



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the James Fitzgerald Papers,
1905-1992, in the Archives of American Art

Judy Ng

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was provided by the Terra Foundation for American Art.

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Archives of American Art
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	James Fitzgerald papers
Identifier:	AAA.fitzjame
Date:	1905-1992
Extent:	4.6 Linear feet
Creator:	Fitzgerald, James, 1899-1971
Language:	English
	The collection is in English.
Summary:	The papers of painter James Fitzgerald measure 4.6 linear feet and date from 1905 to 1992. Found within the papers are biographical materials; personal and business correspondence, including fifty-one letters from Rockwell Kent; personal business records; writings; artwork consisting of drawings and 21 sketchbooks; printed material, including a scrapbook of clippings and catalogs; and photographs of Fitzgerald, his family and friends, and his work.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The papers were donated in 1991 by Fitzgerald's literary executors, Anne and Edgar Hubert. Two additional sketchbooks were donated in 2014 by the chairman of the James Fitzgerald Legacy, Robert L. Stahl.

Processing Information

The collection was fully processed by Jean Fitzgerald in 1994. A finding aid was prepared by Judy Ng in 2014 with funding provided by the Terra Foundation for American Art.

Preferred Citation

James Fitzgerald papers, 1905-1992. 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. Use of archival audiovisual recordings with no duplicate access copy requires advance notice. Contact Reference Services for more information.

Conditions Governing Use

The James Fitzgerald 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 / Historical

Painter James Fitzgerald (1899-1971) lived and worked in Monterey, California and Monhegan, Maine and is known for his watercolors of seascapes, animals, and nature.

Born in Milton, Massachusetts, Fitzgerald studied from 1919 to 1923 at the Massachusetts School of Art and from 1923 to 1924 at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts School with Philip Hale, Leslie P. Thompson, and Edmund C. Tarbell. From 1923 to 1928, Fitzgerald took a break from his art studies to travel, sailing and crewing on fishing ships and freighters on the coasts of northern America. During a trip along the West coast in 1928, his travels brought him to Monterey, California where he established a studio and met and became associated with a group including John Cage, Martha Graham, E. F. Ricketts, and John Steinbeck.

From 1936 to 1942, Fitzgerald taught painting in California, then sold his studio the following year to settle in the artists' colony at Monhegan, Maine, which he had first visited in 1923. From 1944 to 1971, Fitzgerald made annual trips to Mt. Katahdin and also formed friendships with other Monhegan residents, including Rockwell Kent and Anne and Edgar Hubert. Fitzgerald died suddenly on the Irish island of Arranmore Ireland, where he had traveled to paint in 1971.

Scope and Contents

The papers of painter James Fitzgerald measure 4.6 linear feet and date from 1905 to 1992. Found within the papers are biographical materials; personal and business correspondence, including fifty-one letters from Rockwell Kent; personal business records; writings; artwork consisting of drawings and 21 sketchbooks; printed material, including a scrapbook of clippings and catalogs; and photographs of Fitzgerald, his family and friends, and his work.

Biographical materials include certificates, military records, and identification cards and passports. Correspondence is with collectors and friends, including Monhegan residents Anne and Edgar Hubert, Grace Sullivan, and Rockwell Kent. Personal business records include banking, tax, and estate records. Writings consist of Fitzgerald's notebook and notes, essays and recollections of Fitzgerald by friends, and Calvin Hennig's notes on a 1984 posthumous exhibition catalog.

There are loose drawings and 21 sketchbooks of Fitzgerald's artwork. Printed material includes clippings, a clippings scrapbook, exhibition catalogs, and a five-minute video recording describing the holdings of Anne and Edgar Hubert's Fitzgerald art collection. Photographs are of Fitzgerald, his friends and family, residents, travel snapshots, and photographs and slides of his artwork.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 7 series.

