



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Osma Gallinger Tod Papers, circa 1925-1993, in the Archives of American Art

Sarah Mundy

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Archives of American Art
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Osma Gallinger Tod papers
Date:	circa 1925-1993
Identifier:	AAA.todosmag
Creator:	Tod, Osma Gallinger, 1895-
Extent:	3.7 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of weaver, author, and teacher Osma Gallinger Tod measure 3.7 linear feet and date from circa 1925 to 1993. The collection comprises biographical materials including photographs of Tod and writings about her by her daughter Josephine Couch Del Deo; files on Tod's numerous writing projects including typescripts, drawings, and samples; records documenting Tod's role as organizer and director of the National Conference of American Handweavers; and printed materials including a scrapbook of clippings, documenting Tod's career.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The Osma Gallinger Tod papers were donated in 1993 and 1995 by Josephine Couch Del Deo, daughter of Osma Gallinger Tod, and in 2020 by Romolo Del Deo, Tod's grandson.

Processing Information

The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Sarah Mundy in 2022.

Preferred Citation

Osma Gallinger Tod papers, circa 1925-1993. 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.

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Biographical / Historical

Osma Gallinger Tod (1895-1983) was a weaver, teacher, and author active in Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Florida. Tod was at the forefront of the reawakened American craft movement of the 1930s, and was the author of *Basket Pioneering*, *Jays of Handweaving*, *The Shuttle Service*, and numerous other instructional guides in the field of decorative art.

Tod was born Lucy Osma Palmer in Newark, New Jersey. She graduated from Wellesley College and married artist Frank Byron Couch with whom she had a daughter, Josephine Couch Del Deo. She developed a craft project known as Cromaine Crafts in Hartland, Michigan, which became a model for efforts in teaching residents of rural communities how to earn money at home. Couch died in 1928 and Tod married cabinet maker and craftsman Milo Oliver Gallinger. They owned a studio and loom factory in Guernsey, Pennsylvania, and established their own business, Creative Crafts. Oliver died in 1956.

After moving to Coral Gables, Florida, Tod established a studio in 1962 from which she taught weaving. The Coral Gables Library and the Weavers Guild of South Florida held a retrospective of her work in 1981. Along with writing and teaching, Tod organized and directed the National Conference of American Handweavers for over 20 years.

Tod died in 1983 in Centerville, Massachusetts.

Scope and Contents

The papers of weaver, author, and teacher Osma Gallinger Tod measure 3.7 linear feet and date from circa 1925 to 1993. The collection comprises biographical materials including photographs of Tod and writings about her by her daughter Josephine Couch Del Deo; files on Tod's numerous writing projects including typescripts, drawings, and samples; records documenting Tod's role as organizer and director of the National Conference of American Handweavers; and printed materials including a scrapbook of clippings, documenting Tod's career.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as four series.

- Series 1: Biographical Materials, circa 1927-1993 (3 folders; Box 1)
- Series 2: Writing Projects, circa 1925-1992 (2.8 linear feet; Boxes 1.3, 5)
- Series 3: National Conference of American Handweavers, 1938-1957 (0.4 linear feet; Boxes 3-4)
- Series 4: Printed Materials, 1927-1981 (0.4 linear feet; Boxes 4-5)

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
Women artists
Women authors

Types of Materials:

Drawings

Scrapbooks

Names:

Del Deo, Josephine Couch
National Conference of American Handweavers

Occupations:

Authors -- Florida -- Coral Gables
Authors -- Michigan
Authors -- Pennsylvania
Teachers -- Florida -- Coral Gables
Weavers -- Florida -- Coral Gables
Weavers -- Michigan
Weavers -- Pennsylvania

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Materials, circa 1927-1993

3 Folders (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: The series consists of clippings of articles accompanied by the original photographs used in the articles featuring clothing designs by Tod, writings about Tod by her daughter Josephine Couch Del Deo, and photographs of Tod creating her designs.

