



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## A Finding Aid to the Chenoweth Hall papers, circa 1870s-2001, bulk 1938-1999, in the Archives of American Art

Christopher DeMairo

The processing of this collection received Federal support from the Smithsonian Collections Care and Preservation Fund, administered by the National Collections Program and the Smithsonian Collections Advisory Committee.

2020 December 3

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Chenoweth Hall papers
<b>Date:</b>	circa 1870s-2001 (bulk 1938-1999)
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.hallchen
<b>Creator:</b>	Hall, Chenoweth, 1908-1999
<b>Extent:</b>	5.9 Linear feet
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	The papers of sculptor, writer, and teacher Chenoweth Hall measure 5.9 linear feet and date from circa 1870s-2001, with the bulk of the records dating between 1938-1999. The papers document Hall's career through personal and professional files, correspondence, writing files, printed materials, photographs, and some artwork.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

The collection was donated in 2001 by Miriam Colwell.

### Processing Information

The collection was processed and a finding aid prepared by Christopher DeMairo in 2020.

### Preferred Citation

Chenoweth Hall papers, circa 1870s-2001. 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. Contact Reference Services for more information.

Researchers interested in accessing audiovisual recordings in this collection must use access copies. Contact Reference Services for more information.

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## Biographical / Historical

Chenoweth Hall (1908-1999) was a sculptor, writer, musician, and teacher from Prospect Harbor, Maine. Born in Indiana, Hall attended college at the University of Wisconsin where she was initially enrolled as an architecture student, but ultimately changed majors to study music. Hall moved to New York, took classes at Columbia University Teachers College, and became a licensed teacher in New York. There, her primary employment was account executive at an advertising agency, a position she subsequently credited with improving her writing.

After moving to Maine in the late-1930s, Hall became a free-lance fiction writer working on short stories, novellas, and novels, and met Miriam Colwell, a writer who became her lifelong partner.

Hall's stories were published in newspapers and magazines, and her novel, *Crow on the Spruce*, was published by Houghton Mifflin in 1946. In 1968, Hall wrote the text for photographer Bernice Abbott's *Portrait of Maine*.

Hall began exhibiting her sculpture in the 1950s, with one-man shows at Cape Split Gallery, Maine Art Gallery, University of Maine, Joan Whitney Payson Gallery, and the Philips Gallery. She also exhibited in group shows at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, Portland Museum of Art, Shore Gallery, and Hobe Sound Gallery. Hall was commissioned by the Pierre Montoux Foundation to install a sculpture at the Montoux School in Maine. Her work is also found in the collection at the University of Maine, Orono, and in the homes of private collectors.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers of sculptor, writer, and teacher Chenoweth Hall measure 5.9 linear feet and date from circa 1870s-2001, with the bulk of the records dating between 1938-1999. The papers document Hall's career through personal and professional files, correspondence, writing files, printed materials, photographs, and some artwork.

Personal and professional files contain biographical materials such as resumes, biographical summaries, and family histories; gallery, exhibition, and financial files; papers related to talks given by Hall; education and employment records; an inventory of sculptures; and one VHS recording.

Correspondence is between Hall and Miriam Colwell and their families, as well as with publishers, literary agents, and fans regarding Hall's writings. Also found is correspondence with artists, galleries, and museums.

Hall's writing files form the bulk of the collection and include drafts, handwritten and typed, of her stories, novellas, novels, and plays; notebooks, notes and other writings; and a handwritten copy of Colwell's book, *Young* (1955). Printed materials include clippings, exhibition material, and other printed ephemera. Photographs depict Hall's sculptures, one exhibition at the University of Maine, and Hall's family and friends. Hall's artwork found in the collection includes illustrated folders, sketchbooks, and loose sketches.

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## Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 6 series.

