



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Ethel Paxson Papers, 1903-1985, in the Archives of American Art

Jayna M. Josefson

Processing of this collection received support from
the Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative.

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Ethel Paxson papers
Date:	1903-1985
Identifier:	AAA.paxsethe
Creator:	Paxson, Ethel, 1885-1982
Extent:	0.6 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of painter and writer Ethel Paxson measure 0.6 linear feet and date from 1903 to 1985. Found are biographical materials; correspondence between Paxson, her father, and Lilla Yale; an album and scattered photos of Paxson, Paxson's friends, and Paxson with her artwork in Weston, Vermont; printed material and a scrapbook of printed materials; and writings by Paxson.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Chester DuClos, Paxson's widower, donated the papers to the Archives of American Art in 1984.

Available Formats

The collection is available on 35mm microfilm reel 3832 at 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 arrangement of the collection on microfilm

Processing Information

The papers were microfilmed upon receipt on reel 3832 and collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Jayna Josefson in 2022 with support from the Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative.

Preferred Citation

Ethel Paxson papers, 1903-1985. 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

Ethel Paxson (1885-1982) was a painter, illustrator, author, and educator active primarily in Connecticut. She began her art instruction with Charlotte Yale and at the Academy of Fine Arts in Philadelphia. After spending four years in Brazil, she returned to the United States where she exhibited her work and became a educator at the National Academy of Design.

Scope and Contents

The papers of painter and writer Ethel Paxson measure 0.6 linear feet and date from 1903 to 1985. Found are biographical materials; correspondence between Paxson, her father, and Lilla Yale; an album and scattered photos of Paxson, Paxson's friends, and Paxson with her artwork in Weston, Vermont; printed material and a scrapbook of printed materials; and writings by Paxson.

Arrangement

Due to the small size of this collection the papers are arranged as one series.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Women artists
- Women authors
- Women educators
- Women illustrators
- Women painters

Types of Materials:

- Scrapbooks

Names:

- Yale, Lilla, 1885-1929

Occupations:

- Authors -- Connecticut
- Educators -- Connecticut
- Illustrators -- Connecticut
- Painters -- Connecticut

Container Listing

Series 1: Ethel Paxson papers, 1903-1985

0.6 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2)

Scope and Contents: Biographical materials include awards, biographical sketches, gallery tags for exhibitions, and membership cards. Correspondence consists of letters between Ethel Paxson and her father, Walter Rhodes Easton and teacher, Lilla Yale. The bulk of the correspondence was written when Paxson and her husband were in Brazil. Scattered later correspondence is from organizations such as the Catharine Lorillard Wolfe Art Club, Inc. and the National Association of Women Artists, Inc. A dismantled photo album includes annotations and photos from Paxson's time in Weston, Vermont. Found are photos of Paxson, of Paxson with friends and family, and of Paxson painting. Printed materials concern Paxson's career as a painter and a writer and include three printed works about her travel and poetry including *My Love Affair with Brazil*, *Europe with Pen and Brush*, and *Parting Words from Ethel*. A scrapbook contains additional printed materials and one photograph. Writings and notes are by Paxson and include a reminiscence of Lilla Yale.

Box 1, Folder 1	Biographical Material, 1903-1982
Box 1, Folder 2	Correspondence, 1916-1919
Box 1, Folder 3	Correspondence, 1920-1929
Box 1, Folder 4	Correspondence, 1974-1982
Box 1, Folder 5-7	Photo Album, Dismantled, 1936-1941
Box 1, Folder 8	Printed Material, Clippings, 1935-1982
Box 1, Folder 9	Printed Material, Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1933-1983
Box 1, Folder 10	Printed Material, Published Works, 1970-1985
Box 2, Folder 1	Printed Material, Published Works, 1970-1985
Box 2, Folder 2	Scrapbook, 1909-1944
Box 2, Folder 3	Writings and Notes, 1960-1976

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