



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Dahlov Ipcar Papers, 1906-1993, in the Archives of American Art

Jayna M. Josefson

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Women's History Initiative and the National Collections Program

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Dahlov Ipcar papers
Identifier:	AAA.ipcadahl
Date:	1906-1993
Creator:	Ipcar, Dahlov, 1917-2017
Extent:	11.7 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of illustrator and painter Dahlov Ipcar measure 11.7 linear feet and date from 1906 to 1993. The bulk of the papers consists of personal and professional correspondence relating to Ipcar's career, and the careers and legacies of her parents, William and Marguerite Zorach. Also found are scattered biographical materials which include writings, sketches, and photographs, and printed material.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Dahlov Ipcar loaned a portion of her papers for microfilming in 1979 and 1996. She donated additional material between 1979 and 1997.

Separated Materials

The Archives of American Art also holds microfilm of material lent for microfilming on reels 1519, 5136. The reels include Correspondence, 1930-1979, including letters from William Zorach and Robert Tristram Coffin; and three scrapbooks, 1936-1979, containing clippings, exhibition catalogs and announcements. Also found on the microfilm are letters from Ipcar's parents to Ipcar and her husband, Adolph Ipcar, ca. 1939 and 1951-1968, concerning family affairs with some references to art; two scrapbooks, 1979-1990, containing portions of Ipcar's autobiography, exhibition announcements, clippings and other printed material on Ipcar's work and her community service [note: the first half of the first scrapbook was previously filmed on reel 1519, fr. 336-446, and has not been refilmed]; and Robinhood Snooper, writings referred to as "wall newspapers," written by Dahlov and Adolph Ipcar, 1934-1938 and undated, pertaining to family and local "gossip." Also present are photocopies of works of art by other artists, 1942 and 1965, including a sketch of Marguerite Zorach. The material was returned to the donor after microfilming and is not described in the collection container inventory.

Related Materials

The Archives of American Art also holds the The Zorach Family papers, 1900-1987 and the Elizabeth Hertz letters from William and Marguerite Zorach, 1943-2006.

Available Formats

Material lent for microfilming is available on 35mm microfilm reel 1519 and 5136 at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

Processing Information

The collection received a preliminary level of arrangement after donation. The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Jayna Josefson in 2021.

Preferred Citation

Dahlov Ipcar papers, 1906-1997. 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

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Biographical / Historical

Dahlov Ipcar (1917-2017) was a painter and illustrator active in Robinhood, Maine. She was the daughter of artists Marguerite and William Zorach.

Ipcar was born Dahlov Zorach in Vermont, to William and Marguerite Zorach. Dahlov's sculptor father and her textile artist mother painted and encouraged her to paint from an early age. She attended progressive schools, including Oberlin College in Ohio, but dropped out after one year. She married Adolph Ipcar at the age of nineteen and moved with him to Maine where the couple took over a farm once owned by her parents.

At the age of twenty-one, Ipcar showed her work in a solo exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City. By the 1940s and 1950s, her artwork was heavily influenced by her rural life, and often depicted farm workers with their animals. She created murals for the Treasury Department's Section of Painting and Sculpture during the Great Depression. Later in life, Ipcar began to illustrate children's books and began to write and illustrate her own books, which were often about animals or featured animal illustrations.

Dahlov Ipcar died in Maine in 2017.

Scope and Contents

The papers of illustrator and painter Dahlov Ipcar measure 11.7 linear feet and date from 1906 to 1993. The bulk of the papers consists of personal and professional correspondence relating to Ipcar's career, and the careers and legacies of her parents, William and Marguerite Zorach. Also found are scattered biographical materials which include writings, sketches, and photographs, and printed material.

Correspondence is with family members, including Adolph, Charles, and Robert Ipcar, and Marguerite, Peggy, Tessim, and William Zorach. Other correspondents include George Biddle, Emma Friendlander, Milton Garb, Caroline Pratt, and Forbes Watson. The letters comment on Ipcar's longstanding personal friendships and relationships with family members.

Additional correspondence is found within Ipcar's professional files which also include printed material and scattered business records, and reflect the original order of the papers. Files in this series also pertain to a scholarship in sculpture given by Dahlov and Adolph Ipcar to the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture in memory of William and Marguerite Zorach.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 4 series.

