



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Amory C. Simons Photographic Material, circa 1910-circa 1984, bulk circa 1910-circa 1920s, in the Archives of American Art

Stephanie Ashley

Glass plate negatives in this collection were digitized in 2019 with funding provided by the Smithsonian Women's Committee.

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Archives of American Art
750 9th Street, NW
Victor Building, Suite 2200
Washington, D.C. 20001
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/>

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Arrangement.....	2
Biographical / Historical.....	2
Scope and Contents.....	2
Names and Subjects	2
Container Listing	4
Series 1: Amory C. Simons Photographic Material, circa 1910-circa 1984.....	4

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Amory C. Simons photographic materials
Date:	circa 1910-circa 1984 (bulk circa 1910-circa 1920s)
Identifier:	AAA.simoamoc
Creator:	Simons, Amory C. (Amory Coffin), 1869-1959
Extent:	0.7 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The photographic materials of equestrian sculptor, Amory C. Simons, measure 0.7 linear feet and date from circa 1910 to circa 1984, with the bulk of the material dating from circa 1910 to circa 1920s. The collection includes four letters to Simons, photographic prints, negatives, and glass plate negatives of horses and riders including New York City police and mounted models, and other miscellaneous subjects.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The collection was a 1968 gift of Mrs. Paul Fitchen, Chester Beach's daughter, who found the papers in her basement. Beach and Simons were close friends.

Related Materials

The Archives of American Art also has the Amory C. Simons papers, ca. 1890-1934. This collection comprises 0.2 linear feet of materials related to Simons's activities as a student and sculptor in Paris.

Processing Information

Acetate negatives were made from sixty-seven nitrate negatives in the collection in circa 1984. The glass plate negatives were re-housed in 2015 with a grant provided by the Smithsonian Collections Care and Preservation Fund. The collection was processed and a finding aid written by Stephanie Ashley in 2018.

Preferred Citation

Amory C. Simons papers, circa 1910-circa 1984, bulk circa 1910-circa 1920s. 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

Born in Charleston, South Carolina, sculptor and educator Amory Coffin Simons (1869-1959), was known for his animal statuettes, and for his equestrian sculpture in particular.

Simons studied at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts under John J. Boyle, Charles Grafly, and Thomas Eakins, before moving to Paris and studying at the Académie Julian where he was awarded honorable mention in the 1900 and 1906 Paris Salons. He also received the 1922 Speyer Prize in the annual exhibition at the National Academy of Design in addition to other honors.

Simons moved to Santa Barbara, California, where he taught at the Santa Barbara School of the Arts beginning in the 1920s. He died in California in 1959.

Scope and Contents

The photographic materials of equestrian sculptor, Amory C. Simons, measure 0.7 linear feet and date from circa 1910 to circa 1984, with the bulk of the material dating from circa 1910 to circa 1920s. The collection includes four letters to Simons, photographic prints, negatives, and glass plate negatives of horses and riders including New York City police and mounted models, and other miscellaneous subjects.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as one series.

- Series 1: Amory C. Simons Photographic Materials, circa 1910-circa 1984 (0.7 linear feet; Boxes 1-2)
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Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Equestrian artists -- Photographs
Equestrian statues -- Photographs
Sculptors

Types of Materials:

Photographs

Names:

Grafly, Charles, 1862-1929

Occupations:

Animal sculptors

Container Listing

Series 1: Amory C. Simons Photographic Material, circa 1910-circa 1984

0.7 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2)

Scope and Contents: This series include four letters to Simons: a 1915 letter from his teacher, Charles Grafly, urging Simons to submit some of his bronzes to an exhibition; and three letters, 1927-1929, from the Santa Barbara School of the Arts regarding his appointment as a teacher and head of the department of modelling, sculpture, and bronze casting.

Photographic material includes safety negatives made from sixty-seven nitrate negatives for which there are no corresponding prints in the collection; black and white snapshots and photographs primarily of horses and riders, including New York City mounted police and models, and photographs of statues and sculpture. Also found are snapshots of other miscellaneous subjects including buildings and land, and two unidentified women. Most of the photographs measure approximately 5cm x 7cm.

Other photographs include images of sculpture by Simon on card stock with a Christmas greeting from Simons written on the back of each.

Fifty-six glass plate negatives are all images of artwork by Simons, some of which were photographed in the studio. Original enclosures and photocopies of the original boxes for the glass plate negatives are also found in the collection.

Available Formats: Glass plate negatives have been scanned.

Box 1, Folder 1	Letters and Notes, 1915, 1927-1929, circa 1965
Box 1, Folder 2	Negatives from Nitrate Negatives, circa 1984
Box 1, Folder 3	Photographs of Buildings and Land, circa 1910
Box 1, Folder 4-6	Photographs of Horses and Riders, circa 1910
Box 1, Folder 7	Photographs of Statues and Sculpture, circa 1910
Box 1, Folder 8	Photographs of Women, circa 1910
Box 1, Folder 9	Photographs with Christmas Greetings, circa 1950s
Box 1, Folder 10-11	Glass Plate Negative Envelopes, circa 1920s
Box 2	Glass Plate Negatives, circa 1915

[Return to Table of Contents](#)