



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## A Finding Aid to the Ira and William Glackens Papers, 1900-1990, in the Archives of American Art

Catherine S. Gaines

Funding for the digitization of this collection was provided by the Sansom Foundation.

2007

Archives of American Art  
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<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>  
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/>

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Ira and William Glackens papers
<b>Date:</b>	circa 1900-1990
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.glacwill
<b>Creator:</b>	Glackens, Ira, 1907-1990
<b>Extent:</b>	2.3 Linear feet
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	The Ira and William Glackens papers, circa 1900-1990, measure 2.3 linear feet. The collection consists primarily of the papers of Ira Glackens relating to the artwork of his father, William Glackens, but also contains scattered correspondence of William and his wife Edith, including letters from Albert Barnes. Ira Glackens' papers include books written by Ira; exhibition catalogs and clippings about William and others; photographs of the Glackens family and friends, of Ira, and of the Glackens residence; and an audio recording of William Glackens' remarks upon accepting an award at the Carnegie International Exhibition in 1936. There are also records of the Sansom Foundation, which was set up by Ira Glackens and his wife Nancy.

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## Administrative Information

### Provenance

The Ira and William Glackens papers were donated to the Archives of American Art by Ira Glackens in 1987, and by his estate in 1991. In 2007 a small cache of papers found in the Glackens home was donated by Susan Corn Conway, who had purchased the Glackens' house.

### Separated Material

Published books not authored by Glackens family members or related to Glackens' family members were transferred to the Smithsonian's American Art Museum Library in 2007. A few pieces of artwork were given to Williams College, also in 2007.

### Related Materials

The Archives also holds several collections related to Ira and William Glackens, including the Ira Glackens letters to Jane Wasey; the Illustrations by William Glackens and letter from Ira Glackens; the Lillian E. Travis papers relating to William Glackens and Charles Prendergast; and the Thomas Hart Benton and Ira Glackens letters. Substantial correspondence between William Glackens and the Kraushaar Gallery can also be found in the Kraushaar Galleries records.

### Alternative Forms Available

The bulk of this collection was digitized in 2015 and is available on the Archives of American Art's website. Materials which have not been scanned include photographs of works of art; duplicates; routine banking records; blank pages in bound volumes; blank versos of photographs;

and exhibition catalogs of other artists. In some cases, exhibition catalogs and other publications have had their covers, title pages, and relevant pages scanned.

The sound recording in this collection was digitized for research access in 2009 and is available at the Archives of American Art offices. Researchers may view the original recording for the archival notations on it, but the original sound disc is not available for playback due to fragility.

### Processing Information

The collection was processed in 1992 and subsequently microfilmed on reels 4708-4710. The 2007 addition was merged and a finding aid prepared by Catherine Gaines in 2007. The collection was digitized in 2015 with funding provided by the the Sansom Foundation.

### Preferred Citation

Ira and William Glackens papers, circa 1900-1990. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

### Restrictions on Access

Use of original papers requires an appointment.

### Terms of Use

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## Biographical Note

Ira Dimock Glackens (1907-1990), the first child of painter and illustrator William Glackens and Edith Dimock Glackens, was born in New York City. Raised in the art world, he was well acquainted with his father's friends and colleagues. Upon his father's death in 1938, Ira became responsible for managing and administering the art remaining in William Glackens's estate.

Educated at the Choate School, Ira Glackens became a writer. He published two books about his father: *William Glackens and the Ashcan Group: The Emergence of Realism in American Art* (1957) and *William Glackens and the Eight: The Artists who Freed American Art* (1984). An opera expert, Ira Glackens was also the author of *Yankee Diva: Lillian Nordica and the Golden Days of Opera* (1963) and an authority on apples.

William Glackens (1870-1938) was born in Philadelphia and studied at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts with Robert Henri while working as an illustrator for local newspapers, including the *Philadelphia Press*. In 1895, he departed for a year in Paris and then moved to New York City where he continued to work as an illustrator for various newspapers and periodicals. Before long, Glackens began to focus on scenes of city life and street crowds and, in 1908, he participated in the groundbreaking exhibition of *The Eight* at the Macbeth Gallery in New York City.

Between 1925 and 1932 William Glackens lived and worked in France and his painting was strongly influenced by Renoir. He spent the remainder of his life in New York City, exhibiting widely from 1894 on. Glackens was named an Associate of the National Academy of Design and was the recipient of several awards including those of the 1901 Pan-American Exposition (gold), the 1904 St. Louis Exposition, the 1915 Pan-Pacific Exposition, the 1933 Society of Independent Artists Exhibition, and the 1936 Carnegie International Exhibition.

