
Catherine S. Gaines; revised by Jayna M. Josefson

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Collection Overview

Repository: Archives of American Art
Title: Henry Varnum Poor papers
Identifier: AAA.poorhenr
Date: 1873-2001
(bulk 1904-1970)
Extent: 12.9 Linear feet
Creator: Poor, Henry Varnum, 1887-1970
Language: English
Summary: The papers of Henry Varnum Poor measure 12.9 linear feet and date from 1873-2001, with the bulk from the period 1904-1970. Correspondence, writings, artwork, printed material and photographs document Poor's work as a painter, muralist, ceramic artist and potter, architect, designer, writer, war artist, educator and a co-founder of the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture. Also found is extensive information about the design and construction of Crow House, his home in New City, New York, commissions for other architectural projects, and his personal life.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information
Gift of Henry Varnum Poor's son, Peter V. Poor, in 2007. A smaller portion was loaned to the Archives in 1973 by Anne Poor for microfilming and returned to the lender; this material was included in the 2007 gift.

Related Material
An oral history interview with Henry Varnum Poor was conducted by Harlan Phillips for the Archives of American Art in 1964.

Available Formats
A small portion of the papers are also available on legacy 35 mm microfilm reels 633-634 at the Archives of American Art offices, and through interlibrary loan. The bulk of the collection was digitized in 2016 and is available on the Archives of American Art's website. Materials which have not been scanned include personal biographical information, blank pages, blank versos of photographs, and duplicates. In some cases, exhibition catalogs and other publications have had their covers, title pages, and relevant pages scanned.
Biographical Note

Henry Varnum Poor (1888-1970), best known as a potter, ceramic artist, and a co-founder of the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, was also an architect, painter, muralist, designer, educator, and writer who lived and worked in New City, New York.

A native of Chapman, Kansas, Henry Varnum Poor moved with his family to Kansas City when his grain merchant father became a member of the Kansas Board of Trade. From a young age he showed artistic talent and spent as much time as possible - including school hours - drawing. When a school supervisor suggested that Henry leave school to study at the Art Institute of Chicago, the family disagreed. Instead, he enrolled in the Kansas City Manual Training High School where he delighted in learning skills such as carpentry, forge work, and mechanical drawing. In 1905, he moved with his older brother and sister to Palo Alto, California and completed high school there. Because Poor was expected to join the family business, he enrolled at Stanford University as an economics major, but much to his father's disappointment and displeasure, soon left the economics department and became an art major.

Immediately after graduation in 1910, Poor and his major professor at Stanford, Arthur B. Clark, took a summer bicycling tour to look at art in London, France, Italy, and Holland. As Poor had saved enough money to remain in London after the summer was over, he enrolled in the Slade School of Art and also studied under Walter Sickert at the London County Council Night School. After seeing an exhibition of Post-Impressionism at the Grafton Galleries in London, Poor was so impressed that he went to Paris and enrolled in the Académie Julian. While in Paris, Poor met Clifford Addams, a former apprentice of Whistler; soon he was working in Addams' studio learning Whistler's palette and techniques.
In the fall of 1911, Poor returned to Stanford University's art department on a one-year teaching assignment. During that academic year, his first one-man show was held at the university's Old Studio gallery. He married Lena Wiltz and moved back to Kansas to manage the family farm and prepare for another exhibition. Their daughter, Josephine Lydia Poor, was born the following year. Poor returned to Stanford in September 1913 as assistant professor of graphic arts, remaining until the department closed three years later. During this period, Poor began to exhibit more frequently in group shows in other areas of the country, and had his first solo exhibition at a commercial gallery (Helgesen Gallery, San Francisco). In 1916, Poor joined the faculty of the San Francisco Art Association. He and his wife separated in 1917 and were divorced the following year. Poor began sharing his San Francisco studio with Marion Dorn.

During World War I, Poor was drafted into the U. S. Army, and in 1918 went to France with the 115th Regiment of Engineers. He spent his spare time drawing; soon officers were commissioning portraits, and Poor was appointed the regimental artist. He also served as an interpreter for his company. Discharged from the Army in early 1919, Poor spent the spring painting in Paris. He then returned to San Francisco and married Marion Dorn.

Once Poor realized that earning a living as a painter would be extremely difficult in California, he and his new wife moved to New York in the autumn of 1919. They were looking for a place to live when influential book and art dealer Mary Mowbray-Clarke of the Sunwise Turn Bookshop in Manhattan suggested New City in Rockland County, New York as a good place for artists. In January of 1920, the Poors purchased property on South Mountain Road in New City. The skills he acquired at the Kansas City Manual Training High School were of immediate use as Poor designed and constructed "Crow House" with the assistance of a local teenager. Influenced by the farmhouses he had seen in France, it was made of local sandstone and featured steep gables, rough plaster, chestnut beams and floors, and incorporated many hand-crafted details. Poor designed and built most of their furniture, too. Before the end of the year, he and Marion were able to move into the house, though it remained a work in progress for many years. Additions were constructed. Over time, gardens were designed and planted, and outbuildings - a kiln and pottery, work room, garage, and new studio - appeared on the property.

In 1925, two years after his divorce from Marion Dorn, Poor married Bessie Freedman Breuer (1893-1975), an editor, short story writer, and novelist. Soon after, he adopted her young daughter, Anne (1918-2002), an artist who served as his assistant on many important mural commissions. Their son, Peter (b. 1926) became a television producer. Crow House remained in the family until its sale in 2006. In order to prevent its demolition, Crow House was then purchased by the neighboring town of Ramapo, New York in 2007.

Between 1935 and 1966 Poor designed and oversaw construction of a number of houses, several of them situated not far from Crow House on South Mountain Road. Poor's designs, noted for their simplicity, featured modern materials and incorporated his ceramic tiles. Among his important commissions were houses for Maxwell Anderson, Jules Billig, Milton Caniff, MacDonald Deming, and John Houseman.

Poor's first exhibition of paintings in New York City was at Kevorkian Galleries in 1920, and sales were so disappointing that he turned his attention to ceramics. His first pottery show, held at Bel Maison Gallery in Wanamaker's department store in 1921, was very successful. He quickly developed a wide reputation, participated in shows throughout the country, and won awards. He was a founder of the short-lived American Designers' Gallery, and the tile bathroom he showed at the group's first exposition was critically acclaimed. Poor was represented by Montross Gallery as both a painter and potter. When Montross Gallery closed upon its owner's death in 1932, Poor moved to the Frank K. M. Rehn Gallery.

Even though Poor's pottery and ceramic work was in the forefront, he continued to paint. His work was acquired by a number of museums, and the Limited Editions Club commissioned him to illustrate their republications of Ethan Frome, The Scarlet Letter, and The Call of the Wild.

Poor's first work in true fresco was shown in a 1932 mural exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art. Between 1935 and 1949 he was commissioned to produce several murals in fresco for Section of
Fine Arts projects at the Department of Justice and the Department of the Interior, *The Land Grant Frescoes* at Pennsylvania State College, and a mural for the *Louisville Courier-Journal*. Ceramic tile mural commissions included: the Klingenstein Pavilion, Mt. Sinai Hospital, New York City; Travelers Insurance Co., Boston; the Fresno Post Office, California; and Hillson Memorial Gallery, Deerfield Academy, Deerfield, Mass.

As a member of the War Artists' Unit, Poor was a "war correspondent" with the rank of major in World War II, and for several months in 1943 was stationed in Alaska. *An Artist Sees Alaska*, drawing on Poor's observations and experiences, was published in 1945. *A Book of Pottery: From Mud to Immortality*, his second book, was published in 1958. It remains a standard text on the subject. While on the faculty of Columbia University in the 1950s, Poor and other artists opposed to the growing influence of Abstract Expressionism formed the Reality Group with Poor the head of its editorial committee. Their magazine, *Reality: A Journal of Artists' Opinions*, first appeared in 1953 featuring "Painting is Being Talked to Death" by Poor as its lead article. Two more issues were published in 1954 and 1955.

Along with Willard Cummings, Sidney Simon, and Charles Cuttler, in 1946 Henry Varnum Poor helped to establish the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture in Skowhegan, Maine. He served as its first president. Poor and his daughter, Anne, were active members of the Board of Trustees and were instructors for many years. The summer of 1961 was Henry Varnum Poor's last as a full-time teacher, though he continued to spend summers at Skowhegan.

