



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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Archives of American Art
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Samuel T. Shaw papers
Identifier:	AAA.shawsamue
Date:	1889-1946
Extent:	1 Linear foot
Creator:	Shaw, Samuel T., 1861-1945
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)

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.

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.

This series has been digitized in its entirety.

Box 1, Folder 1	Adams, Wayman, 1924-1940 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 2	Art Expositions, 1899-1901 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 3	Aylward, William J., 1911-1925 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 4	A, Miscellaneous, 1941 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 5	Benson, Frank, 1897-1918 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 6	Blumenschein, E. L., 1926-1936 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 7	Brown, Roy, 1926-1938 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 8	Browne, G. E., 1920-1934 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 9	Bruestle, George M., 1918-1931 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 10	B, Miscellaneous, 1898-1931

	Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 11	Carrington, J. B., 1913-circa 1926 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 12	Chapman, Charles S., 1929-1932 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 13	Chase, William Merritt, 1899-1900 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 14	Costigan, John E., 1924-1926 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 15	Curran, Charles C., 1905-1938 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 16	C, Miscellaneous, 1909-1936 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 17	Davis, Warren, 1928 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 18	De Maine, Harry, circa 1942 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 19	D, Miscellaneous, 1913-1931 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 20	Ennis, George, 1922-1930 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 21	Event Invitation Drafts, circa 1910-circa 1937 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 22	Grant, Gordon, 1934-1940 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 23	G, Miscellaneous, 1905-1943 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 24	Hassam, Childe, 1926-1933 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 25	Hawthorne, Charles W., 1906-1931

	Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 26	Healy, James A., 1933 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 27	Higgins, Eugene, 1932-1933 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 28	How, Kenneth, 1938-circa 1941 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 29	H, Miscellaneous, 1925-1939 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 30	Innes, George, Jr., circa 1921 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 31	Johnson, F. Tenney, 1923-1937 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 32	King, Paul, 1906 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 33	Kroll, Leon, 1919 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 34	Loan Requests from Shaw Art Collection, 1896-1940 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 35	L, Miscellaneous, 1906-1944 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 36	Mielziner, Leo, 1914-1932 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 37	Mora, F. Luis, 1910-1913 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 38	M, Miscellaneous, 1902-1939 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 39	Nichols, Hobart, 1922-circa 1940 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 40	Nordell, Carl J., 1922-1930

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

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Series 2: Personal Business Records, 1889-1946

0.4 Linear feet

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.

This series is arranged in alphabetical order.

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 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 56	Artist Dinner Files, Beal, 1910 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 57	Artist Dinner Files, BI-Br, 1921-1932 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 58	Artist Dinner Files, C, 1909-1934 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 59	Artist Dinner Files, E-F, 1905-1923 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 60	Artist Dinner Files, Ga-Gi, 1916-1917 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 61	Artist Dinner Files, Gra-Gro, 1906-1935 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 62	Artist Dinner Files, Ha-Hi, 1904-1913 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 63	Artist Dinner Files, Hu-K, 1907-1936 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 64	Artist Dinner Files, L, 1927-1937 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 65	Artist Dinner Files, M-P, 1906-1940

	Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 66	Artist Dinner Files, R, 1907-1927 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 67	Artist Dinner Files, S-V, 1908-1938 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 68	Copyright for <i>The Green Gnome</i> Painting, 1903 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 69	Friday Sketch Club, circa 1889 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 70	List of Catalogs and Books from Shaw Estate, 1946 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 71	List of Paintings Owned by Samuel Shaw, 1930 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 72	Miscellaneous Lists of Prize Winners, circa 1940-1942 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 73	Photographs of Paintings by Various Artists, circa 1896 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 74	Receipts and Invoices for Art Supplies, 1902-1943 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 75	Receipts and Invoices from Curtis & Cameron, 1898-1925 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 76	Sale of Shaw Collection (1 of 2), 1925 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 77	Sale of Shaw Collection (2 of 2), 1926 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 78	Salmagundi Club - General, 1905-1944 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 79	Salmagundi Club Shaw Purchase Prize, 1900-circa 1944 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 80	Salmagundi Club Shaw Water Color Prize, 1923-1941

[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 1, Folder 81 Shaw Prize Anniversary Dinners, 1928-1938

[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 1, Folder 82 Society of American Artists Shaw Fund Purchase Prize, 1901-circa 1923

[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 1, Folder 83 Transportation Club Loan, 1922

[Image\(s\)](#)

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Series 3: Printed Material, 1899-1945

0.2 Linear feet (Box 1)

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.

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.

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

[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 1, Folder 96

Clippings on Artists, S-W, 1919-circa 1935

[Image\(s\)](#)

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