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## Scope and Content Note

The Ira and William Glackens papers, circa 1900-1990, measure 2.3 linear feet. The collection consists primarily of the papers of Ira Glackens relating to the artwork of his father, William Glackens, but also contains scattered correspondence of William and his wife Edith, including letters from Albert Barnes. Ira Glackens' papers include books written by Ira; exhibition catalogs and clippings about William and others; photographs of the Glackens family and friends, of Ira, and of the Glackens residence; and an audio recording of William Glackens' remarks upon accepting an award at the Carnegie International Exhibition in 1936. There are also records of the Sansom Foundation, which was set up by Ira Glackens and his wife Nancy.

Biographical information consists of genealogical research on the Glackens family and a copy of Ira Glackens birth certificate.

Correspondence of the artist William Glackens includes letters to his wife, Edith, written while on a trip to Paris in 1912 to purchase paintings for collector Albert C. Barnes. Barnes' letters to William and Edith Glackens are about paintings in the Barnes Collection, the educational plans of his Foundation, and Glackens' work and exhibitions. Letters to Edith Dimock Glackens are from relatives and friends including her father, Ira Dimock, her sister, Irene Dimock FitzGerald, author James L. Ford, and painter Maurice Prendergast. There is also a copy of a letter concerning the estate of Lenna G. Borton, the Glackens' daughter.

Ira Glackens' correspondence largely concerns exhibitions, sales, loans, donations and the authentication of artwork by William Glackens. Correspondents include museums, galleries and artists, in addition to personal correspondence with family and friends. Names of significant correspondents in Ira Glackens' correspondence include Laura (Mrs. Albert C.) Barnes, Charles Buckley, Delaware Art Museum, Kraushaar Gallery, Walt Kuhn, Vivian Liff, George Luks, Stearns Morse, National Gallery, National Portrait Gallery, Bennard Perlman, Eugenie Prendergast, Arnold T. Schwab, Helen (Mrs. John) Sloan, and Williams College Museum of Art.

Noteworthy writings include speeches, a memoir, and a short play by Ira Glackens, and family recollections of Edith Glackens. A 1936 audio recording is of remarks made by William Glackens upon being presented with an award for his entry in the Carnegie Institute's International Exhibition. Writings by others include essays by John Bullard and Everett Shinn about Glackens.

Printed material includes Ira Glackens' books, catalogs of group and solo exhibitions featuring the work of William Glackens, clippings concerning William Glackens, and reviews of Ira Glackens' books.

Records of the Sansom Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization founded in 1950 by Ira and Nancy Glackens to oversee their art interests, consist of annual reports, a charitable trust registration form, and financial and tax records.

Photographs are of the Glackens family, travel scenes and artwork by William Glackens, The Eight, and other artists.

A card index of William Glackens' paintings, prepared by Ira Glackens, provides details of artwork in William Glackens' estate.

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## Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 8 series.

Missing Title:

- Series 1: Biographical Information, circa 1900-1990 (Box 1; 2 folders)
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1902-1989 (Box 1; 0.7 linear feet)
- Series 3: Writings, 1963-1982 (Boxes 1, 3; 0.2 linear feet)
- Series 4: Sansom Foundation, Inc., 1957-1973 (Box 2; 0.2 linear feet)
- Series 5: Printed Material, 1903-1989 (Boxes 2-3; 0.6 linear feet)

- Series 6: Scrapbook, 1956-1980 (Box 3; 0.1 linear feet)
- Series 7: Photographs, circa 1900-1986 (Box 2; 0.3 linear feet)
- Series 8: Card Index of William Glackens' Paintings, circa 1940-1949 (Box 3; 0.2 linear feet)

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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 -- Collectors and collecting  
Authors -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia  
Eight (Group of American artists)  
Illustrators -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia  
Painters -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia  
Painting, American  
Painting, Modern -- 20th century -- United States

### Types of Materials:

Photographs  
Sound recordings  
Writings

### Names:

Barnes, Albert C. (Albert Coombs), 1872-1951  
Barnes, Laura L., 1875-1966  
Buckley, Charles E.  
Bullard, E. John (Edgar John), 1942-  
Delaware Art Museum  
Dimock, Ira  
Fitzgerald, Irene Dimock  
Glackens, Edith  
Glackens, William J., 1870-1938  
Kraushaar Galleries  
Kuhn, Walt, 1877-1949  
Liff, Vivian  
Luks, George Benjamin, 1867-1933  
Morse, Stearns  
National Gallery of Art (U.S.)  
National Portrait Gallery (Smithsonian Institution)  
Perlman, Bennard B.  
Prendergast, Eugénie  
Prendergast, Maurice Brazil, 1858-1924  
Schwab, Arnold T.  
Shinn, Everett, 1876-1953  
Sloan, Helen Farr, 1911-2005  
Williams College. Museum of Art.