Henry Varnum Poor exhibited widely and received many awards, among them prizes at the Carnegie Institute, Syracuse Museum of Fine Arts, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, and the Architectural League of New York. Poor was appointed to the United States Commission of Fine Arts by President Roosevelt in 1941 and served a five year term. He was elected a member of the National Institute of Arts and Letters in 1943. The National Academy of Design named him an Associate Artist in 1954 and an Academician in 1963. He became a trustee of the American Craftsman's Council in 1956. The work of Henry Varnum Poor is represented in the permanent collections of many American museums including the Cleveland Museum of Art, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Brooklyn Museum, Addison Gallery of American Art, and Syracuse Museum of Fine Arts.

Henry Varnum Poor died at home in New City, New York, December 8, 1970.

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**Scope and Content Note**

The papers of Henry Varnum Poor measure 12.9 linear feet and date from 1873-2001, with the bulk from the period 1904-1970. Correspondence, writings, artwork, printed material and photographs document Poor's work as a painter, muralist, ceramic artist and potter, architect, designer, writer, war artist, educator and a co-founder of the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture. Also found is extensive information about the design and construction of Crow House, his home in New City, New York, commissions for other architectural projects, and his personal life.

Henry Varnum Poor's correspondence documents his personal, family, and professional life. Correspondents include family and friends, among them George Biddle, Charles Burchfield, John Ciardi, Marion V. Dorn (who became his second wife), Philip Evergood, Lewis Mumford, John Steinbeck, David Smith, and Mrs. John Work (Alice) Garrett. Among other correspondents are galleries, museums, schools, organizations, fans, former students, and acquaintances from his military service and travels. Family correspondence consists of Henry's letters to his parents, letters to his parents written by his wife, and letters among other family members.

Among the writings by Henry Varnum Poor are manuscripts of his two published books, *An Artist Sees Alaska* and *A Book of Pottery: From Mud to Immortality*. as well as the text of "Painting is Being Talked to..."
Death," published in the first issue of *Reality: A Journal of Artists' Opinions*, April 1953, and manuscripts of other articles. There are also film scripts, two journals, notes and notebooks, lists, speeches, and writings by others, including M. R. ("Muktuk") Marston's account of Poor rescuing an Eskimo, and Bessie Breuer Poor's recollections of The Montross Gallery.

Subject files include those on the Advisory Committee on Art, American Designers' Gallery, Inc., William Benton, Harold Dickson, *Reality: A Journal of Artists' Opinions* Sales, and War Posters. There are numerous administrative files for the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture.

Artwork by Henry Varnum Poor consists mainly of loose drawings and sketches and 45 sketchbooks of studies for paintings, murals, and pottery. There is work done in France, 1918-1919, and while working as a war correspondent in Alaska in 1943. There are commissioned illustrations and some intended for his monograph, *A Book of Pottery: From Mud to Immortality*. Also found are a small number of watercolors and prints. Work by other artists consist of Anne Poor's drawings of her father's hands used for the Lincoln figure in *The Land Grant Frescoes* and interior views of Crow House by Ernest Watson.

Documentation of Poor's architectural projects consists of drawings and prints relating to houses designed and built for Jules Billing, MacDonald Deming, John Houseman, Burgess Meredith, Isabel Padro, and Elizabeth S. Sargent. Also found is similar material for the new studio Poor built in 1957 on the grounds of Crow House.

Miscellaneous records include family memorabilia and two motion picture films, *Painting a True Fresco*, and *The Land Grant Murals* at Pennsylvania State College.

Printed material includes articles about or mentioning Poor, some of his pottery reference books, family history, a catalog of kilns, and the program of a 1949 Pennsylvania State College theater production titled *Poor Mr. Varnum*. Exhibition catalogs and announcements survive for some of Poor's shows; catalogs of other artists' shows include one for Theodore Czebotar containing an introductory statement by Henry Varnum Poor. Also found is a copy of *The Army at War: A Graphic Record by American Artists*, for which Poor served as an advisor. There are reproductions of illustrations for *An Artist Sees Alaska* and *Ethan Frome*, and two Associated American Artists greeting cards reproducing work by Poor.

Photographs are of Henry Varnum Poor's architectural work, artwork, people, places, and miscellaneous subjects. This series also contains negatives, slides, and transparencies. Images of architectural work include exterior and interior views of many projects; Poor's home, Crow House, predominates. Photographs of artwork by Poor are of drawings, fresco and ceramic tile murals, paintings, pottery and ceramic art. People appearing in photographs include Henry Varnum Poor, family members, friends, clients, juries, students, and various groups. Among the individuals portrayed are Milton Caniff, Marcel Duchamp, Wharton Esherick, M. R. ("Muktuk") Marston, and Burgess Meredith. Among the family members are Bessie Breuer Poor, Marion Dorn Poor, Anne Poor, Eva Poor, Josephine Graham Poor, Josephine Lydia Poor, Peter Poor, and unidentified relatives. Photographs of places include many illustrating village life in Alaska that were taken by Poor during World War II. Other places recorded are French and California landscapes, and family homes in Kansas. Miscellaneous subjects are exhibition installation views, scenes of Kentucky farms, and a photograph of Poor's notes on glazes.

**Arrangement**

The collection is arranged as 9 series:

- Series 1: Biographical Materials, 1919-1987 (0.2 linear feet; Box 1, OV 18)
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1873-1985 (1.5 linear feet; Boxes 1-2)
- Series 3: Writings and Notes, circa 1944-1974 (0.6 linear feet; Boxes 2-3)
- Series 4: Subject Files, 1928-1975 (0.8 linear feet; Box 3, OV 23)
• Series 5: Artwork, circa 1890s-circa 1961 (3.5 linear feet; Boxes 4-6, 9-10, OV 19-22)
• Series 6: Architectural Projects, circa 1940-1966 (0.7 linear feet; Box 6, OV 24-26, RD 14-17)
• Series 7: Miscellaneous Records, 1882-1967 (Boxes 6, 11, FC 30-31; 0.5 linear ft.)
• Series 8: Printed Material, 1881-2001 (1.2 linear feet; Boxes 6-7, 11, OV 27-29)
• Series 9: Photographs, 1893-1984 (2.3 linear feet; Boxes 7-8, 12-13)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:
Architects -- New York (State) -- New York
Art -- Study and teaching
Artists' studios
Authors -- New York (State) -- New York
Ceramicists -- New York (State) -- New York
Designers -- New York (State) -- New York
Educators -- New York (State) -- New York
Muralists -- New York (State) -- New York
Painters -- New York (State) -- New York
Pottery -- New York (State) -- New York
War posters
World War, 1914-1918

Types of Materials:
Diaries
Drawings
Illustrations
Motion pictures (visual works)
Photographs
Prints
Sketchbooks
Sketches
Watercolors

Names:
Benton, William, 1900-1973
Biddle, George, 1885-1973
Billing, Jules
Burchfield, Charles Ephraim, 1893-1967
Caniff, Milton Arthur, 1907-1988
Ciardi, John, 1916-
Czebotar, Theodore
Deming, MacDonald
Dickson, Harold E., 1900-
Dorn, Marion, 1896-1964
Duchamp, Marcel, 1887-1968
Esherick, Wharton
Evergood, Philip, 1901-1973
Garrett, Alice Warder
Houseman, John, 1902-1988
Marston, Muktuk
Meredith, Burgess, 1907-1997
Montross Gallery
Mumford, Lewis, 1895-1990
Padro, Isabel
Poor, Anne, 1918-
Poor, Bessie Breuer
Poor, Eva
Poor, Josephine Graham
Poor, Josephine Lydia
Poor, Peter
Sargent, Elizabeth S.
Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture
Smith, David, 1906-1965
Steinbeck, John, 1902-1968
Watson, Ernest William, 1884-1969

Occupations:

War artists
Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Materials, 1919-1987

0.2 Linear feet (Box 1, OV 18)

This series includes Poor's desk diary containing sporadic, sparse notes along with addresses and phone numbers; army discharge material; biographical notes on Poor by Bessie Breuer Poor and others; a desk diary; genealogical material; medical documents; and wills of Henry Varnum Poor and Bessie Breuer Poor. Awards and certificates document: Carnegie Institute Third Prize, 1933; Limited Editions Club Fellowship in Book Illustration, 1937; announcement of gold medal award from the Architectural League of New York, 1938; appointment to the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, 1941; and membership certificate, National Institute of Arts and Letters, 1943. The posthumous item is a proclamation of Henry Varnum Poor Centennial Month, Clarkstown, New York, 1987.

Materials are arranged by document type.

This series has been partially scanned. Documents with sensitive information have not been scanned.

