



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Paul Sample papers, circa 1890-1974, in the Archives of American Art

Allessandra Liberati

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Paul Sample papers
Date:	circa 1890-1974
Identifier:	AAA.samppaul
Creator:	Sample, Paul, 1896-1974
Extent:	3.2 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The Paul Sample papers measure 3.2 linear feet and date from 1890-1974 and document the life and work of Paul Sample through biographical materials, correspondence, writings, exhibition and gallery files, project and commission files, printed materials, photographic materials, and artwork.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Papers were lent and donated for microfilming in 1971 by Paul Sample and donated in 1974 by his widow Sylvia Sample. The bulk of the microfilmed material and additional papers were donated between 1971 and 1974 by Paul and Sylvia Sample.

Separated Materials

The Archives of American Art also holds microfilm of material donated for microfilming (reels 333-335 and 1197) including: correspondence, exhibition catalogs, writings, biographical data, clippings, and photographs (reels 333-335) and two sketchbooks containing watercolor and pencil sketches of Iceland (reel 1197).

Related Materials

The archives also hold an oral history interview of Paul Sample conducted 1971 October 10, by Robert F. Brown.

Available Formats

Material lent for microfilming is available on 35mm microfilm reel(s) 333-335 and 1197 at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

Processing Information

This collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared, by Alessandra Liberati in 2023.

Preferred Citation

Paul Sample papers, circa 1890-1974. 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. Researchers interested in accessing born-digital records or audiovisual recordings in this collection must use access copies. Contact References Services for more information.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

Painter and Illustrator Paul Sample was born on September 4, 1896, in Louisville, Kentucky. Sample is known for his unique portrayal of New England via his own blend of Social Realism and Regionalism. In 1921 Sample graduated from Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire where he studied architecture. While enrolled at Dartmouth Sample spent a year in the Naval Reserves during World War One. While visiting his brother at a sanatorium in Saranac Lake, New York, Sample contracted tuberculosis which later influenced his works. While at Saranac, Sample studied under Jonas Lie, after which he studied at the Art Students League of Los Angeles and the Otis Art Institute in California where his works reflected social issues connected with the Great Depression. Sample's talent earned him a position at the University of Southern California's School of Architecture, and he later served as chair of the art department while also teaching night classes at the Chouinard School of Art. In 1938 Sample returned to Dartmouth to become the Artist in Residence, a position he held until 1962. During World War Two, Sample produced paintings and artworks for various magazines and publications. Sample is also known for creating the cover art for Carl Sundburg's novel *Remembrance Rock* and he was inducted into the National Academy in 1941. Sample died on February 26, 1974, at the age of 78 in Norwich, Vermont.

Scope and Contents

The Paul Sample papers measure 3.2 linear feet and date from circa 1890-1974. Biographical Materials are composed of Sample's resume, lists of his artworks, documents relating to his parents Wilbur and Elfie, Sample's press passes for his position as a press correspondent and artist during World War Two, honors and awards, an interview, and Sample's obituary. Correspondence consists of letters between Sample and his friends, family, and supporters of his art. Writings includes the notes and manuscripts for various speeches by Sample, personal writings and diary entries, the manuscript of a book written about Sample by John D. Condit, and miscellaneous notes. Exhibition and Gallery files includes planning documents and correspondence with various galleries and receipts for exhibitions. Project and Commission Files contains documents regarding specific projects Sample worked on including planning, correspondence, and receipts. Printed Materials includes various pieces of foreign and US currency dating to World War 2, exhibition announcements, newspaper clippings, and magazine and journal clippings and articles referencing Sample and his artwork which are also present in the included scrapbook. Also included are various reproductions of his artwork. Photographic Materials includes photographs of Sample, his family, and his friends as well as photographs of Sample's artwork. Artwork contains sketches, sketchbooks, and watercolors by Sample.

Arrangement

This collection contains 8 series:

- Series 1: Biographical Materials, circa 1925-1974 (0.1 Linear feet: Box 1)
 - Series 2: Correspondence, circa 1929-1973 (0.1 Linear feet: Box 1)
 - Series 3: Writings, circa 1932-1972 (0.3 Linear feet: Box 1)
 - Series 4: Exhibition and Gallery Files, circa 1931-1974 (0.2 Linear feet: Box 1)
 - Series 5: Project and Commission Files, circa 1954-1971 (0.1 Linear feet: Box 1)
 - Series 6: Printed Materials, circa 1930-1974 (0.6 Linear feet: Box 1-2, OV 6, BV7)
 - Series 7: Photographic Materials, circa 1890-1972 (0.3 Linear feet: Box 2)
 - Series 8: Artwork, circa 1931-1972 (1.5 Linear feet: Box 3- 5)
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Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Art, American -- 20th century
Drawing -- Vermont -- Norwich

Types of Materials:

Sketchbooks

Occupations:

Illustrators -- Vermont -- Norwich
Painters -- Vermont

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Materials, circa 1925-1974

.1 Linear feet

Scope and Contents: Biographical Materials is composed of Sample's resume which includes lists of his artworks, Sample's press passes for his position as a press correspondent and artist during World War 2, Sample's obituary, an interview with Sample on a 1/4" audio reel, various honors and awards won by Sample over his career, and his father Wilbur's CV as well as cemetery plot deeds for his parents.

