



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Society of Arts and Crafts Records, 1899-1960, in the Archives of American Art

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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: Society of Arts and Crafts records, 1899-1960.....	4

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Society of Arts and Crafts records
Identifier:	AAA.sociofac
Date:	1899-1960
Creator:	Society of Arts and Crafts (Boston, Mass.)
Extent:	1 Linear foot
Language:	English .
Summary:	The records of the Boston-based Society of Arts and Crafts measure 1.0 linear feet and date from 1899 to 1960. The scattered documentations contain administrative records, correspondence, writings and notes, printed materials including twenty-two issues of <i>Handicraft</i> , and a photograph.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The Society of Arts and Crafts donated these records to the Archives of American Art in 1972.

Separated Materials

The Archives of American Art also holds microfilm of material lent for microfilming on reels 142, 300-322, 429, and 3468-3469. The loaned papers include photographs of buildings and sales rooms, a record book, craftsmen and exhibition files, six scrapbooks, organizational material, and sales records. These records are now located at the Fine Arts Department, Boston Public Library and are not described in the collection container inventory.

Related Materials

Also found in the Archives of American Art is the American Handicraft Council records, circa 1937-1940, an organization closely affiliated with the Society of Arts and Crafts.

Other Finding Aids

Microfilm reels 300-322: Microfilm inventory available at Archives of American Art offices.

Available Formats

Material lent for microfilming is available on 35mm microfilm reels 142, 300-322, 429, and 3468-3469.

Processing Information

The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Jayna Josefson in 2019.

Preferred Citation

Society of Arts and Crafts records, 1899-1960. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

The collection is open for research. Access to original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C. Research Center.

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Biographical / Historical

Founded in Boston, Massachusetts in 1897, the Society of Arts and Crafts was formed to develop and encourage higher artistic standards in handicrafts. The organization is still active.

When formed, the Society of Arts and Crafts became the first national craft organization in the United States. According to their website, the missions of the Society of Arts and Crafts are to encourage the creation, collection, and promotion of the work of contemporary craft artists and to advance public appreciation of fine craft. The society has had many respected individual directors including Frederic Allen Whiting and Humphery J. Emery. Since its founding, the Society of Arts and Crafts has held special exhibits showing ancient and modern craft; established a sales room and permanent exhibition space voted on by a jury with advice and criticism; and held meetings educational programming for members and the community.

Scope and Contents

The records of the Boston-based Society of Arts and Crafts measure 1.0 linear feet and date from 1899 to 1960. The scattered documentation contains administrative records, correspondence, writings and notes, printed materials including twenty-two issues of *Handicraft*, and a photograph.

Administrative records include lists of members, historical sketches, by-laws. Scattered correspondence dates from 1946 to 1960 and is from Humphery Emery's time as director of the society. Writings consist of a speech by Henry Pasco, a draft of a letter to the editor, general notes and notes between sales agents and society members, and lists. Creating the bulk of the collection are printed materials issued by the society including twenty-two issues of *Handicraft* from 1902 to 1912, annual reports, exhibition announcements and catalogs, and bulletins. Also found is one photograph of a work of art labeled to be by Fred K. W. Allen.

Arrangement

Due to the small size of this collection, the papers are arranged as one series.

- Series 1: Society of Arts and Crafts Records, 1899-1960 (1.0 linear feet; Box 1)
-

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Arts and crafts movement
handicrafts

Names:

Emery, Humphery
Whiting, Frederic Allen, 1873-1959

Functions:

Arts organizations -- Massachusetts

Container Listing

Series 1: Society of Arts and Crafts records, 1899-1960

Scope and Contents: Administrative records include lists of members, historical sketches, by-laws. Scattered correspondence dates from 1946 to 1960 and is from Humphery Emery's time as director of the society. Writings consist of a speech by Henry Pasco, a draft of a letter to the editor, general notes and notes between sales agents and society members, and lists. Creating the bulk of the collection are printed materials issued by the society including twenty-two issues of *Handicraft* from 1902 to 1912, annual reports, exhibition announcements and catalogs, and bulletins. Also found is one photograph of a work of art labeled to be by Fred K. W. Allen.

Box 1, Folder 1	Administrative and Historical Records, 1930s-1940s
Box 1, Folder 2	Correspondence, 1948-1960
Box 1, Folder 3	Writings, Draft to Editor of the Times, 1960
Box 1, Folder 4	Writings, Talk by Henry Pasco at Annual Meeting, 1956 November 15
Box 1, Folder 5	Writings, Notes--Sales and General, 1940s-1950s
Box 1, Folder 6	Writings, Lists, 1940s
Box 1, Folder 7-12	Annual Reports, 1908-1928
Box 1, Folder 13	Bulletin of the Society of Arts and Crafts, 1936, 1941, 1944
Box 1, Folder 14	Clippings and Reprints of Articles, 1910s-1960s
Box 1, Folder 15	Exhibition Announcements, 1950-1956
Box 1, Folder 16-17	Exhibition Catalogs, 1899-1927
Box 1, Folder 18-23	Handicraft, 1902-1912
Box 1, Folder 24	Printed Material, General, circa 1910-1950s
Box 1, Folder 25-26	Printed Material, Other Organizations, 1920s-1960s
Box 1, Folder 27	Photograph, Bust of Magnus Urdahl by Fred K. W. Allen, 1920s

[Return to Table of Contents](#)