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
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 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


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
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
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
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
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 *The Green Gnome* 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
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)
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