- Series 1: Personal and Professional Files, 1905-1989 (Boxes 1, 7; 0.5 linear feet)
- Series 2: Correspondence, circa 1938-circa 1981 (Boxes 1-2; 0.7 linear feet)
- Series 3: Writing Files, circa 1938-1970 (Boxes 2-5; 3.2 linear feet)
- Series 4: Printed Material, 1940-1999 (Boxes 5, 7; 10 folders)
- Series 5: Photographs, circa 1870s-1990s (Boxes 5-6, 8; 0.7 linear feet)
- Series 6: Artwork, 1937-1990 (Boxes 6-7; 8 folders)

## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

### Subjects:

- Women artists
- Women authors
- Women educators
- Women sculptors

### Types of Materials:

- Drawings
- Scrapbooks
- Sketchbooks
- Video recordings

### Names:

- Colwell, Miriam, 1917-

### Occupations:

- Art teachers -- Maine
- Authors -- Maine
- Sculptors -- Maine

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Personal and Professional Files, 1905-1989

#### *0.5 Linear feet (Boxes 1, 7)*

Scope and Contents: This series contains biographical materials such as addresses, resumes, biographical summaries, and family histories; personal business records including applications as well as gallery, exhibition, and financial files; papers related to talks given by Hall; education and employment records; and an inventory of sculpture. Also included is one VHS recording of Hall's home and sculpture.

Box 1, Folder 1	Addresses and Lists, circa 1940s-1960s
Box 1, Folder 2	Art Shows, 1955-1986
Box 1, Folder 3	Biographical Summaries and Resumes, 1970s-1980s
Box 1, Folder 4	Cape Split Place Inc., 1978-1979
Box 1, Folder 5	Chenoweth Family History, 1974, undated
Box 1, Folder 6	Chenoweth Halls's House and Sculpture, 1989 1 Videocassettes (VHS)
Box 1, Folder 7	Dorothy Hall Childhood Book; Grocery List, circa 1917
Box 1, Folder 8	Education Records, University of Wisconsin; Columbia University Teachers College, 1931-1936
Box 1, Folder 9	Employment Records, 1958-1976
Box 7, Folder 1	Employment Records, University of Maine Summer Art Institute, Poster, undated
Box 1, Folder 10	Financial Papers, 1937-1980s
Box 1, Folder 11	Greece, Talks and Wildflower Book, 1959-1964
Box 1, Folder 12	Inventory of Sculptures, 1983
Box 1, Folder 13	John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, 1946-1947
Box 1, Folder 14	Marriage Announcement of Nellie Brewer and George Hall Jr., 1905
Box 1, Folder 15	Marsden Hartley, Research File, 1940, 1982, 1987
Box 1, Folder 16	Musical Recordings; Bartok and Bohuslav Martinu, 1946-1957

Box 1, Folder 17	Payson Waldron Gallery, 1979-1983
Box 1, Folder 18	The Pierre Montoux Memorial Foundation, 1980-1986
Box 1, Folder 19	Radcliff Institute for Independent Study, Application, 1962
Box 1, Folder 20	Talks, Washington State College, Maine, 1965-1966
Box 1, Folder 21	Miscellaneous Papers, circa 1940s-1980s

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## Series 2: Correspondence, circa 1938-circa 1981

## 0.7 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2)

Scope and Contents: This series includes personal correspondence between Chenoweth Hall and Miriam Colwell as well as postcards and correspondence sent to both the Hall and Colwell families. Also found is correspondence with artists Paul Strand and John Marin Jr., Maine naturalist Olof Nylander, and Katherine Butler Hathaway and her brother. Professional correspondence primarily consists of letters from publishers, Hall's literary agents Ann Watkins and Henry Volkening, and others, including fan mail for *Crow on the Spruce*, regarding Hall's writings, or her artwork.

