



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Frederic Jean
Thalinger Papers, 1915-1989, bulk
1940-1965, in the Archives of American Art

Clio Lang

2024 August 5

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Frederic Jean Thalinge papers
Date:	1915-1989 (bulk 1940-1965)
Identifier:	AAA.thalfred
Creator:	Thalinge, Frederic Jean, 1915-1965
Extent:	3.5 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The Frederic Jean Thalinge Papers measure 3.5 linear feet and date from 1915-1989, with the bulk of the material dating from 1940-1965. Thalinge's son, Ernest Thalinge, arranged, annotated, and donated these materials to the Archives of American Art in 1989. Thalinge's records include certificates, membership papers, university records, resumes, four address books, family history documents, divorce papers, correspondence, notebooks, notes, sale invoices, exhibition catalogs and announcements, brochures, newspaper clippings, published booklets, photographs of family and art, including negatives and slides, sketches, and a collage. This collection also includes one audio cassette recording of an interview with Ciel Frampton Thalinge, Thalinge's wife, by his son, Ernest Thalinge on how she met Thalinge in 1939.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Ernest Thalinge assembled, collected and annotated his father's papers. He compiled the family history and updated resume. The placement of photographs of sculpture into subject files is based on Ernest Thalinge's prior arrangement and annotations of the papers.

Processing Information

The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Clio Lang in 2024.

Preferred Citation

Frederic Jean Thalinge papers, 1915-1965. 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. Researchers interested in accessing born-digital records or audiovisual recordings in this collection must use access copies. Contact Reference Services for more information.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

Frederic Jean Thalinge (1915-1965) was a sculptor and artist based in Chicago, St. Louis, and Croton-on-Hudson, NY. Thalinge was born in 1915 in St. Louis, MO to his parents, including Ernest Oscar Thalinge who was a painter and served as a registrar at the City Art Museum, St. Louis. Thalinge completed a sculpting course at the Washington University St. Louis School of Fine Arts and attended Antioch College around the late 1930s. Thalinge was also a member of the St. Louis Artists Guild and the People's Arts Center. Thalinge worked with multiple mediums for sculpting, including soap, plaster, stone, and iron. In 1945 during World War II, Thalinge was a part of the US Merchant Marine.

Thalinge married Ciel Frampton, and had a son, Ernest Thalinge. Thalinge later divorced Ciel in 1958. Thalinge lived separately from his family while they lived in Tucson, AZ and Croton-on-Hudson, NY. Throughout Thalinge's life, he battled alcoholism, phlebitis in his leg, and depression. Thalinge later passed of a heart ailment in 1965 in St. Louis, MO.

Scope and Contents

The Frederic Jean Thalinge Papers measure 3.5 linear feet and date from 1915-1989, with the bulk of the material dating from 1940-1965. Thalinge's son, Ernest Thalinge, arranged, annotated, and donated these materials to the Archives of American Art in 1989. Thalinge's records include certificates, membership papers, university records, resumes, four address books, family history documents, divorce papers, correspondence, notebooks, notes, sale invoices, project files, blueprints, exhibition catalogs and announcements, brochures, newspaper clippings, published booklets, photographs of family and art, including negatives and slides, sketches, and a collage. This collection also includes one audio cassette recording of an interview with Ciel Frampton Thalinge, Thalinge's wife, by his son, Ernest Thalinge on how she met Thalinge in 1939.

Arrangement

The Frederic Jean Thalinge papers are arranged into seven series:

- Series 1: Biographical Materials, 1915-1989 (13 folders; Box 1, OV 4)
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1930-1989 (1.0 linear ft; Boxes 1-2)
- Series 3: Writings, circa 1935-1965 (5 folders; Box 2)
- Series 4: Project Files, 1932-1986 (13 folders; Box 2, OV 5)
- Series 5: Printed Material, 1937-1989 (9 folders; Box 2)
- Series 6: Photographic Material, 1917-1989 (1.1 linear ft; Boxes 2-3, OV 6)
- Series 7: Artwork, circa 1960-1965 (0.3 linear ft; Box 3, OV 7-8)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Sculpture, American

Types of Materials:

Sound recordings

Names:

Thalinger, Ciel Frampton
Thalinger, E. Oscar, b. 1885
Thalinger, Ernest

Occupations:

Merchant mariners -- United States
Painters -- Missouri -- St. Louis
Sculptors -- Missouri -- St. Louis

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Material, 1915-1989

14 Folders (Box 1; Oversize 4)

Scope and Contents: Biographical Material includes family notes, resumes, lists of Thalinge's sculptures, birth certificate, school transcripts, Merchant Marine papers, divorce papers, newspaper clippings announcing his death, eulogies, four address books, papers on Thalinge's father, Ernest Oscar Thalinge, and an audio cassette recording of an interview between Ciel Frampton Thalinge and Ernest Thalinge (Thalinge's son) on how she met Thalinge.

