



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Henry Varnum Poor Papers, 1873-2001, bulk 1904-1970, in the Archives of American Art

Catherine S. Gaines; revised by Jayna M. Josefson

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

2008 May 30

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Henry Varnum Poor papers
Date:	1873-2001 (bulk 1904-1970)
Identifier:	AAA.poorhenr
Creator:	Poor, Henry Varnum, 1887-1970
Extent:	12.9 Linear feet
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.

Processing Information

The collection was fully processed and a finding aid prepared by Catherine S. Gaines in 2008. In 2014, the finding aid was revised and the collection was prepared for digitization by Jayna Josefson with funding provided by the Terra Foundation for American Art. Motion picture film reels were inspected and re-housed in 2016 with funding provided by the Smithsonian Collections Care and Preservation Fund.

Preferred Citation

Henry Varnum Poor papers, 1873-2001, bulk 1904-1970. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions on Access

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C. Research Center. Contact Reference Services for more information. Use of audiovisual recordings with no duplicate access copy requires advance notice.

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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 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.

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
Pottery -- New York (State) -- New York
World War, 1914-1918

Types of Materials:

Diaries
Drawings
Motion pictures (visual works)
Sketchbooks

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:

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
War artists

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Materials, 1919-1987

0.2 Linear feet (Box 1, OV 18)

Scope and Contents: 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.

Arrangement: Materials are arranged by document type.

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

Box 1, Folder 1	Address Book, circa 1920
Box 1, Folder 2	Army Discharge, 1919
Box 1, Folder 3	Awards and Certificates, 1933-1943 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV 18
Box 1, Folder 4	Biographical Notes and Reminiscences of Henry Varnum Poor, Bessie Breuer Poor, circa 1940s
Box 1, Folder 5	Biographical Notes and Reminiscences of Henry Varnum Poor, by Others, 1937
Box 1, Folder 6	Desk Diary, 1952
Box 1, Folder 7	Genealogical Notes and Related Correspondence, 1961-1968
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
Box 1, Folder 10	Social Security Cards, circa 1950
Box 1, Folder 11	Wills, Henry Varnum Poor and Bessie Breuer Poor, 1974, 1930-1959
Oversize 18	Oversized Biographical Materials scanned with Box 1, Folder 3, 1941

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Series 2: Correspondence, 1873-1985

1.5 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2)

Scope and Contents: 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.

Arrangement: 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).

Available Formats: This series has been scanned in its entirety.

Box 1, Folder 12

[A, 1932-1964](#)

Notes:

- 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](#)

Notes:

- 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

Notes:

- 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

Notes:

- Devan, Sylvia
- Diederich, Hunt
- Dignam (?), Hester
- Dybbro, Tesse

Box 1, Folder 16

E, 1952-1968

Notes:

- Estelle Mandel Agency
- Evergreen House Foundation
- Evergood, Phillip
- Eyerly, Jeannie

Box 1, Folder 17

F, 1941-1969

Notes:

- 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

Notes:

- Galerie Morency
- Garnett, David
- Garrett, Alice
- Gerard, Constance
- Giacomini, L.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greeft, Adele • Green, Sam
Box 1, Folder 19	H, 1943-1969 Notes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 Notes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Houglan, Josephine Poor
Box 1, Folder 21	J, 1943-1952 Notes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jensen, Richard • Jones, Joseph • Johnson, Edward
Box 1, Folder 22	K, 1945-1967 Notes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kansas State College • Kansas State University • Kappo • Kelly, Jack • Kienbusch, William • Koffler, Bob
Box 1, Folder 23	L, 1910, 1946-1970 Notes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leach, Bernard • Lentz, Harris • Levenstein, Harper • London New Art School • Lorson, Mrs. Clem
Box 1, Folder 24	M, 1938-1970 Notes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mager, N.H. • Mangravite, Peppino • Markham, Kyra • Marston, M.R. • McKenzie, Richard • Mikkelson Family • Mitchell, C.L. • Mitrotti, Leslie • Moore, Mary McClure • Muller, Ray