Box 1, Folder 1  Address Book, circa 1920
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 2  Army Discharge, 1919
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 3  Awards and Certificates, 1933-1943
Image(s)
Oversized material housed in OV 18

Box 1, Folder 4  Biographical Notes and Reminiscences of Henry Varnum Poor, Bessie Breuer Poor, circa 1940s
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 5  Biographical Notes and Reminiscences of Henry Varnum Poor, by Others, 1937
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 6  Desk Diary, 1952
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 7  Genealogical Notes and Related Correspondence, 1961-1968
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 8  Medical Reports, Notes and Bills, 1953-1968

Box 1, Folder 9  Proclamation of Henry Varnum Poor Centennial Month, Clarkstown, N.Y., 1987
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 10</th>
<th>Social Security Cards, circa 1950</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 11</td>
<td>Wills, Henry Varnum Poor and Bessie Breuer Poor, 1974, 1930-1959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oversize 18</td>
<td>Oversized Biographical Materials scanned with Box 1, Folder 3, 1941</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Series 2: Correspondence, 1873-1985

1.5 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2)

Henry Varnum Poor's correspondence documents his personal life and professional activities in a number of fields. Correspondents include family and friends, among them George Biddle, Charles Burchfield, John Ciardi, Marion V. Dorn (who became his second wife), Philip Evergood, Lewis Mumford, John Steinbeck, David Smith, and Mrs. John Work (Alice) Garrett. Other correspondents are individuals representing galleries, museums, schools, and organizations. There is fan mail from readers of his books, and letters from former students and colleagues, as well as friends and acquaintances from his military service and travels.

Family correspondence consists mainly of incoming letters from Henry to his parents Albert J. and Josephine Poor about his education, travels, World War I experiences, and his teaching and painting career. Scattered throughout are letters from his wife Bessie Breuer Poor to his parents, and from Anne and Peter. Correspondence between Albert and Josephine Poor was written in 1911 while she was traveling in Europe with Henry. Also found are letters from other relatives and friends. A few letters are addressed to Lena Wiltz, Henry Varnum Poor's first wife. After the death of Josephine Poor circa 1940, Poor's letters are addressed to his sister Eva and her husband Herbert Stone. Josephine Poor's relatives, the Graham family, are represented by a small number of 19th century letters.

Nineteenth century letters are from Josephine Poor's relatives, the Graham family. Items post-dating Poor's lifetime consist of condolence letters, correspondence regarding Poor's papers and writings, estate matters, loans, and exhibitions.

Professional correspondence is arranged alphabetically and is followed by condolence and estate related letters. Poor family correspondence is arranged chronologically by sender.

Researchers should note that genealogical correspondence and related notes are found with biographical materials (Series 1). Additional correspondence is included among the subject files (Series 4).

This series has been scanned in its entirety.

Box 1, Folder 12  A, 1932-1964

Image(s)

- A. Tollizini Tile Works, Inc.
- Adler, F. Charles
- Alaska, State of
- Alden, Ray
- Allhouse, Mary
- American Artists Group
- American Craftsmen's Educational Council Inc.
- Anderson, Mrs. Maxwell
- Art Institute of Chicago
- Atkin, William Wilson
- Audubon Artists

Box 1, Folder 13  B, 1939-1969

Image(s)

- Bachrach, Walter
- Bennett College
- Benton, Bill
- Biddle, George
• Bitterman, Eleanor
• Blake, Mrs. Tiffany
• Bousios, Basil Nicholas Hellenagoras
• Boutis, T.
• Bowles, Len
• Brock, Mildred
• Brockie
• Brown, Hilton
• Bruce, Peggy
• Burchfield, Charles

Box 1, Folder 14  C, 1946-1970
Image(s)
• Callahan, Kenneth
• Campbell, Mrs. Jewett
• Canfield, Ruth
• Caniff, Milton
• Carrighar, Sally
• Chapman State Bank
• Choinski, W.F.
• Ciardi, John and Judith
• Columbia University
• Commerce Trust Company
• Commission of Fine Arts
• Curtis, Ron

Box 1, Folder 15  D, 1947-1968
Image(s)
• Devan, Sylvia
• Diederich, Hunt
• Dignam (?), Hester
• Dybbro, Tesse

Box 1, Folder 16  E, 1952-1968
Image(s)
• Estelle Mandel Agency
• Evergreen House Foundation
• Evergood, Phillip
• Eyerly, Jeannie

Box 1, Folder 17  F, 1941-1969
Image(s)
• Fanning, Maggie
• Federal Works Agency, Public Buildings Administration
• Federal Seaboard Terra Cotta Corporation
• Fieldhouse, Murray
• Flack, Frank
• Fraser, James
• Friant, Jim
Box 1, Folder 18  
G, 1919-1970
Image(s)
  • Galerie Morency
  • Garnett, David
  • Garrett, Alice
  • Gerard, Constance
  • Giacomini, L.
  • Greeft, Adele
  • Green, Sam

Box 1, Folder 19  
H, 1943-1969
Image(s)
  • Hamlin, Jane
  • Hayman, D.
  • Heliker, John
  • Henson, William
  • Hilton, Elizabeth
  • Hoffman, Letha
  • Holabird, Dorothy
  • Hooper, M.
  • Houseman
  • Howarth, Pauline
  • Howell, J.F.
  • Humenho, Alexander

Box 1, Folder 20  
H, 1955-1969
Image(s)
  • Hougland, Josephine Poor

Box 1, Folder 21  
J, 1943-1952
Image(s)
  • Jensen, Richard
  • Jones, Joseph
  • Johnson, Edward

Box 1, Folder 22  
K, 1945-1967
Image(s)
  • Kansas State College
  • Kansas State University
  • Kappo
  • Kelly, Jack
  • Kienbusch, William
  • Koffler, Bob

Box 1, Folder 23  
L, 1910, 1946-1970
Image(s)
  • Leach, Bernard
  • Lentz, Harris
"Box 1, Folder 24  M, 1938-1970
Image(s)
• Mager, N.H.
• Mangravite, Peppino
• Markham, Kyra
• Marston, M.R.
• McKenzie, Richard
• Mikkelsen Family
• Mitchell, C.L.
• Mitrotti, Leslie
• Moore, Mary McClure
• Muller, Ray
• Mumford, Lewis"

"Box 1, Folder 25  N, 1951-1965
Image(s)
• National Academy of Design
• National Institute of Arts and Letters
• New York University
• New World Foundation"

"Box 1, Folder 26  O, 1942-1946
Image(s)
• Office of Emergency Management
• O’Neil, J.F."

"Box 1, Folder 27  P, 1911-1970
Image(s)
• Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts
• Pennsylvania Bar Association
• Peterson, Alberta
• Phillips, Miriam
• Pomerance, Ralph
• Poor, Henry
• Poor, Herbert
• Poor, Val
• Poor
• Postrung, R."

"Box 1, Folder 28  R, 1944-1970
Image(s)
• Ramsbusch, Viggo
• Reed, Bob
• Reeves, Ruth
• Reynolds Enterprises"
• Riddens, Shaskins
• Rockland Light and Power Company
• Rossin, Alfred
• Ryan, Lila

Box 1, Folder 29  S, 1918-1970
Image(s)
• Sain, Lydia
• Salina Art Association
• Saltonstall and Morton
• San Francisco Art Association
• Sanchez, Tony
• Sands, Mrs. Edward
• Scheftel, Geraldine
• Scherfee, Samuel
• Shapero, Mrs. Harold
• Short, Marie
• Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture
• Spina, Paul
• Springfield High School Art Association
• Sloper, Ann
• Smith, Claude
• Smith, David
• Smithsonian Institution
• Soyer, Raphael
• Steinbeck, John
• Stevens, Marti
• Stillman
• Stone, Eva and Herbert
• Stone, Vivian and Charles
• Strong, F.S.
• Sullivan, George
• Swain, Allen
• Syracuse Museum of Fine Arts
• Syracuse University

Box 1, Folder 30  T, 1943-1968
Image(s)
• Taylor, Tom
• Teller Commercial Company
• Terwilliger, Nellie and Fred
• Toomer, Marjorie Content

Box 1, Folder 31  V, 1965
Image(s)
• Vihlein, Jane

Box 1, Folder 32  W, 1924-1970
Image(s)
• Walker, Maynard
• War Department
• Watkins, Franklin
• Watson, Forbes
• Watson, Nan
• Webb, Mrs. Vanderbilt (Aileen)
• Weeks, Lynn and Jim
• Wigglesworth, Anne Parker
• Williams, Gil
• Wilson, Betty Balliett
• Wolslagel, Earl
• Women's Garment Manufacturers Supply Association
• Wyche, Mrs. Cyril H.

