



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Glen Lukens Papers,
1920-1983, in the Archives of American Art

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Archives of American Art
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Glen Lukens papers
Identifier:	AAA.lukeglen
Date:	1920-1983
Extent:	1.6 Linear feet
Creator:	Lukens, Glen
Language:	English
Summary:	The papers of ceramicist Glen Lukens measure 1.6 linear feet and date from 1920 to 1983. The bulk of the papers consist of letters from Lukens to family members, and other correspondence with family, friends, and colleagues. Notably, letters describe Lukens' time working in Haiti to establish a ceramic industry, his views on United States involvement in World War II, and the Watts Riots in Los Angeles in 1965. Also found are biographical materials, scattered writings and notes on ceramics and other subjects, printed materials, and photographs.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The Glen Lukens papers were donated by his niece, Vera O'Dell in 1983.

Related Materials

The Archives of American Art also holds the Glen Lukens letters to Roy Walker, circa 1930-1945. The collection contains about 150 letters from Lukens to Roy Walker.

Available Formats

The collection is available on 35mm microfilm reels 5662-5663 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 order of the material on microfilm.

Processing Information

The collection was arranged upon receipt and microfilmed onto reels 5662-5663 in 2000. The papers were processed and a finding aid prepared by Jayna Josefson in 2018.

Preferred Citation

Glen Lukens papers, 1930-1983. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C., Research Center.

Biographical / Historical

Glen Lukens (1887-1967) was a ceramicist, educator, and writer active in Southern California. He taught at the University of Southern California where he founded the school's ceramics department and later established the ceramics industry in Haiti.

Glen Lukens was born in Missouri and attended the Oregon State Agricultural School where he was introduced to ceramics. He proved to be an innovator and created a blue glaze made out of metals he found in the Mojave desert. Lukens was active with a group of studio ceramicists, including Beatrice Wood, who elevated the artform through writing, innovation, and teaching. Lukens created simple pottery with bold color and glazing techniques. He spent much of his career teaching ceramics at the University of Southern California but also worked with glass and created jewelry.

In the 1940s, Lukens traveled to Haiti to teach ceramics and establish an industry for the creation of pottery on the island. Lukens was focused on teaching Haitians to use sanitary clay vessels for food rather than gourds. He formed friendships with many of his students and encouraged their further study of ceramics in the United States.

Glen Lukens died in Los Angeles in 1967.

Scope and Contents

The papers of ceramicist Glen Lukens measure 1.6 linear feet and date from 1920 to 1983. The bulk of the papers consist of letters from Lukens to family members, and other correspondence with family, friends, and colleagues. Notably, letters describe Lukens' time working in Haiti to establish a ceramic industry, his views on United States involvement in World War II, and the Watts Riots in Los Angeles in 1965. Also found are biographical materials, scattered writings and notes on ceramics and other subjects, printed materials, and photographs.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as five series.

- Series 1: Biographical Material, 1920-1977 (0.2 linear feet; Box 1)
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1933-1983 (1.0 linear feet; Boxes 1-2, OV5)
- Series 3: Writings and Notes, circa 1937-circa 1960 (0.2 linear feet; Box 2)
- Series 4: Printed Material, 1940s-1960s (0.1 linear feet; Box 2)
- Series 5: Photographs, circa 1936-1966 (0.6 linear feet; Box 3-4)

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Material, 1920-1977

0.2 Linear feet (Box 1)

Found are biographical sketches of Glen Lukens, awards and certificates, lists of family and friends, receipts, and Lukens' will and estate papers.

Box 1, Folder 1	Awards, Certificates, and Honorary Diplomas, 1920-1957
Box 1, Folder 2	Biographical Sketches, circa 1940
Box 1, Folder 3	List of Family and Friends, circa 1967
Box 1, Folder 4	Receipts and Sales, 1950s
Box 1, Folder 5-6	Will and Estate Papers, 1950s-1977

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Series 2: Correspondence, 1933-1983

1 Linear foot (Box 1-2, OV5)

Glen Lukens correspondence contains letters from friends and colleagues and scattered letters from family members. Found are many letters Lukens wrote to his aunt by marriage Carlotta Lukens, sister Edith Lukens Stone, and niece Vera Stone O'Dell. His letters often discuss his works and experimental techniques, career, feelings on race relations within the United States and Haiti, and his disappointment with the United States' involvement in World War II.

Notable correspondents include Albert M. Johnson, Mryton Purkiss, Congressman Will Rogers, and Beatrice Wood. Letters from Lukens' students, written while serving in World War II and from Haitian students Marcus Douton and Hugo Racine comment on Lukens' involvement and connection to his students. Included are two illustrated letters, one by H.C. Westermann and the other by Glen Lukens sent to his niece, Vera O'Dell.

