



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Russell Lynes Papers,
1930-1986, in the Archives of American Art

Christopher DeMairo

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Collections Program and the Smithsonian Collections Advisory Committee.

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Russell Lynes papers
Identifier:	AAA.lyneruss
Date:	1930-1986
Extent:	2.9 Linear feet
Creator:	Lynes, Russell, 1910-1991
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of author, art critic, and art historian Russell Lynes, measure 2.9 linear feet and date from 1930-1986. The bulk of the material is related to Lynes's research for his 1973 book, <i>The Good Old Modern: An Intimate Portrait of the Museum of Modern Art</i> . Also included are some personal papers and photographs.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Portions of the collection were lent for microfilming from 1968-1978, and the bulk of the collection, including some of the loaned material, was donated by Russell Lynes from 1968-1989.

Separated Materials

The Archives of American Art also holds microfilm of material lent by Russell Lynes and microfilmed on reels N70-40, D310, 1859, 494, 153, and 3967. This material includes papers concerning California painter and muralist Howard Warshaw, consisting of correspondence about his work and exhibitions, exhibition catalogs and announcements, sketches, photographs of works of art, published writings, material sent to Lynes for his editorial opinion, and Lynes's essay for the catalog, "Howard Warshaw: A Decade of Murals." It also includes correspondence, clippings, and estate records related to Olana, Frederick Church's estate on the Hudson River in Greenport, New York; reports, press releases, articles, clippings, and other printed material related to government sponsorship of the arts; and material related to Eugene Berman including photographs, correspondence, and exhibition catalogs and announcements.

Some of the loaned materials were returned to the donor and are not described in the collection container inventory.

Available Formats

All of the sound recordings have been digitized for research access.

Portions of the collection and material lent for microfilming are available on 35mm microfilm reels D310, N70-40, 494, 1859, 3967, and 153 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

The collection was processed and a finding aid prepared by Christopher DeMairo in 2019.

Preferred Citation

Russell Lynes papers, 1930-1986. 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.

Researchers interested in accessing audiovisual recordings in this collection must use access copies. Contact References Services for more information.

Conditions Governing Use

Authorization to publish, quote, or reproduce the typescript of Russell Lynes's lecture, "Saint-Gaudens-His Time, His Place" (1986), requires permission from George P. Lynes Platt II, College of Saint Elizabeth.

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Biographical / Historical

Russell Lynes (1910-1991) was an author, art critic, and art historian in New York City. He was born in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, and graduated from Yale University in 1932. Lynes worked as director of publications at Vassar College from 1936-1937, and served as assistant head principal and then head principal at the Shipley School in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, from 1938-1944. From 1944-1967 Lynes was an editor of *Harper's Magazine*. He authored many books and articles on art, architecture, and culture, and served on the boards of numerous organizations. Lynes was the brother of photographer George Platt Lynes.

Scope and Contents

The papers of author, art critic, and art historian Russell Lynes, measure 2.9 linear feet and date from 1930-1986. The bulk of the material is related to Lynes's research for his 1973 book, *The Good Old Modern: An Intimate Portrait of the Museum of Modern Art*. Also included are some personal papers and photographs.

Personal papers consist of typescript lectures and speeches on Eric Larrabee, Augustus Saint-Gaudens, Dorothy Miller, and an illustrated letter from Gregorio Prestopino. Research material related to Lynes's book on the Museum of Modern Art, includes correspondence, ephemera, biographical sketches, clippings, sound recordings of interviews, and reports. Photographs are of artists in their studios, at their homes, and at exhibitions.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged as 3 series.

- Series 1: Personal Papers, 1969-1986 (4 folders, Box 1)
 - Series 2: Research Material for *Good Old Modern: An Intimate Portrait of the Museum of Modern Art* (1973), 1930-1984 (2.6 linear feet, Boxes 1-4)
 - Series 3: Photographs, 1935-1977 (14 folders, box 2; OV 5)
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Names and Subject Terms

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

Types of Materials:

Interviews
Sound recordings

Names:

Miller, Dorothy Canning, 1904-2003
Museum of Modern Art (New York, N.Y.)

Occupations:

Art critics -- New York (State) -- New York
Art historians -- New York (State) -- New York
Authors -- New York (State) -- New York

Container Listing

Series 1: Personal Papers, 1969-1986

4 Folders (Box 1)

This series includes typescripts of lectures and a speech delivered by Lynes on the topics of Dorothy Miller, Augustus Saint-Gaudens, and Eric Larrabee. Also found is one illustrated letter from Gregorio Prestopino concerning his painting, "Green Mountain Village."

Box 1, Folder 1	Gregorio Prestopino to Russell Lynes, 1969 November
Box 1, Folder 2	The National Arts Club, Speech Honoring Eric Larrabee, 1971
Box 1, Folder 3	"The Eye of the Beholder," Lecture at Smith College Museum of Art, 1985 May 5
Box 1, Folder 4	"Saint-Gaudens--His Time, His Place", 1986

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Series 2: Research Material for *Good Old Modern: An Intimate Portrait of the Museum of Modern Art* (1973), 1930-1984

2.6 Linear feet (Box 1-4)

This series includes correspondence, clippings, ephemera, printing material, notes, writings, and sound recordings of 32 interviews that were mostly compiled by Lynes in the process of conducting research for his 1973 book, *Good Old Modern: An Intimate Portrait of the Museum of Modern Art*.