Box 1, Folder 33  Y, 1960  
Image(s)  
• Yelin, Saul

Box 1, Folder 34  Z, 1955  
Image(s)  
• Zorach, Marguerite

Box 1, Folder 35  First Names Only, 1944-1970  
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 36  Outgoing Drafts, 1918-1964  
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 37  Henry Varnum Poor to Marion Dorn, 1918-1919  
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 38  Condolence Letters, 1970-1971  
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 39-40  Business Correspondence, 1941, 1971-1993  
Image(s)  
Image(s)  
Includes correspondence regarding estate matters, Henry Varnum Poor exhibitions, and loans

Box 1, Folder 41  Henry Varnum Poor to Family, 1904-1906  
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 42  Henry Varnum Poor to Family, 1907  
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 43  Henry Varnum Poor to Family, 1908
Box 2, Folder 11  Henry Varnum Poor to Family, 1935

Box 2, Folder 12  Henry Varnum Poor to Family, 1936-1937

Box 2, Folder 13  Henry Varnum Poor to Family, 1938-1943

Box 2, Folder 14  Henry Varnum Poor to Family, circa 1900-circa 1940

Box 2, Folder 15  Poor Relatives and Friends, 1882-1905

Box 2, Folder 16  Poor Relatives and Friends, 1906-1910

Box 2, Folder 17  Poor Relatives and Friends, 1911

Box 2, Folder 18  Poor Relatives and Friends, 1914-1920

Box 2, Folder 19  Poor Relatives and Friends, 1922-1936

Box 2, Folder 20  Poor Relatives and Friends, 1940-1949

Box 2, Folder 21  Poor Relatives and Friends, 1952-1965

Box 2, Folder 22  Poor Relatives and Friends, circa 1900-circa 1940

Box 2, Folder 23  Graham Family Letters, 1965, 1873-1889

Includes many photocopies

Empty Envelopes

Box 2, Folder 24-25  To Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Poor, 1910-1929

Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 26-27  
To Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Poor, 1930-1940  
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 28  
To Eva and Herbert Stone, 1931-1954  
Image(s)
Series 3: Writings and Notes, circa 1944-1974

0.6 Linear feet (Boxes 2-3)

Writings by Henry Varnum Poor include manuscripts of his two published books, *An Artist Sees Alaska* and *A Book of Pottery: From Mud to Immortality*. There are four notebooks containing information about pottery, tile procedures, and glazes, etc., film scripts, two journals, notes, including those from his studies in London and Paris, lists, speeches, and drafts of articles including "Painting is Being Talked to Death," published in the first issue of *Reality: A Journal of Artists' Opinions*, April 1953.

Among the writings by others are poems, notes, and reminiscences, including those by M. R. ("Muktuk") Marston, Waldo Peirce, Bessie Brueuer Poor, Josephine Poor, and unidentified individuals. The unsigned "Outline for a Proposed Artists Corps," circa 1942, is most likely written by Olin Dows or George Biddle.

Materials are arranged by document type.

Additional scattered writings and notes are found in biographical materials (Series 1) and within Poor's sketchbooks (Series 5).

This series has been scanned in its entirety.

Box 2

**By Henry Varnum Poor**

**Articles**

Box 2, Folder 29  
"Painting is Being Talked to Death" and item for "Notes on Art Education" (both published in *Reality: A Journal of Artists' Opinions*), 1953-1954

Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 30  
"The Relation of Art to Life", circa 1950

Image(s)

**Books, *An Artist Sees Alaska* (manuscript)**

Box 2, Folder 31  
Table of Contents and Introduction, circa 1944

Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 32  
"Penn Station", circa 1944

Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 33  
"San Francisco", circa 1944

Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 34  
"Seattle", circa 1944

Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 35  
"The Turner Passage", circa 1944
Box 2, Folder 36  "Fort Richardson", circa 1944

Box 2, Folder 37  "Days from My Diary at Ladd Field", circa 1944

Box 2, Folder 38  "Two Days on the Yukon", circa 1944

Box 2, Folder 39  "Nome", circa 1944

Box 2, Folder 40  "Golovin", circa 1944

Box 2, Folder 41  "Unalakleet", circa 1944

Box 2, Folder 42  "Nome Again", circa 1944

Box 2, Folder 43  "Bering Strait", circa 1944

Box 2, Folder 44  "Teller", circa 1944

Box 2, Folder 45  "Cape Prince of Wales", circa 1944

Box 2, Folder 46  "Little Diomede", circa 1944

Box 2, Folder 47  "Shishmareff", circa 1944

Box 2, Folder 48  "Kotzebuu - Seat of Empire", circa 1944

Box 2, Folder 49  "Kotzebue", circa 1944

Box 2, Folder 50  "Point Hope", circa 1944
Box 2, Folder 51  "The Arctic Ocean", circa 1944
  Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 52  "Wainwright", circa 1944
  Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 53  "Point Barrow", circa 1944
  Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 54  "Journey Back", circa 1944
  Image(s)

Books, A Book of Pottery: From Mud to Immortality

Box 3, Folder 1  Outlines, circa 1954-1958
  Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 2-3  Longhand Draft of Chapters 2-11, and Fragments, circa 1954-1958
  Image(s)
  Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 4-5  Typescript Draft of Chapters 1-11, and Fragments, circa 1954-1958
  Image(s)
  Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 6  Film Script, "Painting in True Fresco", circa 1954
  Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 7  Fragments, circa 1940
  Image(s)

Journals

Box 3, Folder 8  March 9-June 11, 1963
  Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 9  May 27-Sept. 20, 1965
  Image(s)
  Photocopy

Box 3, Folder 10  Lists, Miscellaneous, 1952
  Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 11  Notebooks, 1921-1960
Notebooks may include notes on pottery, tile procedures, glazes, measurements, and lists of supplies or various projects.

Notes


Box 3, Folder 13 "Painting Points to Remember from Henry Varnum Poor", 1962

Box 3, Folder 14 Miscellaneous Notes, circa 1920

Box 3, Folder 15 Report, "Virgin Island Clays", circa 1950

Box 3, Folder 16 Speeches, "Remarks on the Frescoes in Old Main at the Pennsylvania State College" and "Painting, Sculpture, and People", 1964[?], 1949

Box 3 By Other Authors

Box 3, Folder 17 Marston, M. R. ("Muktuk"), circa 1943

Box 3, Folder 18 Peirce, Waldo, circa 1950

Box 3, Folder 19 Poor, Bessie Breuer, 1974

Box 3, Folder 20 Poor, Josephine, circa 1950

Box 3, Folder 21 Unidentified (probably Olin Dows or George Biddle), circa 1942
Image(s)
"Outline for a Proposed Artists Corps"

Unidentified

Box 3, Folder 22  "The Dolphin Passed Last Night: A Mural Drama", circa 1960
  Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 23  Notes on "Rakku" and "Painting w/ Ethyl Silicate", circa 1940
  Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 24  Poem, "The New Moon of our Incoherence", circa 1940
  Image(s)

Return to Table of Contents
Series 4: Subject Files, 1928-1975

0.8 Linear feet (Box 3, OV 23)

Subject files are found on various topics and appear to have been established by Poor. The largest group is for the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture and includes financial reports, by-laws, correspondence, miscellaneous administrative files, and minutes. Contents of the files are varied and may contain correspondence, printed material, and photographs.

Materials are arranged alphabetically by subject.

This series has been scanned in its entirety.

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<td>American Designers' Gallery, Inc., 1928-1929</td>
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<td>Oversized material housed in OV 23</td>
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<td>Box 3, Folder 27</td>
<td>Automobile, 1946-1947</td>
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<td>Image(s)</td>
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<td>Box 3, Folder 28</td>
<td>Benton, William, 1966-1971</td>
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<td>Image(s)</td>
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<td>Box 3, Folder 29</td>
<td>A Book of Pottery: From Mud to Immortality (Prentice-Hall), 1954-1975</td>
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<td>Image(s)</td>
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<td>Box 3, Folder 30</td>
<td>Dickson, Harold (Pennsylvania State College), 1952-1967</td>
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<td>Image(s)</td>
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<td>Box 3, Folder 31</td>
<td>Insurance, 1937-1970</td>
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<td>Box 3, Folder 32</td>
<td>Marston, M. R. (&quot;Muktuk&quot;), 1943-1972</td>
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<td>Image(s)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 3, Folder 33</td>
<td>Pennsylvania State College, The Land Grant Frescoes, 1939-1940</td>
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*Reality: A Journal of Artists' Opinions*

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Box 3, Folder 36  Articles, Editorials, Letters to the Editor Published in Other Periodicals, 1953