Box 1, Folder 7	Alfred University, 1949-1965
Box 1, Folder 8	A, 1940-1949
Box 1, Folder 9	A, 1963-1967
Box 1, Folder 10	B, 1956
Box 1, Folder 11	B, 1964-1967
Box 1, Folder 12	Casper, Avanelle and Don, 1943-circa 1950
Box 1, Folder 13	County of Los Angeles, California, 1937
Box 1, Folder 14	C, 1940-1949
Box 1, Folder 15	C, 1956-1957
Box 1, Folder 16	Doty, Walter, 1947
Box 1, Folder 17	Douyon, Marcus, 1963-1967
Box 1, Folder 18	Eastman, Alfred, 1950
Box 1, Folder 19-20	Fullerton District Junior College, 1933, 1959
Box 1, Folder 21	Gould, Nancy, 1939
Box 1, Folder 22	Griffin, Karl, 1963

Box 1, Folder 23	Haden, Mary Jane, 1956
Box 1, Folder 24	Hayward, Virginia, 1944
Box 1, Folder 25	J, 1940-1949
Box 1, Folder 26	Lord & Taylor, 1941
Box 1, Folder 27-34	Lukens, Mrs. Carlotta, 1944-1959, circa 1940s-1950s
Box 1, Folder 35	Maud, Anna, 1936
Box 1, Folder 36	Museum of Modern Art, 1937
Box 1, Folder 37	Myers, Alice C., 1956
Box 1, Folder 38	M, 1940-1949
Box 1, Folder 39	N, 1940-1949
Box 1, Folder 40	Oakland Art Museum, 1966-1967
Box 1, Folder 41	O'Dell, Vera and Boyd, 1950s-1967
Box 1, Folder 42	Pinto, Alfred, 1943
Box 1, Folder 43	Poor People's Corporation, 1966
Box 1, Folder 44-45	Purkiss, Myrton, 1939-1954
Box 1, Folder 46	R, 1940-1949
Box 1, Folder 47	San Francisco Museum of Art, 1937
Box 1, Folder 48	Scripps College, 1952
Box 1, Folder 49	Society of Designer Craftsmen, 1938
Box 1, Folder 50	Stone, Mrs. Ellis (Edith), 1931-1967
Box 1, Folder 51	United Nations, 1952
Box 1, Folder 52	University of Southern California, Los Angeles, 1944-1948

Box 1, Folder 53	Wallach, Violet, 1965
Box 1, Folder 54	Westermann, H..C., 1966
Box 1, Folder 55	Wood, Beatrice, 1935-1942
Box 1, Folder 56-57	First Names Only, 1938, 1943
Box 2, Folder 1-3	First Names Only or Illegible, 1950s-1960s
Box 2, Folder 4	Letters Regarding Watts Riots, circa 1965
Box 2, Folder 5	Letters Regarding Glen Lukens, Condolences, 1967-1983
Box 2, Folder 6	Empty Envelopes, 1950s-1960s
Oversize 5, Folder 1	Oversized Painted Letter, H.C. Westermann, 1966

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Series 3: Writings and Notes, circa 1937-circa 1960

0.2 Linear feet (Box 2)

This series contains speeches given at an award luncheon in honor of Glen Lukens for Lord and Taylor department store and scattered notes by Glen Lukens on ceramics and clay. Works by others include poetry and a play and are likely by former students of Lukens. Signed works are by Ruby Berkley Goodwin, C.M.Henson, Vachel Lindsay, and Jacqueline Preston Peabody.

Box 2, Folder 7	Speeches, from Lord & Taylor Design Award Luncheon, 1941
Box 2, Folder 8-10	Notes, on Clay and Ceramics, circa 1937-1960s
Box 2, Folder 11	by Others, circa 1930-1950

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Series 4: Printed Material, 1940s-1960s

0.1 Linear feet (Box 2)

Printed materials consist of clippings, including articles by Lukens, exhibition catalogs, blank postcards, and press releases.

Box 2, Folder 12	Exhibition Catalogs, 1940s
Box 2, Folder 13	Clippings, by Glen Lukens, 1940s-1950s
Box 2, Folder 14	Clippings, on Ceramics, 1940s-1960s
Box 2, Folder 15	Clippings, General, 1950s-1960s
Box 2, Folder 16	Postcards, Blank, 1950s
Box 2, Folder 17	Press Releases, 1950s

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Series 5: Photographs, circa 1936-1966

0.6 Linear feet (Box 3-4)

Black and white photographs depict Lukens at work and in his studio; his home; Carlotta Lukens; Haiti; works of art by Lukens including a portfolio submitted to the Society of Designer Craftsmen of New York City; and works by others.

Box 3, Folder 1	of Glen Lukens, circa 1940-1960
Box 3, Folder 2	of Carlotta Lukens, circa 1950
Box 3, Folder 3	of Studio, circa 1950
Box 3, Folder 4	of Home, circa 1960
Box 3, Folder 5	of Haiti, Includes Writings, circa 1940
Box 3, Folder 6	Bust of Lukens, by Henry Lyons, circa 1960
Box 3, Folder 7	Portfolio, Society of Designer Craftsmen, circa 1936
Box 3, Folder 8	Used in Articles, circa 1940s-1960s
Box 3, Folder 9-18	Works of Art, circa 1940s-1960s
Box 4, Folder 1	Works of Art, by Marcus Douyon, circa 1940s-1950s
Box 4, Folder 2	Works of Art, by Myrton Purkiss, circa 1960
Box 4, Folder 3	Works of Art, European (Tourist Photos), circa 1950
Box 4, Folder 4-5	Negatives and Transparencies, circa 1940s

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