Records are generally arranged by subject as follows: general manuscript material; records about museum departments and events; sound recordings of interviews; folders on individual museum staff and others; and folders on programs, property, and publicity.

Box 1, Folder 5-9	Research Card Files, circa 1973
Box 1, Folder 10	Comments on Manuscript; Notes and Writings, circa 1970-1973
Box 1, Folder 11	Illustrations, Lists and Captions, circa 1973
Box 1, Folder 12	Chronology of MoMA, 1964, 1970s
	Departments
Box 1, Folder 13	Museum of Modern Art Departments and Programs, circa 1947
Box 1, Folder 14	Advisory Committee, 1941-1947, circa 1973
Box 1, Folder 15	Architecture Department; Industrial Design, 1934-1976
Box 1, Folder 16	Drawings and Prints Department, 1965-1969
Box 1, Folder 17	Educational Department , 1941-1977
Box 1, Folder 18	International Council, 1956-1972, circa 1970-1973
Box 1, Folder 19	Junior Council, 1966, 1970
Box 1, Folder 20	Membership Department, 1967-1972
Box 1, Folder 21	Department of Painting and Sculpture, 1953, 1967
Box 1, Folder 22	Photography Department, 1940-1976
Box 1, Folder 23	Publications Department, 1959-1967
Box 1, Folder 24	Trustees, 1930-1971

Events

- Box 1, Folder 25 Exhibitions, 1970-1979
- Box 1, Folder 26 Exhibitions, List of (1929-1971), 1970
- Box 1, Folder 27 Fantastic-Dada-Surrealism, Exhibition (1936), 1968, circa 1973
- Box 1, Folder 28 Harvard Society for Contemporary Art; Hound and Horn, 1927, circa 1973, 1979
- Box 1, Folder 29 MoMA Fire of 1958, 1958, 1970
- Box 2, Folder 2 MoMA Strike, 1971-1973
- Box 2, Folder 1 The Drive- 30th Anniversary, 1963-1964

Interviews

- Box 3, Item 1 Akermark, Margareta and Van Dyke, Willard, 1972 June 9
1 Sound cassette
- Box 3, Item 2 Amberg, George, 1970 October 27
1 Sound cassette
- Box 3, Item 3 Berman, Eugene, 1971 October 16
1 Sound cassette
- Box 3, Item 4 Crane, Louise, 1971 February 2
1 Sound cassette
Cassette also contains interviews with Elodie Osborn and Mary Sands Thompson
- Box 3, Item 5-6 D'Amico, Victor, 1970 November 17
2 Sound cassettes
- Box 3, Item 7 Drexler, Athur, 1972 May 25
1 Sound cassette
Cassette also contains interview with Dorothy Miller.
- Box 4, Item 6 Drexler, Arthur, 1972 May 25
1 Sound cassette
Cassette also contains interviews with Dorothy Miller and Eliza Parkinson.

- Box 3, Item 8 Ernst, Jimmy, 1971 November 24
1 Sound cassette
- Box 3, Item 9-10 Hitchcock, Russell, 1971 January 6
2 Sound cassettes
- Box 3, Item 11-12 Karpel, Bernard, 1970 December 3
2 Sound cassettes
- Box 3, Item 13 Koch, Richard H., 1972 August 23
1 Sound cassette
- Box 3, Item 14-15 Levy, Julien, 1970 February 20
2 Sound cassettes
- Box 3, Item 16 Lieberman, William S., 1972 June 28
1 Sound cassette
- Box 3, Item 17-18 Lindley, Frances, 1970 November 18
2 Sound cassettes
- Box 3, Item 19 McAndrew, John, 1971 October
1 Sound cassette
- Box 3, Item 7 Miller, Dorothy, 1972 May 30
1 Sound cassette
Cassette also contains interview with Arthur Drexler.
- Box 4, Item 1-6 Miller, Dorothy, 1972 May 30
6 Sound cassettes
Cassettes also contain interviews with Arthur Drexler and Eliza Parkinson.
- Box 4, Item 7 Moe, Henry Allen, 1972 February 4
1 Sound cassette
- Box 4, Item 8 Newhall, Beaumont, 1971 October 12
1 Sound cassette
- Box 3, Item 4 Osborn, Elodie, 1971 January 30
1 Sound cassette
Cassette also contains interviews with Louise Crane and Mary Sands
Thompson.
- Box 4, Item 9-10 Osborn, Elodie, 1970 October 17
2 Sound cassettes