Box 1, Folder 22-23	Colwell, Miriam, 1939-1943, 1966-1971
Box 1, Folder 24	Colwell, Miriam and Chenoweth Hall, Post Cards, 1946
Box 1, Folder 25	Hathaway, Daniel Rugg, 1942-1943
Box 1, Folder 26	Hathaway, Katherine Butler, 1942
Box 1, Folder 27	Houghton Mifflin Company, 1940-1947
Box 1, Folder 28	Maclean's Magazine, 1943-1953
Box 1, Folder 29	Marin, John, Jr., 1946-1980
Box 1, Folder 30	Nylander, Olof, 1940-1942
Box 1, Folder 31	Strand, Paul, 1946-1947, 1976
Box 1, Folder 32	Todd, Henry, 1942-1944
Box 1, Folder 33	Volkening, Henry, 1950-1961
Box 1, Folder 34-35	Watkins, Ann, 1940-1951
Box 2, Folder 1-3	General, A-Z, 1939-1981
Box 2, Folder 4	General, First Name Only, circa 1938-1970s
Box 2, Folder 5	Family, 1944-1947
Box 2, Folder 6	Fan Mail, 1942-1943

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## Series 3: Writing Files, circa 1938-1970

### 3.2 Linear feet (Boxes 2-5)

Scope and Contents: Files mostly consist of drafts, both handwritten and printed, of Chenoweth Hall's short stories, plays, novellas, and novels. The files occasionally include correspondence, notes regarding which magazine and publishers the drafts went to, and whether the draft sold. Other materials include several notebooks that contain early drafts of Hall's writings, miscellaneous notes, and statements on her artwork and the German composer Richard Strauss. Also included is one illustrated folder and a handwritten draft of Miriam Colwell's book, *Young* (1955).

Box 2, Folder 7	"The African, From the Interesting Narrative of the Life of Oloudah Equiano or Gustavus Vassa; Edited by Chenoweth Hall", undated
Box 2, Folder 8-10	"Again the Sun", circa 1940-1950
Box 2, Folder 11	"Allegro- Ma Non Troppo", 1954
Box 2, Folder 12	"The Apple", circa 1940-1960
Box 2, Folder 13	"The Bartender's Rabbit", 1943, 1953
Box 2, Folder 14	"Behind the Mountain", circa 1940-1960
Box 2, Folder 15	"The Betrayer", 1950, 1953
Box 2, Folder 16	"The Billings Girl", circa 1940-1960
Box 2, Folder 17	"Black and White"; Illustrated Folder, 1949-1950
Box 2, Folder 18	"Blue Star", 1944
Box 2, Folder 19	"Boom and Bust", circa 1940-1960
Box 2, Folder 20	"Buttons and Novelties", circa 1940-1960
Box 2, Folder 22	"Cadenza", 1950
Box 2, Folder 21	"The Captain and the Bombardier", 1942, 1944
Box 2, Folder 23	"Cleptomania", circa 1940-1960
Box 2, Folder 30	"Come, Darling, Soon", circa 1940-1960
Box 2, Folder 24-26	"The Conjuror", circa 1940-1952
Box 2, Folder 27	"The Conjuror," Correspondence, 1950-1952
Box 2, Folder 28	"Conversation After Midnight", 1953

Box 2, Folder 29	"Courage", circa 1940-1960
Box 2, Folder 31-32	"The Crow on the Spruce", circa 1940-1945
Box 3, Folder 1	"The Crow on the Spruce," Printers' Proofs, 1945
Box 3, Folder 2	"The Crow on the Spruce," Letters and Notes, 1945-1946
Box 3, Folder 3	"The Crow on the Spruce," Notebook, 1940
Box 3, Folder 4	"The Daffodils Haven't Bloomed Yet", 1944
Box 3, Folder 5	"The Dance", circa 1940-1960
Box 3, Folder 6	"Family Picture", circa 1940-1960
Box 3, Folder 7-12	"The Fictitious 1", circa 1945-1956
Box 3, Folder 13	"The Fire", 1942, 1953
Box 3, Folder 14	"Fire at Sea", circa 1940-1960
Box 3, Folder 15	"Flesh and Blood", 1943
Box 3, Folder 16	"The Flesh of the Other, 1940
Box 3, Folder 17	"Friends with Confetti", circa 1940-1960
Box 3, Folder 18	"The Golden Room", 1943
Box 3, Folder 19	"Grandma Pearson's Ho'sses", 1944
Box 3, Folder 20	"The Heavenly Twins", 1946-1953
Box 3, Folder 21	"The Heir"; Guggenheim Foundation, 1948
Box 3, Folder 22	"The House Next Door", 1942
Box 3, Folder 23	"Houses with Windows", 1941
Box 3, Folder 24	"The Important Thing", circa 1940-1960
Box 3, Folder 25	"The Innocents", circa 1940-1960
Box 3, Folder 26	"It's a Great Thing", 1941
Box 3, Folder 27	"The Last War", 1942

