., and group portraits of the City College of New York faculty.

This series is arranged as 5 subseries:

- 10.1: Art Work, 1862-1964, undated
- 10.2: People, circa 1870s-1973, undated
- 10.3: Places, circa 1920s-1971, undated
- 10.4: Miscellaneous Subjects, circa 1920s, undated
- 10.5: Photograph Albums, 1920s

10.1: Art Work, 1862-1964, undated

Box 23	By Fabri
Box 23, Folder 23-24	A-Z (by title), undated
Box 23, Folder 25	Untitled, undated
Box 23, Folder 26	Color Transparency of Still Life, undated
Box 23, Folder 27	Painting Demonstrations, undated
Box 23	By Other Artists
Box 23, Folder 28	A-Z and unidentified (by artist), undated
Box 23, Folder 29	Illustrations for National Gallery of Canada Calendar, 1964
Box 23, Folder 30	Illustrations for <i>Sculpture in Paper</i> by Fabri (includes negatives), circa 1962
Box 23, Folder 31	Unidentified Artist (possibly Fabri), Architectural Drawing, undated

10.2: People, circa 1870s-1973, undated

Box 23	Fabri, Ralph
Box 23, Folder 32	Portraits, 1922-1973, undated (see: Box 25)
Box 23, Folder 33	With Others (Dreiser, Helen and unidentified individuals), circa 1920s-1970, undated
Box 23	Family

Box 23, Folder 34	Fabri Children (Charles, Elza, Otti, and Ralph in various groupings), 1898-1908, 1935
Box 23, Folder 35	Fabri, Charles (brother), circa 1900-1936
Box 23, Folder 36	Fabri, Elza (sister); her Husband, Géza Dési; their Children, 1908-1960
Box 23, Folder 37	Fabri, Helena Fischer (mother), circa 1880s-1937, undated
Box 23, Folder 38	Fabri, Helena Fischer and Henrik L. Fabri (parents), 1893
Box 23, Folder 39	Fabri, Henrik L. (father), early 1900s, 1924
Box 23, Folder 40	Fabri, Otti (sister); her Children, circa 1900, 1922-1936
Box 23, Folder 41	Fabri, Pauline (aunt), 1952
Box 23, Folder 42	Fabri, Ralph, 1894-1904
Box 23, Folder 43	Fischer, Eugene (uncle), circa 1870s
Box 23, Folder 44	Fischer, Grandmother (mother of Helena Fischer Fabri), circa 1870s
Box 23, Folder 45	Levine, Bernice Becher (second cousin, husband George Levine, and parents Jack and Charlotte Pfeiffer Becher), 1935-1937
Box 23	Others
Box 23, Folder 46	Daitz-Caporicci, Teresa, 1962
Box 23, Folder 47	Dreiser, Helen, 1932, circa 1944
Box 23, Folder 48	Einstein, Alfred and Abraham Mandelstam, undated
Box 23, Folder 49	Gottlieb, Elizabeth, 1947
Box 23, Folder 50	Van Dijk, Kees, undated
Box 23, Folder 51	Unidentified Individuals, 1922-1973, undated
Box 23, Folder 52	Unidentified Groups, 1922, undated
Box 25	Oversized Photographs, People -- Fabri Portraits, 1942, 1963
10.3: Places, circa 1920s-1971, undated	
Box 24, Folder 1	Alaska, 1922, undated
Box 24, Folder 2	British Columbia, undated

- Box 24, Folder 3 Hungary (Budapest), Pension Villa-Fabri (exterior, garden, outdoor dining area), circa 1920s-1930s
- Box 24, Folder 4 India (Agra and Darjeeling), undated
- Box 24, Folder 5 Ireland (Dublin), 1968
- Box 24, Folder 6 National Gallery of Canada, Lorne Building, circa 1960s
- Box 24, Folder 7 Turkey (negatives), 1971
- Box 24, Folder 8 Unidentified, undated

10.4: Miscellaneous Subjects, circa 1920s, undated

- Box 24, Folder 9 Animals, undated
- Box 24, Folder 10 Parade Float, "Give a Thought to Music," Designed and Constructed by Fabri, circa 1920s

10.5: Photograph Albums, 1920s

- Box 24, Folder 11 Vol. 1, "Photographs of Paintings, Settings, etc.," 1920s
- Box 24, Folder 12 Vol. 2, Photographs of Displays and Other Commercial Work (disbound), 1920s-1940s
- Box 24, Folder 13 Vol. 3, "Pix I took of Maria Samson, Hungarian opera singer, in Winnipeg and New York. Also: Laszlo Schwartz in Winnipeg and some friends in N.Y.," 1921-1923
- Box 24, Folder 14 Vol. 4, "Ralph Fabri movie displays, shadowboxes, a horsedrawn float, etc. done while working for the Art Guild, W. 5th St., 1922-23 (24). Lettering done by letterers," 1922-1924
- Box 24, Folder 15 Vol. 5, "Starting with early pix, 1921-1922, though my European trip, 1927, my studio in Washington Square, my family in U.S. and Hungary. My friends Mabel Farrar, Elizabeth Schirmer, others and myself up to 1930. Last pix on top," 1921-1930
- Box 24, Folder 16 Vol. 6, "Family, the Dreisers. Camp Wigwam. Mabel [Farrar]. Elly von Marczell. Maria Samson's House (Kew Gardens). Mavis Elizabeth Peat. Evelyn B. Macht," 1928-1937
- Box 24, Folder 17 Vol. 7, "Ralph Fabri: Photograph of Portraits," 1929-circa 1946
- Box 24, Folder 18 Vol. 8, "Photographs I took at Camp Wigwam, Maine and "Iroki" the Dreiser estate, Mt. Kisco, N.Y.," 1930-1936
- Box 24, Folder 19 Vol. 9, "Pix from Mt. Kisco and house I remodeled in Newark, N.J. for my uncle" and Vol. 10, 1931-1960s

(see: Box 25 for Vol. 10)

Box 25

Oversized Vol. 10 Photograph Album, Oversized Photographs of Paintings by Fabri; Group Portraits, including CCNY Faculty (disbound) , 1940s-1960s

[Return to Table of Contents](#)