



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Merrell Gage Papers,
1911-1982, in the Archives of American Art

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Merrell Gage papers
Date:	1911-1982
Identifier:	AAA.gagemerr
Creator:	Gage, Merrell, 1892-1981
Extent:	0.7 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of sculptor and educator Merrell Gage measure 0.7 linear feet and date from 1911 to 1982. The papers document his career in Kansas and California through biographical material, correspondence, writings, printed material, artwork, and photographs, as well as a scrapbook and a photograph album.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The Merrell Gage papers were donated to the Archives of American Art in 1995 by Jean Gage, daughter of Merrell Gage.

Related Materials

Also found in the Archives of American Art is an oral history interview with Merrell Gage conducted by Betty Hoag on May 27, 1964.

Processing Information

The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Rihoko Ueno in 2020.

Preferred Citation

Merrell Gage papers, 1911 to 1982. 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.

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Biographical / Historical

Sculptor Robert Merrell Gage (1892-1981), known as Merrell Gage, was born in Topeka, Kansas in 1892. He studied at the Art Students League in 1911 and at the Robert Henri School of Art and also served as an apprentice to Gutzon Borglum from 1914 to 1916 and again from 1921 to 1923. Borglum was a tremendous influence on Gage. His wife Marian was a painter.

Gage taught at Washburn College in Kansas, ca. 1915-1916; the Kansas City Art Institute, 1915-1916 and 1919-1921; and the University of Southern California at Los Angeles, ca. 1925-1958. In 1955, Gage's film, "The Face of Lincoln," won an Academy Award in the two-reel short subject category. Merrell Gage died in 1981.

Scope and Contents

The papers of sculptor and educator Merrell Gage measure 0.7 linear feet and date from 1911 to 1982. The papers document his career in Kansas and California through biographical material, correspondence, writings, printed material, artwork, and photographs, as well as a scrapbook and a photograph album.

Arrangement

This collection is 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:

Sculpture, American

Names:

Borglum, Gutzon, 1867-1941

Occupations:

Educators -- California -- Los Angeles

Educators -- Kansas

Sculptors -- California

Sculptors -- Kansas

Container Listing

Series 1: Merrell Gage papers, 1911-1982

0.7 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2, OV 3)

Scope and Contents: This series includes a biographical summary; letters from various people, including two from Gutzon Borglum (one addressing Gage as "Bud"); writings including an essay by Gage "A Shrine to Democracy," and his two part memoir, "My Years with Gutzon Borglum," (Pt.1) and "Lincoln Monument, Kansas," (Pt.II) covering the years 1912-1923; artwork consisting of three pencil sketches of Borglum by Gage; a photograph album of Gage's sculptures; photographs of Gage and his artwork, a scrapbook of news clippings, and printed material.

Arrangement: Due to the size of collection, the papers are all organized into one series.

Box 1, Folder 1	Biographical Summary, circa 1981
Box 1, Folder 2	Correspondence, 1912-1966
Box 1, Folder 3	Writings - "A Shrine to Democracy", circa 1938
Box 1, Folder 4	Writings - "My Years with Gutzon Borglum" (Part 1), circa 1930-circa 1960
Box 1, Folder 5	Writings - "Part II: Lincoln Monument, Kansas", circa 1930-circa 1960
Box 1, Folder 6	Writings - Notes (Possibly by Gage), circa 1930-circa 1960
Box 1, Folder 7	Gage's Bust of "Justice Sherman Minton of the U.S. Supreme Court", circa 1957
Box 1, Folder 8	Disbound Scrapbook Cover (Part 1 of 8), 1916-1940
Box 1, Folder 9	Disbound Scrapbook (Part 2 of 8), 1916-1940
Box 1, Folder 10	Disbound Scrapbook (Part 3 of 8), 1916-1940
Box 1, Folder 11	Disbound Scrapbook (Part 4 of 8), 1916-1940
Box 1, Folder 12	Disbound Scrapbook (Part 5 of 8), 1916-1940
Box 1, Folder 13	Disbound Scrapbook (Part 6 of 8), 1916-1940
Box 1, Folder 14	Disbound Scrapbook (Part 7 of 8), 1916-1940
Box 1, Folder 15	Disbound Scrapbook (Part 8 of 8), 1916-1940
Box 1, Folder 16	Clippings Regarding Gage's Artwork, circa 1963

Box 1, Folder 17	Clipping Regarding Mount Rushmore, 1939
Box 1, Folder 18	Exhibition Catalogues, 1959-1963
Oversize 3, Folder 1	Exhibition Catalogue, 1982
Box 1, Folder 19	Other Printed Material, circa 1955-1966
Box 2, Folder 1	Sketches of Gutzon Borglum, circa 1915
Box 2, Folder 2	Photograph Album of Sculptures, circa 1950-circa 1970
Box 2, Folder 3	Photographs - Merrell Gage Posing with His Artwork, 1918-circa 1969
Box 2, Folder 4	Photograph - Henri School of Art Class Photograph, New York, 1911
Box 2, Folder 5	Photographs - Portrait Sculptures, circa 1920-1970
Box 2, Folder 6	Photographs - Monuments and Memorials, circa 1918-circa 1955
Box 2, Folder 7	Photographs - Ecclesiastical Sculpture, circa 1930-circa 1940
Box 2, Folder 8	Photographs - Other Sculptures of Figures, circa 1930-circa 1966

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