- Box 4, Item 6 Parkinson, Eliza, 1972 January 11
1 Sound cassette
Cassette also contains interviews with Arthur Drexler and Dorothy Miller.
- Box 4, Item 11 Parkinson, Eliza, 1972 January 11
1 Sound cassette
- Box 4, Item 12 Porter, Allen, 1971 December 15
1 Sound cassette
- Box 4, Item 13 Ramussen, Waldo, 1972 August 3
1 Sound cassette
- Box 4, Item 14 Rubin, William S., 1972 May 19
1 Sound cassette
- Box 4, Item 15 Shaw, Liz, 1972 April 12
1 Sound cassette
- Box 4, Item 16 Stone, Emily, undated
1 Sound cassette
- Box 4, Item 17 Szarkowski, John, 1972 May 23
1 Sound cassette
- Box 3, Item 4 Thompson, Mary Sands, 1978 February 2
1 Sound cassette
Cassette also contains interviews with Louise Crane and Elodie Osborn.
- Box 4, Item 18-19 Virgil, Thompson, 1970 December 15
2 Sound cassettes
- Box 2, Folder 2a Westcott, Glenway, 1971 September 3
1 Sound cassette
- Box 2, Folder 2b Wheeler, Monroe, 1970 October 10
2 Sound cassettes
- Box 2, Folder 2c Willard, Marion, 1971 November 24
1 Sound cassette

People (including Staff)

- Box 2, Folder 3 MoMA Correspondence, 1967-1972
- Box 2, Folder 4-5 Barr, Alfred, 1929-1981, 1941-1981

Box 2, Folder 6	Bliss, Lizzy, 1931, circa 1973
Box 2, Folder 7	John Canaday on MoMA, 1967-1972
Box 2, Folder 8	Clark, Stephen, 1959, 1971
Box 2, Folder 9	Goodyear, A. Conger, 1929-1934, 1964, circa 1973
Box 2, Folder 10	Hightower, John, 1967-1974
Box 2, Folder 11	Lowry, Bates, 1967-1969
Box 2, Folder 12	Miller, Dorothy, circa 1973
Box 2, Folder 13	Porter, Allen, 1970
Box 2, Folder 14	Rockefeller, Nelson, 1967-1971
Box 2, Folder 15	Rockefeller, Mrs. J. D., Jr. (Abby), 1934-1948, circa 1973
Box 2, Folder 16	Selz, Peter; Seitz, William C., Biographies, 1962-1965
Box 2, Folder 17	Sullivan, Mary Quinn, 1971
Box 2, Folder 18	Sweeney, James Johnson, 1946-1947, circa 1973
Box 2, Folder 19	Wheeler, Monroe, 1964-1971
Box 2, Folder 20	Whitney, John Hay, 1941, circa 1973
Box 2, Folder 21	Staff and Staff Functions, 1950-1972

Programs

Box 2, Folder 22	Art Lending Service, 1951-1967
Box 2, Folder 30	Artists' Organizations, 1947-1970
Box 2, Folder 23	Collection, 1932-1970, circa 1973
Box 2, Folder 24	Collection, Permanent Collection, 1953-1972

- Box 2, Folder 29 Expansion Program, 1976
- Box 2, Folder 25 Film Library, 1939-1984
- Box 2, Folder 26 Financial and Money Raising, circa 1950s-1972
- Box 2, Folder 27 Music at MoMA, 1941-1943, 1943, circa 1973
- Box 2, Folder 28 Television Archive, 1967

Property

- Box 2, Folder 31 New Building, 1936-1947, circa 1973
- Box 2, Folder 32 MoMA Property Expansion and Apartments, 1976-1984
- Box 2, Folder 33 Industrial Design, 1949-1955

Publicity

- Box 2, Folder 34 Artists vs. MoMA, 1921-1980, circa 1960s-1980
- Box 2, Folder 35 MoMA and Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1930s-1948
- Box 2, Folder 36 Criticisms of MoMA, 1943-1972
- Box 2, Folder 37 "The Fur-Lined Museum," Emily Genauer and Responses, 1944-1947
- Box 2, Folder 38 Publicity, 1947, circa 1973
- Box 2, Folder 39 Printed Material, 1944-1979, 1967-1979

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Series 3: Photographs, 1935-1977

14 Folders (Box 2; OV 5)

Photographs are by Lynes and are of two metal foundries, and of artists at exhibitions and in their homes and studios.

Box 2, Folder 40	Ayrton, Michael, 1971
Box 2, Folder 41	Berman, Eugene, 1935
Oversize 5	Berman, Eugene, circa 1935
Box 2, Folder 42	Brouch, Louis Exhibition at the Century Association, 1975
Box 2, Folder 43	Crawford, Ralston, 1977
Box 2, Folder 45	Ferber, Herbert, 1976 September
Box 2, Folder 46	Fitzgerald, Joan, 1977
Box 2, Folder 47	Gillespie, Gregory, 1969
Box 2, Folder 48	Hazdi, Dimitri, Sculpture Exhibition, Rome, 1969
Box 2, Folder 44	Hertzl, Emanuel Foundry, Rome, 1969 February
Box 2, Folder 49	Noguchi, Isamu; Foundry, 1968-1969
Box 2, Folder 50	Perlin, Bernard, 1977
Box 2, Folder 51	Prestopino, Gregorio, 1969
Box 2, Folder 52	Suttman, Paul and Wife, 1969
Box 2, Folder 53	White, Robert Winthrop, 1969

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