Box 3, Folder 37  Auctions and Miscellaneous Galleries, 1968-1969

Box 3, Folder 38  Frank K. M. Rehn, Inc., 1943-1970

Box 3, Folder 39  Sales and Consignments, Market Fair, 1961-1965

Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture

Box 3, Folder 40  Budgets and Financial Reports, 1960-1970

Box 3, Folder 41  By-Laws, 1956-1961

Box 3, Folder 42  Correspondence of Anne Poor, 1959-1970

Box 3, Folder 43  Correspondence of Henry Varnum Poor, 1959-1970

Box 3, Folder 44  Grant Proposal, Old Dominion Foundation, circa 1969

Box 3, Folder 45  Leases, 1955-1965

Box 3, Folder 46  Master Plans, 1966-1974

Box 3, Folder 47  Minutes of Board of Directors, 1961

Box 3, Folder 48  Minutes of Board of Governors, 1961-1972

Box 3, Folder 49  Minutes of Board of Trustees, 1963-1984
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<td>Box 3, Folder 52</td>
<td>Notes and Lists, circa 1961-1966</td>
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<td>Box 3, Folder 59</td>
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<td>Box 3, Folder 60</td>
<td>Utilities, 1961-1964</td>
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<td>Box 3, Folder 61</td>
<td>War Posters, 1942</td>
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<td>Oversized American Designers' Gallery Blueprints and Floor Plans scanned with Box 3, Folder 26, 1928</td>
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Series 5: Artwork, circa 1890s-circa 1961

3.5 Linear feet (Boxes 4-6, 9-10, OV 19-22)

Artwork by Henry Varnum Poor consists of loose drawings, sketches, designs, watercolors, and prints, as well as 45 sketchbooks. Many are studies for paintings, murals, and pottery. Included is work done in France, 1918-1919, and produced in Alaska while a war correspondent in 1943. Also found are commissioned illustrations and illustrations drawn for his monograph *A Book of Pottery: From Mud to Immortality*. Other artists represented are Anne Poor and Ernest Watson.

Additional drawings and prints are found in architectural projects (Series 6).

The series is arranged as 2 subseries.

- 5.1: By Henry Varnum Poor, circa 1890s-circa 1961
- 5.2: By Other Artists, circa 1938-circa 1949

This series has been scanned in its entirety.

5.1: By Henry Varnum Poor, circa 1890s-circa 1961

Some of the unidentified figure studies, portraits, and heads of women are probably Bessie and Anne Poor. Illustrations include those produced for *Ethan Frome* and *The Scarlet Letter*, and some that may have been intended for *A Book of Pottery*. Drawings produced in 1943 while Poor was a war correspondent in Alaska may have served as visual notes or illustrations for *An Artist Sees Alaska*. Also found are a small number of watercolors and prints. Most prints show the aftermath of World War I in France, and a Christmas card sent by Henry Varnum and Marion Dorn Poor features a print.

A fair number of drawings and sketches are on sheets of paper with images on both sides; often, they are very different subjects. Since item level description with cross referencing is not provided, researchers conducting exhaustive studies of specific categories or subjects of Poor's works on paper are advised to examine all.

Loose drawings and sketches are arranged by subject.

Box 4, Folder 1-2 Animals, 1918
Image(s)
Oversized material housed in Box 9, Folder 1

Box 4, Folder 3 Birds and Fish, circa 1918
Image(s)
Oversized material housed in Box 9, Folder 2

Designs

Box 4, Folder 4 Bathroom Fixtures and Tiles, 1929
Image(s)
Oversized material housed in Box 9, Folder 3

Box 4, Folder 5 Ceiling Tiles, Union Dime Savings Bank, 1924
Box 4, Folder 6  Tiles, Phillip Goodwin Pool Shelter, circa 1920
  Image(s)
  Oversized material housed in Box 9, Folder 4

Box 4, Folder 7  Covers of Skowhegan School Publications, circa 1946-1961
  Image(s)

Box 4, Folder 8  Exhibition Announcement, Montross Gallery, 1923
  Image(s)

Box 4, Folder 9  Fireplaces, circa 1920
  Image(s)

Box 4, Folder 10  Furniture, 1924
  Image(s)

Box 4, Folder 11  Miscellaneous, circa 1930
  Image(s)
  Oversized material housed in Box 9, Folder 3 and OV 19

Box 4, Folder 12-17 Figures , circa 1890s-1946
  Image(s)
  Image(s)
  Image(s)
  Image(s)
  Image(s)
  Image(s)
  Image(s)
  Image(s)
  Oversized material housed in Box 9, Folder 5

Box 4, Folder 18-21 Figures, Nude, circa 1920-circa 1940
  Image(s)
  Image(s)
  Image(s)
  Image(s)
  Image(s)
  Oversized material housed in Box 9, Folder 6

Box 4, Folder 22  Figure Studies (hands and feet), circa 1920-circa 1940
  Image(s)

Illustrations

Box 4, Folder 23-26  A Book of Pottery by Henry Varnum Poor, circa 1954-1958
  Image(s)
Image(s)
Image(s)
Image(s)

Oversized material in Box 10, Folders 8-9

Box 4, Folder 27

Miscellaneous Illustrations of Pottery Construction Techniques (possibly for *A Book of Pottery*, by Henry Varnum Poor), circa 1954-1958

*Image(s)*

Box 4, Folder 28

*Ethan Frome*, 1939

*Image(s)*

Box 4, Folder 29

*The Scarlet Letter*, circa 1941

*Image(s)*

Box 4, Folder 30-37

Landscapes, 1918-1919, 1939, 1943

*Image(s)*
*Image(s)*
*Image(s)*
*Image(s)*
*Image(s)*
*Image(s)*
*Image(s)*
*Image(s)*

Oversized materials housed in Box 9, Folders 7-9 and OV 20

Box 4, Folder 38-39

Miscellaneous Subjects, circa 1918-1919, 1943

*Image(s)*
*Image(s)*

Oversized material housed in Box 9, Folder 10

Mural Studies

Box 4, Folder 40

"Ben Hecht Leda and Swan", circa 1940

*Image(s)*

Oversized material housed in OV 21

Box 4, Folder 41

Unidentified, circa 1940

*Image(s)*

Box 5, Folder 1

Plants, circa 1910-1950

*Image(s)*

Oversized material housed in Box 10, Folder 1

Portraits and Heads (unidentified)
Box 5, Folder 2-3
Children, 1943, undated
Image(s)
Image(s)
Oversized material housed in Box 10, Folder 2

Box 5, Folder 4-6
Men, 1918-1919, 1943, undated
Image(s)
Image(s)
Image(s)
Image(s)
Oversized material housed in Box 10, Folders 3-4

Box 5, Folder 7-10
Women, 1943
Image(s)
Image(s)
Image(s)
Image(s)
Image(s)
Oversized material housed in Box 10, Folder 5

Box 5, Folder 11
Portraits (identified), circa 1930-circa 1950
Image(s)
Includes Bessie Breuer, Charles Duback, Jim Fickes, David Friedenthal, Stuard Frost, Ben Hecht, Helen Hayes, DeWitt Peters, Rollo Peters, Alfred Poor, Herbert Poor, Peter Poor, Ed Rowan, Concetta Scaravaglione, and John and Gwen Steinbeck Family. Oversized material housed in Box 10, Folder 6.

Box 5, Folder 12
Portraits (self-portraits), circa 1930
Image(s)
Oversized material housed in Box 10, Folder 7

Pottery

Box 5, Folder 13
Plates, circa 1920-circa 1950
Image(s)

Box 5, Folder 14
Vessels and Birdhouses, circa 1920-circa 1950
Image(s)

Box 5, Folder 15
Still Life, circa 1940
Image(s)
Oversized material housed in Box 10, Folder 10

Box 5, Folder 16
Prints, 1918-1923
Image(s)
Oversized material housed in Box 10, Folder 11 and OV 22
### Sketchbooks

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<td>5, Folder 18</td>
<td>Sketchbooks 3 and 4, circa 1920s Image(s) Early pottery drawings and notes</td>
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<td>5, Folder 19</td>
<td>Sketchbook 5, circa 1924-1929 Image(s) Sketch of Wharton Esherick plate</td>
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<td>5, Folder 20</td>
<td>Sketchbook 6, 1925 Image(s) Notes on pottery glazes</td>
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<td>5, Folder 21</td>
<td>Sketchbook 7, circa 1929 Image(s) &quot;Pottery/Sketches/Peter in Hat&quot;</td>
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<td>5, Folder 22</td>
<td>Sketchbook 8, circa 1929 Image(s)</td>
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<td>5, Folder 23</td>
<td>Sketchbooks 9 and 10, circa 1929 Image(s)</td>
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<td>Sketchbook 11, circa 1929 Image(s) Pottery sketches and notes</td>
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<td>5, Folder 25</td>
<td>Sketchbooks 12 and 13, 1936 Image(s) Southwest Sicily and notes on art seen in Italy</td>
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<td>5, Folder 26</td>
<td>Sketchbook 14, 1936 Image(s) &quot;Pitigliano/Grotto di Castri&quot;</td>
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<td>5, Folder 27</td>
<td>Sketchbook 15, 1937 Image(s) Colorado Springs, and &quot;Gedney and Dominick&quot; (contains a few 19th century drawings)</td>
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<td>Box 5, Folder 28</td>
<td>Sketchbook 16, circa 1937-1938</td>
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<td>Interior Department mural and statement regarding art</td>
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<td>Box 5, Folder 29</td>
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<td>Penn State mural</td>
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<td><em>The Scarlet Letter</em> illustrations</td>
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<td>Early Truro and Florida</td>
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<td>Notes, pottery sketches, and lists</td>
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Pottery sketches, notes, and biographical notes

