



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Luigi Lucioni Papers, circa 1905-2008, in the Archives of American Art

Sabine Lipten

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Luigi Lucioni papers
Date:	circa 1905-2008
Identifier:	AAA.luciluig
Creator:	Lucioni, Luigi, 1900-1988
Extent:	2.7 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	<p>The papers of Luigi Lucioni measure 2.7 linear feet and date from 1905-2008. The papers document Lucioni's life and career as a commercially successful realist painter who was best known for his landscapes of Vermont and portraits of opera singers. Included are biographical material, correspondence, writings, photographs, printed material including objects relating to Lucioni, and artwork. Correspondence is with friends, family, admirers, museums, and associates; Writings and notes are by Lucioni and also includes a signed guest book; Photographs are of Lucioni, his family, his artwork and events. Printed material includes publicity materials concerning Lucioni's solo exhibitions, opera playbills, newspaper and magazine clippings, holiday card designs and auction and exhibition catalogs. Objects include four decks of playing cards and a puzzle all featuring Lucioni's artwork, and artwork consists of sketches of a dog, likely one of Lucioni's pets.</p>

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

A majority of the collection donated in 2008 and 2011 by Sharron Kropa, a friend of Lucioni. Also 17 items donated in 1972 by Lucioni. Biographical material and some correspondence compiled by Ida Galvano, a family friend.

Related Materials

Luigi Lucioni papers also at Syracuse University and the Aldrich Public Library in Barre, Vt.

Available Formats

35mm microfilm reel 3134 available at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

Processing Information

The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Sabine Lipten in 2023.

Preferred Citation

Luigi Lucioni Papers, 1905-2008. 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

Luigi Lucioni (1900-1988) was an Italian American painter in Vermont and New York best known for his landscapes of Vermont and portraits of opera singers. Born in Malnate, Italy, Lucioni's family immigrated to New York in 1911 and eventually settled in Union City, NJ. Though he never finished primary school, Lucioni was admitted to Cooper Union where he studied painting while also working for a Brooklyn engraving company. After his time at Cooper Union, he continued his studies at the National Academy of Design, and then the Tiffany Foundation in Oyster Bay, Long Island. In 1929, he began spending part of each year in Stowe, Vermont painting still lifes and landscapes of the hills and barns. In 1939 he purchased a farmhouse and barn near Manchester, Vermont, converting the barn into a studio. He continued to paint and make etchings of the surrounding countryside for the next fifty years.

Lucioni's works are in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., the Indianapolis Museum of Art, and the Cleveland Museum of Art, among others.

Scope and Contents

The papers of Luigi Lucioni measure 2.7 linear feet and date from 1905-2008. The papers document Lucioni's life and career as a commercially successful realist painter who was best known for his landscapes of Vermont and portraits of opera singers. Included is a biographical sketch, information on Lucioni and his sisters' birth and death dates and a funeral prayer card for Lucioni, as well as award and religious certificates. Correspondence consists of letters from friends, galleries, television studios and museums such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Vermont Educational Television channel as well as miscellaneous letters from Lucioni. Additional correspondence relates to the sales of Lucioni's artwork and letters compiled regarding research on Lucioni for various projects and exhibitions. Notable correspondence includes opera singer Giovanni Martinelli, Nancy McClelland, Susan Delano McKelvey, Mabel McAfee, Graeme K. Howard, Electra Webb, and P.H.B. Frelinghuysen. Also found are writings such as typescript essays by Lucioni on opera and by others on his artwork, along with guestbooks he kept signed by friends and family visitors to his home which he referred to as "Amica", along with business records related to Lucioni's estate. There is printed material which makes up a substantial portion of the collection documenting a number of exhibition and auctions featuring Lucioni's work through magazine and news clippings, exhibition flyers and catalogs. Of note are playing cards and a puzzle featuring Lucioni's paintings. Also found are printed materials related to music such as musical scores and news clippings on the subject of opera compiled by Lucioni. Photographic materials include photographs and negatives of Lucioni, his family and pets as well as his artwork. The artwork series contains sketches of a dog, likely one of his dogs named "Missy".

Arrangement

The Collection is arranged as seven series. Nitrate negatives are housed separately and closed to researchers.

- Series 1: Biographical Material, 1910-1988 (8 Folders: Box 1)
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1922-2004 (0.3 Linear feet: Box 1)
- Series 3: Writings, 1929-1988 (0.3 Linear feet: Box 1)
- Series 4: Personal Business, circa 1928-1990 (3 Folders: Box 1)
- Series 5: Printed Material, 1905-2008 (1.4 Linear feet: Box 1-2, 4, Box 3)
- Series 6: Photographic Material, 1908-2006 (0.3 Linear feet: Box 4)
- Series 7: Artwork, circa 1939-1969 (1 Folder: Box 4)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Artists' studios -- Photographs

Names:

Lucioni, Aurora

Occupations:

Painters -- New York (State)
Painters -- Vermont

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Material, 1910-1988

8 Folders (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Biographical Material includes a biographical sketch, a note on Lucioni and his sisters' birth and death dates and a funeral prayer card for Lucioni. Also included is a framed first communion certificate with a photograph of Lucioni as a child and award certificates from the National Academy of Design and the Cooper Union Golden Legion Alumni association.