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mumford, Lewis
Box 1, Folder 25	<p>N, 1951-1965</p> <p>Notes:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Academy of Design National Institute of Arts and Letters New York University New World Foundation
Box 1, Folder 26	<p>O, 1942-1946</p> <p>Notes:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Office of Emergency Management O'Neil, J.F.
Box 1, Folder 27	<p>P, 1911-1970</p> <p>Notes:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<p>R, 1944-1970</p> <p>Notes:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ramsbusch, Viggo Reed, Bob Reeves, Ruth Reynolds Enterprises Riddens, Shaskins Rockland Light and Power Company Rossin, Alfred Ryan, Lila
Box 1, Folder 29	<p>S, 1918-1970</p> <p>Notes:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 Notes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taylor, Tom • Teller Commercial Company • Terwilliger, Nellie and Fred • Toomer, Marjorie Content
Box 1, Folder 31	V, 1965 Notes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vihlein, Jane
Box 1, Folder 32	W, 1924-1970 Notes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 Notes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yelin, Saul
Box 1, Folder 34	Z, 1955 Notes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zorach, Marguerite
Box 1, Folder 35	First Names Only, 1944-1970	
Box 1, Folder 36	Outgoing Drafts, 1918-1964	
Box 1, Folder 37	Henry Varnum Poor to Marion Dorn, 1918-1919	
Box 1, Folder 38	Condolence Letters, 1970-1971	

Box 1, Folder 39-40	Business Correspondence, 1941, 1971-1993 Image(s) Image(s) Notes: Includes correspondence regarding estate matters, Henry Varnum Poor exhibitions, and loans
Box 1, Folder 41	Henry Varnum Poor to Family, 1904-1906
Box 1, Folder 42	Henry Varnum Poor to Family, 1907
Box 1, Folder 43	Henry Varnum Poor to Family, 1908
Box 1, Folder 44-45	Henry Varnum Poor to Family, 1909 Image(s) Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 46-47	Henry Varnum Poor to Family, 1910 Image(s) Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 48	Henry Varnum Poor to Family, 1911
Box 1, Folder 49	Henry Varnum Poor to Family, 1912
Box 1, Folder 50	Henry Varnum Poor to Family, 1913
Box 1, Folder 51	Henry Varnum Poor to Family, 1914
Box 2, Folder 1	Henry Varnum Poor to Family, 1915
Box 2, Folder 2	Henry Varnum Poor to Family, 1916-1917
Box 2, Folder 3-4	Henry Varnum Poor to Family, 1918 Image(s) Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 5-6	Henry Varnum Poor to Family, 1919 Image(s) Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 7	Henry Varnum Poor to Family, 1920-1923
Box 2, Folder 8	Henry Varnum Poor to Family, 1924-1929
Box 2, Folder 9	Henry Varnum Poor to Family, 1930-1931
Box 2, Folder 10	Henry Varnum Poor to Family, 1932-1934

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 Notes: Includes many photocopies
	Empty Envelopes
Box 2, Folder 24-25	To Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Poor, 1910-1929 Image(s) Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 26-27	To Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Poor, 1930-1940 Image(s) Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 28	To Eva and Herbert Stone, 1931-1954

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Series 3: Writings and Notes, circa 1944-1974

0.6 Linear feet (Boxes 2-3)

Scope and Contents: 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.

Arrangement: 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).

Available Formats: 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](#)

Box 2, Folder 30 ["The Relation of Art to Life", circa 1950](#)

Books, An Artist Sees Alaska (manuscript)

Box 2, Folder 31 [Table of Contents and Introduction, circa 1944](#)

Box 2, Folder 32 ["Penn Station", circa 1944](#)

Box 2, Folder 33 ["San Francisco", circa 1944](#)

Box 2, Folder 34 ["Seattle", circa 1944](#)

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 Diomedede", circa 1944
Box 2, Folder 47	"Shishmareff", circa 1944
Box 2, Folder 48	"Kotzebue - 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
Box 2, Folder 52	"Wainwright", circa 1944
Box 2, Folder 53	"Point Barrow", circa 1944
Box 2, Folder 54	"Journey Back", circa 1944
Books, A Book of Pottery: From Mud to Immortality	
Box 3, Folder 1	Outlines, circa 1954-1958
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
Box 3, Folder 7	Fragments, circa 1940

Journals

Box 3, Folder 8 [March 9-June 11, 1963](#)

Box 3, Folder 9 [May 27-Sept. 20, 1965](#)
Notes: Photocopy

Box 3, Folder 10 [Lists, Miscellaneous, 1952](#)

Box 3, Folder 11 [Notebooks, 1921-1960](#)
Notes: Notebooks may include notes on pottery, tile procedures, glazes, measurements, and lists of supplies or various projects.