- Series 1: Biographical Materials, 1918-1971 (2 folders; Boxes 1, 5)
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1934-1987 (1.3 linear feet; Boxes 1-2)
- Series 3: Personal Business Records, 1948-1972 (0.5 linear feet; Box 2)
- Series 4: Writings, 1955-1988 (1.2 linear feet; Boxes 2-3, 5)
- Series 5: Artwork, 1930-1969 (1.1 linear feet; Boxes 4-6)
- Series 6: Printed Material, 1923-1989 (0.2 linear feet; Box 4)
- Series 7: Photographic Material, 1905-1992 (0.3 linear feet; Box 4)

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
Artist colonies
Painters -- Maine
Painting, Modern -- 20th century -- United States

Types of Materials:

Drawings
Photographs
Scrapbooks
Sketchbooks
Slides (photographs)
Video recordings

Names:

Hennig, Calvin
Hubert, Anne, 1909-2004
Hubert, Edgar, 1909-1994
Kent, Rockwell, 1882-1971

Occupations:

Marine painters -- California -- Monterey
Marine painters -- Maine -- Monhegan
Painters -- California -- Monterey

Geographic Names:

Monhegan Island (Me.)

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Materials, 1918-1971

2 Folders (Boxes 1, 5)

Biographical materials include copies of Fitzgerald's birth certificate, honorary discharge papers from the Marines, a social security card, and 2 passports from 1964 and 1971.

Materials are arranged by document type.

Box 1, Folder 1	Certificates, 1918-1942 Oversized material housed in Box 5, Folder 1.
Box 1, Folder 2	Identification Cards and Passports, 1960-1971
Box 5, Folder 1	Oversized Certificate from Box 1, Folder 1, 1918

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Series 2: Correspondence, 1934-1987

1.3 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2)

Correspondence includes incoming and outgoing letters to collectors and friends, including Anne and Edgar Hubert and Grace Sullivan. Notable are fifty-one letters from Rockwell Kent primarily discussing Fitzgerald's and Kent's interests and property in Monhegan, Maine. Letters from Monhegan Associates, Inc., a group devoted to preservation of Monhegan Island, contains by-laws, minutes of meetings, and newsletters.

With the exception of correspondence with Rockwell Kent and Monhegan Associates Inc., letters are arranged chronologically.

Box 1, Folder 3-7	Kent, Rockwell, 1953-1958
Box 1, Folder 8-12	Kent, Rockwell, 1959-1965
Box 1, Folder 13-15	Kent, Rockwell, 1966-1970
Box 1, Folder 16	Monhegan Associates, Inc., 1958-1973
Box 1, Folder 17	Chronological, circa 1934-1987
Box 1, Folder 18-22	Chronological, 1934-1959
Box 1, Folder 23-30	Chronological, 1960-1961
Box 1, Folder 31-38	Chronological, 1962
Box 1, Folder 39-44	Chronological, 1963
Box 1, Folder 45-54	Chronological, 1964
Box 1, Folder 55-59	Chronological, 1965
Box 1, Folder 60-63	Chronological, 1966
Box 1, Folder 64-68	Chronological, 1967
Box 1, Folder 69-73	Chronological, 1968
Box 2, Folder 1-7	Chronological, 1969
Box 2, Folder 8-13	Chronological, 1970
Box 2, Folder 14-16	Chronological, 1971
Box 2, Folder 17-18	Chronological, 1972-1987

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Series 3: Personal Business Records, 1948-1972

0.5 Linear feet (Box 2)

Personal business records include bank statements, cancelled checks, income tax and insurance records, receipts, some for gilding work and art supplies, and estate records.

Materials are arranged by document type.

Box 2, Folder 19-23	Bank Statements, 1951-1971
Box 2, Folder 24-27	Checks, Canceled, 1961-1971
Box 2, Folder 28	Stocks, 1950-1960
Box 2, Folder 29-30	Tax, Income, 1961-1969
Box 2, Folder 31	Tax, Miscellaneous , 1955-1971
Box 2, Folder 32	Veterans Administration and Retirement, 1964-1971
Box 2, Folder 33	Insurance, 1956-1971
Box 2, Folder 34-36	Receipts, Medical, 1948-1971
Box 2, Folder 37	Receipts, Gilding Work, 1955
Box 2, Folder 38-39	Receipts, Art Supplies, 1954-1970
Box 2, Folder 40	Receipts, Sale of Station Wagon, 1969
Box 2, Folder 41	Receipts, Travel, 1964-1971
Box 2, Folder 42	Receipts, Miscellaneous, 1962-1970
Box 2, Folder 43-47	Estate File, 1962-1972

