



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Margery Ryerson
Papers, circa 1790, circa 1900,
1902-1965, in the Archives of American Art

Jayna M. Josefson

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Women's History Initiative and the National Collections Program

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Margery Ryerson papers
Identifier:	AAA.ryermarg
Date:	circa 1790 1902-1965 circa 1900
Extent:	0.7 Linear feet
Creator:	Ryerson, Margery
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of painter, printmaker, and educator Margery Ryerson measure 0.7 linear feet and date from circa 1790, circa 1900, and 1902-1965. The collection comprises scattered documentation of Ryerson's career through biographical material, correspondence, photographs, a scrapbook, and writings, and a small amount of artwork by others dating from circa 1790.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The papers were donated to the Archives of American Art by Margery Austen Ryerson, in October 1960 and August 1967.

Available Formats

Portions of the collection are available on 35mm microfilm reels 962 and 3471 at the Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan. Researchers should note that the arrangement of the material described in the container inventory does not reflect the arrangement of the collection on microfilm.

Processing Information

The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Jayna Josefson in 2021.

Preferred Citation

Margery Ryerson papers, circa 1790, circa 1900, 1902-1965. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

This collection is open for research. Access to original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C. Research Center.

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Biographical / Historical

Margery Ryerson (1886 – 1989) was a painter, printmaker, illustrator, educator, and writer active in New York City, New York. She studied at the Art Students League under Robert Henri.

Ryerson was born in Morristown, New Jersey in 1886 and graduated from Vassar College in 1909. After graduation she spent time at the Cape School of Art to study with Charles Hawthorne. Later, she moved to New York City to study at the Art Students League where she was inspired by the teachings of Robert Henri. She edited and compiled student remembrances, letters, and notes for Henri's *The Art Spirit* (1924).

Ryerson spent most of her career in New York City, teaching art to those living in settlement homes and featuring many of the children living there as subjects of her work. She painted many portraits of children and soldiers after World War II.

Margery Ryerson died in New York City in 1989.

Scope and Contents

The papers of painter, printmaker, and educator Margery Ryerson measure 0.7 linear feet and date from circa 1790, circa 1900, and 1902-1965. The collection comprises scattered documentation of Ryerson's career through biographical material, correspondence, photographs, a scrapbook, and writings, and a small amount of artwork by others dating from circa 1790.

Arrangement

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

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Women artists
Women painters

Types of Materials:

Scrapbooks

Names:

Henri, Robert, 1865-1929

Saint-Gaudens, Augustus, 1848-1907

Occupations:

Educators -- New York (State) -- New York

Painters -- New York (State) -- New York

Printmakers -- New York (State) -- New York

Container Listing

Series 1: Margery Ryerson Papers, circa 1790, circa 1900, 1902-1965

0.7 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2, OV 3)

Papers dating from circa 1790 include small pieces of Margery Ryerson's personal art collection which are mostly European artworks such as a sketch by British artist John Wallace (Pipeshanks) and a French triptych of the Visitation. Most works are unsigned and are fragments, which were likely taken from a larger book. Biographical material consists of a certificate from the American Watercolor Society, a resume, and a gallery tag for a painting by Robert Henri with insurance values.

Ryerson's correspondence dates from 1902 to 1965 and includes a folder of letters and four folders of holiday cards from friends and colleagues, many of which are handmade. Correspondents include Gerrit Beneker, Kent Coes, Arthur Crisp, Sears Gallagher, Genevieve Hamlin, Robert Henri, Francis Keally, George Lober, Josephine Nivison, and Augustus Saint-Gaudens. Also found are photostat copies of letters between Robert Henri and Mary Fanton Roberts, possibly made by Ryerson during her study of Henri and his artistic process.

Photographs include portraits of Margery Ryerson. Others depict Ryerson with friends, Ryerson teaching a portrait class, and Henri's students at the Art Students League, circa 1918. A scrapbook contains printed materials concerning Ryerson's painting and teaching career. Also found is a publicity poster for the book *The Art Spirit*, by Henri and Ryerson. Writings include a lecture given by Ryerson on Henri in 1964.

Box 1, Folder 1	Artwork, Collection of Margery Ryerson, circa 1790, circa 1900
Box 1, Folder 2	Biographical Material, circa 1910-1962
Box 1, Folder 3	Correspondence, General, 1902-1965
Box 1, Folder 4-7	Correspondence, Christmas and Holiday Cards, 1940-1965
Box 1, Folder 8	Correspondence, Robert Henri and Mary Fanton Roberts (Photostats), circa 1940
Box 1, Folder 9	Photographs, circa 1910-circa 1950s
Box 2, Folder 1	Photographs, Works of Art (Photostats), circa 1940
Enlarge 3	Photographs, Oversized, circa 1910
Enlarge 3	Printed Material, Oversized, circa 1920-circa 1940
Box 2, Folder 2	Scrapbook, 1924-1959
Box 2, Folder 3-4	Writings and Notes, circa 1960-1964

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