



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## A Finding Aid to the Allen Townsend Terrell Papers, 1908-1982, in the Archives of American Art

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September 2007

Archives of American Art  
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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Allen Townsend Terrell papers
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.terralle
<b>Date:</b>	1908-1982
<b>Creator:</b>	Terrell, Allen Townsend, 1897-1986
<b>Extent:</b>	4.5 Linear feet
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	The papers of New York, Rome, and Paris painter Allen Townsend Terrell measure 4.5 linear feet and date from 1908-1982. Included are biographical materials; detailed letters from Terrell to his parents; fourteen diaries describing European travels; scattered financial records; three sketchbooks and miscellaneous sketches; printed material; and photographs of Terrell, his colleagues, his home and studios, artwork, and exhibition installations.

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## Administrative Information

### Provenance

Allen Townsend Terrell donated his papers in 7 installments between 1975 and 1981.

### Processing Information

The papers were processed in September 2007 by Jean Fitzgerald.

### Preferred Citation

Allen Townsend Terrell papers, 1908-1982. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

### Restrictions on Access

Use of original papers requires an appointment.

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## Biographical Note

Allen Townsend Terrell (1897-1986) was a painter and sculptor who worked in Paris, Rome, and New York. Terrell was born in Riverhead, New York and graduated from the Columbia University School of Architecture

in 1921. He also studied painting and sculpture at the Art Students League with Edward McCartan and at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts with Albert Laessle. In 1924, he studied in France at the Conservatoire Américain de Fontainebleau with sculptor Charles Despiau, and at the Académie Julian in Paris.

Between 1924 and 1926, Terrell established a studio in Paris, later moving to Rome between 1928 and 1931. From 1934 to 1935, he taught watercolor and still life painting at the Parsons School of Design.

Among other exhibitions in Paris, New York, and Philadelphia, Terrell had a solo exhibition at the National Arts Club in 1975. He was a member of the American Watercolor Society and president of the Alumni of the American School at Fontainebleau.

Allen Townsend Terrell died on July 8, 1986.

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## Scope and Content Note

The papers of New York, Rome, and Paris painter Allen Townsend Terrell painter measure 4.5 linear feet and date from 1908-1982. Included are biographical materials; detailed letters from Terrell to his parents; fourteen diaries describing European travels; scattered financial records; three sketchbooks and miscellaneous sketches; printed material; and photographs of Terrell, his colleagues, his home and studios, artwork, and exhibition installations.

Biographical material includes a passport, membership cards for miscellaneous organizations, brief biographical accounts, and a guestbook containing signatures from several exhibition openings. There are almost daily letters written by Terrell to his parents describing his travels and education in the arts while in Europe. Scattered letters are from friends and colleagues, including one from Albert Laessle.

Fourteen diaries describe daily events in Terrell's European travels. Scattered financial material includes banking records and miscellaneous receipts.

Three sketchbooks contain several block prints and miscellaneous sketches by Terrell. Printed material includes clippings, exhibition announcements and catalogs for Terrell and for others, as well as programs, and miscellaneous brochures. Photographs are of Terrell, and of his colleagues, studio, and artwork, in addition to albums containing photographs of his apartment, the Riverhead studio, commissioned projects, and exhibition installations.

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## Arrangement

The collection is organized as 7 series; each series is arranged chronologically.

Missing Title:

- Series 1: Biographical Material, 1924-1978 (Boxes 1, 6; 3 folders)
- Series 2: Letters, 1908-1978 (Boxes 1-3; 2.8 linear feet)
- Series 3: Diaries, 1965-1978 (Boxes 3-4; 12 folders)
- Series 4: Financial Material, 1925-1933 (Box 4; 7 folders)
- Series 5: Artwork, 1925-1982 (Boxes 4, 6; 7 folders)
- Series 6: Printed Material, 1911-1976 (Box 4; 15 folders)
- Series 7: Photographs, 1925-1972 (Box 5; 15 folders)

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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 -- Study and teaching -- France -- Paris  
Art -- Study and teaching -- Italy  
Artists' studios -- Photographs  
Travel -- Europe

Types of Materials:

Photographs  
Sketchbooks  
Sketches  
Travel diaries

Names:

Laessle, Albert, 1877-1954

Occupations:

Painters

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Biographical Material, 1924-1978

*(Boxes 1, 6; 3 folders)*

Scope and Contents: Biographical Material includes a passport, membership cards for miscellaneous organizations including the Art Students League, and brief biographical accounts. There is also a small number of miscellaneous notes including a guestbook containing signatures from several exhibition openings.

