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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Collection Overview

Repository: Archives of American Art
Title: F. Luis Mora papers
Identifier: AAA.moraflui
Date: 1891-1986 (bulk 1891-1922)
Extent: 1.7 Linear feet
Creator: Mora, F. Luis (Francis Luis), 1874-1940
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

Restrictions
Use of original papers requires an appointment. Glass plate negatives are housed separately and closed to researchers.

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Biographical Note
Francis Luis Mora (1974-1940) 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.

- 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
- Illustrators
- 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:
Painters

Geographic Names:
Spain -- description and travel
Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Materials, circa early 1900s

1 Folder (Box 1)

There is one folder containing Mora's Rothschild Prize certificate.

The series has been scanned in its entirety.

Box 1, Folder 1    Rothschild Prize Certificate, circa early 1900s
                  Image(s)

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Series 2: Correspondence, 1900-1969

3 Folders

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.

The series has been scanned in its entirety.

Box 1, Folder 2 Business, 1910-1969

Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 3 To Wife Sophia’s Grandmother, circa 1904-1910

Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 4 Other Family and Friends, 1900-1944

Image(s)
Series 3: Writings, 1899-1922

0.4 Linear feet (Box 1)

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.

The series has been scanned in its entirety.

Box 1, Folder 5  Editorial by Mora, 1913  Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 6  Pocket Diaries, 1899  Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 7  Pocket Diaries, 1900  Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 8  Pocket Diaries, 1901  Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 9  Pocket Diaries, 1902  Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 10 Pocket Diaries, 1903 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 11 Pocket Diaries, 1904 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 12 Pocket Diaries, 1905 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 13 Pocket Diaries, 1906 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 14 Pocket Diaries, 1907 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 15 Pocket Diaries, 1908 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 16 Pocket Diaries, 1909
Series 4: Printed Material, 1895-1986

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

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.

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  
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 30  
*Birthright* (book), by T.S. Stribling, 1922  
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 31  
Brochures, Programs and Advertisements, 1915-1918, 1905  
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 32  
The *Century Magazine* Articles, 1900-1914  
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 33  
The *Century Magazine*, 1913  
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 34  
Clippings, 1931-1943  
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 35  
*Colliers* Magazine, 1920  
Image(s)  
Oversized item housed in OV 3

Box 1, Folder 36  
Exhibition Catalogs, 1914-1926  
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 37  
Exhibition Catalogs, 1927-1969  
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 1  
*Harper's* Magazine, 1901  
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 2  
*Harper's* Magazine Articles, 1901-1906
Box 2, Folder 3  
*Harper's Round Table* Magazine, 1895  
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 4  
*A History of the Lynn Public Library* Booklet, 1986  
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 5  
*Ladies' Home Journal* Magazine, 1919  
Image(s)  
Oversized item housed in OV 3

Box 2, Folder 6  
*The Literary Digest* Magazine Cover, 1929  
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 7  
*The Man that Corrupted Hadleyburg and Other Essays and Stories* (book), by Mark Twain, 1901  
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 8  
*Red Cross* Magazines, 1918-1920  
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 9  
*St. Louis Republic* Magazine, 1907  
Image(s)  
Oversized item housed in OV 3

Box 2, Folder 10  
*Woman's Home Companion* Magazine, 1911  
Image(s)  
Oversized item housed in OV 3

Box OV 3  
Oversized *Colliers* Magazine, 1920  
Oversized material scanned with Box 1, F35

Box OV 3  
Oversized *Ladies' Home Journal* Magazine, 1919  
Oversized material scanned with Box 2, F5

Box OV 3  
Oversized *St. Louis Republic* Magazine, 1907  
Oversized material scanned with Box 2, F9

Box OV 3  
Oversized *Woman's Home Companion* Magazine, 1911  
Oversized material scanned with Box 2, F10
Series 5: Photographic Materials, 1891-1941

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

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.

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

Box 2, Folder 15  Glass Plate Negatives of Art Students, 1891, undated

Box 2, Folder 16  Glass Plate Negative of Artwork, 1893

Box 2, Folder 17  Glass Plate Negative of the Perth Amboy Terra Cotta Company, circa 1890s

Box 2, Folder 18  Glass Plate Negatives, Original Sleeves, circa 1890s, undated

Box MGP 1  Glass Plate Negatives, circa 1890s-1896

Box MGP 2  Glass Plate Negatives, 1890s-1896