Box 6, Folder 9  Sketchbooks 34 and 35, circa 1900-circa 1960 Image(s)

Box 6, Folder 10  Sketchbooks 36 and 37, circa 1900-circa 1960 Image(s)

Box 6, Folder 11  Sketchbooks 38 and 39, circa 1900-circa 1960 Image(s)

Box 6, Folder 12  Sketchbook 40, circa 1900-circa 1960 Image(s)

Box 6, Folder 13  Sketchbook 41, circa 1900-circa 1960 Image(s)

Box 6, Folder 14  Sketchbook 42, circa 1900-circa 1960 Image(s)

Box 6, Folder 15  Sketchbook 43, circa 1900-circa 1960 Image(s)

Box 6, Folder 16  Sketchbook 44, circa 1900-circa 1960 Image(s)

Box 6, Folder 17  Sketchbook 45, circa 1900-circa 1960 Image(s)

Box 6, Folder 18  Watercolors, circa 1920-circa 1950 Image(s)  
Oversized material housed in Box 10, Folder 12

Box 9, Folder 1-10  Oversized Artwork by Poor scanned with Box 4, Folders 2-4, 6, 11-21, 30-39, 1918-1969

Box 10, Folder 1-12  Oversized Artwork by Poor scanned with Box 4, Folders 23-26, Box 5, Folders 1-12, 15-16, and Box 6, Folder 18, 1918-1958

Oversize 19  Oversized Artwork by Poor scanned with Box 4, Folder 11, circa 1930

Oversize 20  Oversized Artwork by Poor scanned with Box 4, Folders 30-37, circa 1918-1943
5.2: By Other Artists, circa 1938-circa 1949

The other artists represented in this subseries are Anne Poor and Ernest Watson.

Box 6, Folder 19
Artwork by Ernest Watson and Anne Poor, circa 1938-1949

Image(s)

Drawings by: Anne Poor of Henry Varnum Poor's Hands for the Lincoln Figure in *The Land Grant Frescoes*, Pennsylvania State College; and by Ernest Watson, sketch of Crow House interior. Oversized material housed in Box 10, Folder 13.

Box 10, Folder 13
Oversized Artwork by Anne Poor scanned with Box 6, Folder 19, circa 1940
Series 6: Architectural Projects, circa 1940-1966

0.7 Linear feet (Box 6, OV 24-26, RD 14-17)

Found are drawings and architectural prints documenting houses designed and built by Poor, including his own studio. Other projects include the homes of Jules Billig, Milton Caniff, MacDonald Deming, Burgess Meredith, Bessie B. Poor, Isobel Prado, John Houseman, and Elizabeth S. Sargent. Researchers should note that photographs of architectural projects may be found within the photographs series (Series 9).

This series has been partially scanned. Rolled documents of architectural prints have not been scanned due to the fragile nature of the document.

Box 6, Folder 20
Milton Canniff and Bessie B. Poor houses, and Unidentified, circa 1940-circa 1960

Image(s)
Oversized material housed in OV 24-26

Roll 14
Jules Billig House, circa 1966

Roll 15
MacDonald Deming House, circa 1959

Roll 16
Burgess Meredith House, circa 1940

Roll 17
Isobel Prado, John Houseman, Elizabeth S. Sargent houses and Henry Varnum Poor Studio, circa 1941-1957

Oversize 24
Oversized Architectural Drawings scanned with Box 6, Folder 20, circa 1941-circa 1960

Oversize 25
Oversized Architectural Drawings scanned with Box 6, Folder 20, circa 1941-circa 1960

Oversize 26
Oversized Architectural Drawings scanned with Box 6, Folder 20, circa 1941-circa 1960

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Series 7: Miscellaneous Records, 1882-1967

0.5 Linear feet (Boxes 6, 11, FC 30-31)

Family memorabilia consists of the autograph book belonging to Josie Graham Poor, a stored wheat account sheet from the Poor Elevator business, and two motion picture reels. Researchers should note that the script of the film *Painting a True Fresco* is among Poor's writings (Series 3).

Materials are arranged by document type.

This series has been partially scanned.

Box 6, Folder 21  Family Memorabilia, 1882  
  Image(s)

Box 6, Folder 22  Guest Book Pages (unidentified events), 1967  
  Image(s)

Box 11, Folder 1  "Painting a True Fresco", 1952  
  1 Film reel (color, sound; 16 mm)  
  Motion picture film stored separately in film can numbered FC 30

Box 11, Folder 1  "The Land Grant Murals at Pennsylvania State College", 1962  
  1 Film reel (color, sound; 16 mm)  
  Motion picture film stored separately in film can numbered FC 31

Item FC 30;  2 Motion Picture Film Reels from Box 1, Folder 1

Item FC 31  

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Series 8: Printed Material, 1881-2001

*1.2 Linear feet (Boxes 6-7, 11, OV 27-29)*

Family history includes the *Poor-Poore Family Reunion*, a publication containing significant background information. Among the travel souvenirs are a few items that may have been saved by his mother from their 1911 trip to Europe together.

Also included are a copy of Jack London's *The Call of the Wild* illustrated by Poor, reproductions of illustrations for *An Artist Sees Alaska* and *Ethan Frome*, and two Associated American Artists greeting cards reproducing work by Poor.

Materials are arranged by document type.

This series has been partially scanned. In some cases, exhibition catalogs and other publications have had their covers, title pages, and relevant pages scanned.

**Articles**

**Box 6, Folder 23-25** About and/or Mentioning Henry Varnum Poor, 1913-1959

- Image(s)
- Image(s)
- Image(s)

**Box 6, Folder 26-27** About and/or Mentioning Henry Varnum Poor, 1960-1979

- Image(s)
- Image(s)

**Box 6, Folder 28-29** About and/or Mentioning Henry Varnum Poor, 1980-1985

- Image(s)
- Image(s)

**Box 6, Folder 30-31** Henry Varnum Poor's House (includes "My Kitchen" by Bessie Breuer), 1925-1933

- Image(s)
- Image(s)

**Box 6, Folder 32** Art Topics, 1938-1968

- Image(s)

**Box 6, Folder 33** Miscellaneous Subjects (not art-related), 1942-1970

- Image(s)

**Book Reviews**

**Box 7, Folder 1** *An Artist Sees Alaska* by Henry Varnum Poor (with advertisement), 1945-1946
Box 7, Folder 2  
*A Book of Pottery* by Henry Varnum Poor, 1958  
Image(s)

Box 7, Folder 3  
Image(s)

Books, Pottery Reference Books used by Henry Varnum Poor

Box 7, Folder 4  
Image(s)

Box 7, Folder 5  
Binns, Charles F. *The Potter's Craft*, 1910  
Image(s)

Box 7, Folder 6  
Cox, George F. *Pottery for Artists, Craftsmen and Teachers*, 1914  
Image(s)

Box 7, Folder 7  
Searle, Alfred B. *Kilns and Kilnbuilding*, 1916  
Image(s)

Box 7, Folder 8  
Catalogs of Kilns, circa 1900  
Image(s)

Exhibition Catalogs and Announcements

Box 7, Folder 9-10  
Henry Varnum Poor Solo and Group Shows, 1912-1960  
Image(s)  
Image(s)

Box 7, Folder 11-12  
Henry Varnum Poor Solo and Group Shows, 1961-1999  
Image(s)  
Image(s)

Box 7, Folder 13  
Henry Varnum Poor Solo and Group Showsv, circa 1912-1999  
Image(s)

Box 7, Folder 14-15  
Other Artists, circa 1940s-2001  
Image(s)  
Image(s)

Box 7, Folder 16  
Family History, 1881-1946
Maps

Box 7, Folder 17  Anson Quadrangle, Somerset County, Maine, 1945
Image(s)
Oversized material housed in Box 11, Folder 2

Box 7, Folder 18  Clarkstown, N.Y., showing Poor property, circa 1927-1967
Image(s)
Oversized material housed in OV 27

Miscellaneous Printed Items

Box 7, Folder 19  Book Announcement, Brochures, Menu, circa 1910s-1994
Image(s)