Box 1, Folder 1	Biographical Summary, circa 1949
Box 1, Folder 2	Lucioni Family Birth and Death Dates Note, circa 1988
Box 1, Folder 3	First Communion Certificate, 1910
Box 1, Folder 4	National Academy of Design Certificate of Merit, 1963
Box 1, Folder 5	Cooper Union Commencement Ceremony Program, 1920
Box 1, Folder 6	Cooper Union Golden Legion Alumni Member Plaque, 1970
Box 1, Folder 7	Lucioni Funeral Prayer Card, 1988
Box 1, Folder 8	War Gasoline Ration card and Tickets, 1944

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Series 2: Correspondence, 1922-2004

0.3 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Correspondence consists of letters from friends, galleries, television studios and museums such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Vermont Educational Television channel regarding a television special on Lucioni, as well as miscellaneous letters from Lucioni. Additional correspondence relates to the sales of Lucioni's artwork and letters from art historian Diane Fisher to the Kopras regarding research she was conducting on Lucioni and letters compiled by Lucioni's friend and co-executor Ida Galvano, regarding the research on Lucioni for various projects and exhibitions.

Box 1, Folder 9	A, circa 1942
Box 1, Folder 10	B, 1922
Box 1, Folder 11	C, 1941-1962, 1976
Box 1, Folder 12	D, circa 1932-1942
Box 1, Folder 13	E, circa 1937-1961
Box 1, Folder 14	F, 1945, 1957
Box 1, Folder 15	H, circa 1968-1970
Box 1, Folder 16	I, 1987
Box 1, Folder 17	Eddie Jewell, 1942
Box 1, Folder 18	Letters and Cards to Frank and Sharon Kropa from Lucioni, circa 1977-1987
Box 1, Folder 19	L, 1946-1987
Box 1, Folder 20	M, 1934-1955, 1985-1987
Box 1, Folder 21	Mabel McAfee, circa 1943-1959
Box 1, Folder 22	N, 1939, 1941
Box 1, Folder 23	P, 1935
Box 1, Folder 24	William Ruscoe, 1941, 1969
Box 1, Folder 25	S, 1950-1959
Box 1, Folder 26	Arthur Toscanini, 1951-1956
Box 1, Folder 27	Vermont Educational Television, 1969

Box 1, Folder 28	Clifton Webb, 1952
Box 1, Folder 29	Miscellaneous, Last Name Unsigned, circa 1940-1963
Box 1, Folder 30	Condolence Letters regarding Lucioni's dog Robin, 1970
Box 1, Folder 31	Miscellaneous Letters from Lucioni, circa 1935-1985
Box 1, Folder 32	Fan Letters to Lucioni, 1937-1944, 1970
Box 1, Folder 33	Postcards to Lucioni, circa 1925-1973
Box 1, Folder 34	Aurora Lucioni's Correspondence Mentioning Luigi Lucioni, 1933-1938, 1978
Box 1, Folder 35	Posthumous Letters on Lucioni Compiled by Ida Galvanoni, 1988-2001
Box 1, Folder 36	Diane Fischer research Correspondence on Lucioni, 2002-2004

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Series 3: Writings, 1929-1988

0.3 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Writings contain essay typescripts by Lucioni on the topic of opera and opera singers he revered including Giovanni Martinelli, as well as essay typescripts by others about Lucioni and his artwork. Also found are guestbooks signed by friends and family who visited with Lucioni at his home in Vermont which he referred to as "Amica" and a small diary of notes related to daily expenses.

Box 1, Folder 37	Home Expense Diary, 1940
Box 1, Folder 38	Essay Typescripts on Giovanni Martinelli, circa 1929
Box 1, Folder 39	Essay Typescripts on Opera, circa 1965-1970
Box 1, Folder 40	Essay Typescripts on Lucioni and his Artwork, 1940, 1950
Box 1, Folder 41	Lucioni Home Guestbook, 1941-1968
Box 1, Folder 42	Lucioni Home Guestbook, 1968-1988
Box 1, Folder 43	Miscellaneous Notes, circa 1942-1986

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Series 4: Personal Business , circa 1928-1990

3 Folders (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Personal Business records primarily consist of records related to the settling of Lucioni's estate after his death. Materials include sales receipts, correspondence and notes by his friend and co-executor Ida Galvanoni and photocopies of notes from Lucioni regarding his deed. Also include in the series are receipts pertaining to Lucioni's funeral and burial plot; artwork prices lists and miscellaneous personal receipts for a piano and car sale.