Box 1, Folder 1	Birth Certificate and Social Security Card, circa 1915
Oversize 4	Antioch College B.A., 1939
Box 1, Folder 2	Education and Library Documents, 1939-1945
Box 1, Folder 3	Henmon-Nelson Tests of Mental Ability, 1945
Box 1, Folder 4	Membership Documents, 1945
Box 1, Folder 5	Stock Certificate from the American Craftsmen's Cooperative Council, Inc., 1950
Box 1, Folder 6	Financial Records, circa 1959-1965
Box 1, Folder 7	Divorce Papers, 1957-1958
Box 1, Folder 8	Department of State Participation Certificate, circa 1964
Box 1, Folder 9	Resumes, circa 1950s, circa 1985
Box 1, Folder 10	Funeral, Obituaries, and Eulogies, 1966, circa 1984
Box 1, Folder 11	Ernest Oscar Thalinge (Father) Documents, 1951-1964, circa 1989
Box 1, Folder 12	Ciel Frampton Thalinge Interview by Ernest J. Thalinge (March 1987), 1987 1 Sound cassette
Box 1, Folder 13	Written Lists of Family and Friends by Ernest Thalinge (Son), circa 1989

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Series 2: Correspondence, 1930-1989

1 Linear foot (Boxes 1-2)

Scope and Contents: The bulk of Correspondence includes letters between Ciel Frampton and Jean Thalinge, and their son, Ernest Thalinge. Other letters are between Thalinge and family and friends, including Oscar Thalinge (father) and Thelma (stepmom), Simon Wilson (close friend), Vicki (girlfriend), the Filbert Family, and others. Correspondence also includes letters between Thalinge and museums, toy companies, and colleagues.

Box 1, Folder 14	Vicki A. (Girlfriend), 1937-1938
Box 1, Folder 15	A, circa 1947-1957
Box 1, Folder 16	B, circa 1938-1959
Box 1, Folder 17	C, circa 1935-1962
Box 1, Folder 18	D, circa 1950-1957
Box 1, Folder 19	E, 1964
Box 1, Folder 20	Filbert Family, circa 1937-1945, circa 1989
Box 1, Folder 21	F, 1938-1965
Box 1, Folder 22	G, circa 1937-1961
Box 1, Folder 23	E. B. Haswell and Harold Nash (Sculptor and Ceramist), 1937-1949, circa 1989
Box 1, Folder 24	H, 1947-1965
Box 1, Folder 25	I, 1957
Box 1, Folder 26	J, 1957
Box 1, Folder 27	K, 1954-1958
Box 1, Folder 28	L, 1938-1965
Box 1, Folder 29	M, circa 1938-1965
Box 1, Folder 30	N, 1962-1963, Undated
Box 1, Folder 31	O, 1958
Box 1, Folder 32	P, circa 1934-1962

Box 1, Folder 33	R, circa 1942-1961
Box 1, Folder 34	Raymond Stites (Head of Art and Aesthetics, Antioch College), 1937-1948, 1984
Box 1, Folder 35	St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 1964-1965
Box 1, Folder 36	S, 1935-1965
Box 1, Folder 37-43	Ciel Frampton Thalinger, From, 1940-1965, circa 1989
Box 1, Folder 44	Ciel Frampton Thalinger, From (To Family), 1943-1953, circa 1989
Box 1, Folder 45-48	Ciel Frampton Thalinger, 1940-1959, circa 1989
Box 1, Folder 49-51	Ciel Frampton Thalinger and Ernest Thalinger, 1944-1956, circa 1989
Box 1, Folder 52	Ciel Frampton Thalinger, Notes Between Jean and Herself, 1972, Undated
Box 1, Folder 53	Ernest Thalinger, From, 1948-1965, circa 1989
Box 1, Folder 54	Ernest Thalinger, From (To Ciel Frampton Thalinger), 1955
Box 1, Folder 55-57	Ernest Thalinger, 1941-1965, circa 1989
Box 2, Folder 1	Oscar and Thelma Thalinger (Father and Step Mother), circa 1937-1950
Box 2, Folder 2	T, 1949-1960
Box 2, Folder 3	Simon Wilson (Close Friend), circa 1930-1946
Box 2, Folder 4	W, 1941-1965
Box 2, Folder 5	Z, 1945
Box 2, Folder 6-7	Address Books, circa 1959
Box 2, Folder 8	Drafts and Miscellaneous, circa 1957-1964

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Series 3: Writings, circa 1935-1965

5 Folders (Box 2)

Scope and Contents: Writings include poems and essays written by Thalinger, including subjects like war and alcoholism, his Antioch College Thesis written in 1939, a notebook, and notes written on loose leaves of paper, one of them written by Ciel Frampton Thalinger.

