



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Samuel T. Shaw Papers, 1889-1946, in the Archives of American Art

Rihoko Ueno

Funding for the processing and digitization of this collection was provided by
The Walton Family Foundation and the Terra Foundation for American Art.

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Samuel T. Shaw papers
Date:	1889-1946
Identifier:	AAA.shawsamue
Creator:	Shaw, Samuel T., 1861-1945
Extent:	1 Linear foot
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of New York City art patron and collector Samuel T. Shaw measure 1 linear feet and date from 1889 to 1946. The collection includes correspondence, personal business records, and printed material, mostly related to the various prizes Shaw funded for paintings in exhibitions at the Salmagundi Club.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The Samuel T. Shaw papers were donated to Archives of American Art in 2018 by the National Academy of Design via Maura Reilly, Executive Director.

The "list of paintings owned by Samuel Shaw" was donated by Harry Zehner Jr. in 1976. Zehner found this item among the papers of his aunt who ran an insurance brokerage in New York.

Related Materials

The Archives of American Art also holds a color reproduction of a landscape painting by Samuel T. Shaw, which is inscribed by him and signed by 44 artists.

Available Formats

The bulk of the collection was digitized in 2018 and is available on the Archives of American Art website. Materials which have not been digitized include 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 digitized.

Processing Information

The collection received a preliminary level of arrangement after donation. The collection was processed, prepared for digitization, and described in a finding aid by Rihoko Ueno in 2018 with funding provided by The Walton Family Foundation and the Terra Foundation for American Art.

Preferred Citation

Samuel T. Shaw papers, 1889-1946. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

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

Biographical / Historical

Samuel T. Shaw (1861-1945) was a New York-based collector and patron of American art. Shaw was co-proprietor of the Grand Union Hotel in New York City, along with Simeon Ford, for over thirty years and was also a nationally known art collector and patron of the arts. He was a member of the National Academy of Design, Salmagundi Club, Society of American Artists, and other art organizations.

Through his membership at various art clubs like Salmagundi, Shaw sponsored artists by establishing cash prizes for paintings which won best picture at exhibitions. Shaw also held dinners in honor of artists who were the recipients of the awards, and sometimes the paintings were purchased by Shaw for his collection. By World War I, Shaw supposedly had one of the largest private collections of American art in the country and many of the artworks he purchased were displayed at the Grand Union Hotel.

Shaw married Joan Baird, who passed away in 1914, the same year that the Grand Union Hotel closed. In 1916, he married Amalia Luzzatto. In 1926, the American Art Galleries sold the bulk of Shaw's collection in an auction. Shaw continued his patronage of the arts and gave out awards from roughly 1904 to 1944. The dinners he hosted for artists were regularly written about in newspapers and magazines such as *The New Yorker*.

Scope and Contents

The papers of New York City art patron and collector Samuel T. Shaw measure 1 linear feet and date from 1889 to 1946. The collection includes correspondence, personal business records, and printed material, mostly related to the various prizes Shaw funded for paintings in exhibitions at the Salmagundi Club.

Correspondence includes letters to and from artists, most of whom were recipients of awards for paintings funded by Shaw. Notable correspondents include Frank Benson, William Merritt Chase, Childe Hassam, and many others. There is also correspondence regarding art expositions, art loan requests, and drafts for event invitations.

Personal business records includes material on prizes funded by Shaw, dinners Shaw held in honor of various artists, lists, receipts and invoices, the sale of Shaw's art collection, club records, and other miscellany.

Printed material includes catalogs and clippings on artists who won prizes for their paintings. There is also an obituary for Samuel Shaw and a few catalogs of exhibitions of his art collection.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 3 series.

- Series 1: Correspondence, 1895-1944 (Box 1; 0.4 linear feet)
- Series 2: Personal Business Records, 1889-1946 (Box 1; 0.4 linear feet)
- Series 3: Printed Material, 1899-1945 (Box 1; 0.2 linear feet)

Container Listing

Series 1: Correspondence, 1895-1944

0.4 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: The bulk of this series consists of correspondence with artists, most of whom were recipients of awards for paintings funded by Shaw. Notable correspondents include Frank Benson, William Merritt Chase, Childe Hassam, F. Luis Mora, Hobart Nichols, Charles Rosen, and others. Some of the artist letters are illustrated. There are a few telegrams and letters from Samuel Shaw's wife Amalia, correspondence regarding art expositions, requests from various museums for loans of artwork from Shaw's private collection, and a few letter drafts which Shaw used as templates for dinner invitations.