Box 1, Folder 1      Passport, Membership Cards, and Biographical Accounts, 1924-1978, undated

Box 1, Folder 2      Miscellaneous Notes, 1944-1966, undated  
(see also Box 6)

Box 6, Folder      Oversized Guestbook, 1944-1953

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## Series 2: Letters, 1908-1978

*(Boxes 1-3; 2.8 linear feet)*

Scope and Contents: Almost daily letters were written by Terrell to his parents describing his travel and education during the years that he studied art and worked in Paris and Rome. Abbreviated transcripts of these letters were written by Terrell later in his life. General letters are from friends and colleagues including one letter from Terrell's professor Albert Laessle.

Box 1, Folder 3	Abbreviated Transcripts of Letters Dated 1918-1923 from Terrell, 1978
Box 1, Folder 4-6	Abbreviated Transcripts of Letters Dated 1924 from Terrell, 1978 (3 folders)
Box 1, Folder 7-10	Abbreviated Transcripts of Letters Dated 1925 from Terrell, 1978 (4 folders)
Box 1, Folder 11	Abbreviated Transcripts of Letters Dated 1926 from Terrell, 1978
Box 1, Folder 12-13	Abbreviated Transcripts of Letters Dated from Terrell, 1978 (2 folders)
Box 1, Folder 14-17	Abbreviated Transcripts of Letters Dated 1929 from Terrell, 1978 (4 folders)
Box 1, Folder 18-22	Abbreviated Transcripts of Letters Dated 1930 from Terrell, 1978 (5 folders)
Box 1, Folder 23-26	Abbreviated Transcripts of Letters Dated 1931 from Terrell, 1978 (4 folders)
Box 1, Folder 27-28	Letters from Terrell, 1924, June (2 folders)
Box 1, Folder 29-32	Letters from Terrell, 1924, July (4 folders)
Box 1, Folder 33-35	Letters from Terrell, 1924, August (3 folders)
Box 1, Folder 36-39	Letters from Terrell, 1924, September (4 folders)
Box 1, Folder 40-41	Letters from Terrell, 1924, October (2 folders)
Box 1, Folder 42-44	Letters from Terrell, 1924, November (3 folders)
Box 1, Folder 45-48	Letters from Terrell, 1924, December

	(4 folders)
Box 1, Folder 49-51	Letters from Terrell, 1925, January (3 folders)
Box 1, Folder 52-54	Letters from Terrell, 1925, February (3 folders)
Box 1, Folder 55-58	Letters from Terrell, 1925, March (4 folders)
Box 1, Folder 59-62	Letters from Terrell, 1925, April (4 folders)
Box 1, Folder 63-65	Letters from Terrell, 1925, May (3 folders)
Box 1, Folder 66-68	Letters from Terrell, 1925, June (3 folders)
Box 1, Folder 69-72	Letters from Terrell, 1925, July (4 folders)
Box 1, Folder 73-76	Letters from Terrell, 1925, August (4 folders)
Box 1, Folder 77-80	Letters from Terrell, 1925, September (4 folders)
Box 1, Folder 81-84	Letters from Terrell, 1925, October (4 folders)
Box 1, Folder 85-88	Letters from Terrell, 1925, November (4 folders)
Box 1, Folder 89-92	Letters from Terrell, 1925, December (4 folders)
Box 2, Folder 1-4	Letters from Terrell, 1926, January (4 folders)
Box 2, Folder 5-6	Letters from Terrell, 1926, February (2 folders)
Box 2, Folder 7-9	Letters from Terrell, 1926, March (3 folders)
Box 2, Folder 10-12	Letters from Terrell, 1926, April



(3 folders)

