



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Belle Kogan Papers, 1920- circa 1990, in the Archives of American Art

Sarah Mundy

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Belle Kogan papers
Date:	1920-circa 1990
Identifier:	AAA.kogabell
Creator:	Kogan, Belle, 1902-2000
Extent:	0.6 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of industrial designer Belle Kogan measure 0.6 linear feet and date from 1920 to circa 1990. The collection documents Kogan's career through correspondence, lecture typescripts, photographs, drawings and printed material documenting Kogan's designs for various companies, and six sketchbooks.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The Belle Kogan papers were donated in 1990 and 1993 by Belle Kogan.

Processing Information

The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Sarah Mundy in 2022.

Preferred Citation

Belle Kogan papers, 1920-circa 1990. 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.

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Biographical / Historical

Belle Kogan (1902-2000) was an industrial designer in New York, New York, and was known as a pioneer in her field. She owned a design studio in New York City from 1930 to 1970 where she created houseware designs for prominent companies such as Quaker Silver, Red Wing Potteries, and many others.

Kogan was born in Russia in 1902 and immigrated to the United States in 1906 with her family. She was interested in art at an early age and studied to be a painter. Influenced by manufacturers she met at her father's jewelry store, she became aware of her design abilities. She worked briefly as a color consultant for a plastics company before joining Quaker Silver. The company sent her to Germany in 1930 to study the manufacturing of glass and silver in that region of Europe. After 40 years, Kogan closed her New York studio and spent time in Israel working for K.V. Design. She retired from designing professionally in 1972.

Scope and Contents

The papers of industrial designer Belle Kogan measure 0.6 linear feet and date from 1920 to circa 1990. The collection contains correspondence, lecture typescripts and related materials, and drawings of designs and the body. Also found are photographs and photocopies of drawings by Kogan, photographs and printed materials featuring Kogan's designs for the companies Boontonware and Red Wing Potteries, two catalogs for the Belle Kogan Associates retrospective exhibition, and a copy of a thesis on Kogan by Helen Rice. One photographic print is of Kogan's studio art class at Winold Reiss Studio in New York City in 1928 and six sketchbooks are from Kogan's art classes in Germany and include her work with Quaker Silver.

Arrangement

Due to the small size of this collection the papers are arranged as one series.

- Series 1: Belle Kogan Papers, 1920-circa 1990 (0.6 linear feet; Box 1, OVs 2-3)
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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:

Women artists
Women designers

Types of Materials:

Sketchbooks

Names:

Quaker Silver Co. (Attleboro, Mass.)
Red Wing Potteries
Rice, Helen

Occupations:

Designers -- New York (State) -- New York

Industrial designers -- New York (State) -- New York

Container Listing

Series 1: Belle Kogan Papers, 1920-circa 1990

0.6 Linear feet (Box 1, OVs 2-3)

Scope and Contents: Series includes correspondence, lecture typescripts and related materials, and drawings of designs and the body. Found are photographs and photocopies of drawings by Kogan, photographs and printed materials featuring Kogan's designs for the companies Boontonware and Red Wing Potteries, and two catalogs for the Belle Kogan Associates retrospective exhibition.

Also found is a copy of a thesis on Kogan by Helen Rice, a photographic print of Kogan's studio art class at Winold Reiss Studio in New York City in 1928, and six sketchbooks from Kogan's art classes in Germany which include documentation of her work with Quaker Silver.

Box 1, Folder 1	Correspondence, 1952-1986 Notes: The records in this folder are photocopies.
Box 1, Folder 2	Drawings of Designs by Kogan, 1929-1932
Box 1, Folder 3	Drawings of Hand and Ear for High School Class, 1920
Box 1, Folder 4	Lectures by Kogan, 1950-1955
Box 1, Folder 5	Photocopies of Drawings by Kogan, circa 1980 Notes: Most of the photocopies are of original drawings within the collection.
Box 1, Folder 6	Photographs and Photocopied Images of Works by Kogan, circa 1940s
Box 1, Folder 7	Photographs of Portrait Drawings by Kogan, circa 1990
Box 1, Folder 8	Photograph of Kogan with Drawing Studio Class, circa 1928 Notes: Photograph is a reprint of original circa 1928 photograph.
Box 1, Folder 9	Photographs and Printed Materials, Boontonware, 1952-1960
Box 1, Folder 10	Photographs and Printed Materials, Red Wing Potteries Inc., 1935-1963
Box 1, Folder 11	Printed Materials for Retrospective Exhibition on Belle Kogan Associates, 1985
Box 1, Folder 12	Printed Materials, General, circa 1950s
Box 1, Folder 13	Sketchbook, Drawing Class in Germany, circa 1929
Box 1, Folder 14	Sketchbook, Drawing Class in Germany, 1930
Oversize 2	Sketchbook, Graphics Class, circa 1929

Box 1, Folder 15	Sketchbook, Jewelry Designs, circa 1929
Box 1, Folder 16	Sketchbook, Jewelry and Teapot Designs, circa 1929
Oversize 3	Sketchbook, Quaker Silver, 1929-1930
Box 1, Folder 17	Thesis by Helen Rice on Kogan, circa 1982 Notes: The folder only contains a photocopy of original thesis.

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