



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Antonin Heythum papers, circa 1928-1954, in the Archives of American Art

Allessandra Liberati

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.

2023 October 3

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	
Administrative Information	1
Biographical / Historical	2
Scope and Contents	2
Arrangement	2
Names and Subjects	
Container Listing	
Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1935-1948	4
Series 2: Writings, circa 1941-1946	5
Series 3: Exhibition Files, circa 1928-1944	7
Series 4: Teaching Files, circa 1938-1952	11
Series 5: Printed Material, circa 1933-1954	12
Series 6: Photographic Material, circa 1928-1944	13

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Antonin Heythum papers
Date:	circa 1928-1954
Identifier:	AAA.heytanto
Creator:	Heythum, Antonin, 1901-1954
Extent:	4.1 Linear feet
Language:	This collection is in English, French, and German.
Summary:	The papers of scenographer, graphic designer, architect, and furniture designer Antonin Heythum measure 4.1 linear feet and date from circa 1928-1954. They illustrate his career through biographical materials, writings, exhibition files, and printed and photographic material.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The Antonin Heythum papers were donated in 1985 by Arthur Pulos who received the papers from Charlotta Heythum in 1956.

Processing Information

This collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared, by Alessandra Liberati in 2023.

Preferred Citation

Antonin Heythum papers, circa 1928-1954. 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

The Archives of American Art makes its archival collections available for non-commercial, educational and personal use unless restricted by copyright and/or donor restrictions, including but not limited to access and publication restrictions. AAA makes no representations concerning such rights and restrictions and it is the user's responsibility to determine whether rights or restrictions exist and to obtain any necessary permission to access, use, reproduce and publish the collections. Please refer to the Smithsonian's Terms of Use for additional information.

Biographical / Historical

Antonin Heythum (1901-1954) was a scenographer, graphic designer, architect, and furniture designer who worked primarily in New York and Central Europe.

He was born in Most, Austria-Hungary, then the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy. In 1924 he studied architecture, civil engineering, and ship construction at the Czech Technical University in Prague. He joined the Devětsil art association and participated in the beginning of the Liberated Theater where he worked as a scenographer from 1924-1925. In 1932 he worked with Evžen Linhart to design a house in Na Ostrohu in a colony of houses in Osada Baba, Prague.

Heythum participated in many exhibition installations. In 1933 in Prague, he created a national glass exhibition and he worked on pavilions at the World Exhibition in Brussels. In 1938 he participated in the New York World's Fair and San Francisco Bay expositions and after the beginning of World War Two remained in the United States where he wrote a book with his wife on exhibition management titled *Design for Use* (1944). Heythum also founded the Industrial Design Department at the California Institute of Technology and was the head of Industrial Design at Syracuse University from 1946 to his death. He also taught at Columbia University and was a consultant for the firm of Norman Bel Geddes.

Heythum died on January 10, 1954 in the town of Rottach in southern Bavaria.

Scope and Contents

The Antonin Heythum papers measure 4.1 linear feet and date from circa 1928-1954. Biographical materials include the birth certificate for Heythum's daughter Jan Antonin Columbus Heythum and miscellaneous correspondence. Writings includes draft manuscripts for two books by Heythum and his wife, Charlotta, *Design for Use* and *Packaging Design Considerations*. Typescripts of essays by Robert M. Hutchins concerning education and World War Two and a typescript titled "Industrial Design" by Donald Dohner are also included.

Exhibition files contains letters, photographs, and printed material for the International Exposition in Brno, Czechoslovakia, (1928), the Paris Exposition (1937), the San Francisco Bay Exposition (1939), the Swiss Exposition in Zurich (1939), the New York World's Fair (1939-1940), the exposition in Rome (1942), and the Cleveland International Exposition (1944). Teaching files contains materials relating to Heythum's classes at the California Institute of Technology and Syracuse University as well as a folder regarding designs created by Heythum for Gladding McBean.

Printed material includes exhibition catalogs and various publications surrounding industrial design, as well as news clippings and oversize posters. Photographic material includes photographs of the Czechoslovakian countryside, people, museums and exhibitions. Also included are photographs of industrial design materials, projects, and classes.

