



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## A Finding Aid to the Joseph Ternbach Papers, 1915-1985, in the Archives of American Art.

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Archives of American Art  
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Washington, D.C. 20001  
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>  
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/>

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Joseph Ternbach papers
<b>Date:</b>	1915-1985
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.ternjose
<b>Creator:</b>	Ternbach, Joseph, 1897-1982
<b>Extent:</b>	1 Linear foot
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	The papers of sculpture conservator and restorer Joseph Ternbach measure 1.0 linear feet and date from 1915-1985. The papers include biographical material, correspondence, financial records, and printed material.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

The Joseph Ternbach papers were donated by Ternbach's wife, Anna, in 1982, 1985, and 1987.

### Processing Information

The collection was processed by Jean Fitzgerald in 1991. A finding aid was written by Caroline Donadio in 2019.

### Preferred Citation

Joseph Ternbach papers, 1915-1985. 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

Joseph Ternbach (1897-1982) was a sculpture conservator and restorer born in Vienna, Austria. In 1939, he and his family fled Nazi Germany and resettled in Forest Hills, New York where he continued his work as a conservator.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers of sculpture conservator and restorer Joseph Ternbach measure 1.0 linear feet and date from 1915-1985. The papers include biographical material, correspondence, financial records, and printed material.

Correspondence is with colleagues and customers including Mrs. Marcel Duchamp, John Woodman Higgins, Joseph Hirshhorn, Thomas T. Hoopes, Abram Lerner, Henry Moore, E. P. Richardson, and Homer Saint-Gaudens. Also found are letters from Alfred Barr concerning the restoration of Brancusi's, "Bird in Flight." Financial records contain material on the Gold and Silversmiths' Association dues and invoices for restoration work. Printed material includes the by-laws of the Gold and Silversmiths' Association, articles by and about Ternbach, exhibition catalogs and announcements featuring artifacts from Ternbach's collection, and booklets about antiques.

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## Arrangement

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

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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:

Art -- Conservation and restoration  
Sculpture -- Conservation and restoration

### Names:

Barr, Alfred H., Jr., 1902-1981  
Brancusi, Constantin, 1876-1957  
Moore, Henry, 1898-1986  
Richardson, Edgar Preston, 1902-1985  
Saint-Gaudens, Homer, 1880-1958

### Occupations:

Conservators -- New York (State) -- Forest Hills, Queens  
Restorers -- New York (State) -- Forest Hills, Queens

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Joseph Ternbach Papers, 1915-1985

Scope and Contents: Correspondence is with colleagues and customers including Mrs. Marcel Duchamp, John Woodman Higgins, Joseph Hirshhorn, Thomas T. Hoopes, Abram Lerner, Henry Moore, E. P. Richardson, and Homer Saint-Gaudens. Also found are letters from Alfred Barr concerning the restoration of Brancusi's, "Bird in Flight." Financial records contain material on the Gold and Silversmiths' Association dues and invoices for restoration work. Printed material includes the by-laws of the Gold and Silversmiths' Association, articles by and about Ternbach, exhibition catalogs and announcements featuring artifacts from Ternbach's collection, and booklets about antiques.

Box 1, Folder 1-3	Biographical Material, 1915-1942
Box 1, Folder 4-5	Correspondence, 1936-1939
Box 1, Folder 6-14	Correspondence, 1940-1949
Box 1, Folder 15-26	Correspondence, 1950-1959
Box 1, Folder 27-40	Correspondence, 1960-1969
Box 1, Folder 41-48	Correspondence, 1970-1981
Box 1, Folder 49	Financial Material, Record of Dues, 1920-1922, 1930-1935
Box 1, Folder 50-76	Financial Material, Invoices, 1940-1945
Box 1, Folder 77-80	Financial Material, Invoices, 1950-1980
Box 1, Folder 81	Printed Material, By-Laws of the Gold and Silversmiths' Association, 1919
Box 1, Folder 82-88	Printed Material, 1952-1985

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