Box 2, Folder 9 Essays and Poems, circa 1938-1965

Box 2, Folder 10 Senior Thesis Part I, 1939

Box 2, Folder 11 Senior Thesis Part II, 1939

Box 2, Folder 12 Notebook, circa 1940

Box 2, Folder 13 Notes, circa 1940-1960

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Series 4: Project Files, 1932-1986

13 Folders (Box 2; Oversize 5)

Scope and Contents: Project Files include newspaper clippings, photographs, correspondence, blueprints, invoices, and plans pertaining to pieces of art that Thaling made. Also included is Thaling's prize certificate for his soap sculpture, "The Rabbit."

Box 2, Folder 14	Clown, circa 1937
Box 2, Folder 15	Diana, 1961
Box 2, Folder 16	Furlough, 1964
Box 2, Folder 17	Harriet Tubman, 1948
Box 2, Folder 18	Jimmie Higgins, circa 1941-1983
Box 2, Folder 19	Joe Hill, 1947-1965
Box 2, Folder 20	Missouri Miner, 1941-1960
Box 2, Folder 21	Planet-Mobile/Glow-Mobile, 1952
Box 2, Folder 22-23	Playground Sculpture, 1949-1951
Oversize 5	Playground Sculpture, Oversized, 1949-1951
Box 2, Folder 24	Rabbit and Miser, Proctor & Gamble Soap Sculpture Competition, circa 1930
Box 2, Folder 25	Sun-Mobile, circa 1949-1986
Box 2, Folder 26	Tree in Eden, circa 1964-1965

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Series 5: Printed Material, 1937-1989

9 Folders (Box 2)

Scope and Contents: Printed Material includes newspaper clippings, exhibition catalogs and announcements, booklets, and brochures related to history, Thalinger's artwork, and his mental health.

Box 2, Folder 27 The Antiochian, 1937

Box 2, Folder 28 Art Classes, circa 1960

Box 2, Folder 29 Booklets, circa 1947-1958

Box 2, Folder 30 Brochures, circa 1954-1957

Box 2, Folder 31 Coronet, 1948

Box 2, Folder 32 Exhibition Catalogs and Announcements, circa 1942-1965

Box 2, Folder 33 Newspaper Clippings, circa 1942-1964, circa 1989

Box 2, Folder 34 St. Louis Artists' Guild, Book of Hours, 1963-1964

Box 2, Folder 35 Miscellaneous Printed Material, Undated

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Series 6: Photographic Material, 1917-1989

1.1 Linear feet (Boxes 2-3; Oversize 6)

Scope and Contents: Photograph Material includes photographs, negatives, and slides of both family and friends and sculptures that Thalinger made over his lifetime.

Art

Box 2, Folder 36	Ancient Ram, circa 1964
Box 2, Folder 36	Aries the Ram, circa 1950
Box 2, Folder 37	Birmingham Church, circa 1964
Box 2, Folder 37	Bird, circa 1961
Box 2, Folder 37	Bull, circa 1955
Box 2, Folder 38	Boy on Pedestal, circa 1940
Box 2, Folder 39	Busts, circa 1955
Box 2, Folder 40	Cabrini Sculptures, circa 1942, 1988
Box 2, Folder 41	Commerical Art, Undated
Box 3, Folder 1	Cain, 1939, circa 1963
Box 3, Folder 2	Clown and Hammer, circa 1955
Box 3, Folder 2	Crucifixion, circa 1960s
Box 3, Folder 3	Dancers, circa 1957
Box 3, Folder 4	Defenders, circa 1940
Box 3, Folder 4	Dr. George Washington Carver, 1943
Box 3, Folder 4	Dying Warrior, 1939
Box 3, Folder 5	Diamond Back, Undated
Box 3, Folder 5	Eagle, Undated
Box 3, Folder 5	Elder, 1948