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Biographical Information, circa 1900-1990

#### 2 Folders (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Biographical information consists of research and a copy of Ira Glackens' birth certificate.

Available: This series has been scanned in its entirety.

Formats:

Box 1, Folder 1 [Genealogical Research, circa 1900-1990](#)  
(many photocopies)

Box 1, Folder 2 [Birth Certificate of Ira Glackens \(photocopy; born 1907, document issued 1933\), circa 1933](#)

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## Series 2: Correspondence, 1902-1989

### 0.7 Linear feet (Box 1)

Arrangement: The series is arranged as 3 subseries:

- 2.1: William Glackens, 1902-1938
- 2.2: Edith Glackens, 1902-1946
- 2.3: Ira Glackens, 1922-1989

Available: This series has been scanned in its entirety.

Formats:

### 2.1: William Glackens, 1902-1938

Scope and Contents: Correspondence of William Glackens includes letters from James L. Ford to William Lloyd Garrison and from the Library of Congress, in addition to letters to his wife, Edith, written while on a trip to Paris in 1912 to purchase paintings on behalf of Albert C. Barnes. Barnes' letters to William and Edith are about paintings in the Barnes Collection, the educational plans of his Foundation, and Glackens' work and exhibitions.

Box 1, Folder 3      [Letters, 1902-1938](#)

Box 1, Folder 4      [Letters to Edith Glackens, 1912](#)

Box 1, Folder 5      [Letters from Albert C. Barnes, 1922-1938](#)

### 2.2: Edith Glackens, 1902-1946

Scope and Contents: Letters to Edith Glackens are from relatives and friends, including her father, Ira Dimock, her sister, Irene Dimock Fitzgerald, James L. Ford, and Maurice Prendergast. There is also a copy of a letter concerning the estate of Lenna G. Borton, the Glackens' daughter.

Box 1, Folder 6      [Caskey, John F. \(re. Estate of Lenna G. Borton\), 1944](#)

Box 1, Folder 7      [Dimock, Ira, 1908-1917](#)

Box 1, Folder 8      [Family and Friends, undated, 1902-1946](#)

### 2.3: Ira Glackens, 1922-1989

Scope and Contents: Ira Glackens' correspondence primarily documents arrangements for loans to exhibitions, sales, donations, and authentication of artwork and gifts of paintings by William Glackens, in addition to including personal correspondence with friends and family.

Correspondents in this series include: Laura (Mrs. Albert C.) Barnes, Ada Britton (cousin), Charles Buckley, Delaware Art Museum, Irene Dimock Fitzgerald (aunt), Kraushaar Gallery, Walt Kuhn, Vivian Liff, George Luks, Middlebrook family (in-laws), Stearns Morse, National Gallery, National Portrait Gallery, Bennard Perlman, Eugenie Prendergast, Arnold T. Schwab, Helen (Mrs. John) Sloan, Ben Stitchfield (founder of the Nordica Memorial Association), and Williams College Museum of Art.

Arrangement: Files are arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent.



Box 1, Folder 9	Authentication of Paintings by William Glackens, 1975-1987
Box 1, Folder 10	Gifts of Paintings by William Glackens, 1955-1968
Box 1, Folder 11	ACA Galleries - Authors Guild, Inc., 1967-1987
Box 1, Folder 12	Barnes, Laura (Mrs. Albert C.), 1954-1960
Box 1, Folder 13	Bagby - Brauer, 1973-1986
Box 1, Folder 14	Britton, Ada - Buck, Robert F., 1973-1987
Box 1, Folder 15	Buckley, Charles - Butterworth, W. Walton, 1967-1985
Box 1, Folder 16	Carnegie Institute - Crawford, Billy (Mrs. Charles C.), 1976-1985
Box 1, Folder 17	Davis, Roy - Dymoke, Colonel, 1975-1985
Box 1, Folder 18	Ebsworth, Barney - Farrior, Terry (Mrs. John M.), 1975-1983
Box 1, Folder 19	Fitzgerald, [Florence] Irene Dimock (aunt), 1925-1962
Box 1, Folder 20	Fitzgerald, [Florence] Irene Dimock, Estate of, 1965
Box 1, Folder 21	Flint Institute of Arts - Jenner, Judy, 1935-1986
Box 1	Kraushaar Gallery
Box 1, Folder 22	Correspondence, 1962-1986
Box 1, Folder 23-24	Consignments, 1938-1988 Image(s) Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 25-26	Consignments, 1948-1971, undated Image(s) Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 27	Statements, 1938-1986
Box 1, Folder 28	Miscellaneous, 1961-1985
Box 1, Folder 29	Kraushaar, Antoinette - Luks, George, 1922-1986
Box 1, Folder 30	Maguire, Marian - Moreland, Sandra and Gary, 1922-1983
Box 1, Folder 31-32	Morse, Stearns, 1952-1976 Image(s)