Box 7, Folder 20  Mentioning and/or Belonging to Mrs. A. J. Poor, 1910-1925
Image(s)

Box 7, Folder 21  Portfolio, *Ceramic Art in America*, edited by Richard B. Peterson, 1969
Image(s)
Oversized material housed in Box 11, Folder 3

Box 7, Folder 22  Posters illustrated by V. Prouvé, 1917
Image(s)
Oversized material housed in OV 29

Reproductions of Work by Henry Varnum Poor

Box 7, Folder 23  American Artists Group Greeting Cards and Other Reproductions, circa 1940s
Image(s)
Oversized material housed in Box 11, Folders 4-6

Box 7, Folder 24  Illustrations, *An Artist Sees Alaska* (proofs), circa 1944
Image(s)
Oversized material housed in OV 28

Box 7, Folder 25  *The Call of the Wild*, circa 1961
Image(s)
Oversized material housed in OV 28

Box 7, Folder 26  *Ethan Frome*, circa 1939
Box 7, Folder 27  
*Life* Article on Alaska, circa 1944-1950  
Image(s)  
Oversized material housed in Box 11, Folder 4

Box 7, Folder 28  
*The Scarlet Letter*, circa 1941  
Image(s)  
Oversized material housed in Box 11, Folder 5

Box 7, Folder 29  
Reproductions of Illustrations by Henry Varnum Poor (*An Artist Sees Alaska* and *Call of the Wild*), 1944-1961  
Image(s)  
Oversized material housed in Box 11, Folder 6

Box 7, Folder 30  
Theater Program from Pennsylvania State College production of *Poor Mr. Varnum*, 1949  
Image(s)

Box 7, Folder 31  
Travel Souvenirs, 1910-1916  
Image(s)

Box 11, Folder 2-6  
Oversized Printed Material scanned with Box 7, Folders 17, 21, 23, 27-29, 1941-1969

Oversize 27  
Oversized Printed Material scanned with Box 7, Folder 18, circa 1927-1967

Oversize 28  
Oversized Printed Material scanned with Box 7, Folders 24-25, circa 1961

Oversize 29  
Oversized Printed Material scanned with Box 7, Folder 22, 1917

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Series 9: Photographs, 1893-1984

2.3 Linear feet (Boxes 7-8, 12-13)

Photographs record exterior and interior views of Henry Varnum Poor's architectural work, artwork by Poor and others, people, places, and miscellaneous subjects. This series also contains negatives, slides, and color transparencies.

The series is arranged as 6 subseries.

- 9.1: Architectural Work, 1966
- 9.2: Artwork, circa 1908-1948
- 9.3: People, 1893-1967
- 9.4: Places, circa 1906-1943
- 9.5: Miscellaneous Subjects, 1946-1984
- 9.6: Negatives, Slides, and Transparencies, circa 1938-1975

This series has been partially scanned. Negatives, slides, and transparencies have not been scanned.

9.1: Architectural Work, 1966

Among the photographs of architectural work are views of Poor at the building sites of the Jules Billig and Milton Caniff houses. Many views of Poor’s own home, Crow House, show the original portion under construction as well as a later addition; also included are views of the grounds and outbuildings such as Poor’s new studio, workroom, and garage.

Arranged alphabetically by family name.

Among the photographs of people (Series 8.3) are views of Poor with others at Crow House that show exterior and interior details.

Box 7, Folder 32 Maxwell Anderson House, circa 1950

Image(s)

Oversized material housed in Box 12, Folder 1

Box 7, Folder 33 Jules Billig House, 1966

Image(s)

Oversized material housed in Box 12, Folder 2

Box 7, Folder 34 Milton Caniff House, circa 1941

Image(s)

Oversized material housed in Box 12, Folder 3

Box 7, Folder 35 MacDonald Deming House, circa 1950

Image(s)

Oversized material housed in Box 12, Folder 4

Box 7, Folder 36 Ben Hecht Poker Room, circa 1940

Image(s)

Box 7, Folder 37 John Houseman House, circa 1950
Oversized material housed in Box 12, Folder 5

Box 7, Folder 38
Burgess Meredith House and Bathing Pavilion, circa 1950

Henry Varnum Poor House (Crow House)

Box 7, Folder 39-40
Construction, 1920

Oversized material housed in Box 12, Folder 7

Box 7, Folder 41-42
Exterior, Some by Marjorie Content Toomer, circa 1940

Oversized material housed in Box 12, Folder 8

Box 7, Folder 43
Exterior of House and Interior of Studio and Pottery, Ed McCarthy, photographer, 1973

Box 7, Folder 44-45
Interior, 1973, circa 1960

All 1973 photographs by Ed Hausner of living and dining rooms include Anne Poor. Oversized material housed in Box 12, Folder 9

Box 7, Folder 46
Garden, circa 1960

Box 7, Folder 47
Garage, circa 1960

Box 7, Folder 48
Pottery Interior, circa 1960

Box 7, Folder 49
Studio [new], Exterior, 1957 or later

Box 7, Folder 50
Studio [new], Interior, circa 1960s

Box 7, Folder 51
Studio [old], Interior, circa 1960
9.2: Artwork, circa 1908-1948

Photographs of Poor's artwork include drawings and sketches, murals, paintings, pottery and ceramics. Also among the photographs of works of art are pieces by Willard W. Cummings, Wharton Esherick, unidentified artists, and pottery from the collections of the American Museum of Natural History and the Metropolitan Museum of Art (possibly research material for *A Book of Pottery* by Henry Varnum Poor).

Among the photographs of architectural work are views of Poor at the building sites of the Jules Billig and Milton Caniff houses. Many views of Crow House show the original portion under construction, as well as a later addition; also included are views of the grounds and outbuildings such as Poor's new studio, workroom, and garage. Some Crow House photographs are by Marjorie Content Toomer.

Images of Poor's artwork are arranged by medium and subject.

**By Henry Varnum Poor, Drawings**

- Box 7, Folder 54  
  Figures, 1911
  Image(s)

- Box 7, Folder 55  
  Landscapes, 1943
  Image(s)

- Box 7, Folder 56  
  Mural Studies for Pennsylvania State College *Land Grant Frescoes* and Unidentified Ceramic Tile Mural, 1940s
  Image(s)

- Box 7, Folder 57  
  Portraits, circa 1918-1919, 1943
  Image(s)

**By Henry Varnum Poor, Murals (fresco)**

- Box 7, Folder 58  
  Department of the Interior, circa 1938
  Image(s)

- Box 7, Folder 59  
  Department of Justice, circa 1936
Box 7, Folder 60  
Louisville *Courier-Journal*, circa 1935  
*Image(s)*  
Oversized material housed in Box 13, Folder 3

Box 7, Folder 61  
Pennsylvania State College, *The Land Grant Frescoes*, circa 1940-1948  
*Image(s)*  
By Henry Varnum Poor, Murals (ceramic)

Box 7, Folder 62  
Fresno Post Office and Court House, circa 1942  
*Image(s)*

Box 7, Folder 63  
Klingenstein Pavilion, Mount Sinai Hospital, New York City, circa 1954  
*Image(s)*

Box 7, Folder 64  
Unidentified, circa 1950  
*Image(s)*  
By Henry Varnum Poor, Paintings

Box 7, Folder 65-66  
Figures, 1943  
*Image(s)*  
*Image(s)*

Box 7, Folder 67  
Landscapes, circa 1908-1917  
*Image(s)*

Box 7, Folder 68-69  
Portraits, 1943  
*Image(s)*  
*Image(s)*

Box 7, Folder 70  
Self-Portraits, circa 1950  
*Image(s)*

Box 7, Folder 71  
Still Life, circa 1950  
*Image(s)*  
By Henry Varnum Poor, Pottery and Ceramics

Box 8, Folder 1  
Figures, circa 1950  
*Image(s)*

Box 8, Folder 2  
Fountain (*Leda and the Swan* for Helen Hayes and Charles McArthur), circa 1950
Image(s)
Oversized material housed in Box 13, Folder 2

Box 8, Folder 3  Heads, circa 1950
Image(s)

Box 8, Folder 4  Miscellaneous Objects, circa 1950
Image(s)

Box 8, Folder 5  Plates, circa 1950
Image(s)

Box 8, Folder 6  Plates and Other Objects, circa 1950
Image(s)

Box 8, Folder 7  Tile Screen for Abraham Lincoln High School Auditorium, circa 1950
Image(s)
Oversized material housed in Box 13, Folder 1

Box 8, Folder 8  Tiles, circa 1950
Image(s)

Box 8, Folder 9  Vessels, circa 1950
Image(s)

By Other Artists

Box 8, Folder 10  Cummings, Willard W., 1940s
Image(s)

Box 8, Folder 11  Esherick, Wharton, circa 1928
Image(s)

Box 8, Folder 12  Pottery from the collections of American Museum of Natural History and Metropolitan Museum of Art (for A Book of Pottery by Henry Varnum Poor?), circa 1950s
Image(s)

Box 8, Folder 13  Unidentified, circa 1950
Image(s)

Box 13, Folder 1-3  Oversized Photographs of Artwork scanned with Box 7, Folder 60 and Box 8, Folders 2, 7, 1948-circa 1960

9.3: People, circa 1893-1967
Pictures of people include portraits and informal views of Henry Varnum Poor, Poor at work, and making a life mask. Among the views of Poor are several by photographer Marjorie Content Toomer, including one of the artist's hands holding brushes and a palette. Other photographs are of Poor with friends, clients, juries, students, various groups, and family members. Photographs of individuals include friends, immediate family, and various relatives.

