



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Henry G. Keller Papers, circa 1880-1962, in the Archives of American Art

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Funding for the processing of this collection was
provided by the Terra Foundation for American Art

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Henry G. Keller papers
Date:	circa 1880-1962
Identifier:	AAA.kellhenr
Creator:	Keller, Henry G., 1869-1949
Extent:	1.3 Linear feet
Language:	The collection is in English
Summary:	The papers of Ohio painter, lithographer, and educator Henry G. Keller date from circa 1880-1962 and measure 1.3 linear feet. Found are biographical materials, professional and personal correspondence, writings and notes, personal business records, printed material, photographs, and artworks and artifacts.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The Henry G. Keller papers were donated by Albert Keller via the Cleveland Museum of Art in 1976.

Available Formats

The collection is available on 35 mm microfilm reel 1321 at the Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan. Researchers should note that the arrangement of the material described in the container inventory does not reflect the arrangement of the collection on microfilm.

Processing Information

The Henry G. Keller papers were preliminarily arranged and microfilmed. In 2013, Jayna Josefson processed the papers and created a finding aid with funding provided by the Terra Foundation for American Art.

Preferred Citation

Henry G. Keller papers, circa 1880-1962. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

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Use of original papers requires an appointment.

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Biographical / Historical

Henry G. Keller (1869-1949) was a painter, lithographer, and educator active in Cleveland, Ohio.

In 1869, Henry Keller was born at sea to German parents who settled in Northern Ohio. Keller received arts education in Cleveland as well as the Academy of Fine Arts, Karlsruhe, Germany and the Art Students League in New York City. He returned to Ohio where he worked as a lithographer for the Morgan Lithography Company. For forty years, Keller taught painting classes at the Cleveland School of Art (Cleveland Institute of Art) and at his artist colony in Berlin Heights, Ohio.

Keller married Imogene Leslie in 1893 and they had two sons, Albert and Leslie. The family travelled throughout Europe. After the death of his wife, Henry Keller moved to California to be with Albert. He died a year later in 1949.

Scope and Contents

The papers of Ohio painter, lithographer, and educator Henry G. Keller date from circa 1880-1962 and measure 1.3 linear feet. Found are biographical materials, professional and personal correspondence, writings and notes, personal business records, printed material, photographs, and artworks and artifacts.

The bulk of Henry Keller's correspondence relates to the sale and exhibition of his works of art. Letters are found from institution and museums including the Carnegie Institute and the Cleveland Museum of Art. Also, correspondence is found for Albert Keller, most of which concerns his father's career and estate.

Arrangement

Missing Title:

- Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1920-1945 (4 folders; Box 1)
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1905-1961 (0.2 linear feet; Box 1)
- Series 3: Writings and Notes, circa 1920-circa 1952 (4 folders; Box 1)
- Series 4: Personal Business Records, circa 1925-circa 1955 (0.1 linear feet; Box 1)
- Series 5: Printed Material, 1913-1962 (0.2 linear feet; Box 1-2)
- Series 6: Photographs, circa 1880-circa 1940 (0.3 linear feet; Box 2, 4)
- Series 7: Sketchbooks, Artwork and Artifacts, circa 1898-1948 (0.4 linear feet; Box 2-4)

The collection is arranged as 7 series.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Lithographers -- Ohio -- Cleveland

Types of Materials:

Photographs

Names:

Carnegie Institute
Cleveland Museum of Art
Keller, Albert

Occupations:

Painters -- Ohio -- Cleveland

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1920-1945

4 Folders (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Found is a biographical sketch, invitations and programs for events, two Keller family Christmas cards, and a ticket to the Alhambra.

Box 1, Folder 1	Biographical Sketch, 1934
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Box 1, Folder 2	Invitations and Programs, 1937-1945
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Box 1, Folder 3	Keller Family Holiday Cards, circa 1940
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Box 1, Folder 4	Travel Souvenirs, circa 1920
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Series 2: Correspondence, 1905-1961

0.2 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Found is correspondence for Henry Keller, Imogene Keller, Albert Keller, and letters by others relating to the Cleveland Museum of Art.

Henry Keller correspondence includes personal and professional correspondence, mostly relating to the sale and exhibition of his works at various institutions. Institutions and museums found include: Art Institute of Chicago, Brooklyn Museum, Carnegie Institute, Cleveland Museum of Art, Dallas Museum of the Fine Arts, Fogg Art Museum, Museum of Fine Arts Boston, Museum of Modern Art, New York Public Library, Toledo Museum of Art, Whitney Museum, and Worcester Art Museum.

Imogene Keller correspondence consists of postcards and letters from family and friends.

Albert Keller correspondence relates to his father's art and memorial exhibitions.

There are several letters to William Milliken and Louise Dunn of the Cleveland Museum of Art from Jacob Burke and David Hills. Some letters mention Henry Keller's art.