	<a href="#">Image(s)</a>
<a href="#">Box 1, Folder 33</a>	<a href="#">Museum of Art, Fort Lauderdale - New Orleans Museum of Art, 1978-1989</a>
<a href="#">Box 1, Folder 34</a>	<a href="#">O'Gorman, James F. - Prendergast, Eugenie, 1975-1987</a>
<a href="#">Box 1, Folder 35</a>	<a href="#">Saint Louis Museum of Art - Sinclair, 1923-1987</a>
<a href="#">Box 1, Folder 36</a>	<a href="#">Skilton, John Davis - Sturgis, Walter Knight, 1938-1986</a>
<a href="#">Box 1, Folder 37</a>	<a href="#">Turner, Eva - Wilson, Edith I., 1938-1987</a>
<a href="#">Box 1, Folder 38</a>	<a href="#">Williams College Museum of Art - Zirkman, Al, 1971-1987</a>
<a href="#">Box 1, Folder 39</a>	<a href="#">Miscellaneous (unidentified correspondents), 1971-1987</a>

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## Series 3: Writings, 1936-1982

### 0.2 Linear feet (Boxes 1, 3)

**Scope and Contents:** Writings are by Ira Glackens and others. Noteworthy writings include speeches, a memoir, and a short play by Ira Glackens, and family recollections of Edith Glackens. Essays written by John Bullard and Everett Shinn are also found here.

There is also a sound disc (lacquer) recording of William Glackens' accepting an award from the Carnegie Institute at its 1936 International Exhibition.

**Arrangement:** Writings are arranged by author.

**Available Formats:** This series has been scanned in its entirety. The sound recording has been digitized for research access.

Box 1, Folder 40	<a href="#">Bullard, John. "George Luks and William Glackens in Cuba", circa 1965-1980</a>
Box 1, Folder 41	<a href="#">Glackens, Edith (Mrs. William). "Life and Antics of the Young Dimocks" and Other Family Recollections, circa 1965-1980</a>
Box 1	Glackens, Ira
Box 1, Folder 42	<a href="#">Autobiography, "The Porpoise Close Behind Me", circa 1965-1980</a>
Box 1, Folder 43	<a href="#">Play, "The Burden of Isis", circa 1965-1980</a>
Box 1, Folder 44	<a href="#">Speeches, 1964-1981</a>
Box 1, Folder 45	<a href="#">Glackens, William, Acceptance of Award from Carnegie International Exhibition, 1936</a> 1 Sound discs (lacquer) <b>Notes:</b> Includes a rough transcript of the WJZ radio recording of Glackens' remarks when accepting the award. Oversized material housed in Box 3, Folder 1.
Box 1, Folder 46	<a href="#">Shinn, Everett. "More Sinned Against than Usual", circa 1936</a>
Box 1, Folder 47	<a href="#">Various Authors. Miscellaneous Notes and Writings about William Glackens, 1963-1982</a>
Box 3, Folder 1	Oversize Recording of William Glackens from Box 1, Folder 45, circa 1936

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## Series 4: Sansom Foundation, Inc., 1957-1973

### 0.2 Linear feet (Box 2)

Scope and Contents: Records of the Sansom Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization founded in 1950 by Ira and Nancy Glackens to oversee their art interests, consist of annual reports, a charitable trust registration form, and financial and tax records.

Arrangement: Materials are arranged by document type.

Available Formats: The bulk of this series have been scanned. Routine financial materials have not been scanned.