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Series 4: Writings, 1955-1988

1.2 Linear feet (Boxes 2-3, 5)

Writings include Fitzgerald's notebook, his notes on gilding and various topics, an essay about the ship, "The Elizabeth Howard," an essay by an unidentified author about Fitzgerald's and Rockwell Kent's friendship, and essays on Fitzgerald. Also in the series are index cards containing notes for a catalog of the 1984 exhibition, "James Fitzgerald," by Calvin Hennig. There are also interviews and accompanying transcripts that relate friends' recollections of Fitzgerald. Recordings are on 4 sound cassettes.

The series is arranged as 2 subseries.

- 4.1: By Fitzgerald, 1955-1971
- 4.2: By Others, 1960-1988

4.1: By Fitzgerald, 1960

Box 2, Folder 48	Manuscript, "Elizabeth Howard", circa 1960-1971
Box 2, Folder 49	Notebook, Fitzgerald, 1955
Box 2, Folder 50	Notes, Business Cards, circa 1960-1971
Box 2, Folder 51	Notes, On Gilding, circa 1960-1971
Box 2, Folder 52	Notes, Miscellaneous, circa 1960-1971

4.2: By Others, 1960

Box 2, Folder 53	Essay, "James Fitzgerald," by Anne Hubert, circa 1960-1980
Box 2, Folder 54	Essay, On the Friendship Between Fitzgerald and Rockwell Kent, by Anne Hubert, 1988
Box 2, Folder 55	Essay, "James Fitzgerald," by Elisabeth Levi de Montezinos, circa 1960-1980
Box 2, Folder 56	Essay, "Recollections of James Fitzgerald," by Marjorie Lloyd, 1979
Box 2, Folder 57	Essay, "James Fitzgerald," by Dorothy Walter, circa 1960-1980
Box 2, Folder 58	Essay, "James Fitzgerald and Mt. Katahdin," Author Unknown, circa 1960-1980
Box 2, Folder 59	Gallery Talk, "Recollections of the Artist James Fitzgerald," by Anne Hubert, 1987
Box 2, Folder 60	Interview, Don Cundy on Fitzgerald, 1980 <i>1 sound cassette (Includes transcript.)</i>
Box 2, Folder 61	Interview, Sandra Dickson and Harry Bone on Fitzgerald, 1987 <i>2 sound cassettes (Includes transcript.)</i>
Box 2, Folder 62	Interview, Jennifer Phillips on Fitzgerald, 1983

1 sound cassette (Includes transcript.)

Box 2, Folder 63	Interview Transcript, Doris Young on Fitzgerald, 1981
Box 3, Folder 1-5	Notes, Fitzgerald Biography, 1983-1984
Box 3, Folder 6-10	Notes, Fitzgerald Biography, 1983-1984
Box 3, Folder 11-15	Notes, Fitzgerald Biography, 1983-1984
Box 3, Folder 16-19	Notes, Fitzgerald Biography, 1983-1984 Notes by Calvin Hennig.
Box 3, Folder 20	Gallery Proof, James Fitzgerald Catalog, William A. Farnsworth Library and Art Museum, 1984 Oversized material housed in Box 5, Folder 1.
Box 5, Folder 1	Oversized Gallery Proof from Box 3, Folder 20

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Series 5: Artwork, 1930-1969

1.1 Linear feet (Boxes 4-6)

Artwork consists of 14 drawings and 21 sketchbooks dating from 1921-1969. Sketchbooks include renderings of Monhegan seascapes, and travel sketches from Mt. Katahdin, London, and Ireland.

Materials are arranged by document type; sketchbooks are in numerical order.