Box 1, Folder 44 Price Lists, 1950, circa 1990

Box 1, Folder 45 Letters Concerning Artwork Sales , circa 1941-1976, 1991-2002

Box 1, Folder 46 Lucioni Estate Records, 1988

Box 1, Folder 47 Lucioni Funeral and Burial Plot Receipts, 1988

Box 1, Folder 48 Miscellaneous Personal Receipts, 1928-1985

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Series 5: Printed Material, 1905-2008

1.4 Linear feet (Box 1-4)

Scope and Contents: Printed material document a number of exhibition and auctions featuring Lucioni's work through magazine and news clippings, exhibition flyers and catalogs. Of note are playing cards and a puzzle featuring Lucioni's paintings. Also found are printed materials related to music such as musical scores and news clippings on the subject of opera compiled by Lucioni. Additional printed material include a copy of a cookbook Lucioni did the cover illustration for, as well as two books on North American travel and New York.

Box 1, Folder 49	Auction Catalogs, circa 1937-1974
Box 1, Folder 50-52	Exhibition and Gallery Catalogs, 1932-1995
Box 2, Folder 1-2	Southern Vermont Art Canter Festival of the Arts Program Catalogs, 1960-1991
Box 2, Folder 3	Vermont Educational Television Programs, 1969-1973
Box 2, Folder 4	Masterpieces of Art: Catalog of European Paintings and Sculpture from 1300-1800, New York World Fair Exhibition Catalog, 1939
Box 2, Folder 5	Exhibition Flyers and Announcements, circa 1961-1999, 2003
Box 2, Folder 6	Art Auctions, circa 1979-2008
Box 2, Folder 7	Newspaper Articles Written by Lucioni, 1960, 1970
Box 2, Folder 8	News clippings with Lucioni's Etchings, circa 1926-1951
Box 2, Folder 9	News clippings about Lucioni, circa 1929-2005
Box 2, Folder 10	Lucioni Obituary News Clippings, 1988
Box 2, Folder 11	Miscellaneous Clippings, circa 1928-1975
Box 2, Folder 12-14	Magazines and Magazine Clippings, 1913, 1932-2001
Box 3, Folder 1	Magazines, 1913-1951
Box 2, Folder 15	Opera, circa 1935-1963
Box 3, Folder 2	Music Scores, circa 1939-1969
Box 2, Folder 16	Lucioni Illustrated Holiday and Postcards, circa 1939-1969
Box 2, Folder 17	Lucioni Illustrated Playing Cards, circa 1939-1969
Box 2, Folder 18	Lucioni Illustrated Puzzle, circa 1939-1969

Box 2, Folder 19	Appetizers Inspired By the Arts Cookbook Cover Illustrated by Lucioni, 1989
Box 4, Folder 1	From Clime to Clime: Why and How I Journeyed 21,630 Miles Book by Samuel Murray, 1905
Box 4, Folder 2	New York: Ciclone Di Gente Book by Arnaldo Fraccaroli, 1928
Box 4, Folder 3	Miscellaneous Printed Material, circa 1937-1999

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Series 6: Photographic Material, 1908-2006

0.3 Linear feet (Box 4)

Scope and Contents: Photographic Material consists of photographs of Lucioni, his family and their pets. Also included are photographs of Lucioni's paintings, a signed portrait from opera singer Giovanni Martinelli and photographs of Lucioni's friend J. Watson Webb Jr's home "Hilltop" who had commissioned a painting from Lucioni.

Box 4, Folder 4	Photographs of Lucioni's Paintings, circa 1942-1964, 1989
Box 4, Folder 5	Photographs of Lucioni and Family, circa 1908-1987
Box 4, Folder 6	Photographs of Aurora Lucioni, circa 1952
Box 4, Folder 7	Photographs of Lucioni's Pet Dog Missy, circa 1941
Box 4, Folder 8	Signed Photograph of Giovanni Martinelli, 1929
Box 4, Folder 9	Photographs of J. Watson Webb Jr.'s House "Hilltop", 1988-1991, 2006
Box 4, Folder 10	Miscellaneous Photographs, circa 1959-1988
Box 4, Folder 11	Slides of Lucioni's House and Paintings, 2001
Box NTR07	Nitrate Negatives, circa 1952

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Series 7: Artwork, circa 1939-1969

1 Folder (Box 4)

Scope and Contents: Artwork contains sketches of a dog, likely Lucioni's dog Missy mounted on board as well as a lined paper sketch of the same dog annotated with music notes.

Box 4, Folder 12 Dog Sketches, circa 1939-1969

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