- Series 1: Biographical Material, 1906-1978 (1.8 linear feet; Boxes 1, 12, RDs 13-14)
- Series 2: Correspondence, circa 1930s-1993 (6.0 linear feet; Boxes 1-7)
- Series 3: Professional Files, 1939-1991 (2.8 linear feet; Boxes 7-10)
- Series 4: Printed Material, 1939-circa 1980s (1.1 linear feet; Boxes 10-12)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Women artists
Women painters

Names:

Ipcar, Adolph
Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture
Zorach, Marguerite, 1887-1968
Zorach, William, 1887-1966

Occupations:

Illustrators -- Maine
Painters -- Maine

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Material, 1906-1978

1.8 Linear feet (Box 1, 12, RDs 13-14)

Scope and Contents: Found are scattered biographical materials on Adolph, Charles, and Robert Zorach. Writings by Dahlov Ipcar include autobiographical notes and speeches, notes, and lists. Sketches are largely unsigned and include studies for unidentified post office murals and oil painting studies. Also found is a blueprint of a sculpture and tapestry by Marguerite and William Zorach.

Box 1, Folder 1	Biographical Material, Ipcar, Adolph, Charles, and Robert, 1906-1964
Roll 13	Blueprint, Relief Sculpture and Tapestry by Marguerite and William Zorach, circa 1930
Box 1, Folder 2	Writings, Autobiographical and Speeches, 1947-1978
Box 1, Folder 3	Writings, Notes and Doodles, circa 1970s
Box 1, Folder 4	Writings, Lists, circa 1950
Roll 14	Sketch, Oversized, circa 1940
Box 1, Folder 5	Sketches, Post Office Mural, 1939-1940
Roll 14	Sketches, Post Office Mural, Oversized
Box 1, Folder 6-8	Sketches, Studies, Oil Painting, 1940s-1970s
Box 1, Folder 9-10	Photographs and Slides, circa 1940-1975

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Series 2: Correspondence, circa 1930s-1993

6 Linear feet (Boxes 1-7)

Scope and Contents: Dahlov Ipcar's general and personal correspondence is with family members, including Adolph, Charles, and Robert Ipcar, and Marguerite, Peggy, Tessim, and William Zorach and friends. Other correspondents include George Biddle, Emma Friendlander, Milton Garb, Caroline Pratt, and Forbes Watson. Also found are condolence letters written to Ipcar upon the death of her mother, Marguerite Zorach.

Arrangement: The bulk of the series is arranged chronologically. Additional correspondence is arranged by family group at the end of the series.

Box 1, Folder 11	General, 1939
Box 1, Folder 12	General, 1940
Box 1, Folder 13	General, 1941
Box 1, Folder 14	General, 1943
Box 1, Folder 15	General, 1944
Box 1, Folder 16	General, 1946
Box 1, Folder 17	General, 1947
Box 1, Folder 18	General, 1948
Box 1, Folder 19	General, 1949
Box 1, Folder 20	General, 1950
Box 1, Folder 21	General, 1951
Box 1, Folder 22	General, 1952
Box 1, Folder 23	General, 1953
Box 1, Folder 24	General, 1954
Box 1, Folder 25	General, 1955
Box 1, Folder 26	General, 1956
Box 1, Folder 27-28	General, 1957
Box 1, Folder 29	General, 1958
Box 1, Folder 30	General, 1959

Box 1, Folder 31-32	General, 1960
Box 1, Folder 33	General, 1961
Box 1, Folder 34-35	General, 1962
Box 1, Folder 36-37	General, 1963
Box 1, Folder 38-39	General, 1964
Box 1, Folder 40	General, 1965
Box 2, Folder 1-2	General, 1965
Box 2, Folder 3-4	General, 1966
Box 2, Folder 5-6	General, 1967
Box 2, Folder 7-9	General, 1968
Box 2, Folder 10-12	General, 1969
Box 2, Folder 13-15	General, 1970
Box 2, Folder 16-18	General, 1971
Box 2, Folder 19-21	General, 1972
Box 3, Folder 1-3	General, 1973
Box 3, Folder 4-6	General, 1974
Box 3, Folder 7-8	General, 1975
Box 3, Folder 9-11	General, 1976
Box 3, Folder 12-15	General, 1977
Box 3, Folder 16-18	General, 1978
Box 3, Folder 19-22	General, 1979
Box 4, Folder 1-4	General, 1980
Box 4, Folder 5-9	General, 1981
Box 4, Folder 10-12	General, 1982

Box 4, Folder 13-16	General, 1983
Box 4, Folder 17	General, 1984
Box 5, Folder 1-2	General, 1984
Box 5, Folder 3-5	General, 1985
Box 5, Folder 6-9	General, 1986
Box 5, Folder 10-13	General, 1987
Box 5, Folder 14-17	General, 1988
Box 6, Folder 1-5	General, 1989
Box 6, Folder 6-8	General, 1990
Box 6, Folder 9-12	General, 1991
Box 6, Folder 13-14	General, circa 1930s-1960s
Box 6, Folder 15-18	Binn and Family, 1977-1986
Box 6, Folder 19	Condolence Letters, Marguerite Zorach, 1968
Box 6, Folder 20-21	Family, 1968-1969
Box 7, Folder 1-3	Family, 1970-1972
Box 7, Folder 4-5	Greeting and Holiday Cards, 1963-1993
Box 7, Folder 6-8	Ipcar, Charles (and Family), 1960s-1988
Box 7, Folder 9-13	Ipcar, Robert (and Family), 1964-1993
Box 7, Folder 14	Zorach, Marguerite and William, 1939-1957
Box 7, Folder 15	Zorach, Peggy and Tessim, 1981-1988

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Series 3: Professional Files, 1939-1991

2.8 Linear feet (Boxes 7-10)

Arrangement: This series is arranged as 3 subseries.