Arrangement: Correspondence is in alphabetical order. Correspondents with three or more letters have their own individual folders, whereas correspondents with less than three letters are placed in "miscellaneous" alphabetical files.

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

Box 1, Folder 1	Adams, Wayman, 1924-1940
Box 1, Folder 2	Art Expositions, 1899-1901
Box 1, Folder 3	Aylward, William J., 1911-1925
Box 1, Folder 4	A, Miscellaneous, 1941
Box 1, Folder 5	Benson, Frank, 1897-1918
Box 1, Folder 6	Blumenschein, E. L., 1926-1936
Box 1, Folder 7	Brown, Roy, 1926-1938
Box 1, Folder 8	Browne, G. E., 1920-1934
Box 1, Folder 9	Bruestle, George M., 1918-1931
Box 1, Folder 10	B, Miscellaneous, 1898-1931
Box 1, Folder 11	Carrington, J. B., 1913-circa 1926
Box 1, Folder 12	Chapman, Charles S., 1929-1932
Box 1, Folder 13	Chase, William Merritt, 1899-1900
Box 1, Folder 14	Costigan, John E., 1924-1926
Box 1, Folder 15	Curran, Charles C., 1905-1938

Box 1, Folder 16	C, Miscellaneous, 1909-1936
Box 1, Folder 17	Davis, Warren, 1928
Box 1, Folder 18	De Maine, Harry, circa 1942
Box 1, Folder 19	D, Miscellaneous, 1913-1931
Box 1, Folder 20	Ennis, George, 1922-1930
Box 1, Folder 21	Event Invitation Drafts, circa 1910-circa 1937
Box 1, Folder 22	Grant, Gordon, 1934-1940
Box 1, Folder 23	G, Miscellaneous, 1905-1943
Box 1, Folder 24	Hassam, Childe, 1926-1933
Box 1, Folder 25	Hawthorne, Charles W., 1906-1931
Box 1, Folder 26	Healy, James A., 1933
Box 1, Folder 27	Higgins, Eugene, 1932-1933
Box 1, Folder 28	How, Kenneth, 1938-circa 1941
Box 1, Folder 29	H, Miscellaneous, 1925-1939
Box 1, Folder 30	Innes, George, Jr., circa 1921
Box 1, Folder 31	Johnson, F. Tenney, 1923-1937
Box 1, Folder 32	King, Paul, 1906
Box 1, Folder 33	Kroll, Leon, 1919
Box 1, Folder 34	Loan Requests from Shaw Art Collection, 1896-1940
Box 1, Folder 35	L, Miscellaneous, 1906-1944
Box 1, Folder 36	Mielziner, Leo, 1914-1932
Box 1, Folder 37	Mora, F. Luis, 1910-1913
Box 1, Folder 38	M, Miscellaneous, 1902-1939
Box 1, Folder 39	Nichols, Hobart, 1922-circa 1940

Box 1, Folder 40	Nordell, Carl J., 1922-1930
Box 1, Folder 41	Olinsky, Ivan G., 1919-1920
Box 1, Folder 42	O, Miscellaneous, 1903
Box 1, Folder 43	Potthast, Edward H., 1905-1906
Box 1, Folder 44	P, Miscellaneous, 1911-1938
Box 1, Folder 45	Rosen, Charles, 1923-1931
Box 1, Folder 46	R, Miscellaneous, 1907-1941
Box 1, Folder 47	Shaw, Amalia, 1920-1940
Box 1, Folder 48	Shaw, Julia A., 1895
Box 1, Folder 49	Snell, Henry B., 1918-1939
Box 1, Folder 50	S, Miscellaneous, 1904-1937
Box 1, Folder 51	T-V, Miscellaneous, 1911-1930
Box 1, Folder 52	Wiles, Irving R., circa 1900
Box 1, Folder 53	Williams, John A., 1937-1941
Box 1, Folder 54	W, Miscellaneous, 1909-1935

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Series 2: Personal Business Records, 1889-1946

0.4 Linear feet

Scope and Contents: Most of the personal business records consist of materials related to various "Shaw prizes" and the dinners Shaw held for artists who won the best painting award at exhibitions at the Salmagundi Club and Society of American Artists. The artist dinner files include invitations, clippings, drafts of speeches and poems honoring the artists, receipts for dinner expenses, and limited correspondence.

