



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## A Finding Aid to the Domenico Facci Papers, 1914-1995, bulk 1950-1984, in the Archives of American Art

Marta Fodor

April 27, 2010

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Domenico Facci papers
<b>Date:</b>	1914-1995
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.faccdome
<b>Creator:</b>	Facci, Domenico, 1916-1994
<b>Extent:</b>	1.2 Linear feet
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	The Domenico Facci papers are dated 1914 to 1995, with the bulk falling between the years 1950 and 1984. They measure 1.2 linear feet and consist of biographical material, correspondence, artwork relating to sculpture projects, printed material, and photographs. Among the well-documented aspects of Facci's professional career are: his leadership roles in several arts organizations based in New York City, including Audubon Artists, National Sculpture Society, and Artists Equity Association; his work on the United States Treasury's 1988 Olympic Games commemorative coin competition, Brooklyn Bridge 100th Anniversary reliefs, <i>Endangered Species Medal</i> , and <i>Neptune Fountain</i> at Busch Gardens in Williamsburg, VA.

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## Administrative Information

### Provenance

Gift of Debby Friedman, 2010.

### Processing Information

The collection was processed by Marta Fodor in 2010.

### Preferred Citation

Domenico Facci papers, 1914-1995. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

### Restrictions on Access

Use of original papers requires an appointment.

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## Biographical Note

Domenico Facci (1914-1994) worked in New York City and was known primarily for commissioned portraits and public sculpture, and for holding leadership positions in several arts organizations based in New York City.

Domenico (Aurelio) Facci was born to Antonio and Grace Facci in Hooversville, Pennsylvania, on February 2, 1916, where his father, Antonio, was a coal miner. His mother was Grace Facci. When he was 10, the family relocated to Brooklyn, New York.

Facci won a scholarship to Roerich Academy (Master Institute of United Arts) where he studied under Pietro Montana and Louis Slobodkin and graduated in 1936. In 1937 he opened his first studio on Fifth Avenue at 15th Street and was immediately commissioned to do several large pieces for the 1939 World's Fair.

Many public and private commissions were executed by Facci in the New York City area, among them: carvings on the tower façade of St. Thomas's church, St. Rita sculpture in Long Island City, lobby for American Express building, 100 feet of plaques on the Brooklyn Bridge walkway, and bronze sculptures for PS 147 in the Bronx. Facci was also awarded portrait commissions of eminent public figures including: Winston Churchill, Albert Einstein, Bob Hope, Lowell Thomas, James Kilpatrick, and Lynn Redgrave, some of which were executed on live television and at other events. Some important commissions in other locations were: a cartouche for bronze doors for St Peter's Cathedral, Philadelphia, PA; exterior bronze for the Court of Appeals Building, Annapolis, MD; St. Paul sculpture, Fredericksburg, MD; *Eagle War Monument*, Rome, NY; and St. John Divine in Sewanee, TN.

Facci was the recipient of numerous important awards, including the Proctor Award from the National Academy of Design, the Richards Award from the Allied Artists, and the Liskin Award from the Knickerbocker Artists. He was also elected a fellow of the National Sculpture Society. Solo exhibitions of Facci's work were presented at the Silvermine Guild of Artists and the Village Art Center. He participated in group shows at the Whitney Museum of American Art and the National Academy of Design, Jersey City. Facci exhibited annually at numerous New York artists organization, including the Village Art Center, Knickerbocker Artists, and at the Silvermine Guild.

Facci's work is included in the permanent collections of the Florida Southern College, in Lakeland, FL, the Norfolk Museum, VA, and the Polk Museum, FL.

As an active member of numerous professional artists organizations, Facci served as the president of the Village Art Center for a decade, president of the Audubon Artists for 11 years, and president of the American Society of Contemporary Artists. In addition, he was an officer in other organizations, including: Knickerbocker Artists, Allied Artists, New Jersey Painters and Sculptors, National Sculpture Society, Silvermine Guild of Artists, New York Artists' Equity Association, Sculptors League, Salmagundi Club, National Academy of Design, and the American Society of Contemporary Artists.

