



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the F. Luis Mora Papers, 1891-1986, bulk 1891-1922, in the Archives of American Art

Eden Orelove

Funding for the digitization of this collection was
provided by the Terra Foundation for American Art.

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Archives of American Art
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	F. Luis Mora papers
Date:	1891-1986 (bulk 1891-1922)
Identifier:	AAA.moraflui
Creator:	Mora, F. Luis (Francis Luis), 1874-1940
Extent:	1.7 Linear feet
Language:	The papers are in English.
Summary:	The papers of painter and illustrator F. Luis Mora measure 1.7 linear feet and date from 1891 to 1986, with the bulk of material dating from 1891 to 1922. The collection includes biographical information, correspondence, 242 monthly pocket diaries by Mora, and printed and photographic materials.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The F. Luis Mora papers were donated to the Archives of American Art by Cornelia Colton, the daughter of Mora's second wife, May Safford, in 1975. Additional papers were donated in 2008 by Gwen Compton, Mora's niece.

Related Archival Materials

Among the holdings of the Archives of American Art are the F. Luis Mora Art Works and Photographs (available on microfilm reel 5053) and a F. Luis Mora Letter to William John Wittemore (available on microfilm reel D30, frame 534.)

Available Formats

The bulk of the collection was digitized in 2012 and is available via the Archives of American Art's website. Blank pages, duplicates, and blank versos of photographs have not been scanned. In most cases, the cover, title page, and individual relevant pages have been scanned from published materials.

Processing Information

The collection was processed by Eden Orelove in 2011 and fully digitized in 2012 with funding provided by the Terra Foundation for American Art. Glass plate negatives were re-housed in 2015 with a grant from the Smithsonian Collections Care and Preservation Fund.

Preferred Citation

F. Luis Mora papers, 1891-1986, bulk 1891-1922. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment. Glass plate negatives are housed separately and not served to researchers.

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Biographical Note

Francis Luis Mora (1874-1940) was born in Montevideo, Uruguay. In 1877, he and his family moved to Catalonia, Spain and in 1880, they moved again to the United States where they eventually settled in Perth Amboy, New Jersey. Both his father, Domingo, and his brother, Joseph, were also noted sculptors.

Mora studied at the School of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts and at the Art Students League of New York. He was a muralist, oil and watercolor portrait painter, and etcher, though he is best known for his illustrations in magazines such as *Century*, *Harper's*, and *Ladies' Home Journal*. He was a member of the Salmagundi Club and the National Academy of Design and taught at the Art Students League of New York and the Chase School of Art. He and his wife, Sophia ("Sonia") Compton, had a daughter, Rosemary, in 1918. After his wife's death, Mora married May Gosman Safford in 1932. Mora died at the age of 64 in 1940.

Scope and Contents

The papers of painter and illustrator F. Luis Mora measure 1.7 linear feet and date from 1891 to 1986, with the bulk of material dating from 1891 to 1922. The collection includes biographical information, correspondence, 242 small monthly pocket diaries by Mora, and printed and photographic materials.

Biographical material includes one folder containing Mora's Rothschild Prize certificate.

The correspondence is primarily with galleries regarding sales, the value of artwork, and Mora's murals for the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904. There is also correspondence with Mora's family and friends regarding his personal life and a family vacation in Cadiz, Spain. The collection also includes two Christmas cards, several illustrated letters and two invitations to Mora's solo art shows. Some of the correspondence is to and from Mora's first wife, Sophia Compton.

The majority of the writings consists of 242 monthly pocket diaries, which contain brief daily entries and some sketches. Mora writes about his work, memberships in the Salmagundi Club and the National Academy of Design, and teaching at the Art Student League. He also discusses his ideas about painting and his observations of the art scene, including his visit to the 1913 Armory Show. Also included is a handwritten "Editorial" by Mora, probably for election to the Lotos Club.

Printed material includes clippings, brochures, programs, advertisements, exhibition catalogs, books, and magazines. Two books, *The Man that Corrupted Hadleyburg and Other Essays and Stories*, by Mark Twain (1917), and *Birthright*, by T.S. Stribling (1922), both illustrated by Mora, are included, along with over a dozen magazines containing illustrations by Mora.

Photographs include black and white photographs and glass plate negatives of Mora, family and friends, students, and artwork. Black and white pictures of Mora's artwork include his "Thine is Glory" mural (1919), the "National Academy Jury of 1907" painting (1907) and an etching of his daughter, Rosemary. Glass plate negatives are of his first wife, Sophia Compton, her mother Emma, Mora's father Domingo, the painting

"Dance of Salome" (1893), Mora's brother-in-law Alfred Compton, his Boston Museum and Chase School of Art classes, and the Perth Amboy Terra Cotta Company, where Mora's father worked.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 5 series. Records are generally arranged alphabetically by subject. Glass plate negatives are housed separately and closed to researchers.

