



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Will Shuster papers

Archives of American Art
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Will Shuster papers
Date:	[undated] and 1914-1970
Identifier:	AAA.shuswill
Creator:	Shuster, Will
Extent:	12 Reels (ca. 3000 items (on 12 microfilm reels))
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The material borrowed from Will Shuster in October 1964 (reel NDA 3) was part of a project of AAA to document New Deal art projects throughout the U.S. The bulk of the Will Shuster papers (reels 169-177, 277) were lent by his widow, Selma Dingee Shuster. Five letters from John Sloan (Reel 4283) were lent in 1989 by her estate.

Location of Originals

Letters from Sloan to Shuster: Originals in the Delaware Art Museum, Wilmington, De.

Location of Originals

All materials except John Sloan letters: Originals in the library of the Santa Fe Museum, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Available Formats

35mm microfilm reels NDA 3, 4283, 169-177, 277 available at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

Restrictions

The Archives of American art does not own the original papers. Use is limited to the microfilm copy.

Biographical / Historical

Painter, printmaker, and writer active in Santa Fe, N.M.; b. 1893; d. 1969

Scope and Contents

Correspondence with John Sloan and others, writings, poems, original art works, scrapbooks, photographs, and Shuster's own descriptions of his work.

Scope and Contents

Reel NDA 3: Instructions, releases, speeches, manuscripts notes, photographs of Shuster's PWAP murals in New Mexico; and a typescript of a comedy written by Shuster.

Scope and Contents

Reels 169-177: 400 letters, 1917-1968, including correspondence with Robert Henri, Edgar Varese, John S. Velie, Walter Karig, and family members. Other materials consist of diaries, 1918, 1928, 1933-1934, 1937-1962, and 1964-1969; photographs of Shuster, family, and friends, and his work; original drawings, watercolors, oils and etchings; sketchbooks; poems, lectures, and stories by Shuster; a record of his works; scrapbooks, 1920-1928, 1923-1935, and 1935-1963; and material relating to John Sloan, who was Shuster's close friend and his teacher in 1920.

Scope and Contents

Reel 277: Materials relating to John Sloan, including letters from him 1922-1951; notes by Winifield Townley Scott recording conversations with Helen Shuster and Mrs. Sloan after Sloan's death and commenting on Sloan's work, tributes by Oliver LaFarge and others, and clippings. Additional correspondents are John Sheridan, Robert Henri, Warren Wheelock, Willard Nash, and the Veterans Administration, concerning Shuster's medical disability after having his lungs damaged by poisoned gas during the World War, 1914-1918. Also included are poems by Shuster, 1925-1939, and other Santa Fe residents, including Scott; and correspondence and printed material relating to Shuster's participation in various Santa Fe festivals.

Scope and Contents

Reel 4283: Five letters from Sloan to Shuster. Three letters are illustrated and contain detailed instructions and advice on etching technique. A fourth letter, dated Jan 2, 1922, includes a recipe for gesso preparation and an offer from Sloan to pay Shuster's entry fee to "show in the Independents." Sloan in his two page letter, dated January 3, 1947, comments on the pace of his work; his participation in a "Mr. & Mrs. Exhibition" at the Laurel Gallery; a production of Eugene O'Neill's "The Ice Man Cometh"; and the Whitney Annual.

Arrangement

Letters arranged chronologically.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Art and state -- New Mexico
- Art, American -- New Mexico -- Santa Fe
- Federal aid to the arts -- New Mexico
- Mural painting and decoration -- 20th century -- New Mexico

New Deal, 1933-1939 -- New Mexico

Names:

Henri, Robert, 1865-1929
Karig, Walter, 1898-
La Farge, Oliver, 1901-1963
Nash, Willard Ayer, 1898-1943
Public Works of Art Project
Scott, Winfield Townley, 1910-1968
Sheridan, John E., 1880-1948
Sloan, John, 1871-1951
Wheelock, Warren, 1880-1960

Occupations:

Painters
Printmakers

Functions:

Art festivals

Places:

United States -- Social conditions -- 1933-1945 -- New Mexico