In addition to his work as a sculptor, Facci was also a teacher. Between 1939 and 1972, he served on the faculty of City College of New York, the Academy of Art at Florida Southern College, Ridgewood Village Art School in New Jersey, and the Craft Student League in New York.

Domenico Facci was married to Penelope (Felicia/Penny) Facci and they had a son, Robert. Domenico Facci died on November 6, 1994.

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## Scope and Content Note

The Domenico Facci papers are dated 1914 to 1995, with the bulk falling between the years 1950 and 1984. They measure 1.2 linear feet and consist of biographical material, correspondence, artwork relating to sculpture projects, printed material, and photographs. Among the well-documented aspects of Facci's professional career are: his leadership roles in several arts organizations based in New York City, including Audubon Artists, National Sculpture Society, and Artists Equity Association; his work on the United States Treasury's 1988 Olympic Games

commemorative coin competition, Brooklyn Bridge 100th Anniversary reliefs, *Endangered Species Medal*, and *Neptune Fountain* at Busch Gardens in Williamsburg, VA.

Biographical material consists of artist's statements; marriage, academic, and military service records; awards; and membership cards and certificates. Correspondence consists mainly of incoming letters related to Facci's activities with arts organizations, among them Audubon Artists, American Society of Contemporary Artists, the Village Art Center, Artists Equity Association, the National Sculpture Society, and Nippon Museum.

Artwork includes two sketchbooks - one for the 1988 Olympic Games commemorative coin competition, and another concerning the *Endangered Species Medal*. Also found are anatomical study drawings, blueprint plans for the *Neptune Fountain* project, and miscellaneous sketches.

Printed materials are newspaper clippings, newsletters, exhibition catalogs, programs, press releases, announcements, and brochures. The bulk of this series is comprised of exhibition catalogs from the Audubon Artists, Painters and Sculptors Society of New Jersey, National Arts Club, and National Sculpture Society.

Photographs are of Facci and his work, including completed pieces, the artist at work in his studio and presenting sculpture demonstrations.

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## Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 6 series:

- Series 1: Biographical Material, 1914-1998 (Box 1; 0.1 linear ft.)
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1954-1988 (Box 1; 0.3 linear ft.)
- Series 3: Artwork, circa 1930-1985 (Box 1; OV 2-3; 0.3 linear ft.)
- Series 4: Printed Material, 1933-1988 (Box 1; 0.3 linear ft.)
- Series 5: Scrapbook, circa 1940-1985 (Box 1; 1 folder)
- Series 6: Photographs, circa 1940-1985 (Box 1; 0.2 linear ft.)

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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:

Art -- Economic aspects  
Artists' studios  
Medalists -- New York (State) -- New York

Types of Materials:

Awards  
Blueprints  
Photographs  
Sketchbooks

Names:

American Society of Contemporary Artists (New York, N.Y.)  
Artists Equity Association  
Audubon Artists (New York, N.Y.)  
National Sculpture Society (U.S.)  
Olympic Games (24th : 1988 : Seoul, Korea)

United States. Department of the Treasury

Places:

Brooklyn Bridge (New York, N.Y.)  
BuschGardens (Williamsburg, Va.)

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Biographical Records, 1914-1998

(Box 1; 0.1 linear ft.)

Scope and Contents: Family papers relating to both of Domenico Facci's parents consist of business records, marriage certificates, and funeral and burial arrangements. Resumes and personal records include artist resumes, artist's statements, entries for *Who's Who*, marriage certificate. Among the educational records are report cards, letters of recommendation, and the announcement of his Roerich Academy of Art (Master Institute of United Arts) scholarship. Military service records include letter of call for duty, assignment posts, application for specialist qualification, and letters from the Veterans Administration. Award and memberships include membership cards and certificates, the Proctor Prize from the National Academy of Design, and awards from New York Artists Equity Association, Kappa Pi, Sigma Phi Epsilon, Silvermine Guild of Artists, Brooklyn Society of Artists, Jersey City Museum, Knickerbocker Artists, Audubon Artists, Allied Artists of America, and others.