Notes

Box 3, Folder 12 ["Drawing Ideas from Slade School and Walter Sickert in London," "The Whistler Palette and Notes Gathered from \[Clifford\] Addams," "Grafton Galleries Post-Impressionists," and Untitled Miscellaneous Notes, circa 1910-1911](#)

Box 3, Folder 13 ["Painting Points to Remember from Henry Varnum Poor", 1962](#)
Notes: Mimeographed sheet

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](#)
Notes: Account of Henry Varnum Poor rescuing an eskimo

Box 3, Folder 18 [Peirce, Waldo, circa 1950](#)
Notes: "A Tribute to My Mother-in-Law"

Box 3, Folder 19 [Poor, Bessie Breuer, 1974](#)

Box 3, Folder 20 [Poor, Josephine, circa 1950](#)
Notes: Poem, photocopy

Box 3, Folder 21 [Unidentified \(probably Olin Dows or George Biddle\), circa 1942](#)
Notes: "Outline for a Proposed Artists Corps"

Unidentified

Box 3, Folder 22 ["The Dolphin Passed Last Night: A Mural Drama", circa 1960](#)

Box 3, Folder 23

Notes on "Rakku" and "Painting w/ Ethyl Sillicate", circa 1940

Box 3, Folder 24

Poem, "The New Moon of our Incoherence", circa 1940

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Series 4: Subject Files, 1928-1975

0.8 Linear feet (Box 3, OV 23)

Scope and Contents: 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.

Arrangement: Materials are arranged alphabetically by subject.

Available Formats: This series has been scanned in its entirety.

Box 3, Folder 25	Advisory Committee on Art, Division of Cultural Cooperation, Department of State, 1945
Box 3, Folder 26	American Designers' Gallery, Inc., 1928-1929 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV 23
Box 3, Folder 27	Automobile, 1946-1947
Box 3, Folder 28	Benton, William, 1966-1971
Box 3, Folder 29	A Book of Pottery: From Mud to Immortality (Prentice-Hall), 1954-1975
Box 3, Folder 30	Dickson, Harold (Pennsylvania State College), 1952-1967
Box 3, Folder 31	Insurance, 1937-1970
Box 3, Folder 32	Marston, M. R. ("Muktuk"), 1943-1972
Box 3, Folder 33	Pennsylvania State College, The Land Grant Frescoes, 1939-1940
	Reality: A Journal of Artists' Opinions
Box 3, Folder 34	Correspondence, 1953-1955
Box 3, Folder 35	Reality, Nos. 1-3, 1953-1955
Box 3, Folder 36	Articles, Editorials, Letters to the Editor Published in Other Periodicals, 1953
	Sales
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
Box 3, Folder 50	Minutes of Faculty Meetings, 1970
Box 3, Folder 51	Minutes of Officers' Meetings, 1961
Box 3, Folder 52	Notes and Lists, circa 1961-1966
Box 3, Folder 53	Poor Scholarship Fund, 1972-1975
Box 3, Folder 54	Printed Material, 1946-1967
Box 3, Folder 55	Reports and Recommendations, 1951-1971
Box 3, Folder 56	Scholarships, 1968-1969
Box 3, Folder 57	Sixteen Year Survey and Evaluation, 1962
Box 3, Folder 58	Taxes, 1961-1970
Box 3, Folder 59	Truro, Massachusetts Property, 1952-1955
Box 3, Folder 60	Utilities, 1961-1964
Box 3, Folder 61	War Posters, 1942

Oversize 23

Oversized American Designers' Gallery Blueprints and Floor Plans scanned with
Box 3, Folder 26, 1928

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Series 5: Artwork, circa 1890s-circa 1961

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

Scope and Contents: 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.

Arrangement: 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

Available Formats: This series has been scanned in its entirety.

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

Scope and Contents: 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.

