



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Bertha Fanning Taylor Papers, 1926-1971, in the Archives of American Art

Jayna M. Josefson

Processing of this collection received support from
the Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative.

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Archives of American Art
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<https://www.aaa.si.edu/>

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Bertha Fanning Taylor papers
Date:	1926-1971
Identifier:	AAA.taylbert
Creator:	Taylor, Bertha Fanning, 1883 or 8-1980
Extent:	0.8 Linear feet
Language:	Material is in English and French.
Summary:	The papers of painter, art critic, and educator Bertha Fanning Taylor measure 0.8 linear feet and date from 1926 to 1971. The papers document the period of time between the two World Wars when Taylor worked in France and her later activities as a teacher at the Norfolk Division of William and Mary College. Found are biographical materials, correspondence, printed material, and typescripts of two autobiographies. Two scrapbooks contain articles Taylor wrote as assistant art critic for the Paris edition of the <i>New York Herald</i> and scattered additional printed material.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The collection was donated in 1971 by Fanning and in 1992 by her granddaughter, Claire M. Taylor.

Related Materials

Papers of Bertha Fanning Taylor, 1915-1979, are also located at Old Dominion University's Special Collections and University Archives.

Available Formats

The bulk of the collection is available on 35mm microfilm reel 286 at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan. Researchers should note that the arrangement of the material described in the container inventory does not reflect the arrangement of the collection on microfilm.

Processing Information

A portion of the collection was microfilmed after receipt. The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Jayna Josefson in 2023 with support from the Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative.

Preferred Citation

Bertha Fanning Taylor papers, 1926-1971. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

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

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

Bertha Fanning Taylor (1883-1980) was a painter, educator, and art critic active in Paris, France, and Norfolk, Virginia. She competed for the United States of America in the painting event for the 1936 Summer Olympics.

Scope and Contents

The papers of painter, art critic, and educator Bertha Fanning Taylor measure 0.8 linear feet and date from 1926 to 1971. The papers document the period of time between the two World Wars when Taylor worked in France and her later activities as a teacher at the Norfolk Division of William and Mary College. Found are biographical materials, correspondence, printed material, and typescripts of two autobiographies. Two scrapbooks contain articles Taylor wrote as assistant art critic for the Paris edition of the *New York Herald* and scattered additional printed material.

Arrangement

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

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Women artists
Women painters

Types of Materials:

Scrapbooks

Names:

Norfolk College of William and Mary

Occupations:

Art critics -- France -- Paris
Educators -- Virginia -- Norfolk

Painters -- France -- Paris
Painters -- Virginia -- Norfolk

Container Listing

Series 1: Bertha Fanning Taylor Papers, 1926-1971

0.8 Linear feet (Box 1-2, BV 3)

Scope and Contents: Biographical materials consist of identification cards, one of which contains a portrait of Taylor; invitations to receptions and events in France and calling cards; and a portrait of a bust by Wilmer Hoffman. Largely, correspondence is business related and often discusses art events. However, personal notes may also be found. Many of the letters from the 1920s to 1930s are written in French. Correspondents include Jacques Barzun, Wilmer Hoffman, Gladys Morgan Knight, Nadine Oxnard, Paul-Émile Pissarro, Allen Tate, and Sidney Waugh. Later correspondence is with The Norfolk Division of the College of William and Mary. Printed materials include exhibition announcements and catalogs and clippings. Two scrapbooks contain articles written by Taylor as an art critic for the *New York Herald* while living in Paris. The scrapbooks may also contain scattered additional printed material such as exhibition material and clippings of articles not written by Taylor.

Two autobiographical manuscripts focus on Taylor's early life, her move to and activities in Paris, and her later life in Norfolk, Virginia. The second manuscript also discusses the art world in Norfolk.

Box 1, Folder 1	Biographical Material, 1926-circa 1970
Box 1, Folder 2-3	Correspondence, 1929-1965
Box 1, Folder 4	Printed Material, 1929-1968
Box 1, Folder 5	Scrapbook 1, 1930s
Volume 3	Scrapbook 2, 1930s
Box 1, Folder 6-7	Writing, "My Fifteen Years in Paris," by Bertha Fanning Taylor, 1964
Box 2, Folder 1-3	Writing, "Building Anew at Sixty Years in a Southern City," By Bertha Fanning Taylor, 1971

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