Box 3, Folder 28	"Liberty", 1945
Box 3, Folder 29	"The Lolitus Case", 1960
Box 3, Folder 30	"Look Out for August", 1953
Box 3, Folder 31	"Love, Louise", circa 1940-1941
Box 3, Folder 32	"Maine, An Article with Paintings and Photographs", circa 1940-1970
Box 3, Folder 33	"Merry Pranks and the Old Grey House", circa 1940-1960
Box 3, Folder 34	"Miss Gallivan", 1941-1942
Box 3, Folder 35	"Moon Forgot" (Published as The Crow on the Spruce), 1940
Box 3, Folder 36	"My Own", 1940
Box 3, Folder 37	"Never Stop Dreaming, Darling", circa 1940-1960
Box 3, Folder 38	"No Odds", 1951-1953
Box 3, Folder 39	"No Use", 1941
Box 3, Folder 40	"Not So Very Long Ago", 1953
Box 3, Folder 41	"The Novelist", circa 1940-1960
Box 3, Folder 42	"The Old Days", 1957
Box 3, Folder 43	"Old Maid", 1941
Box 3, Folder 44	"P. S. Personal Success", 1960
Box 3, Folder 45	"Penthouse and Soapsuds", 1943
Box 3, Folder 46	"The Plague", circa 1940-1960
Box 4, Folder 5	"Poor Little Ellen", 1940
Box 3, Folder 47	"Portrait of Maine," Papers and Correspondence, 1956-1968
Box 4, Folder 1-2	"A Portrait of Maine", 1968
Box 4, Folder 3	"A Portrait of the Artist as an Old Man, 1943
Box 4, Folder 4	"Potatoes", 1943

Box 4, Folder 6	"The Prism", circa 1940-1960
Box 4, Folder 7	"The Seeds of a Tiger Lily", 1943, 1952-1953
Box 4, Folder 8	"Sink or Swim", 1943
Box 4, Folder 9-11	"The Stone", 1954-1964
Box 4, Folder 12	"The Stone," Papers, 1954-1957
Box 4, Folder 13	"Store Teeth", 1941
Box 4, Folder 14	"Swimming", 1953
Box 4, Folder 15	"Take a Slow Boat", 1961
Box 4, Folder 16-17	"A Tale Twice Told", circa 1940-1960
Box 4, Folder 18-21	"Taygetus", 1941-1960
Box 4, Folder 22-23	"Taygetus," Notebook, 1941
Box 4, Folder 24	"That Kid Drives Me Nuts", 1944, 1952
Box 4, Folder 25	"They Give Us No Belief", 1942-1960
Box 4, Folder 26	"They Give Us No Belief," Notebooks, 1942
Box 4, Folder 27	"The Three Trees", 1943
Box 4, Folder 28	"Tomboy", 1952
Box 4, Folder 29	"Tomcat", 1955
Box 4, Folder 30	"Town Meeting", 1940-1941
Box 4, Folder 31	"Uncle Henry", 1940
Box 4, Folder 32	"Unimportant Little Man", 1938
Box 5, Folder 1	"Wedding Anniversary", 1941
Box 5, Folder 3	"The Whip", 1954
Box 5, Folder 2	"Willing to Work Conscientiously", 1942
Box 5, Folder 4	"The Wreathmaker", 1945, 1952-1953