Arrangement

This collection consists of six series.

- Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1935-1948 (.1 Linear feet: Box 1)
- Series 2: Writings , circa 1941-1946 (.6 Linear feet: Box 1, OV 7)
- Series 3: Exhibition Files, circa 1928-1944 (1.6 Linear feet: Boxes 1-3)
- Series 4: Teaching Files, circa 1938-1952 (.2 Linear feet: Box 3)
- Series 5: Printed Material, circa 1933-1954 (1.1 Linear feet: Boxes 3-5, OV 8)
- Series 6: Photographic Material, circa 1928-1944 (.5 Linear feet: Boxes 4 and 6)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Industrial design

Names:

Heythum, Charlotta, ca. 1900-
New York World's Fair (1939-1940 : New York, N.Y.)

Occupations:

Furniture designers -- New York (State)
Graphic designers
Set designers -- New York (State)

Functions:

Exhibitions

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1935-1948

.1 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Biographical material includes the birth certificate for Heythum's daughter Jan Antonin Columbus Heythum and miscellaneous correspondence, including a letter from Jacques Lambert concerning the Czechoslovakian pavilion at the Exposition de Bruxelles.

Box 1, Folder 1 Birth Certificate, Jan Antonin Columbus Heythum, 1946, Oct. 12

Box 1, Folder 2 Miscellaneous Correspondence, circa 1935-1948

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 2: Writings, circa 1941-1946

.6 Linear feet (Box 1, OV 7)

Scope and Contents: Writings includes draft manuscripts for books by Heythum and his wife, Charlotta, *Design for Use* and *Packaging Design Considerations*. Typescripts of essays by Robert M. Hutchins concerning education and World War Two and a typescript titled "Industrial Design" by Donald Dohner are also included.

by Antonin and Charlotta Heythum

Design for Use (1944)

Box 1, Folder 3 Manuscripts of Chapters, circa 1941-1942

Box 1, Folder 4 Outline, circa 1941-1942

Box 1, Folder 5 Book Layout, circa 1941-1942

Box 1, Folder 6 List of Illustrations, circa 1941-1942

Oversize 7 Illustrations, circa 1941-1942

Box 1, Folder 7 Captions, circa 1941-1942

Packaging Design Considerations (1946)

Box 1, Folder 8 Rough Draft, circa 1941-1942

Box 1, Folder 9-10 Manuscript, circa 1941-1942

Box 1, Folder 11 Illustrations, circa 1941-1942

Box 1, Folder 12 Bibliography, circa 1941-1942

Box 1, Folder 13 Rough Draft, Chapter on Designing Technique, circa 1946

Box 1, Folder 14 Rough Draft, Chapter on Graphic Design, circa 1946

Box 1, Folder 15 Illustrations, Chapter on Graphic Design, circa 1946

Box 1, Folder 16 Notes, Design and Display Design, circa 1941-1946

by Robert M. Hutchins

Box 1, Folder 17 "Education at War", 1942, Mar. 25

Box 1, Folder 18 "Ethics, Politics, and Education", circa 1941

Box 1, Folder 19 "Fortitude and Temperance", 1942, June 19

Box 1, Folder 20 "The Outlook for Education", 1941, Mar. 4

Box 1, Folder 21 "The University of Chicago and the Bachelor's Degree", 1942, May 2

Box 1, Folder 22 "Industrial Design" by Donald Dohner, circa 1941

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 3: Exhibition Files, circa 1928-1944

1.6 Linear feet (Boxes 1-3)

Scope and Contents: Exhibition files contains letters, photographs, and printed material for the International Exposition in Brno, Czechoslovakia, (1928), the Paris Exposition (1937), the San Francisco Bay Exposition (1939), the Swiss Exposition in Zurich (1939), the New York World's Fair (1939-1940), the exposition in Rome (1942), and the Cleveland International Exposition (1944).