Henry Varnum Poor Portraits

Box 8, Folder 14-15  Henry Varnum Poor, circa 1905-1940s
Image(s)
Image(s)

Box 8, Folder 16  Henry Varnum Poor in World War II, 1943
Image(s)

Box 8, Folder 17-18  Henry Varnum Poor, circa 1940s-1960s
Image(s)
Image(s)
Oversized material housed in Box 13, Folder 4

Box 8, Folder 19  Henry Varnum Poor (Marjorie Content Toomer, photographer), circa 1920
Image(s)

Henry Varnum Poor at Work

Box 8, Folder 20  In the Pottery, circa 1940s-1960s
Image(s)

Box 8, Folder 21  Making a Life Mask, 1958
Image(s)

Box 8, Folder 22  Painting, circa 1910s
Image(s)

Box 8, Folder 23  Painting Murals, Department of the Interior (with Anne Poor), 1938
Image(s)

Box 8, Folder 24  Painting Murals, Pennsylvania State College, circa 1940-1948
Image(s)
Oversized material housed in Box 13, Folder 5

Henry Varnum Poor with Others

Box 8, Folder 25  Alaska (with M. R. ("Muktuk") Marston and Alaskans; aboard the Ada), 1943
Box 8, Folder 26  California, circa 1908-1917

Box 8, Folder 27  Clients (representative of Rockefeller Center, Mr. Billig, unidentified woman), circa 1933, circa 1965

Box 8, Folder 28  Friends (including Milton Caniff, Marcel Duchamp, Wharton Esherick, Burgess Meredith, and unidentified), circa 1926

Box 8, Folder 29  Groups (high school class, Académie Julian [?], Town and Country dinner), 1905-circa 1910

Box 8, Folder 30  Juries (Art Institute of Chicago, Carnegie Institute, Syracuse Museum of Fine Arts, and unidentified), 1935-1937

Box 8, Folder 31  Parties at Crow House, 1965

Box 8, Folder 32  Students (Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center and unidentified), 1937

Box 8, Folder 33  Students with Poor's Ceramic Tile Mural at Unidentified School, 1956

Henry Varnum Poor with Family

Box 8, Folder 34  Sister, Mother and Other Relatives, circa 1893-1937

Box 8, Folder 35  Family Groups (with Bessie Breuer, Marion Dorn, Anne Poor, Josephine Lydia Poor, and Peter Poor), 1913-1960s

Box 8, Folder 36  Breuer, Bessie, circa 1940s-1960s

Box 8, Folder 37  Dorn, Marion Victoria, circa 1910s-1923
Box 8, Folder 38  
Poor, Anne, circa 1920s-1960s  
Image(s)

Box 8, Folder 39  
Poor, Candide, circa 1957-circa 1959  
Image(s)

Box 8, Folder 40  
Poor, Josephine Graham, circa 1930  
Image(s)

Box 8, Folder 41  
Poor, Josephine Lydia, 1951, circa 1930  
Image(s)

Box 8, Folder 42  
Poor, Peter, 1926-1930s  
Image(s)

Box 8, Folder 43  
Relatives [?], Unidentified, 1919  
Image(s)

Box 8, Folder 44  
Individuals, Identified, 1912, 1967  
Image(s)  
- Terry Anderson  
- Mayfield  
- Martha Rhyter  
- Rosse children  
- Marjorie Content Tooner

Box 8, Folder 45  
Individuals, Unidentified, circa 1930-circa 1950  
Image(s)  
- Man  
- Children

Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture

Box 8, Folder 46-47  
Classes and Students, circa 1946-1960s  
Image(s)

Box 8, Folder 48  
Faculty and Visitors, circa 1946-1960s  
Image(s)

Box 13, Folder 4-7  
Oversized Photographs of Henry Varnum Poor scanned with Box 8, Folders 17-18, 24, 27, 46-47 , circa 1926-circa 1960

9.4: Places, circa 1906-1943
There are many photographs of Alaska taken in 1943 when Poor was a war correspondent. Landscapes and aerial views of the territory, boats and boatbuilding, dogs, airplanes, buildings, and other subjects illustrate village life. Some illustrations for An Artist Sees Alaska are based on these photographs.

Photographs of places do not include houses designed and built by Henry Varnum Poor.

**Alaska**

- **Box 8, Folder 49**
  - Aerial Views, 1943
    - Image(s)

- **Box 8, Folder 50**
  - Airplanes (Ft. Richardson and/or Ft. Ladd?), 1943
    - Image(s)

- **Box 8, Folder 51**
  - Boats and Boatbuilding, 1943
    - Image(s)

- **Box 8, Folder 52**
  - Buildings, 1943
    - Image(s)

- **Box 8, Folder 53**
  - Dogs, 1943
    - Image(s)

- **Box 8, Folder 54**
  - Landscapes, 1943
    - Image(s)
    - Oversized material housed in Box 13, Folder 8

- **Box 8, Folder 55**
  - Miscellaneous Subjects, 1943
    - Image(s)

- **Box 8, Folder 56-58**
  - People, 1943
    - Image(s)

- **Box 8, Folder 59**
  - Various Subjects, 1943
    - Image(s)
    - Contact sheets

- **Box 8, Folder 60**
  - California, circa 1906-1917
    - Image(s)

- **Box 8, Folder 61**
  - France (landscape, Institut Militaire), circa 1911-1918
Box 8, Folder 62  Kansas (Poor and Graham family houses in Chapman and Bonner Springs), 1939

Unidentified

Box 8, Folder 63  Buildings, circa 1940

Box 8, Folder 64  Landscape, circa 1940

Oversized material housed in Box 13, Folder 8

Box 13, Folder 8  Oversized Photographs of Places scanned with Box 8, Folder 64, circa 1940

9.5: Miscellaneous Subjects, 1946-1984

Miscellaneous subjects include exhibition installations and photographs of Poor’s notes on glazes. The Kentucky farm scenes may have been used as research material for a mural commissioned by the *Louisville Courier-Journal*.

Exhibition Installations

Box 8, Folder 65  Carnegie Institute, Frank K. M. Rehn Galleries, and Unidentified Location, 1946-1976

Box 8, Folder 66  National Academy of Design, 1984

Box 8, Folder 67  Kentucky Farm Scenes, circa 1940

Box 8, Folder 68  Notes on Glazes by Henry Varnum Poor, circa 1940

Box 8, Folder 69  Nude Models, circa 1908

9.6: Negatives, Slides, and Transparencies, circa 1938-1975

Negatives, slides, and transparencies are of architectural work and artwork by Poor, people, places and miscellaneous subjects.

Negatives, Architectural Work
Box 8, Folder 70  Varnum Poor House (exterior), circa 1950
Box 8, Folder 71  Henry Varnum Poor Studio [new] (exterior), 1957 or later
Box 8, Folder 72  Unidentified Exteriors, circa 1940
Box 8, Folder 73  Unidentified Interiors, circa 1940

Negatives, artwork by Henry Varnum Poor

Box 8, Folder 74  Paintings, circa 1940
Box 8, Folder 75  Tiles, circa 1940
Box 8, Folder 76  Miscellaneous Subjects (Fireplace), circa 1940

Negatives, People

Box 8, Folder 77  Henry Varnum Poor; Poor with others including family and Marcel Duchamp, circa 1940
Box 8, Folder 78  Family, circa 1940

Slides

Box 8, Folder 79  Artwork by Henry Varnum Poor, Pottery, circa 1940
Box 8, Folder 80  Places, Alaska (various subjects, including people), 1943
Box 8, Folder 81  Miscellaneous Subjects, Rockland County Center for the Arts, Retrospective Exhibition, 1975

Transparencies, Artwork by Henry Varnum Poor

Box 8, Folder 82  Department of the Interior Mural (Henry Varnum Poor and Anne Poor at work), circa 1938
Box 8, Folder 83  Pottery, circa 1940

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