Box 5, Folder 5	"You Can Pull Out Anytime", 1942
Box 5, Folder 6	Notebook, "The Fictitious 1"; "The Heir", 1946-1948
Box 5, Folder 7	Notebook, "The Heir"; and "Fire at Sea", 1964
Box 5, Folder 8	Notebook, "A Tale Twice Told"; "The Conjuror", 1945
Box 5, Folder 9-10	Fragments and Untitled Writings, circa 1940-1970
Box 5, Folder 11	Notebooks, Short Stories, 1940
Box 5, Folder 12-13	Notebooks, 1939-1960s
Box 5, Folder 14	Notes and Writings, circa 1940-1980
Box 5, Folder 15	Statements, On Art Work and Composer Richard Strauss, 1963, undated
Box 5, Folder 16	"Young," Manuscript by Miriam Colwell, 1953

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## Series 4: Printed Material, 1940-1999

### 10 Folders (Boxes 5, 7)

Scope and Contents: Included are clippings about Chenoweth Hall's artwork and her book *The Crow on the Spruce*; newspaper articles written by Hall, Maine artists, and general subjects; exhibition materials including announcements, invitations, programs, and catalogs; and one scrapbook documenting Hall's career through event programs and invitations, clippings, and press releases.

Box 5, Folder 17	Clippings, Chenoweth Hall, 1942-1999
Box 5, Folder 18	Clippings, Chenoweth Hall Writings, 1941-1942
Box 5, Folder 19	Clippings, General, 1942-1983
Box 5, Folder 20	Clippings, Maine Artists, circa 1979-1989
Box 5, Folder 21	Collections, University of Maine, 1958-1960, undated
Box 5, Folder 22	Exhibition Material, Group Shows, 1962-1987
Box 5, Folder 23	Exhibition Material, Solo Shows, 1965-1999
Box 5, Folder 24	Exhibition Material, Other Artists, circa 1941-1980s
Box 5, Folder 25	Publishing Houses, Call for Authors, 1940-1941
Box 7, Folder 2	Scrapbook, 1946-2001

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## Series 5: Photographs, circa 1870s-1990s

### 0.5 Linear feet (Boxes 5-6, 8)

Scope and Contents: Found here are photographs and negatives of Chenoweth Hall's sculpture as well as photographs of Chenoweth Hall, Miriam Colwell, and Hall's family. Also included is one photograph album that was given to Hall when she entered a nursing home in the 1990s; and one scrapbook from Hall's exhibition at the University of Maine, Orono, which includes printed material from the exhibition.

Box 5, Folder 26-27	Artwork, circa 1960-1990
Box 5, Folder 28	Artwork; University of Maine, 1979-1984
Box 5, Folder 29	Exhibition Scrapbook, University of Maine, Orono, 1979
Box 5, Folder 30	Artwork, Drawings of Chenoweth Hall by Marlow Lucas, circa 1950-1980s
Box 5, Folder 31	Chenoweth Hall and Miriam Colwell, circa 1938-1970s
Box 5, Folder 32	Family Photographs, circa 1870s-1910s
Box 6, Folder 1-2	Family Photographs, circa 1870s-1910s
Box 8	Family Photographs, Negatives, circa 1870s-1910s Notes: Nitrate negatives closed to researchers.
Box 6, Folder 3	Photograph Album, 1960s-1990s
Box 6, Folder 4	Chenoweth Hall and Sculptures, Negatives, 1960s
Box 6, Folder 5	Unidentified Landscape, undated
Box 6, Folder 6	Unidentified Man, undated

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## Series 6: Artwork, 1937-1990

### 8 Folders (Boxes 6-7)

Scope and Contents: Included are sketchbooks, some of which are labeled, loose sketches, and illustrated folders.

Box 6, Folder 7	Illustrated Folders, undated
Box 6, Folder 8	Notes, Sketches for Paintings; Resource Material, 1937, undated
Box 7, Folder 3	Sketchbook, 1957
Box 6, Folder 9	Sketchbook, Maine Notes, 1954-1955
Box 6, Folder 10	Sketchbook, Notes on Paintings, 1955-1960
Box 6, Folder 11	Sketchbook, Notes on the Southwest, 1954-1956
Box 6, Folder 12	Sketchbook, Sculpture Ideas, circa 1960-1990
Box 6, Folder 13	Sketches, 1960s-1990

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