Box 1, Folder 23	Exposition of Contemporary Culture (1928), Brno, Czechoslovakia, circa 1928
Paris Exposition (1937)	
Box 1, Folder 24	Aeronatique, Allemusne, Algerie, Alimentation, Aluminum, Architectrs Diplomès, Architecture Privee, Argentine, Asbeste, Australia, circa 1937
Box 1, Folder 25	Centre Artisinal, Cologne, circa 1937
Box 1, Folder 26	Eauset Forêt, Egypte, Elègance et de la Parure, Enseignement, Espagne, Amerika, circa 1937
Box 1, Folder 27	Internationale, Irak, Japan, circa 1937
Box 1, Folder 28	Lumiere, Luminaire, Luxemburg, Lyons, Norvege, Nettle, circa 1937
Box 1, Folder 29	Siam, Savoie, Securite, Solidante, Suede, Suisse, circa 1937
Box 1, Folder 30	Temps Nouveaus, Thermalisme, Tissus, Tourisme, Travail, Union Sud-Africane, USSR, circa 1937
Box 1, Folder 31	Venezuela, Yugoslavie, circa 1937
Box 1, Folder 32	Miscellaneous Notes, circa 1937
Box 1, Folder 33	Printed Materials, circa 1937
San Francisco Bay Exposition (1939)	
Box 1, Folder 34	Correspondence, circa 1939
Box 1, Folder 35	Brazil, California, Czechoslovakia, circa 1939
Box 1, Folder 36	Federal Building, circa 1939
Box 1, Folder 37	Fine Arts Palace, Floriculture, France, circa 1939
Box 1, Folder 38	Italy, Japan, Pacific House, Petroleum, circa 1939

Box 1, Folder 39	Redwood Empire Building, San Francisco, Treasure Island, Wire, circa 1939
Box 1, Folder 40	Photographs of Fairgrounds, circa 1939
Box 1, Folder 41-42	Printed Materials, circa 1939
Box 2, Folder 1	Zurich, Swiss Exposition (1939), circa 1939 New York World's Fair (1939-1940)
Box 2, Folder 2	Correspondence, 1939, Aug. 4
Box 2, Folder 3	Project Proposal, circa 1940
Box 2, Folder 4	Typescript of Talk by Architect Robert D. Kohn, circa 1940
Box 2, Folder 5	Photographs of Fairgrounds, circa 1940
Box 2, Folder 6	American Art, American Telephone and Telegraph, Argentina, Borden Company, Britain, circa 1940
Box 2, Folder 7	Canada, Carrier Corporation, Chemical and Plastics, Chile, Chrysler, Consolidated Edison, circa 1940
Box 2, Folder 8	Czechoslovakia Pavilion, circa 1940
Box 2, Folder 9	Denmark, Distilled Spirit, Dominican Republic, Electrical Utilities, Equador, circa 1940
Box 2, Folder 10	Federal Building (United States Building), circa 1940
Box 2, Folder 11	Finland, circa 1940
Box 2, Folder 12	Firestone Building, circa 1940
Box 2, Folder 13	Florida, Foods Building, circa 1940
Box 2, Folder 14	Ford Motor Company, circa 1940
Box 2, Folder 15	France, circa 1940
Box 2, Folder 16	General Motors, circa 1940
Box 2, Folder 17	Glass Center Building, circa 1940
Box 2, Folder 18	Goodrich Company, Greece, Home Building Center, Hungary, Iceland, circa 1940

