



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Desmond Fitzgerald papers, 1868-1927, in the Archives of American Art

Rihoko Ueno

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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/>

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Desmond Fitzgerald papers
Date:	1868-1927
Identifier:	AAA.fitzdesm
Creator:	Fitzgerald, Desmond, 1846-1926
Extent:	1 Linear foot
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of Massachusetts art patron, art collector and engineer Desmond Fitzgerald measure 1 linear foot and date from 1868 to 1927. The papers consist of 28 diaries, one account book, one exhibition catalog, and a photograph of Desmond Fitzgerald.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Material on reel D177 was lent for microfilming in 1965 by Andrew Oliver, then returned to him. Material on reels 2774-2775 (the diaries, auction book, and exhibition catalog) was purchased in 1979 from an auction in New Hampshire by the dealers R. & D. Emerson of Falls Village, Connecticut. The Archives of American Art arranged to purchase them through a grant from the Hope Foundation of Providence, Rhode Island, a philanthropic organization founded by the Brown family. Fitzgerald was a cousin of John Nicholas Brown.

Separated Materials

The Archives of American Art also holds microfilm of material lent for microfilming on reel D177, including letters from Macknight to Desmond Fitzgerald, Boston critic, collector, dealer, and biographer of Dodge Macknight; press clippings concerning Macknight exhibitions; and letters to Fitzgerald from Isabella Gardner, Claude Monet, and John Henry Twachtman, mostly relating to Macknight. The original loaned materials on reel D177 were returned to the donor Andrew Oliver after microfilming and are not described in the container inventory.

Available Formats

Portions of the collection are available on 35mm microfilm reels D177 and 2774-2775 at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan. 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 processed, and a finding aid prepared by Rihoko Ueno in 2021.

Preferred Citation

Desmond Fitzgerald papers, 1868-1927. 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

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Biographical / Historical

Desmond Fitzgerald (1846-1926) was an art patron, art collector, and engineer based in Brookline, Massachusetts. He served on the boards of the Boston Public Library and the Copley Society. In 1913, Fitzgerald arranged to have the Armory Show come to Boston. His collection of mainly French and American impressionist paintings by Claude Monet, Dodge MacKnight, and others became a kind of semi-public museum. Upon his death, the collection was sold at auction.

Scope and Contents

The papers of Massachusetts art patron, art collector and engineer Desmond Fitzgerald measure 1 linear foot and date from 1868 to 1927. The papers consist of 28 diaries, one account book, one exhibition catalog, and a photograph of Desmond Fitzgerald.

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:

Art -- Collectors and collecting

Types of Materials:

Diaries

Names:

MacKnight, Dodge, 1860-1950

Occupations:

Art patrons -- Massachusetts -- Brookline
Collectors -- Massachusetts -- Brookline

Container Listing

Series 1: Desmond Fitzgerald papers, 1868-1927

1 Linear foot (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: This series consists of an account book, an exhibition catalog, a photograph of Desmond Fitzgerald, and diaries. The 28 volumes of Fitzgerald's personal diary include a few pasted-in clippings and photographs. Early volumes relate to Fitzgerald's professional work. Later volumes after 1900 reflect his art interests, and give a full picture of his involvement in the art world. The collection also contains an account book and a catalog of Fitzgerald's estate sale after his death, *Important Paintings by the Impressionists: The Fitzgerald Collection, 1927*.

Box 1, Folder 1	Diary, 1868-1869
Box 1, Folder 2	Diary, 1871
Box 1, Folder 3	Diary, 1875
Box 1, Folder 4	Diary, 1881
Box 1, Folder 5	Diaries, 1890-1891
Box 1, Folder 6	Diaries, 1897, 1899
Box 1, Folder 7	Diaries, 1900-1901
Box 1, Folder 8	Diaries, 1902-1903
Box 1, Folder 9	Diaries, 1905, 1907
Box 1, Folder 10	Diaries, 1909-1910
Box 1, Folder 11	Diaries, 1911, 1913
Box 1, Folder 12	Diaries, 1914-1915
Box 1, Folder 13	Diaries, 1916-1917
Box 1, Folder 14	Diaries, 1918-1919
Box 1, Folder 15	Diaries, 1921-1922
Box 1, Folder 16	Diaries, 1923, 1925
Box 1, Folder 17	Account Book, 1875-1925
Box 1, Folder 18	Important Paintings by the Impressionists: The Fitzgerald Collection, 1927

Box 1, Folder 19

Photograph of Desmond Fitzgerald, circa 1927

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