Box 1, Folder 1	Articles and Photographs of Tod's Designs, 1933
Box 1, Folder 2	Biographical Writings on Tod by Josephine Couch Del Deo, 1993
Box 1, Folder 3	Photographs of Tod, circa 1927-circa 1948

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Series 2: Writing Projects, circa 1925-1992

2.8 Linear feet (Box 1-3, 5)

Scope and Contents: Writing projects include typescripts, original illustrations and photographs, weaving and textile samples, and published versions of the projects for numerous instructional brochures, books, and articles by Tod regarding decorative arts for the home with an emphasis on economical solutions during the Depression era. The projects were published in popular magazines such as *Farm and Fireside*, *Woman's Day*, *New York Herald Tribune*, and *McCall's*. Some writings by Tod were written using her pseudonyms Lucy Beecher and Alice Cornelia Hoyt. Also included are files for Tod's personal project, *The Shuttle Service*, a monthly publication devoted to weaving that ran from 1934 to 1980. A history of the publication written by Tod's daughter, Josephine Couch Del Deo, is included in the files.

Box 1, Folder 4	"The American Flag - Know Its Beauty", 1940
Box 1, Folder 5	"Assisi Work for Linens: An Old New Stitch from Italy", circa 1925-1929
Box 1, Folder 6-9	Basket Pioneering, 1933
Box 1, Folder 10	"Batiking for Beginners", circa 1929
Box 1, Folder 11	"Batiking on Paper", 1937
Box 1, Folder 12	"Bedspread Suggestions from the Decorator", 1932
Box 1, Folder 13	"Block Prints You Make and Stamp Yourself", circa 1925-1929
Box 1, Folder 14	"Bouquets That Last the Year Round", circa 1925-1929
Box 1, Folder 15	"Christmas Cards That You Can Print", circa 1925-1929
Box 1, Folder 16-17	"Curtaining the Home", circa 1925-1929
Box 1, Folder 18	"A Desk Set You Can Make", circa 1925-1929
Box 1, Folder 19	"Doll's Dandy House", circa 1925-1929
Box 1, Folder 20	"Dolly's Christmas Luggage", circa 1925-1929
Box 1, Folder 21	"Dressing Tables You Can Make", circa 1925-1929
Box 1, Folder 22	"Dressing Up the Closet", circa 1925-1929
Box 1, Folder 23	"Easy Flower Designs in Swedish Weaving", circa 1925-1929
Box 1, Folder 24	"Easy Made Furnishings for Child's Room", circa 1925-1929
Box 1, Folder 25	"Efficient Mending Methods", circa 1925-1929

Box 2, Folder 1	Embroidery in Wools, circa 1932
Box 2, Folder 2	"Farm Grown Baskets: Woven from Vines, Leaves and Grasses", circa 1930
Box 2, Folder 3	"A Fascinating Home Made Desk That Looks Antique", 1930
Box 5, Folder 1	"A Fascinating Home Made Desk That Looks Antique", 1930
Box 2, Folder 4-5	"First Lessons in Weaving", circa 1930
Box 2, Folder 6	"Five Reed Baskets You Can Make", circa 1930
Box 2, Folder 7	"Five Ways to Reseat Old Chairs", circa 1925-1929
Box 2, Folder 8	"Four Bead Bouquets", circa 1925-1929
Box 2, Folder 9	"From Tin Cans to Flower Pots", circa 1928
Box 2, Folder 10	"Gay Coverings for the Dressing Table", 1931
Box 2, Folder 11	"Gifts to Make with Beads", circa 1925-1929
Box 2, Folder 12	"Hand Made Wall Plaques", circa 1925-1929
Box 2, Folder 13	"Home Made Furniture for Your Porch", circa 1925-1929
Box 2, Folder 14	"Home Made Moccasins Save Shoes in Wartime", circa 1925-1929
Box 2, Folder 15	"How to Bind Your Own Books", circa 1925-1929
Box 2, Folder 16	"How to Make a Kitchen Cabinet from a Packing Box", 1929
Box 2, Folder 17	"How to Make Lampshades with a Professional Finish", 1929
Box 5, Folder 2	"How to Make Lampshades with a Professional Finish", 1929-1930
Box 2, Folder 18	"How to Make Up-To-Date Slip Covers for Your Car and Secure Custom-Made Smartness at a Minimum Expense", 1929
Box 5, Folder 3	"How to Make Up-To-Date Slip Covers for Your Car and Secure Custom-Made Smartness at a Minimum Expense", 1929
Box 2, Folder 19	"How to Repair and Refinish Old Furniture", circa 1925-1929
Box 2, Folder 20-21	The Joy of Hand Weaving: The Complete Step-by-Step Book of Weaving, 1952
Box 2, Folder 22	"Knots Useful to the Farm Family", 1929