Box 1, Folder 5-6	Henry Keller Correspondence, 1905-1949
Box 1, Folder 7	Imogene Leslie Keller Correspondence, 1905-1938
Box 1, Folder 8	Albert Keller Correspondence, 1931-1961
Box 1, Folder 9	Family Postcards, circa 1920
Box 1, Folder 10	Other Correspondence, 1935-1941 Notes: Letters are to Louise Dunn and William Milliken of the Cleveland Museum of Art, from David Hills and Jacob Burke.

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Series 3: Writings and Notes, circa 1920-circa 1952

4 Folders (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Found are scattered writings and notes by Henry Keller including: a typescript of a speech given at the Buckeye Art Club, poetry, and notes. Also found is a writing about fiberglass by Albert Keller.

Box 1, Folder 11	Speech, by Keller, circa 1947
Box 1, Folder 12	Poetry, Likely by Keller, circa 1920
Box 1, Folder 13	Notes, circa 1930
Box 1, Folder 14	on Fiberglass, by Albert Keller, circa 1952

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Series 4: Personal Business Records, circa 1925-circa 1955

0.1 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Found are scattered materials of the sale, consignment, loan, and gift of Henry Keller's art, and estate papers. Also found are records from Albert Keller including personal receipts and material relating to his company, San Luco, Inc..

Box 1, Folder 15 Price Lists, circa 1925-circa 1950

Box 1, Folder 16 Gift Acknowledgements, 1934

Box 1, Folder 17 Sales, Consignment, and Loan Records, 1928-1950

Box 1, Folder 18 Receipts, 1950

Box 1, Folder 19-20 Estate Papers, 1948-1952

Box 1, Folder 21-22 Albert Keller Financial Records, 1951-circa 1955

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Series 5: Printed Material, 1913-1962

0.2 Linear feet (Box 1-2)

Scope and Contents: Found are materials relating to Henry Kellers art and teaching career. Included are: published material; exhibition announcements and catalogs for solo and group shows; clippings from magazines and newspapers; an advertisement for Keller's sketch class taught at his school in Berlin Heights, Ohio; and blank postcards and a greeting card.

Box 1, Folder 23	The Application of the Philosophy of Color Vision in Modern Art, by Henry Keller and J. J. R. MacCleod, 1913
Box 1, Folder 24	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1915-1949
Box 2, Folder 1-4	Clippings, 1915-1962
Box 2, Folder 5	Advertisement for Sketch Class, circa 1920
Box 2, Folder 6	Blank Postcards and Greeting Cards, 1901-circa 1920

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Series 6: Photographs, circa 1880-circa 1940

0.3 Linear feet (Box 2, 4)

Scope and Contents: Found are photographs of the Keller family, Keller's studio, travel photos, animals, and of exhibitions at the Carnegie Institute and the Cleveland Museum of Art. The family photos were likely taken throughout Cleveland, Lakewood, and Berlin Heights, Ohio. Many of the photographs are unidentified. Also found are photos of works of art by Keller and others.

Box 2, Folder 7	Portraits of Henry Keller, circa 1910-circa 1940
Box 2, Folder 8	Snapshot of Henry Keller, circa 1920 Notes: Henry Keller painting outside, likely along Lake Erie
Box 2, Folder 9	Snapshots of Keller Family, circa 1880-circa 1930
Box 2, Folder 10	Group Photos, circa 1890-circa 1920 Notes: Unidentified, likely includes Keller
Box 2, Folder 11	Unidentified Portraits and Snapshots, circa 1900-circa 1940 Notes: Likely of Keller family and friends
Box 2, Folder 12	Studio, Berlin Heights (?), circa 1910
Box 2, Folder 13	Snapshots of Landscapes, circa 1910 Notes: Wade Park Lagoon and Lake Erie
Box 2, Folder 14	Travel Photos, circa 1910
Box 2, Folder 15	Animals, circa 1910
Box 2, Folder 16	Exhibitions, circa 1935-1944 Notes: Includes photos from the Carnegie Institute and the Cleveland Museum of Art. Oversized material housed in Box 4.
Box 2, Folder 17	Works of Art by Keller, circa 1920-circa 1930
Box 2, Folder 18-19	Works of Art by Others, circa 1930-circa 1940
Box 4	Oversized Exhibition Photos from Box 2, F16, circa 1935

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Series 7: Sketchbooks, Artwork and Artifacts, circa 1898-1948

0.4 Linear feet (Box 2-4)

Scope and Contents: Found are 7 sketchbooks and a loose sketch by Henry Keller, a print by Reindel, and artifacts. Most of the sketchbooks contain pencil sketches and are of faces, figures, and animals. Some of the sketchbooks may have been used during Keller's trips abroad.

Box 2, Folder 20	Sketch, circa 1902
Box 2, Folder 21	Sketchbook 1, 1902
Box 3, Folder 1-6	Sketchbooks 2-7, circa 1898-circa 1920
Box 3, Folder 7	Etching by Reindel, 1948
Box 4	Artifacts, circa 1900-circa 1945 Notes: Includes a commemorative medal of the 125th anniversary of the founding of the city of Cleveland, eye glasses, paint brushes and lithography tools, and other items.

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