Box 1, Folder 1	Family Papers 1914-1949
Box 1, Folder 2	Biographical Notes and Documents 1921-1998
Box 1, Folder 3	Educational Records, 1933-1950
Box 1, Folder 4	Military Service, 1943-1947
Box 1, Folder 5	Awards and Memberships 1930-1995

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## Series 2: Correspondence, 1954-1988

(Box 1; 0.3 linear ft.)

**Scope and Contents:** The majority of correspondence consists of incoming letters; the only reciprocal exchanges preserved are with Penelope Facci and his friend Donna Stoddard. Family correspondence includes mostly letters between Penelope and Domenico, a letter from their son Robert, and one from from Guiseppe Facci, a distant relative. The bulk of the incoming letters relate to Domenico Facci's membership and leadership activities with arts organizations such as Audubon Artists, American Society of Contemporary Artists, the Village Art Center, Artists Equity Association, National Sculpture Society, and the Nippon Museum. Also found are personal letters, invitations, and holiday cards.

**Arrangement:** Correspondence is arranged alphabetically.

Box 1, Folder 6	Added Touch - American Society of Contemporary Artists 1952-1991
Box 1, Folder 7	Audubon Artists 1956-1982
Box 1, Folder 8	Barker, Al - Cooper, Dale Meyer, 1943-1989
Box 1, Folder 9	Dake, Walter - Ettl, Alex, 1952-1983
Box 1, Folder 10	Facci Family, 1930-1992 Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guiseppe</li> <li>• Penelope</li> <li>• Robert</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Box 1, Folder 11	Fazzano, Joseph - Italian Culture Council, 1940-1983
Box 1, Folder 12	Joshi, Satish - Long Beach Monument Co., 1954-1993
Box 1, Folder 13	Mamaroneck Artists Guild - National Commemorative Society, 1954-1985
Box 1, Folder 14	National Sculpture Society, 1979-1991
Box 1, Folder 15	Nippon Museum, 1979-1982
Box 1, Folder 16	The Painters and Sculptors Society of New Jersey - Quirk and Bakalor, 1942-1992
Box 1, Folder 17	Raben, Ether - Steep Rock Wildlife Art, 1943-1992
Box 1, Folder 18	Stoddard, Donna, 1960-1992
Box 1, Folder 19	Thomas, Lowell - Viewpoint Productions, 1951-1989
Box 1, Folder 20	Washington Square Business and Professional Women's Club - Yeshiva University, 1953-1986



Box 1, Folder 21

Unidentified, 1966-1993, undated

Notes:

- :
- Carey N.
- Cathie
- Diana
- Elizabeth
- Gail
- Jae
- Jeanie
- Jen
- Lois
- Marc
- Rose and Ruth
- Theresa
- Tina

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## Series 3: Artwork, circa 1930s- 1988,

(Box 1; OV 2-3; 0.3 linear ft.)

Scope and Contents: This series includes two sketchbooks of studies - one for the 1988 Olympic Games commemorative coin competition sponsored by the United States Treasury, and another containing drawings for the *Endangered Species Medal*. Also found are watercolor and pencil sketches of models and animals, anatomical and portrait studies, illustrations, cartoons, and sketches for an eagle medal, along with blueprint plans for the *Neptune Fountain*, in Busch Gardens, Williamsburg, VA.

