



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Isidore Konti papers, circa 1879-1975, in the Archives of American Art

Allessandra Liberati

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Isidore Konti papers
Date:	circa 1879-1975
Identifier:	AAA.kontisid
Creator:	Konti, Isidore, 1862-1938
Extent:	3.5 Linear feet
Language:	This collection is in English and German.
Summary:	The Isidore Konti papers measure 3.5 linear feet and date from circa 1879-1975. They illustrate his career through biographical materials, correspondence, personal business records, printed and photographic materials, and artwork.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Papers were lent for microfilming in 1977 by the Hudson River Museum. The papers were subsequently donated in 2000 by Konti's grandnephew, Richard E. Kaeyer.

Available Formats

Portions of the collection are available on 35mm microfilm reels 1208 and 1210-1211 at the Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan. Researchers should note that the arrangement of material described in the container inventory does not reflect the arrangement of the collection on microfilm.

Processing Information

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

Preferred Citation

Isidore Konti papers, circa 1879-1975, 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

Isidore Konti (1862-1938) was a sculptor who worked primarily in New York.

Konti was born July 9, in Vienna, Austria, where he studied under Edmund Von Hellmer and Karl Kundmann. In 1886, he received a scholarship that allowed him to study in Rome for a two year period. Konti immigrated to America in 1891, where he would permanently stay. After a small period of time in New York, where he became an associate of Philip Martiny, he went to Chicago where he worked on sculptural decorations for the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition. When he completed his work, he moved to New York City where he began work as an assistant for Austrian expatriate Karl Bitter.

In 1904, Konti created the fountains of the Atlantic and Pacific for the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis. During the following decades, he established his reputation working in the Beaux Arts tradition, befriending many of the significant sculptors of the early 20th century. Konti received many public and private commissions including historical reliefs for the Syracuse Post Office, and figures for the Pan-American Union Building, as well as several private sculpture commissions.

In 1909, he was elected to the National Academy of Design as an associate member and subsequently became a full Academician. Konti was a member of the Salmagundi Club, the Architectural League of New York, the Yonkers Art Association, The Fine Arts Federation, and the National Arts Club. In 1914, Konti settled in Yonkers, New York, where he lived the rest of his life.

Isidore Konti died on January 11, 1938, in Yonkers, New York.

Scope and Contents

The Isidore Konti papers measure 3.5 linear feet and date from circa 1879-1975. Biographical material consists of Konti's resume and passport, as well as various awards and certificates. Correspondence is about sculpture projects and was written primarily by Konti's colleagues including Karl Bitter, Elliott Daingerfield, Rudolf Eickemeyer, Daniel Chester French, Charles Keck, Hermon MacNeil, Paul Manship, Frederick G. R. Roth, and Adolph Weinman. Also included are letters of condolence sent after Konti's death. Personal business records include account statements and receipts from the Gorham Company, commission contracts, copyright purchase records, and receipts from the Roman Bronze Works.

Printed material consists of the constitution and by-laws and a bulletin from the Hudson River Museum, a 1926 catalog *Small Bronzes by Great Sculptors as Prizes*, materials related to the Corcoran Art Gallery, and various exhibition and auction catalogs. Also included are news clippings and two scrapbooks. Photographic material includes photographs of works of art and personal photographs, as well as photographs of Isidore Konti. Also included are several scrapbooks of photographs of artwork. Artwork consists of several sketches, oil pastels, and a sketchbook by Konti. Also included are two sculptures.

Arrangement

This collection consists of six series.

- Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1879-1929 (.2 Linear feet: Box 1, OV 7)
- Series 2: Correspondence, circa 1894-1975 (.2 Linear feet: Box 1)
- Series 3: Personal Business Records, circa 1900-1940 (.2 Linear feet: Box 1)

- Series 4: Printed Material, circa 1898-1968 (.6 Linear feet: Boxes 1-2)
 - Series 5: Photographic Material, circa 1879-1959 (1.9 Linear feet: Boxes 2-6)
 - Series 6: Artwork, circa 1902-1974 (.4 Linear feet: Box 3, OV 8)
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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:

Decoration and ornament, Architectural -- United States
Eclecticism in architecture -- United States
Sculpture, Modern -- 20th century -- United States

Types of Materials:

Drawings
Scrapbooks
Sketchbooks

Occupations:

Sculptors -- New York (State)
Sculptors -- United States

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1879-1929

.2 Linear feet (Box 1, OV 7)

Scope and Contents: Biographical material consists of Konti's resume and passport, as well as various awards and certificates.

Box 1, Folder 1 Resume, circa 1929

Box 1, Folder 2 Passport, circa 1929

Box 1, Folder 3 Awards and Certificates , circa 1879-1915

Oversize 7 Awards and Certificates, circa 1906-1910

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Series 2: Correspondence, circa 1894-1975

.2 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Correspondence concerns sculpture projects and was written primarily by Konti's colleagues including Karl Bitter, Elliott Daingerfield, Rudolf Eickemeyer, Daniel Chester French, Charles Keck, Hermon MacNeil, Paul Manship, Frederick G. R. Roth, and Adolph Weinman. Approximately half the letters from Frederick G. R. Roth are in German. The 1902 letter from Karl Bitter concerns the fall exhibition. Also included are letters of condolence sent after Konti's death.