Box 1, Folder 1	Resume/CV, circa 1930-1942
Box 1, Folder 2	War Department Bureau of Public Relations Identification Card, 1942, May 30
Box 1, Folder 3	US Pacific Fleet Press Correspondent Identification Card, circa 1943
Box 1, Folder 4	Paul Sample Obituary, circa 1974
Box 1, Folder 5	Interview with Paul Sample, circa 1971 1 Sound tape reel (1/4 " audio reel)
Box 1, Folder 6	Honors and Awards, circa 1926-1969
Box 1, Folder 7	Miscellaneous Biographical Materials (Parents Wilbur and Elfie Sample), circa 1925-1928

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Series 2: Correspondence, circa 1929-1973

.1 Linear feet

Scope and Contents: Correspondence consists of letters between Sample and his friends and family, colleagues, the Archives of American Art regarding his papers, and supporters of his art.

Box 1, Folder 8	A-L, circa 1939-1973
Box 1, Folder 9	M-W, circa 1931-1972
Box 1, Folder 10	Archives of American Art, circa 1971-1972
Box 1, Folder 11	Outgoing, circa 1933-1973
Box 1, Folder 12	Snorri and Barbara (Outgoing), circa 1956
Box 1, Folder 13	Unidentified and First Name Only, circa 1929-1973

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Series 3: Writings, circa 1932-1972

.3 Linear feet

Scope and Contents: Writings includes personal writings and diary entries by Paul Sample, notes and manuscripts for various speeches by Sample, a collection of travel notes taken by Sample, the manuscript of a book written about Sample by John D. Condit, and miscellaneous writings by others.

Writings by Paul Sample

Box 1, Folder 14	On Albert Vincent, circa 1952-1970
Box 1, Folder 15	An Elder Fisherman, A Recollection, circa 1952-1970
Box 1, Folder 16	Diary Entries Regarding World War Two, circa 1942-1943
Box 1, Folder 17	Art and Cultural Criticisms, circa 1939-1970
Box 1, Folder 18	Artist Statements, circa 1964-1965
Box 1, Folder 19	Narrative Writings on Miscellaneous Topics, circa 1939-1970

Speeches

Box 1, Folder 20	Art in Vermont, circa 1952-1970
Box 1, Folder 21	Chicago, circa 1954
Box 1, Folder 22	Demonstration, 1953, April 19
Box 1, Folder 23	Ford - Boston, circa 1957
Box 1, Folder 24	Hanover Holiday, circa 1940-1952
Box 1, Folder 25	Hartford Calls, circa 1957
Box 1, Folder 26	Judging Pictures, circa 1951-1957
Box 1, Folder 27	Junto Address, circa 1939
Box 1, Folder 28	My Class, circa 1938
Box 1, Folder 29	Ohio, circa 1954
Box 1, Folder 30	Our Changing Musical Diet, circa 1932-1945
Box 1, Folder 31	Pachanin Clan, circa 1951-1957

Box 1, Folder 32	Painting, circa 1951-1957
Box 1, Folder 33	Painting as a Profession, circa 1932-1945
Box 1, Folder 34	Pearl Harbor, circa 1943
Box 1, Folder 35	Radio Speech, circa 1932
Box 1, Folder 36	Rotary, circa 1939
Box 1, Folder 37	St. Paul's School, circa 1955
Box 1, Folder 38	On Teaching, circa 1951-1957
Box 1, Folder 39	Trends in American Painting Today, circa 1932-1945
Box 1, Folder 40	Vermont Artwork, circa 1961
Box 1, Folder 41	Miscellaneous, circa 1932-1957
Box 1, Folder 42	Travel Notes, circa 1952-1955

Writings by Others

Box 1, Folder 43	Manuscript of Paul Sample by John D. Condit, 1972, May 26
Box 1, Folder 44	Miscellaneous Writings , circa 1939-1970

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Series 4: Exhibition and Gallery Files, circa 1931-1974

.2 Linear feet

Scope and Contents: Exhibition and Gallery Files includes planning documents, correspondence with various galleries, receipts for exhibitions for the Capricorn, Ferargil, Robert C. Vose, Milch, and William Macbeth galleries. Also included are materials related to the George C. Marshall Research Library, the Museum of the city of New York, the New Hampshire Art Association, the Southern Vermont Art Center, and Vermont Technical College.