Box 1, Folder 22	Drawings circa 1930 (removed from binder; original collation retained)
Box 1, Folder 23	Sketches and Watercolors 1932, undated
Box 1, Folder	Sketchbooks
Box 1, Folder 24	1988 Olympic Games Coin Competition, 1988 (1 volume)
Box 1, Folder 25	Endangered Species Medal, undated (1 volume)
Box OV 2	Endangered Species Medal and Other Sketches, undated
Box OV 3	Neptune Fountain, 1976 (3 blueprints)

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## Series 4: Printed Materials, 1933 - 1988

*(Box 1; 0.3 linear ft.)*

**Scope and Contents:** Printed materials consist of newspaper and magazine articles, newsletters, exhibition catalogs, programs, press releases and announcements, and brochures. The majority of the exhibition catalogs are from the Audubon Artists, Painters and Sculptors Society of New Jersey, National Arts Club, and National Sculpture Society. Listings of Facci's work seen on e-Bay are also included.

**Arrangement:** Exhibition catalogs are arranged alphabetically by sponsoring organization. Additional printed items can be found in Series 5, Scrapbook.

Box 1, Folder 26	Articles 1933-1994
Box 1, Folder 27	Newsletters and Bulletins 1952-1994
Box 1, Folder 28	e-Bay Listings, 2002-2008
Box 1, Folder 29	Exhibition Announcements and Brochures, 1945-1983
Box 1, Folder 30-33	Exhibition Catalogs, 1954-1988 (4 folders)

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## Series 5: Scrapbook, circa 1940 - 1985

*(Box 1; 1 folder)*

Scope and Contents: The scrapbook contains newspaper clippings and photographs of Facci's finished work, clay models, and the sculptor at work.

Box 1, Folder 34	Scrapbook, circa 1940-1985 (removed from 3 ring binder)
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## Series 6: Photographs, circa 1940 - 1985

(Box 1; 0.2 linear ft.)

Scope and Contents: Photographs, mainly black and white, are of artwork, people and events.

Photographs of Facci include portraits of the sculptor and views of him in the company of friends and family. In addition, he is shown at work in his studio and while demonstrating the sculptural process. Among the photographs of live demonstrations are Facci sculpting John DeLurie and Lowell Thomas. Other pictures of people are family photographs from social gatherings and celebrations.

Among the photographs of artwork are Facci's finished sculpture, clay models, and related studies. Also found are views of work and installations in progress, among them the Brooklyn Bridge 100th Anniversary reliefs, *Neptune Fountain*, and unidentified projects. Also found is a photograph of a portrait of Domenico Facci painted by Byron Browne.

Events recorded include and East West Evening with Pearl Buck held at the White House in 1945, and an unidentified costume ball.

Box 1, Folder	People - Domenico Facci
Box 1, Folder 35	Portraits circa 1940-1985
Box 1, Folder 36	With Friends, Family and Others circa 1940-1985
Box 1, Folder 37	At Work in Studio, circa 1940-1985
Box 1, Folder 38	Sculpture Demonstrations, 1971, circa 1940-1985
Box 1, Folder 39	People - Others, circa 1940-1978, undated
Box 1, Folder	Artwork by Domenico Facci
Box 1, Folder 40	Animals, undated
Box 1, Folder 41	Figures, 1965-1977
Box 1, Folder 42	Heads, undated
Box 1, Folder 43	Reliefs, undated
Box 1, Folder 44	Miscellaneous Subjects, undated
Box 1, Folder 45	Brooklyn Bridge in Progress, 1987
Box 1, Folder 46	Neptune Fountain in Progress, 1976
Box 1, Folder 47	Unidentified Projects in Progress, undated
Box 1, Folder 48	Artwork by Byron Browne, undated

Box 1, Folder	Events
Box 1, Folder 49	East West Evening, 1945
Box 1, Folder 50	Costume Ball (Artists Equity Ball ?), undated
Box 1, Folder 51	Dedication of Brooklyn Bridge Plaques, 1987
Box 1, Folder 52	Negative of Unidentified Artwork, undated

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