Box 1, Folder 4	Correspondence (1890s), circa 1894-1896
Box 1, Folder 5	Correspondence (1900s), circa 1900-1909
Box 1, Folder 6	Correspondence (1910s), circa 1910-1915
Box 1, Folder 7	Correspondence (1910s), circa 1916-1919
Box 1, Folder 8	Correspondence (1920s), circa 1920-1929
Box 1, Folder 9	Correspondence (1930s), circa 1930-1939
Box 1, Folder 10	Correspondence (1940s), circa 1940-1949
Box 1, Folder 11	Correspondence (1950s), circa 1950
Box 1, Folder 12	Correspondence (1970s), circa 1974-1975
Box 1, Folder 13	Undated Correspondence, circa 1894-1949
Box 1, Folder 14	Karl Bitter, circa 1902
Box 1, Folder 15	Sympathy Cards, circa 1938

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Series 3: Personal Business Records, circa 1900-1940

.2 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Personal business records include account statements and receipts from the Gorham Company, commission contracts, copyright purchase records, and receipts from the Roman Bronze Works.

Box 1, Folder 16	Commission Contracts, circa 1900-1931
Box 1, Folder 17	Copyright Purchase Records, circa 1907-1911
Box 1, Folder 18	Roman Bronze Works, Receipts, circa 1905-1926
Box 1, Folder 19	Artwork Sales Receipts, circa 1910-1921
Box 1, Folder 20	Art Supply Bills and Receipts, circa 1912-1919
Box 1, Folder 21	Miscellaneous Business Records, circa 1940

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Series 4: Printed Material, circa 1898-1968

.6 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2)

Scope and Contents: Printed material consists of the constitution and by-laws and a bulletin from the Hudson River Museum, a 1926 catalog *Small Bronzes by Great Sculptors as Prizes*, materials related to the Corcoran Art Gallery, and various exhibition and auction catalogs. Also included are news clippings and two scrapbooks containing photographs of works of art, clippings, a letter to Konti's niece, Malvina Kaeyer, from Thomas Green requesting information about a Konti bronze he owned, a 1929 blueprint of Memorial Park, photographs of the Kelahan Memorial and the Spanish-American War Monument, and two exhibition catalogs.

Box 1, Folder 22-24	Exhibition Catalogs, circa 1898-1947
Box 1, Folder 25	Corcoran Art Gallery, Membership Certificate, circa 1947
Box 1, Folder 26	History of the Yonkers Art Association, circa 1964
Box 1, Folder 27	Hudson River Museum, circa 1951-1954
Box 1, Folder 28	Pan American Union, circa 1911
Box 1, Folder 29	Yonkers Art Association, circa 1933-1940
Box 1, Folder 30	Auction Catalog, circa 1914
Box 1, Folder 31	Clippings, circa 1908-1968
Box 1, Folder 32	Published Journals, circa 1915-1940
Box 1, Folder 33	Scrapbook, Clippings, circa 1908-1940
Box 2, Folder 1	Scrapbook, Clippings, circa 1908-1956
Box 2, Folder 2	Miscellaneous Printed Material, circa 1908-1956

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Series 5: Photographic Material, circa 1879-1959

1.9 Linear feet (Boxes 2-6)

Scope and Contents: Photographic material includes photographs of works of art and personal photographs, as well as photographs of Isidore Konti and six negatives of the Estelle Weaks Reilly Memorial. Also included are several scrapbooks of photographs of artwork.

Box 2, Folder 3-4	Isidore Konti, circa 1913-1936
Box 2, Folder 5-9	Personal Photographs, circa 1889-1959
Box 2, Folder 10-22	Photographs of Artwork, circa 1904-1936
Box 4, Folder 1-5	Photographs of Artwork, circa 1904-1936
Box 5, Folder 1-10	Photographs of Artwork, circa 1904-1936
Box 6, Folder 1-2	Photographs of Artwork, circa 1979-1950
Box 3, Folder 1	Photographs of Artwork, Scrapbook, circa 1908-1928
Box 6, Folder 3-4	Photographs of Artwork, Scrapbook, circa 1908-1956
Box 3, Folder 2	Photographs of Artwork, Scrapbook, circa 1925-1937

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Series 6: Artwork, circa 1902-1974

.4 Linear feet (Box 3, OV 8)

Scope and Contents: Artwork consists of several sketches, oil pastels, and a sketchbook by Konti. Also included is a three-dimensional sculpture of a profile, and a second sculpture.

Box 3, Folder 3 Oil Pastels, circa 1904

Box 3, Folder 4-5 Sketches, circa 1902-1974

Oversize 8 Sketches, circa 1902-1974

Box 3, Folder 6 Sketchbook , circa 1932

Box 3, Folder 7 Profile, Sculpture, circa 1930

Box 3, Folder 8 Sculpture, circa 1927
Sculpture is in several pieces and crumbling.

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