Box 3, Folder 6	Eugene Victor Debs, circa 1952
Box 3, Folder 6	Eve, Cain, 1962
Box 3, Folder 7	Female Nude, Undated
Box 3, Folder 7	Fertility Figure #1, circa 1964
Box 3, Folder 8	Final Star Final, circa 1945
Box 3, Folder 8	Firing Squad, Undated
Box 3, Folder 9	Fish, circa 1962
Box 3, Folder 10	4-H Boy, circa 1960
Box 3, Folder 10	Frederic Douglass, circa 1956
Box 3, Folder 11	Garden Figure, circa 1936
Box 3, Folder 12	Garden of Eden, circa 1962
Box 3, Folder 12	Golmons, circa 1960
Box 3, Folder 12	Grasshopper, circa 1959
Box 3, Folder 13	General Art, circa 1958
Box 3, Folder 14	G. I. Figures, circa 1989
Box 3, Folder 15	Harvest, circa 1938
Box 3, Folder 15	Title Unknown, circa 1960
Box 3, Folder 16	Henry Clay, circa 1960
Box 3, Folder 17	Holly-Steel Worker, circa 1943
Box 3, Folder 18	Mrs. Hook, 1936
Box 3, Folder 19	Hunting Party, circa 1963
Box 3, Folder 20	Jenkins, KY Post Office, 1940
Box 3, Folder 20	Job, circa 1964
Box 3, Folder 21	John Henry, 1938

Box 3, Folder 22	King Saul, 1948-1954
Box 3, Folder 23	Laborer, 1941-1944
Box 3, Folder 24	Lamb, circa 1989
Box 3, Folder 24	Lincoln, circa 1963
Box 3, Folder 25	Lamps, circa 1950s
Box 3, Folder 26	Luva Flame, circa 1964
Box 3, Folder 27	Maestro, circa 1956
Box 3, Folder 28	Matador, circa 1960
Box 3, Folder 29	Male Nude, circa 1989
Box 3, Folder 30	Mill Creek Flowers, circa 1963
Box 3, Folder 31	Missouri Compromise, circa 1962
Box 3, Folder 32	Moose, circa 1960
Box 3, Folder 33	Models, Undated
Box 3, Folder 34	Moses, circa 1958-1961
Box 3, Folder 35	Mother and Baby Whales, 1961-1968
Box 3, Folder 36	Mother and Child, circa 1989
Box 3, Folder 37	Octopus, circa 1989
Box 3, Folder 38	Oedipus, Mother and Child, circa 1948-1954
Box 3, Folder 39	Pandora's Box, circa 1949
Box 3, Folder 40	Pan, circa 1961
Box 3, Folder 40	The Plumber, circa 1939
Box 3, Folder 41	Peace Monument, circa 1955
Box 3, Folder 42	Piper, circa 1936-1962
Box 3, Folder 43	Post-Atomic Landscape, circa 1960-1964

Box 3, Folder 44	Proctor & Gamble Monument, 1937
Box 3, Folder 45	Rail Splitter, Abe Lincoln, circa 1947
Box 3, Folder 46	Rat, 1940
Box 3, Folder 47	Reclining Woman, circa 1989
Box 3, Folder 47	Relief of Woman, circa 1958
Box 3, Folder 48	Resurrection and Atomic Ruins, circa 1963
Box 3, Folder 48	Rooster, circa 1962
Box 3, Folder 49	Rio Theatre Relief Murals, circa 1939
Box 3, Folder 50	Screen Murals and Sculpture, circa 1956-1958
Box 3, Folder 51	St. Frances, circa 1949-1960
Box 3, Folder 51	St. John, circa 1936
Box 3, Folder 52	St. Francis and Bird, circa 1961
Box 3, Folder 53	Saul, 1947
Box 3, Folder 53	Silent Night, circa 1947
Box 3, Folder 54	Slides, Undated
Box 3, Folder 55	Space Flowers, circa 1963
Box 3, Folder 56	Standard Bearer, circa 1940
Box 3, Folder 57	The Survivor, circa 1947
Box 3, Folder 58	Swordfish, circa 1949
Box 3, Folder 59	Three Wise Men, circa 1961
Box 3, Folder 60	Union Martyr, circa 1946
Box 3, Folder 61	War Mother and Child, circa 1938
Box 3, Folder 62	Whale, Undated
Box 3, Folder 62	Woodchuck, circa 1958

Box 3, Folder 63	Untitled , circa 1960
Oversize 6	Untitled, Oversized, circa 1960
Box 3, Folder 64	Untitled Toy Design, circa 1955
Family and Friends	
Box 3, Folder 65	Ciel Frampton Thalinger, 1928-1945, 1973
Box 3, Folder 66	Frederic Jean Thalinger, 1925-1964
Box 3, Folder 67	Thalinger Family and Friends, circa 1917
Box 3, Folder 68	Thalinger Family and Friends, circa 1955-1965

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Series 7: Artwork, circa 1960-1965

.3 Linear feet (Oversize 7-8)

Scope and Contents: Artwork includes sketches done by Thalinger.

Box 3, Folder 69	Collage, circa 1965
Box 3, Folder 70	Sketches, circa 1965
Oversize 7	Sketches, Oversized, circa 1965
Oversize 8	Sketches, Oversized, circa 1965
Box 3, Folder 71	Vase Sketches, circa 1965

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