



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.

2018/07/09

Archives of American Art  
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<https://www.aaa.si.edu/>

# Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	1
Administrative Information .....	1
Arrangement.....	3
Biographical / Historical.....	2
Scope and Contents.....	2
Container Listing .....	4
Series 1: Correspondence, 1895-1944.....	4
Series 2: Personal Business Records, 1889-1946.....	8
Series 3: Printed Material, 1899-1945.....	11

## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Samuel T. Shaw papers
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.shawsamue
<b>Date:</b>	1889-1946
<b>Extent:</b>	1 Linear foot
<b>Creator:</b>	Shaw, Samuel T., 1861-1945
<b>Language:</b>	English
<b>Summary:</b>	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.

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## 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.

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## 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*.

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## 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)

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

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

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



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

*[Return to Table of Contents](#)*

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

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

*[Return to Table of Contents](#)*

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

*[Return to Table of Contents](#)*