Missing Title:

- Series 1: Biographical Materials, circa early 1900s (Box 1; 1 folder)
 - Series 2: Correspondence, 1900-1969 (Box 1; 3 folders)
 - Series 3: Writings, 1899-1922 (Box 1; 0.4 linear feet)
 - Series 4: Printed Material, 1895-1986 (Boxes 1-2 and OV 3; 0.8 linear feet)
 - Series 5: Photographic Materials, 1891-1941 (Box 2, MGP 1, MGP 2; 0.4 linear feet)
-

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Art -- Study and teaching
Hispanic American artists
Mural painting and decoration
Muralists
Painting, American

Types of Materials:

Awards
Christmas cards
Diaries
Illustrated letters
Photographs
Sketches

Names:

Armory Show (1913: New York, N.Y.)
Art Students League (New York, N.Y.) -- Faculty
Compton, Sophia
Downes, William Howe, 1854-1941
Lotos Club (New York, N.Y.)
Louisiana Purchase Exposition (1904: Saint Louis, Mo.)
National Academy of Design (U.S.)
Salmagundi Club
Stribling, T. S. (Thomas Sigismund), 1881-1965 (Birthright)
Twain, Mark, 1835-1910 (Man that corrupted Hadleyburg)

Occupations:

Illustrators
Painters

Places:

Spain -- description and travel

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Materials, circa early 1900s

1 Folder (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: There is one folder containing Mora's Rothschild Prize certificate.

Arrangement: The series has been scanned in its entirety.

Box 1, Folder 1 [Rothschild Prize Certificate, circa early 1900s](#)

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Series 2: Correspondence, 1900-1969

3 Folders

Scope and Contents: Scattered correspondence is with galleries, family, and friends. There are two letters to family members from Mora that discuss his work creating murals for the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904. Additionally there is a postcard from the Mora family to Mora's grandmother-in-law sent from Cadiz, Spain, and a letter from Mora's wife Sophia to her grandmother discussing family life. Business correspondence concerns the values of Mora's paintings and the sale of his works. The collection also includes two Christmas cards, several illustrated letters and two invitations to Mora's solo art shows.

Arrangement: The series has been scanned in its entirety.

Box 1, Folder 2 [Business, 1910-1969](#)

Box 1, Folder 3 [To Wife Sophia's Grandmother, circa 1904-1910](#)

Box 1, Folder 4 [Other Family and Friends, 1900-1944](#)

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Series 3: Writings, 1899-1922

0.4 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: The majority of the writings consists of 242 monthly pocket diaries, which contain brief daily entries and some sketches. Mora writes about his work, memberships in the Salmagundi Club and the National Academy of Design and teaching at the Arts Student League. He also discusses his ideas about painting and his observations of the art scene, including his visit to the 1913 Armory Show. Also included is a handwritten "Editorial" by Mora, probably for election to the Lotos Club.

Arrangement: The series has been scanned in its entirety.

Box 1, Folder 5	Editorial by Mora, 1913
Box 1, Folder 6	Pocket Diaries, 1899
Box 1, Folder 7	Pocket Diaries, 1900
Box 1, Folder 8	Pocket Diaries, 1901
Box 1, Folder 9	Pocket Diaries, 1902
Box 1, Folder 10	Pocket Diaries, 1903
Box 1, Folder 11	Pocket Diaries, 1904
Box 1, Folder 12	Pocket Diaries, 1905
Box 1, Folder 13	Pocket Diaries, 1906
Box 1, Folder 14	Pocket Diaries, 1907
Box 1, Folder 15	Pocket Diaries, 1908
Box 1, Folder 16	Pocket Diaries, 1909
Box 1, Folder 17	Pocket Diaries, 1910
Box 1, Folder 18	Pocket Diaries, 1911
Box 1, Folder 19	Pocket Diaries, 1912
Box 1, Folder 20	Pocket Diaries, 1913
Box 1, Folder 21	Pocket Diaries, 1914
Box 1, Folder 22	Pocket Diaries, 1915
Box 1, Folder 23	Pocket Diaries, 1916

Box 1, Folder 24	Pocket Diaries, 1917
Box 1, Folder 25	Pocket Diaries, 1918
Box 1, Folder 26	Pocket Diaries, 1920, 1919
Box 1, Folder 27	Pocket Diaries, 1920
Box 1, Folder 28	Pocket Diaries, 1922

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Series 4: Printed Material, 1895-1986

0.8 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2 and OV 3)

Scope and Contents: Printed materials includes clippings, brochures, programs, advertisements, exhibition catalogs, books, magazines. All of the magazines and books included in this collection were illustrated by Mora. These include the books *The Man that Corrupted Hadleyburg and Other Essays and Stories*, by Mark Twain (1917), and *Birthright*, by T.S. Stribling (1922), as well as magazines, including *Art Digest*, *Colliers*, *Century*, *Harpers*, *Harpers Round Table*, *The Literary Digest*, *Red Cross*, *Ladies Home Journal*, *St. Louis Republic*, and *Woman's Home Companion*. Preservation copies were made of the newspaper clippings.

