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
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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 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
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<td>Shaw, Amalia, 1920-1940</td>
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<td>Box 1, Folder 49</td>
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<td>Box 1, Folder 50</td>
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<td>T-V, Miscellaneous, 1911-1930</td>
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<td>Box 1, Folder 52</td>
<td>Wiles, Irving R., circa 1900</td>
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<td>Box 1, Folder 53</td>
<td>Williams, John A., 1937-1941</td>
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<td>Box 1, Folder 54</td>
<td>W, Miscellaneous, 1909-1935</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 |
| Box 1, Folder 56 | Artist Dinner Files, Beal, 1910 |
| Box 1, Folder 57 | Artist Dinner Files, Bl-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 |
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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
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
Box 1, Folder 96 Clippings on Artists, S-W, 1919-circa 1935

Image(s)