Box 2, Folder 13	Letters from Terrell, 1926, May
Box 2, Folder 14	Letters from Terrell, 1926, July
Box 2, Folder 15	Letters from Terrell, 1928, July
Box 2, Folder 16-17	Letters from Terrell, 1928, August (2 folders)
Box 2, Folder 18-20	Letters from Terrell, 1928, September (3 folders)
Box 2, Folder 21-23	Letters from Terrell, 1928, October (3 folders)
Box 2, Folder 24-27	Letters from Terrell, 1928, November (4 folders)
Box 2, Folder 28-31	Letters from Terrell, 1928, December (4 folders)
Box 2, Folder 32-35	Letters from Terrell, 1929, January (4 folders)
Box 2, Folder 36-39	Letters from Terrell, 1929, February (4 folders)
Box 2, Folder 40-43	Letters from Terrell, 1929, March (4 folders)
Box 2, Folder 44-47	Letters from Terrell, 1929, April (4 folders)
Box 2, Folder 48-51	Letters from Terrell, 1929, May (4 folders)
Box 2, Folder 52-55	Letters from Terrell, 1929, June (4 folders)
Box 2, Folder 56-58	Letters from Terrell, 1929, July (3 folders)
Box 2, Folder 59-62	Letters from Terrell, 1929, August (4 folders)
Box 2, Folder 63-66	Letters from Terrell, 1929, September

	(4 folders)
Box 2, Folder 67-70	Letters from Terrell, 1929, October (4 folders)
Box 2, Folder 71-74	Letters from Terrell, 1929, November (4 folders)
Box 2, Folder 75-77	Letters from Terrell, 1929, December (3 folders)
Box 2, Folder 78-80	Letters from Terrell, 1930, January (3 folders)
Box 2, Folder 81-83	Letters from Terrell, 1930, February (3 folders)
Box 2, Folder 84-87	Letters from Terrell, 1930, March (4 folders)
Box 2, Folder 88-91	Letters from Terrell, 1930, April (4 folders)
Box 2, Folder 92-95	Letters from Terrell, 1930, May (4 folders)
Box 3, Folder 1-4	Letters from Terrell, 1930, June (4 folders)
Box 3, Folder 5-8	Letters from Terrell, 1930, July (4 folders)
Box 3, Folder 9-11	Letters from Terrell, 1930, August (3 folders)
Box 3, Folder 12-14	Letters from Terrell, 1930, September (3 folders)
Box 3, Folder 15-18	Letters from Terrell, 1930, October (4 folders)
Box 3, Folder 19-22	Letters from Terrell, 1930, November (4 folders)
Box 3, Folder 23-26	Letters from Terrell, 1930, December (4 folders)
Box 3, Folder 27-30	Letters from Terrell, 1931, January

	(4 folders)
Box 3, Folder 31-33	Letters from Terrell, 1931, February (3 folders)
Box 3, Folder 34-36	Letters from Terrell, 1931, March (3 folders)
Box 3, Folder 37-39	Letters from Terrell, 1931, April (3 folders)
Box 3, Folder 40-42	Letters from Terrell, 1931, May (3 folders)
Box 3, Folder 43-45	Letters from Terrell, 1931, June (3 folders)
Box 3, Folder 46-48	Letters from Terrell, 1931, July (3 folders)
Box 3, Folder 49-51	Letters from Terrell, 1931, August (3 folders)
Box 3, Folder 52-53	Letters from Terrell, 1931, September (2 folders)
Box 3, Folder 54	Letters from Terrell, 1933, January
Box 3, Folder 55-56	Letters from Terrell, 1933, June (2 folders)
Box 3, Folder 57-58	Letters from Terrell, 1933, July (2 folders)
Box 3, Folder 59	Letters from Terrell, 1933, August
Box 3, Folder 60	Letters from Terrell, 1933, September
Box 3, Folder 61	Letters from Terrell, 1933, October
Box 3, Folder 62-63	Letters from Terrell, 1933, November (2 folders)
Box 3, Folder 64-65	Letters from Terrell, 1933, December (2 folders)
Box 3, Folder 66-69	General Letters, undated (4 folders)
Box 3, Folder 70	General Letters, 1908-1927

Box 3, Folder 71-75	General Letters, 1928 (5 folders)
Box 3, Folder 76	General Letters, 1929
Box 3, Folder 77-79	General Letters, 1930 (3 folders)
Box 3, Folder 80-85	General Letters, 1931 (6 folders)
Box 3, Folder 86	General Letters, 1933-1934
Box 3, Folder 87	General Letters, 1937-1943
Box 3, Folder 88	General Letters, 1944-1956
Box 3, Folder 89	General Letters, 1972

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## Series 3: Diaries, 1965-1978

(Boxes 3-4; 12 folders)

Scope and Contents: Fourteen diaries describe Terrell's daily activities including several European trips.