Arrangement: 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\(s\)](#)
[Image\(s\)](#)
Notes: Oversized material housed in Box 9, Folder 1

Box 4, Folder 3 [Birds and Fish, circa 1918](#)
Notes: Oversized material housed in Box 9, Folder 2

Designs

Box 4, Folder 4 [Bathroom Fixtures and Tiles, 1929](#)
Notes: 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](#)
Notes: Oversized material housed in Box 9, Folder 4

Box 4, Folder 7	Covers of Skowhegan School Publications, circa 1946-1961
Box 4, Folder 8	Exhibition Announcement, Montross Gallery, 1923
Box 4, Folder 9	Fireplaces, circa 1920
Box 4, Folder 10	Furniture, 1924
Box 4, Folder 11	Miscellaneous, circa 1930 Notes: 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) Notes: 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) Notes: Oversized material housed in Box 9, Folder 6
Box 4, Folder 22	Figure Studies (hands and feet), circa 1920-circa 1940 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) Notes: 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
Box 4, Folder 28	Ethan Frome, 1939
Box 4, Folder 29	The Scarlet Letter, circa 1941
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) Notes: 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) Notes: Oversized material housed in Box 9, Folder 10
Mural Studies	
Box 4, Folder 40	"Ben Hecht Leda and Swan", circa 1940 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV 21
Box 4, Folder 41	Unidentified, circa 1940
Box 5, Folder 1	Plants, circa 1910-1950 Notes: Oversized material housed in Box 10, Folder 1
Portraits and Heads (unidentified)	
Box 5, Folder 2-3	Children, 1943, undated Image(s) Image(s) Notes: Oversized material housed in Box 10, Folder 2
Box 5, Folder 4-6	Men, 1918-1919, 1943, undated Image(s) Image(s) Image(s) Notes: Oversized material housed in Box 10, Folders 3-4
Box 5, Folder 7-10	Women, 1943 Image(s) Image(s) Image(s) Image(s) Notes: Oversized material housed in Box 10, Folder 5
Box 5, Folder 11	Portraits (identified), circa 1930-circa 1950 Notes: 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

Notes: Oversized material housed in Box 10, Folder 7

Pottery

Box 5, Folder 13 [Plates, circa 1920-circa 1950](#)

Box 5, Folder 14 [Vessels and Birdhouses, circa 1920-circa 1950](#)

Box 5, Folder 15 [Still Life, circa 1940](#)

Notes: Oversized material housed in Box 10, Folder 10

Box 5, Folder 16 [Prints, 1918-1923](#)

Notes: Oversized material housed in Box 10, Folder 11 and OV 22

Sketchbooks

Box 5, Folder 17 [Sketchbooks 1 and 2, 1918-circa 1919](#)

Notes: France

Box 5, Folder 18 [Sketchbooks 3 and 4, circa 1920s](#)

Notes: Early pottery drawings and notes

Box 5, Folder 19 [Sketchbook 5, circa 1924-1929](#)

Notes: Sketch of Wharton Esherick plate

Box 5, Folder 20 [Sketchbook 6, 1925](#)

Notes: Notes on pottery glazes

Box 5, Folder 21 [Sketchbook 7, circa 1929](#)

Notes: "Pottery/Sketches/Peter in Hat"

Box 5, Folder 22 [Sketchbook 8, circa 1929](#)

Box 5, Folder 23 [Sketchbooks 9 and 10, circa 1929](#)

Box 5, Folder 24 [Sketchbook 11, circa 1929](#)

Notes: Pottery sketches and notes

Box 5, Folder 25 [Sketchbooks 12 and 13, 1936](#)

Notes: Southwest Sicily and notes on art seen in Italy

Box 5, Folder 26 [Sketchbook 14, 1936](#)

Notes: "Pitigliano/Grotto di Castri"

Box 5, Folder 27 [Sketchbook 15, 1937](#)

Notes: Colorado Springs, and "Gedney and Dominick" (contains a few 19th century drawings)