Box 1, Folder 45-46	Capricorn Galleries, circa 1968-1974
Box 1, Folder 47	Ferargil Gallery, circa 1933-1939
Box 1, Folder 48	George C. Marshall Research Library, circa 1965
Box 1, Folder 49	The Milch Galleries, circa 1958-1963
Box 1, Folder 50	Museum of the City of New York, circa 1955-1956
Box 1, Folder 51	New Hampshire Art Association , circa 1962-1967
Box 1, Folder 52	Robert C. Vose Galleries, circa 1945-1946
Box 1, Folder 53	The Southern Vermont Art Center, circa 1968-1969
Box 1, Folder 54	Vermont Technical College, circa 1969-1970
Box 1, Folder 55	William Macbeth Gallery, circa 1931-1943
Box 1, Folder 56	Miscellaneous Gallery Correspondence , circa 1941-1971
Box 1, Folder 57	Miscellaneous Exhibition Documents , circa 1949-1970

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Series 5: Project and Commission Files, circa 1954-1971

.1 Linear feet

Scope and Contents: Project and Commission Files contains documents regarding specific projects Sample worked on including planning and correspondence documents relating to artwork for the Morristown Trust Company, a mural for the National Life Insurance Company, and a painting for Wentworth Hurd.

Box 1, Folder 58	Morristown Trust Company , 1954, January 4
Box 1, Folder 59	Mural for National Life Insurance Company , circa 1959-1961
Box 1, Folder 60	Wentworth Hurd Painting , circa 1970-1971

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Series 6: Printed Materials, circa 1930-1974

.6 Linear feet

Scope and Contents: Printed Materials includes various forms of currency dating to World War 2 from the Netherlands, Japan, China, the Philippines, and the US, exhibition announcements, newspaper clippings, and magazine and journal clippings and articles referencing Sample and his artwork as well as various reproductions of his artwork. The present scrapbook contains newspaper clippings relating to Paul Sample.

Box 1, Folder 61	World War Two Foreign and US Currency, circa 1942-1944
Box 1, Folder 62	Exhibition Announcements, circa 1932-1937
Box 1, Folder 63	Exhibition Announcements, circa 1941-1949
Box 1, Folder 64	Exhibition Announcements, circa 1950-1958
Box 1, Folder 65	Exhibition Announcements, circa 1960-1969
Box 1, Folder 66	Exhibition Announcements, circa 1970-1974
Box 1, Folder 67	Exhibition Announcements, circa 1932-1974
Box 1, Folder 68-71	Newspaper Clippings , circa 1930-1974
Box 1, Folder 72-73	Magazine and Journal Clippings, circa 1931-1949
Box 2, Folder 1-4	Magazine and Journal Clippings, circa 1953-1974
Volume 7	Scrapbook of Newspaper Clippings, circa 1932-1974
Box 2, Folder 5	Reproductions of Artwork, circa 1954-1968
Oversize 6	Reproductions of Artwork, circa 1933-1970

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Series 7: Photographic Materials, circa 1890-1972

.3 Linear feet

Scope and Contents: Photographic Materials includes photographs of Sample, his family, and his friends as well as photographs of Sample's artwork.

Box 2, Folder 6	Photographs of Paul Sample, circa 1936-1972
Box 2, Folder 7-8	Personal Photographs, circa 1890-1972
Box 2, Folder 9-11	Photographs of Artwork, circa 1930-1972
Box 2, Folder 12	Work Prints - For Reference, circa 1930-1972
Box 2, Folder 13	Contact Sheets, circa 1930-1972
Box 2, Folder 14	Photographic Negatives, circa 1939-1970

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Series 8: Artwork, circa 1931-1972

1.5 Linear feet

Scope and Contents: Artwork contains sketchbooks, sketches, and watercolors by Sample.

Sketchbooks

Box 2, Folder 15	France and Spain, circa 1956
Box 2, Folder 16	Labrador, circa 1957
Box 2, Folder 17	Montana, circa 1969
Box 2, Folder 18	New York, Florida, Montana, Vermont, circa 1962-1969
Box 2, Folder 19	Vermont, circa 1960-1069
Box 2, Folder 20	Vermont, circa 1971
Box 2, Folder 21	Yucatan, Vermont, Florida, circa 1966
Box 2, Folder 22	Sketchbooks (1946), circa 1946
Box 2, Folder 23	Sketchbook (1960), circa 1960
Box 2, Folder 24	Sketchbook (1965-1966), circa 1965-1966
Box 3, Folder 1-5	Sketchbooks, circa 1945-1972
Box 4, Folder 1-8	Sketchbooks, circa 1945-1972
Box 4, Folder 9	Watercolors, circa 1945-1972
Box 5, Folder 1	Watercolors of Iceland, circa 1945-1972
Box 5, Folder 2	Quebec Studio Sketches , circa 1949-1957
Box 5, Folder 3-5	Sketches, circa 1931-1968

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