- 3.1: General, 1939-1974
- 3.2: Zorach Scholarship Records, 1970-1980
- 3.3: Art Business Records, 1956-1991

Scope and Contents: Professional files consist of general business records, records on the administration of the Zorach Scholarship at the Skowhegan School of Painting and Design, and art business records including correspondence and printed materials.

3.1: General, 1939-1974

Scope and Contents: Found are personal business records including contracts and payment records from the Treasury Department for Ipcar's work, price lists, and sales and loans records. Loan records include records relating to Ipcar's artwork, and records for artwork created by Marguerite and William Zorach that was owned by Ipcar.

Box 7, Folder 16 Contracts and Payments, 1939-1940

Box 7, Folder 17 Price Lists, 1939, 1969-1974

Box 7, Folder 18 Sales and Loans , 1969-1973

3.2: Zorach Scholarship Records, 1970-1980

Scope and Contents: Found are records relating to the administration and selection of recipients for the Zorach Scholarship given at the Skowhegan School of Painting and Design.

Box 7, Folder 19 Skowhegan School of Painting and Design, Maine Committee, 1971-1975

Box 7, Folder 20 Skowhegan School of Painting and Design, Applications and Candidate Lists, 1973-1975

Box 7, Folder 21-24 Skowhegan School of Painting and Design, General, 1970-1977

Box 8, Folder 1-3 Skowhegan School of Painting and Design, General, 1978-1980

3.3: Art Business Records, 1956-1991

Scope and Contents: Ipcar's art business records include correspondence, printed material, and scattered business records such as sales and loan records.

Arrangement: Arrangement of this subseries reflects the original arrangement of the papers by Dahlov Ipcar. It is unclear whether the art business records relate to specific exhibitions or works. The material was refoldered but original groups were maintained.

Box 8, Folder 4 Correspondence and Printed Material, 1956-1958

Box 8, Folder 5 Correspondence and Printed Material, 1957-1965

Box 8, Folder 6	Correspondence and Printed Material, 1958-1963
Box 8, Folder 7-8	Correspondence and Printed Material, 1959
Box 8, Folder 9	Correspondence and Printed Material, 1961-1963
Box 8, Folder 10	Correspondence and Printed Material, 1961-1962
Box 8, Folder 11	Correspondence and Printed Material, Fan Mail "Odalisane", 1963
Box 8, Folder 12	Correspondence and Printed Material, 1963
Box 8, Folder 13-17	Correspondence and Printed Material, 1964-1966
Box 8, Folder 18-19	Correspondence and Printed Material, 1967
Box 9, Folder 1	Correspondence and Printed Material, 1967
Box 9, Folder 2-4	Correspondence and Printed Material, 1968
Box 9, Folder 5-7	Correspondence and Printed Material, 1975-1977
Box 9, Folder 8-11	Correspondence and Printed Material, 1977-1979
Box 9, Folder 12	Correspondence and Printed Material, Treat Gallery, 1978-1983
Box 9, Folder 13-17	Correspondence and Printed Material, 1980-1985
Box 9, Folder 18	Correspondence and Printed Material, 1981-1984
Box 10, Folder 1-2	Correspondence and Printed Material, 1981-1984
Box 10, Folder 3-5	Correspondence and Printed Material, 1988
Box 10, Folder 6-8	Correspondence and Printed Material, 1990-1991

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Series 4: Printed Material, 1939-circa 1980s

1.1 Linear feet (Boxes 10-12)

Scope and Contents: Printed materials include clippings, exhibition material, newsletters and periodicals relating to the careers of Dahlov Ipcar, Marguerite Zorach, and William Zorach.

Box 10, Folder 9-10	Clippings, 1939-1978
Box 10, Folder 11-18	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1939-1977
Box 12, Folder 1	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, Oversized, circa 1950s
Box 10, Folder 19-20	Newsletters and Bulletins, 1950s-1970s
Box 11, Folder 1	Periodicals, 1960s-circa 1980s
Box 11, Folder 2-5	Skowhegan School of Painting and Design Material, 1970s

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