Box 4, Folder 1	Drawings, circa 1921-1971 Oversize material housed in Box 5, Folder 2.
Box 4, Folder 2	Sketchbook #1, 1946
Box 5, Folder 3	Sketchbook #2, 1947
Box 5, Folder 4	Sketchbook #3, 1947
Box 5, Folder 5	Sketchbook #4, 1947
Box 5, Folder 6	Sketchbook #5, 1947
Box 5, Folder 7	Sketchbook #6, 1956
Box 4, Folder 3	Sketchbook #7, 1954-1957
Box 4, Folder 4	Sketchbook #8, 1959
Box 4, Folder 5	Sketchbook #9, 1961
Box 6, Folder 1	Sketchbook #10, 1961-1962
Box 6, Folder 2	Sketchbook #11, 1961
Box 4, Folder 6	Sketchbook #12, 1965
Box 4, Folder 7	Sketchbook #13, circa 1955-1969
Box 6, Folder 3	Sketchbook #14, 1966
Box 4, Folder 8	Sketchbook #15, 1967
Box 4, Folder 9	Sketchbook #16, 1967
Box 6, Folder 4	Sketchbook #17, circa 1960-1971
Box 4, Folder 10	Sketchbook #18, 1967-1969
Box 4, Folder 11	Sketchbook #19, 1968
Box 4, Folder 12	Sketchbook #20, 1968
Box 4, Folder 13	Sketchbook #21, 1969

Box 5, Folder 2

Oversized Drawings from Box 4, Folder 1, circa 1921-1971

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Series 6: Printed Material, 1923-1989

0.2 Linear feet (Box 4)

Printed material includes clippings and a clippings scrapbook that includes four letters and a sampling of exhibition catalogs. There are also exhibition announcements and catalogs, reproductions of art work, programs, art supply catalogs, picture postcards, a brochure and geological survey maps of Mt. Katahdin, yearbook ARTGUM excerpts, and miscellaneous printed material. A videocassette, "James Fitzgerald: Paintings and Drawings from the Collection of Anne and Edgar Hubert," is narrated by Anne Hubert and produced by Eric Shambroom.

Materials are arranged by document type.

Box 4, Folder 14	Clippings, 1930-1989
Box 4, Folder 15	Clippings, Scrapbook, 1928-1948
Box 4, Folder 16	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1940-1989
Box 4, Folder 17	Exhibition, "Paintings and Drawings from the Collection of Anne and Edgar Hubert" at the DeCordova Museum, 1985 <i>1 videocassettes (vhs)</i>
Box 4, Folder 18	Postcards, circa 1950-1971
Box 4, Folder 19	Programs, 1930-1967
Box 4, Folder 20	Reproductions of Artwork, circa 1960-1980
Box 4, Folder 21	Supply Catalogs, 1929-1949
Box 4, Folder 22	Travel Brochures, circa 1960-1971
Box 4, Folder 23	Yearbook, "Artgum", 1923
Box 4, Folder 24	Miscellaneous, circa 1960-1971
Box 4, Folder 25	Miscellaneous, Mt. Katahdin, circa 1960-1971

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Series 7: Photographic Material, 1905-1992

0.3 Linear feet (Box 4)

Photographs are of Fitzgerald; his parents and siblings; his wife Pegs; friends, including actor Richard Boone, Dan Burne Jones, E. F. Ricketts, and John Steinbeck; his studios, including the Kent-Fitzgerald cottage; travel sights; the hotel in which Fitzgerald died; and objects owned and designed by Fitzgerald. Photographs and slides of artwork include portraits of servicemen drawn in 1947.

Materials are arranged by subject matter and document type.

Box 4, Folder 26	James Fitzgerald, circa 1905-1933
Box 4, Folder 27	James Fitzgerald, 1960-1968
Box 4, Folder 28	James Fitzgerald with Friends, 1930-1966
Box 4, Folder 29	Pegs Fitzgerald, circa 1925-1945
Box 4, Folder 30	Kent-Fitzgerald Cottage, 1971
Box 4, Folder 31	Studios, 1971-1978
Box 4, Folder 32	Travel, 1967-1979
Box 4, Folder 33	Miscellaneous, 1966-1992
Box 4, Folder 34	Photographs of Artwork, circa 1970-1980
Box 4, Folder 35	Photographs of Artwork, Portraits of Servicemen Drawn in 1947, circa 1970-1980
Box 4, Folder 36	Slides of Artwork, Katahdin , 1982
Box 4, Folder 37	Slides of Artwork, Monhegan , 1977-1980
Box 4, Folder 38	Slides of Artwork, Western Themes , 1977-1988
Box 4, Folder 39	Slides of Artwork, Miscellaneous Themes, 1978-1980

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