Box 2, Folder 1	<a href="#">Annual Reports, 1968-1970</a>
Box 2, Folder 2	Cancelled Checks (First National City Bank), 1967-1973
Box 2, Folder 3	Statements (First National City Bank), 1969-1973
Box 2, Folder 4	<a href="#">Expenses for Sales of Paintings by William Glackens, 1957-1968</a>
Box 2, Folder 5	<a href="#">Financial Summaries, 1956-1968</a>
Box 2	Investments
Box 2, Folder 6	Shearson, Hammill and Co., 1967-1971
Box 2, Folder 7	Wood, Struthers, and Winthrop, Inc., 1970-1971
Box 2, Folder 8	<a href="#">Legal Document (registration of charitable trust), 1967</a>
Box 2, Folder 9	<a href="#">Tax Returns, 1967-1972</a>

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## Series 5: Printed Material, 1903-1989

## 0.6 Linear feet (Boxes 2-3)

Scope and Contents: Printed material includes catalogs of group and solo exhibitions featuring the work of William Glackens; clippings and miscellaneous printed items about William Glackens, other artists, Albert C. Barnes, and Ira Glackens; and books by Ira Glackens.

Arrangement: Printed material is arranged by record type.

Available Formats: Portions of this series have been scanned. In some cases exhibition catalogs and other publications have had their covers, title pages, and relevant pages scanned.

Box 2, Folder 10 [Booklet, Story of the Armory Show by Walt Kuhn, 1938](#)  
Notes: Includes inscription by Walt Kuhn.

## Books by Ira Glackens

Box 2, Folder 11 [Did Molly Pitcher Say That?: The Men and Women Who Made American History, 1988](#)

Box 2, Folder 12 [Measure of Sliding Sand, 1976](#)

Box 2, Folder 13 [Pope Joan: An Unorthodox Interlude, 1965](#)

Box 2, Folder 14 [Yankee Diva: Lillian Nordica and the Golden Days of Opera, 1963](#)

Box 2 Clippings and Miscellaneous Printed Items

Box 2, Folder 15 [Albert C. Barnes, 1958](#)

Box 2, Folder 16 [Ira Glackens, 1927-1976](#)

Box 2, Folder 17 [William Glackens, 1933-1985](#)  
Notes: Oversized material housed in Box 3, Folder 2.

Box 2, Folder 18 [Other Artists, 1917-1989](#)

Box 2, Folder 19-20 [Exhibition Catalogs, 1915-1987](#)  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 2 Illustrations by William Glackens

Box 2, Folder 21 [Photocopies \(items dated 1899-1913\), circa 1960-1970](#)

Box 2, Folder 22 [Saturday Evening Post, circa 1903](#)

Box 2, Folder 23 [Reproductions of Works by William Glackens, circa 1950-1976](#)

Box 3, Folder 2

[Oversize Clippings of William Glackens from Box 2, Folder 17, circa 1933-1985](#)

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## Series 6: Scrapbook, 1956-1980

### *0.1 Linear feet (Box 3)*

Scope and Contents: The scrapbook contains clippings about or mentioning William Glackens and reviews of Ira Glackens' books.

Available: This series has been scanned in its entirety.

Formats:

Box 3, Folder 3      [Scrapbook, 1956-1980](#)

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## Series 7: Photographs, circa 1900-1986

### 0.3 Linear feet (Box 2)

**Scope and Contents:** Photographs of people include William Glackens, the Glackens family, and friends of Ira Glackens. A dismantled family album contains photos of family, friends, and travel scenes. Miscellaneous subjects are animals, landscapes, and buildings. Artwork represented is mainly by William Glackens, but also includes artwork by members of The Eight and other artists. Negatives are of photographs of William Glackens, family and friends, miscellaneous subjects and artwork.

**Arrangement:** Materials are arranged by subject.

**Available Formats:** The bulk of this series has been scanned. Duplicates, blank versos of photographs, and reproductions of artwork have not been scanned.

Box 2, Folder 24-25	William Glackens, Family, and Friends, 1906-1940 <a href="#">Image(s)</a> <a href="#">Image(s)</a>
Box 2, Folder 26	<a href="#">Family Album (disbound), 1925-1930</a>
Box 2, Folder 27	<a href="#">Ira Glackens, Family, and Friends, circa 1900-1986</a>
Box 2, Folder 28	<a href="#">Miscellaneous Subjects, 1929-1974</a>
Box 2	Artwork
Box 2, Folder 29	By William Glackens, circa 1960-1980
Box 2, Folder 30-31	By William Glackens and Others, circa 1960-1980

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## Series 8: Card Index of William Glackens' Paintings, circa 1940-1949

### *0.2 Linear feet (Box 3)*

Scope and Contents: This index (on 3" x 5" cards), prepared by Ira Glackens, records details of artwork in William Glackens' estate.

Arrangement: Cards retain Ira Glackens' original arrangement.

Available: This series has been scanned in its entirety.

Formats:

Box 3, Folder 4-6	Card Index of William Glackens' Paintings, circa 1940-1949 <a href="#">Image(s)</a> <a href="#">Image(s)</a> <a href="#">Image(s)</a>
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