Box 5, Folder 28	Sketchbook 16, circa 1937-1938 Notes: Interior Department mural and statement regarding art
Box 5, Folder 29	Sketchbook 17, circa 1938-1949 Notes: Penn State mural
Box 5, Folder 30	Sketchbook 18, 1941 Notes: <i>The Scarlet Letter</i> illustrations
Box 5, Folder 31	Sketchbooks 19 and 20, 1943 Notes: Alaska
Box 5, Folder 32	Sketchbook 21, 1943 Notes: Alaska
Box 6, Folder 1	Sketchbook 22, 1946
Box 6, Folder 2	Sketchbook 23, 1946 or later
Box 6, Folder 3	Sketchbook 24, circa 1946-1949 Notes: Studio sketch class and State College drawings
Box 6, Folder 4	Sketchbook 25, 1957[?]
Box 6, Folder 5	Sketchbook 26, circa 1960s Notes: Journal entry dated Aug. 18, 1962
Box 6, Folder 6	Sketchbook 27 and 28, 1964-1965 and circa 1960s Notes: Early Truro and Florida
Box 6, Folder 7	Sketchbooks 29, 30, and 31, circa 1900-circa 1960 Notes: Notes, pottery sketches, and lists
Box 6, Folder 8	Sketchbooks 32 and 33, circa 1900-circa 1960 Notes: Pottery sketches, notes, and biographical notes
Box 6, Folder 9	Sketchbooks 34 and 35, circa 1900-circa 1960
Box 6, Folder 10	Sketchbooks 36 and 37, circa 1900-circa 1960
Box 6, Folder 11	Sketchbooks 38 and 39, circa 1900-circa 1960
Box 6, Folder 12	Sketchbook 40, circa 1900-circa 1960
Box 6, Folder 13	Sketchbook 41, circa 1900-circa 1960
Box 6, Folder 14	Sketchbook 42, circa 1900-circa 1960

Box 6, Folder 15	Sketchbook 43, circa 1900-circa 1960
Box 6, Folder 16	Sketchbook 44, circa 1900-circa 1960
Box 6, Folder 17	Sketchbook 45, circa 1900-circa 1960
Box 6, Folder 18	Watercolors, circa 1920-circa 1950 Notes: 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
Enlarge 19	Oversized Artwork by Poor scanned with Box 4, Folder 11, circa 1930
Enlarge 20	Oversized Artwork by Poor scanned with Box 4, Folders 30-37, circa 1918-1943
Enlarge 21	Oversized Artwork by Poor scanned with Box 4, Folder 40, circa 1940
Enlarge 22	Oversized Artwork by Poor scanned with Box 5, Folder 16, 1918-1919

Subseries 5.2: By Other Artists, circa 1938-circa 1949

Scope and Contents: 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 Notes: Drawings by: Anne Poor of Henry Varnum Poor's Hands for the Lincoln Figure in <i>The Land Grant Frescoes</i> , 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

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Series 6: Architectural Projects, circa 1940-1966

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

Scope and Contents: 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).

Available Formats: 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 Caniff and Bessie B. Poor houses, and Unidentified, circa 1940-circa 1960 Notes: 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)

Scope and Contents: 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).

Arrangement: Materials are arranged by document type.

Available: This series has been partially scanned.

Formats:

Box 6, Folder 21 [Family Memorabilia, 1882](#)

Box 6, Folder 22 [Guest Book Pages \(unidentified events\), 1967](#)

Item FC 31 "The Land Grant Murals at Pennsylvania State College", circa 1962
1 Film reel (16mm)

Item FC 30 "Painting a True Fresco", circa 1952
1 Film reel (16mm)

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Series 8: Printed Material, 1881-2001

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

Scope and Contents: 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.

Arrangement: Materials are arranged by document type.

Available Formats: 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](#)

Box 6, Folder 33 [Miscellaneous Subjects \(not art-related\), 1942-1970](#)

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](#)

Box 7, Folder 3 [Book, The Call of the Wild by Jack London, illustrated by Henry Varnum Poor, Limited Editions Club, 1960](#)

