



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## A Finding Aid to the Luman Pierre Kelsey Papers, 1937-1961, in the Archives of American Art

Jayna M. Josefson

The digitization of this collection received Federal support from the  
Smithsonian Collections Information System (CIS) IRM Pool Fund

2025/03/06

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Luman Pierre Kelsey papers
<b>Date:</b>	1937-1961
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.kelsluma
<b>Creator:</b>	Kelsey, Luman Pierre, 1906-1961
<b>Extent:</b>	1 Microfilm reel
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	The papers of ceramicist, photographer, and sculptor Luman Pierre Kelsey date from 1937 to 1961. Papers include a biographical sketch, scattered correspondence, writings, printed material, fine art photographs, and photographs of Kelsey in his studio creating pottery and of his works of art. Also found is a pamphlet written by Kelsey's daughter Sally which uses his works of art as illustrations.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

The papers were lent for microfilming 1961 by Dorothea Storey Kelsey, and returned after filming.

### Location of Originals

Originals returned to lender, Dorothea S. Kelsey, after microfilming.

### Available Formats

The collection has been microfilmed on reel D23. The microfilm has been digitized and is available on the Archives of American Art website.

### Processing Information

The collection was microfilmed on Reel D23 and was returned to Dorothea Storey Kelsey after filming. The microfilm was described in a finding aid by Jayna Josefson in 2025 and the microfilm was digitized in 2025 with funding provided by the Smithsonian Collections Information System (CIS) IRM Pool Fund.

### Preferred Citation

Luman Pierre Kelsey papers, 1937-1961. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

### Restrictions

The Archives of American art does not own the original papers. Use is limited to the microfilm copy.

### Conditions Governing Use

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## **Biographical / Historical**

Luman Pierre Kelsey (1905-1961) was a self-taught ceramicist, photographer, and sculptor in North Canton, Connecticut. He was married to painter and printmaker Dorothea Storey Kelsey.

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## **Scope and Contents**

The papers of ceramicist, photographer, and sculptor Luman Pierre Kelsey date from 1937 to 1961. Papers include a biographical sketch, scattered correspondence, writings, printed material, fine art photographs, and photographs of Kelsey in his studio creating pottery and of his works of art. Also found is a pamphlet written by Kelsey's daughter Sally which uses his works of art as illustrations.

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## **Arrangement**

Due to the pre-existing microfilm arrangement, the collection is arranged as one series.

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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:

Decorative arts

Occupations:

Ceramicists -- Connecticut -- North Canton  
Photographers -- Connecticut -- North Canton  
Sculptors -- Connecticut -- North Canton

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Luman Pierre Kelsey Papers, 1937-1961

Scope and Contents: A biographical sketch of Luman Kelsey was written by Dorothea Storey Kelsey in a letter to the Archives of American Art. Additional scattered correspondence is with Dorothea Kelsey and institutions regarding Luman's artwork. A handwritten account by Luman describes his cast stone process when sculpting. Printed material consists of clippings and exhibition catalogs. Also found is a self-published guide to the Virgin Islands written by Sally Kelsey at the age of eleven and illustrated with her father Luman's works of art. Photographs include Kelsey's fine art photos and are also of works of art and of Luman in his studio creating ceramics.

Reel D023.kelsey I,      [Luman Pierre Kelsey Papers, 1937-1961](#)  
Frame 456-551

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