Box 3, Folder 90	Diaries, 1965-1966
Box 3, Folder 91-93	Diaries, 1967-1968 (3 folders)
Box 4, Folder 1-2	Diaries, 1969-1970 (2 folders)
Box 4, Folder 3	Diaries, 1971-1972
Box 4, Folder 4-6	Diaries, 1973-1974 (3 folders)
Box 4, Folder 7	Diaries, 1975-1976
Box 4, Folder 8	Diaries, 1977-1978

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## Series 4: Financial Material, 1925-1933

*(Box 4; 7 folders)*

Scope and Contents: Scattered financial material includes banking records, check registers, and miscellaneous receipts.

Box 4, Folder 9-11	Banking Records, 1925-1930 (3 folders)
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Box 4, Folder 12-13	Check Registers, 1928-1930 (2 folders)
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Box 4, Folder 14	Miscellaneous Receipts, 1928-1933
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Box 4, Folder 15	Miscellaneous Notes Concerning Finances, 1929, undated
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## Series 5: Artwork, 1925-1982

*(Boxes 4, 6; 7 folders)*

Scope and Contents: Artwork includes three sketchbooks containing several block prints, and miscellaneous sketches including portraits and anatomical studies.

Box 4, Folder 16	Sketchbook 1, 1925
Box 4, Folder 17	Sketchbook 2, 1929
Box 4, Folder 18	Sketchbook 3, 1930-1934
Box 4, Folder 19	Portrait Sketches, 1974, undated (see also Box 6)
Box 4, Folder 20	Miscellaneous Sketches, 1982, undated (see also Box 6)
Box 6, Folder	Oversized Portrait Sketch, 1974
Box 6, Folder	Oversized Sketch of a Torso, 1982
Object Artifact	Plaster Cast Medal

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## Series 6: Printed Material, 1911-1976

(Box 4; 15 folders)

Scope and Contents: Printed material includes clippings, exhibition announcements and catalogs for Terrell and for others, programs, and miscellaneous brochures for the purchase of artwork, art supplies, and hearing aids.

Box 4, Folder 21	Clippings, undated
Box 4, Folder 22	Clippings, 1911
Box 4, Folder 23	Clippings, 1927-1943
Box 4, Folder 24-27	Clippings, 1944 (4 folders)
Box 4, Folder 28	Clippings, 1945-1951
Box 4, Folder 29	Clippings, 1972-1974
Box 4, Folder 30	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs for Terrell, 1944, undated
Box 4, Folder 31	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs for Others, 1930-1945, undated
Box 4, Folder 32	Programs, 1945-1976
Box 4, Folder 33	Miscellaneous Brochures, undated
Box 4, Folder 34	Booklet "A Short Guide in Architecture, Painting, Sculpture and Landscape Architecture for Italy?," by the American Academy in Rome, 1916
Box 4, Folder 35	Miscellaneous Printed Material, undated

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## Series 7: Photographs, 1925-1972

(Box 5; 15 folders)

Scope and Contents: Photographs are of Terrell, his colleagues, studio, and his artwork. Albums contain photographs of his apartment, the Riverhead studio, commissioned projects, and exhibition installations.

Box 5, Folder 1	Photographs of Terrell, 1929, undated
Box 5, Folder 2	Photographs of Terrell and Colleagues, 1970-1972
Box 5, Folder 3	Photographs of Terrell's Studio, 1927, undated
Box 5, Folder 4-6	Photograph Album 1, 1932-1955 (3 folders)
Box 5, Folder 7-8	Photograph Album 2, 1936-1970 (2 folders)
Box 5, Folder 9-12	Photograph Album 3, 1939-1947 (4 folders)
Box 5, Folder 13	Photograph of a Painting by Terrell, undated
Box 5, Folder 14-15	Photographs of Sculpture by Terrell, 1925-1928, undated (2 folders)

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