Books, Pottery Reference Books used by Henry Varnum Poor

Box 7, Folder 4	Barber, Edwin Atlee. Lead Glazed Pottery: Part First Common Clay, 1907
Box 7, Folder 5	Binns, Charles F. The Potter's Craft, 1910
Box 7, Folder 6	Cox, George F. Pottery for Artists, Craftsmen and Teachers, 1914
Box 7, Folder 7	Searle, Alfred B. Kilns and Kilnbuilding, 1916
Box 7, Folder 8	Catalogs of Kilns, circa 1900
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
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 Notes: Oversized material housed in Box 11, Folder 2
Box 7, Folder 18	Clarkstown, N.Y., showing Poor property, circa 1927-1967 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV 27
Miscellaneous Printed Items	
Box 7, Folder 19	Book Announcement, Brochures, Menu, circa 1910s-1994
Box 7, Folder 20	Mentioning and/or Belonging to Mrs. A. J. Poor, 1910-1925
Box 7, Folder 21	Portfolio, Ceramic Art in America, edited by Richard B. Peterson, 1969 Notes: Oversized material housed in Box 11, Folder 3
Box 7, Folder 22	Posters illustrated by V. Prouvé, 1917 Notes: 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 Notes: Oversized material housed in Box 11, Folders 4-6
Box 7, Folder 24	Illustrations, An Artist Sees Alaska (proofs), circa 1944 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV 28
Box 7, Folder 25	The Call of the Wild, circa 1961 Notes: 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 Notes: Oversized material housed in Box 11, Folder 4
Box 7, Folder 28	The Scarlet Letter, circa 1941 Notes: 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 Notes: Oversized material housed in Box 11, Folder 6
Box 7, Folder 30	Theater Program from Pennsylvania State College production of Poor Mr. Varnum, 1949
Box 7, Folder 31	Travel Souvenirs, 1910-1916
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)

Scope and Contents: 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.

Arrangement: 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

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

Subseries 9.1: Architectural Work, 1966

Scope and Contents: 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.

Arrangement: 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](#)
Notes: Oversized material housed in Box 12, Folder 1

Box 7, Folder 33 [Jules Billig House, 1966](#)
Notes: Oversized material housed in Box 12, Folder 2

Box 7, Folder 34 [Milton Caniff House, circa 1941](#)
Notes: Oversized material housed in Box 12, Folder 3

Box 7, Folder 35 [MacDonald Deming House, circa 1950](#)
Notes: Oversized material housed in Box 12, Folder 4

Box 7, Folder 36 [Ben Hecht Poker Room, circa 1940](#)

Box 7, Folder 37 [John Houseman House, circa 1950](#)
Notes: 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

	Image(s) Image(s) Notes: Oversized material housed in Box 12, Folder 7
Box 7, Folder 41-42	Exterior, Some by Marjorie Content Toomer, circa 1940 Image(s) Image(s) Notes: 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 Image(s) Image(s) Notes: 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
Box 7, Folder 52	Work Room, Marjorie Content Toomer, photographer, circa 1960
Box 7, Folder 53	Various Projects, Multiple Location, circa 1960
Box 12, Folder 1-13	Oversized Photographs of Architectural Work scanned with Box 7, Folders 32-35, 37, 39-42, 44-46, 49-50, 53, 1920-1973

Subseries 9.2: Artwork, circa 1908-1948

Scope and Contents: 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.

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

By Henry Varnum Poor, Drawings

Box 7, Folder 54	Figures, 1911
Box 7, Folder 55	Landscapes, 1943
Box 7, Folder 56	Mural Studies for Pennsylvania State College Land Grant Frescoes and Unidentified Ceramic Tile Mural, 1940s

Box 7, Folder 57 [Portraits, circa 1918-1919, 1943](#)

By Henry Varnum Poor, Murals (fresco)

Box 7, Folder 58	Department of the Interior, circa 1938
Box 7, Folder 59	Department of Justice, circa 1936
Box 7, Folder 60	Louisville Courier-Journal, circa 1935 Notes: Oversized material housed in Box 13, Folder 3
Box 7, Folder 61	Pennsylvania State College, The Land Grant Frescoes, circa 1940-1948

By Henry Varnum Poor, Murals (ceramic)

Box 7, Folder 62	Fresno Post Office and Court House, circa 1942
Box 7, Folder 63	Klingenstein Pavilion, Mount Sinai Hospital, New York City, circa 1954
Box 7, Folder 64	Unidentified, circa 1950