The series also includes a few lists of artists who won prizes and photographs of 3 paintings by artists who were probably award winners. In addition, there is material related to the sale of Samuel T. Shaw's art collection, assorted receipts and invoices, and other miscellaneous material.

Arrangement: This series is arranged in alphabetical order.

Available Formats: The bulk of this series has been digitized, except for duplicates and blank versos of photographs.

Box 1, Folder 55	Artist Dinner Files, A, 1911-1941
Box 1, Folder 56	Artist Dinner Files, Beal, 1910
Box 1, Folder 57	Artist Dinner Files, BI-Br, 1921-1932
Box 1, Folder 58	Artist Dinner Files, C, 1909-1934
Box 1, Folder 59	Artist Dinner Files, E-F, 1905-1923
Box 1, Folder 60	Artist Dinner Files, Ga-Gi, 1916-1917
Box 1, Folder 61	Artist Dinner Files, Gra-Gro, 1906-1935
Box 1, Folder 62	Artist Dinner Files, Ha-Hi, 1904-1913
Box 1, Folder 63	Artist Dinner Files, Hu-K, 1907-1936
Box 1, Folder 64	Artist Dinner Files, L, 1927-1937
Box 1, Folder 65	Artist Dinner Files, M-P, 1906-1940
Box 1, Folder 66	Artist Dinner Files, R, 1907-1927
Box 1, Folder 67	Artist Dinner Files, S-V, 1908-1938
Box 1, Folder 68	Copyright for The Green Gnome Painting, 1903
Box 1, Folder 69	Friday Sketch Club, circa 1889
Box 1, Folder 70	List of Catalogs and Books from Shaw Estate, 1946

Box 1, Folder 71	List of Paintings Owned by Samuel Shaw, 1930
Box 1, Folder 72	Miscellaneous Lists of Prize Winners, circa 1940-1942
Box 1, Folder 73	Photographs of Paintings by Various Artists, circa 1896
Box 1, Folder 74	Receipts and Invoices for Art Supplies, 1902-1943
Box 1, Folder 75	Receipts and Invoices from Curtis & Cameron, 1898-1925
Box 1, Folder 76	Sale of Shaw Collection (1 of 2), 1925
Box 1, Folder 77	Sale of Shaw Collection (2 of 2), 1926
Box 1, Folder 78	Salmagundi Club - General, 1905-1944
Box 1, Folder 79	Salmagundi Club Shaw Purchase Prize, 1900-circa 1944
Box 1, Folder 80	Salmagundi Club Shaw Water Color Prize, 1923-1941
Box 1, Folder 81	Shaw Prize Anniversary Dinners, 1928-1938
Box 1, Folder 82	Society of American Artists Shaw Fund Purchase Prize, 1901-circa 1923
Box 1, Folder 83	Transportation Club Loan, 1922

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Series 3: Printed Material, 1899-1945

0.2 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Printed material includes catalogs and clippings on artists who won prizes for their paintings, usually at the Salmagundi Club annual exhibition. There is also an obituary for Samuel Shaw and a few exhibition catalogs of artwork from his personal collection.

Arrangement: Material directly related to Shaw such as his obituary and the exhibition catalogs for his private art collection are at the beginning of the series, followed by exhibition catalogs and clippings of various artists. The catalogs and clippings on artists are in alphabetical order.

Available Formats: The bulk of this series has been digitized, except for duplicates. In a few cases, exhibition catalogs and other publications have had their covers, title pages, and relevant pages digitized.

Box 1, Folder 84	Samuel T. Shaw Obituary, 1945
Box 1, Folder 85	Exhibition Catalogs of Shaw Collection, 1904-1923
Box 1, Folder 86	Exhibition Catalogs for Various Artists, B-E, circa 1922-circa 1937
Box 1, Folder 87	Exhibition Catalogs for Various Artists, G-J, circa 1917-circa 1931
Box 1, Folder 88	Exhibition Catalogs for Various Artists, R-T, 1912-1938
Box 1, Folder 89	Clippings on Artists, A-B, 1909-1941
Box 1, Folder 90	Clippings on Artists, C, 1908-1936
Box 1, Folder 91	Clippings on Artists, E-G, 1916-1938
Box 1, Folder 92	Clippings on Artists, H, 1931-1939
Box 1, Folder 93	Clippings on Artists, J, 1923-1933
Box 1, Folder 94	Clippings on Artists, L-M, 1899-1940
Box 1, Folder 95	Clippings on Artists, N-R, 1918-1939
Box 1, Folder 96	Clippings on Artists, S-W, 1919-circa 1935

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