



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

Laurence E. Schmeckebier papers

Archives of American Art
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Washington, D.C. 20001
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Laurence E. Schmeckebier papers
Identifier:	AAA.schmlaur
Date:	1909-1988
Extent:	13.5 Linear feet
Creator:	Schmeckebier, Laurence Eli, 1906-1984
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated 1977 by Laurence Schmeckebier. The bulk of the collection was donated 1985-1986 by his children, Peter Schmeckebier, Nina S. Gardner, Xenia S. Sterling, and Marina S. Steinhouse. Additional material donated 2016 by Xenia Schmeckebier Sterling.

Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C., Research Center.

Biographical / Historical

Laurence Eli Schmeckebier (1906-1984) was an art historian, educator, administrator, and sculptor in Syracuse, New York and Cleveland, Ohio. Schmeckebier was Director and Professor of Art History at The Cleveland Institute of Art, 1946-1954 and Professor of Fine Arts, Dean of the School of Art, Syracuse University, 1954-1971. His publications include: "Handbook of Italian Renaissance Painting", "Modern Mexican Art", "John Steuart Curry's Pageant of America", "Art in Red Wing", "Ivan Mestrovic" "Sculptor and Patriot", and "The Art of A. Henry Nordhausen".

Scope and Contents

Biographical materials, correspondence, files, notes, writings, art works, scrapbooks, photographs, and printed materials relating chiefly to Laurence E. Schmeckebier's academic career and to his publications.

Scope and Contents

Professional and personal correspondence with artists, publishers, art historians, museum curators, and students including Adolf Dehn, Philip Evergood, Walter Gropius, George Grosz, Rico Lebrun, Ivan Mestrovic, A. Henry Nordhausen, Jose Clemente Orozco, Anton Refregier, John Rood, Hudson Roysner, and Viktor Schreckengost. Extensive research files relating to published and unpublished writings on A. Henry Nordhausen, Ivan Mestrovic, Mexican art, urban art in Minnesota, German medieval art and other topics contain preparatory notes, drafts, correspondence and photographs of art. Additional files relate to Schmeckebier's academic career, and to the Syracuse University mural project. Also included are appraisals, royalty statements, undergraduate writings, a published Ph.D. dissertation, encyclopedia articles, book reviews, lecture notes, speeches, notes on wood sculpture, transcript of a Latin-American Studies Conference (1943), notes for a book on Boris Margo, and travel notebooks. Three scrapbooks, compiled by Mrs. Schmeckebier and Karen L. Bakke, contain correspondence, sketches, clippings and photographs dating back to Schmeckebier's childhood. There are also loose scrapbook pages from the 1930s; personal photographs; photographs of work; art work by students; and printed materials, including exhibition notices.

Scope and Contents

An addition of 0.2 linear feet donated 2016 includes an unpublished typescript (photocopy) circa 1982, of a new edition of Schmeckebier's book "John Steuart Curry's Pageant of America" (1943) and correspondence between Schmeckebier's daughter Xenia S. Sterling and Joseph S. Czestochowski, regarding the new edition, 1982-1988; and miscellany.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Art in universities and colleges -- New York (State) -- Syracuse
Greeting cards
Mural painting and decoration, American -- New York (State) -- Syracuse
Mural painting and decoration, Mexican
Muralists

Types of Materials:

Scrapbooks

Names:

Dehn, Adolf, 1895-1968
Evergood, Philip, 1901-1973
Gropius, Walter, 1883-1969
Grosz, George, 1893-1959
Lebrun, Rico, 1900-1964
Meštrović, Ivan, 1883-1962
Nordhausen, A. Henry, 1901-
Orozco, José Clemente, 1883-1949

Refregier, Anton, 1905-
Rood, John, 1902-1974
Roysner, Hudson, 1911-
Schreckengost, Viktor, 1906-2008

Occupations:

Arts administrators
Educators
Sculptors

Functions:

Art Schools -- Ohio -- Cleveland