Box 2, Folder 19	Ireland, circa 1940
Box 2, Folder 20	Italy, circa 1940
Box 2, Folder 21	Japan, circa 1940
Box 2, Folder 22	League of Nations, circa 1940
Box 2, Folder 23	Maine, Masterpieces of Art, Marines, Metals Hall, circa 1940
Box 2, Folder 24	Netherlands, New Jersey, Norway, Ohio, circa 1940
Box 2, Folder 25	Palestine, Peru, Petroleum Building, Poland, circa 1940
Box 2, Folder 26	Portugal, circa 1940
Box 2, Folder 27	Railroads Building, Romania, Standard Brands Building, Steel Building, circa 1940
Box 2, Folder 28	Sweden, circa 1940
Box 2, Folder 29	Switzerland, circa 1940
Box 2, Folder 30	Telephone Building, Town of Tomorrow, USSR, circa 1940
Box 2, Folder 31	Venezuela, circa 1940
Box 2, Folder 32	Virginia, YMCA, Yugoslavia, circa 1940
Box 2, Folder 33	Work Progress Administration (WPA), circa 1940
Box 2, Folder 34	Clippings, circa 1940
Box 2, Folder 35	Guidebooks, circa 1936-1940
Box 3, Folder 1-4	Guidebooks, circa 1936-1940
Rome Exposition (1942)	
Box 3, Folder 5	Photographs, circa 1942
Box 3, Folder 6-7	Printed Material, circa 1942

Box 3, Folder 8

Czech Participation, Cleveland International Exhibition (1944), circa 1944

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 4: Teaching Files, circa 1938-1952

.2 Linear feet (Box 3)

Scope and Contents: Teaching files contains materials relating to Heythum's classes at the California Institute of Technology and Syracuse University as well as a folder regarding designs created by Heythum for Gladding McBean.

California Institute of Technology	
Box 3, Folder 9	Classroom Work and Research, circa 1942-1945
Box 3, Folder 10	Department of Industrial Design, circa 1941-1943
Box 3, Folder 11	Reports, Budgets and Projects, circa 1942-1945
Box 3, Folder 12	Student Projects and Assignments, circa 1942-1945
Box 3, Folder 13	Gladding McBean, Blueprints by Heythum, circa 1943-1944
Syracuse University	
Box 3, Folder 14	Correspondence, circa 1949-1952
Box 3, Folder 15	Student Projects, circa 1938

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 5: Printed Material, circa 1933-1954

1.1 Linear feet (Boxes 3-5, OV 8)

Scope and Contents: Printed material includes exhibition catalogs and various publications surrounding industrial design, as well as news clippings and oversize posters.

Box 3, Folder 16-18	Exhibition Catalogs, circa 1939-1951
Box 3, Folder 19	Syracuse University, circa 1948-1953
Box 3, Folder 20	Industrial Design Pamphlets, circa 1941-1943
Box 3, Folder 21	News Clippings, circa 1937-1952
Box 5, Folder 2-8	News Clippings, circa 1937-1952
Oversize 8	Posters, circa 1940-1954
Box 3, Folder 22-27	Publications on Industrial Design, circa 1939-1952
Box 5, Folder 1	Publications on Industrial Design, circa 1939-1952
Box 4, Folder 1-3	Miscellaneous Printed Material, circa 1933-1950

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 6: Photographic Material, circa 1928-1944

.5 Linear feet (Boxes 4 and 6)

Scope and Contents: Photographic material includes photographs of the Czechoslovakian countryside, people, museums and exhibitions. Also Included are photographs of Industrial Design materials, projects, and classes.

Box 4, Folder 4	Czechoslovakia , circa 1928
	Industrial Design
Box 4, Folder 5	Designs by Heythum, circa 1942-1944
Box 4, Folder 6	Automobiles, Student Work, circa 1942-1944
Box 4, Folder 7	Beds and Chairs, circa 1942-1944
Box 4, Folder 8	Clocks, circa 1942-1944
Box 4, Folder 9	Display Equipment and Accessories, circa 1942-1944
Box 4, Folder 10	Drinking Vessels, circa 1941-1944
Box 6, Folder 1-2	Exhibition Design, circa 1941-1944
Box 6, Folder 3	Fireplace Grate Designs, circa 1942-1944
Box 6, Folder 4	Handles, circa 1942-1944
Box 6, Folder 5	Lamps, circa 1942-1944
Box 6, Folder 6	Packaging Design, circa 1941-1944
Box 6, Folder 7	Soap Dispenser, Radio, Street Lamp, circa 1942-1944
Box 6, Folder 8	Syracuse University Campus, circa 1935-1939

[Return to Table of Contents](#)