By Henry Varnum Poor, Paintings

Box 7, Folder 65-66	Figures, 1943 Image(s) Image(s)
Box 7, Folder 67	Landscapes, circa 1908-1917
Box 7, Folder 68-69	Portraits, 1943 Image(s) Image(s)
Box 7, Folder 70	Self-Portraits, circa 1950

Box 7, Folder 71	Still Life, circa 1950
By Henry Varnum Poor, Pottery and Ceramics	
Box 8, Folder 1	Figures, circa 1950
Box 8, Folder 2	Fountain (Leda and the Swan for Helen Hayes and Charles McArthur), circa 1950 Notes: Oversized material housed in Box 13, Folder 2
Box 8, Folder 3	Heads, circa 1950
Box 8, Folder 4	Miscellaneous Objects, circa 1950
Box 8, Folder 5	Plates, circa 1950
Box 8, Folder 6	Plates and Other Objects, circa 1950
Box 8, Folder 7	Tile Screen for Abraham Lincoln High School Auditorium, circa 1950 Notes: Oversized material housed in Box 13, Folder 1
Box 8, Folder 8	Tiles, circa 1950
Box 8, Folder 9	Vessels, circa 1950
By Other Artists	
Box 8, Folder 10	Cummings, Willard W., 1940s
Box 8, Folder 11	Esherick, Wharton, circa 1928
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
Box 8, Folder 13	Unidentified, circa 1950
Box 13, Folder 1-3	Oversized Photographs of Artwork scanned with Box 7, Folder 60 and Box 8, Folders 2, 7, 1948-circa 1960

Subseries 9.3: People, circa 1893-1967

Scope and Contents: 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](#)

Box 8, Folder 17-18 Henry Varnum Poor, circa 1940s-1960s
[Image\(s\)](#)
[Image\(s\)](#)
 Notes: Oversized material housed in Box 13, Folder 4

Box 8, Folder 19 [Henry Varnum Poor \(Marjorie Content Toomer, photographer\), circa 1920](#)

Henry Varnum Poor at Work

Box 8, Folder 20 [In the Pottery, circa 1940s-1960s](#)

Box 8, Folder 21 [Making a Life Mask, 1958](#)

Box 8, Folder 22 [Painting, circa 1910s](#)

Box 8, Folder 23 [Painting Murals, Department of the Interior \(with Anne Poor\), 1938](#)

Box 8, Folder 24 [Painting Murals, Pennsylvania State College, circa 1940-1948](#)
 Notes: 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](#)
 Notes: Oversized material housed in Box 13, Folder 6

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

Family

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

Box 8, Folder 39 Poor, Candide, circa 1957-circa 1959

Box 8, Folder 40 Poor, Josephine Graham, circa 1930

Box 8, Folder 41 Poor, Josephine Lydia, 1951, circa 1930

Box 8, Folder 42 Poor, Peter, 1926-1930s

Box 8, Folder 43 Relatives [?], Unidentified, 1919

Box 8, Folder 44 Individuals, Identified, 1912, 1967

Notes: :

- Terry Anderson
- Mayfield
- Martha Rhyter
- Rosse children
- Marjorie Content Tooner

Box 8, Folder 45 Individuals, Unidentified, circa 1930-circa 1950

Notes: :

- Man
- Children

Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture

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

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

Subseries 9.4: Places, circa 1906-1943

Scope and Contents: 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
Box 8, Folder 50	Airplanes (Ft. Richardson and/or Ft. Ladd?), 1943
Box 8, Folder 51	Boats and Boatbuilding, 1943
Box 8, Folder 52	Buildings, 1943
Box 8, Folder 53	Dogs, 1943
Box 8, Folder 54	Landscapes, 1943 Notes: Oversized material housed in Box 13, Folder 8
Box 8, Folder 55	Miscellaneous Subjects, 1943
Box 8, Folder 56-58	People, 1943 Image(s) Image(s) Image(s)
Box 8, Folder 59	Various Subjects, 1943 Notes: Contact sheets
Box 8, Folder 60	California, circa 1906-1917
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 Notes: Oversized material housed in Box 13, Folder 8
Box 13, Folder 8	Oversized Photographs of Places scanned with Box 8, Folder 64, circa 1940

Subseries 9.5: Miscellaneous Subjects, 1946-1984

Scope and Contents: 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

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

Scope and Contents: 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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