Arrangement: The printed material is arranged in alphabetical order by title and chronologically thereafter. The series has been partially scanned; the cover, title page, and individual relevant pages have been scanned from published materials.

Box 1, Folder 29	Art Digest Magazines, 1933
Box 1, Folder 30	Birthright (book), by T.S. Stribling, 1922
Box 1, Folder 31	Brochures, Programs and Advertisements, 1915-1918, 1905
Box 1, Folder 32	The Century Magazine Articles, 1900-1914
Box 1, Folder 33	The Century Magazine, 1913
Box 1, Folder 34	Clippings, 1931-1943
Box 1, Folder 35	Colliers Magazine, 1920 Notes: Oversized item housed in OV 3
Box 1, Folder 36	Exhibition Catalogs, 1914-1926
Box 1, Folder 37	Exhibition Catalogs, 1927-1969
Box 2, Folder 1	Harper's Magazine, 1901
Box 2, Folder 2	Harper's Magazine Articles, 1901-1906
Box 2, Folder 3	Harper's Round Table Magazine, 1895
Box 2, Folder 4	A History of the Lynn Public Library Booklet, 1986
Box 2, Folder 5	Ladies' Home Journal Magazine, 1919 Notes: Oversized item housed in OV 3
Box 2, Folder 6	The Literary Digest Magazine Cover, 1929
Box 2, Folder 7	The Man that Corrupted Hadleyburg and Other Essays and Stories (book), by Mark Twain, 1901

Box 2, Folder 8	Red Cross Magazines, 1918-1920
Box 2, Folder 9	St. Louis Republic Magazine, 1907 Notes: Oversized item housed in OV 3
Box 2, Folder 10	Woman's Home Companion Magazine, 1911 Notes: Oversized item housed in OV 3
Box OV 3	Oversized Colliers Magazine, 1920 Notes: Oversized material scanned with Box 1, F35
Box OV 3	Oversized Ladies' Home Journal Magazine, 1919 Notes: Oversized material scanned with Box 2, F5
Box OV 3	Oversized St. Louis Republic Magazine, 1907 Notes: Oversized material scanned with Box 2, F9
Box OV 3	Oversized Woman's Home Companion Magazine, 1911 Notes: Oversized material scanned with Box 2, F10

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Series 5: Photographic Materials, 1891-1941

0.4 Linear feet (Box 2, MGP 1, MGP 2)

Scope and Contents: Photographs include glass plate negatives and black and white photographs of Mora, his family and friends, artwork and students. Included are black and white pictures of Mora's artwork including his "Thine is Glory" mural (1919), the "National Academy Jury of 1907" painting (1907), and an etching of his daughter, Rosemary. Glass plate negatives are of his first wife Sonia Compton, her mother Emma, Mora's father Domingo, his painting "Dance of Salome" (1893), his brother-in-law Alfred Compton, his Boston Museum and Chase School of Art classes, and the Perth Amboy Terra Cotta Company, where Mora's father worked.

Arrangement: The photographs are arranged by subject and chronologically thereafter. For preservation purposes the glass plate negatives are housed in a separate container and closed to researchers. The series has been scanned in its entirety.

Box 2, Folder 11	F. Luis Mora, circa 1895-1907
Box 2, Folder 12	Rosemary Mora (daughter), circa 1926
Box 2, Folder 13	Of Artwork, 1919-1941
Box 2, Folder 14	Glass Plate Negatives of Family and Friends, circa 1892-1895 Notes: (6 glass plate negatives housed in MGP 2)
Box 2, Folder 15	Glass Plate Negatives of Art Students, 1891, undated Notes: (2 glass plate negatives housed in MGP 1)
Box 2, Folder 16	Glass Plate Negative of Artwork, 1893 Notes: (1 glass plate negative housed in MGP 2)
Box 2, Folder 17	Glass Plate Negative of the Perth Amboy Terra Cotta Company, circa 1890s Notes: (1 glass plate negative housed in MGP 1)
Box 2, Folder 18	Glass Plate Negatives, Original Sleeves, circa 1890s, undated
Box MGP 1	Glass Plate Negatives, circa 1890s-1896 Notes: Scanned with Box 2, Folders 14-17
Box MGP 2	Glass Plate Negatives, 1890s-1896 Notes: Scanned with Box 2, Folders 14-17

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