Box 2, Folder 23	"Leathercraft", circa 1925-1929
Box 2, Folder 24	"Make a Basket from Corn Husks", 1944
Box 3, Folder 1	"Make the Telephone Book a Thing of Beauty", 1931
Box 5, Folder 4	"Make the Telephone Book a Thing of Beauty", 1931
Box 3, Folder 2	"Mats to Weave of Cord and Twine", circa 1925-1929
Box 3, Folder 3	Miscellaneous Articles for Thread Companies and Capper's Farmer Home Service, circa 1930s
Box 3, Folder 4	"Pine Needle Basketry", circa 1925-1929
Box 3, Folder 5-6	The Reed Book, circa 1930
Box 3, Folder 7	"Repair and Care of Old Picture Frames", circa 1925-1929
Box 3, Folder 8	"Re-Upholstering Your Chair", 1929
Box 3, Folder 9	"Rug Patterns to Design Yourself", circa 1925-1929
Box 3, Folder 10	"Rug Weaving for Everyone", circa 1957
Box 3, Folder 11	"Screens to Make Yourself", 1931
Box 3, Folder 12-16	The Shuttle Service Bulletin, 1936-1992 Notes: Includes a history of the bulletin by Josephine Couch Del Deo.
Box 3, Folder 17	"Things to Do with Corn Shucks", circa 1925-1929
Box 3, Folder 18	"Two Round Rugs", circa 1925-1929
Box 3, Folder 19	"Two Rugs Stitched to Look Hooked-In", circa 1925-1929
Box 3, Folder 20	"Vases and Gift Boxes from Bottles and Coffee Cans", circa 1925-1929
Box 3, Folder 21	"Weaving on Net", circa 1925-1929

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Series 3: National Conference of American Handweavers Files, 1938-1957

0.4 Linear feet (Boxes 3-4)

Scope and Contents: Tod organized and headed the National Conference of American Handweavers for over 20 years. The files contain conference programs, correspondence, clippings, photographs of the conference and attendees, reports, logs of the first 5 conferences beginning in 1938, and manuscripts for articles and lectures by Tod, Helen Daniels Young, Lorraine Kessenich, and others.

Box 3, Folder 22	Conference Files, 1938-1941
Box 3, Folder 23	Conference Files, 1942-1947
Box 4, Folder 1	Conference Files, 1948-1950
Box 4, Folder 2	Conference Files, 1951-1953 Notes: Records for 1952 were not included with the donation of the papers.
Box 4, Folder 3	Conference Files, 1954-1957
Box 4, Folder 4	Logs, First 5 Sessions of National Conferences, 1938-1942
Box 4, Folder 5	Staff Manuscripts, circa 1946

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Series 4: Printed Materials, 1927-1981

0.4 Linear feet (Boxes 4-5)

Scope and Contents: Series includes a few booklets on lace craft, clippings of Tod's published writings, a scrapbook of articles and brochures by Tod, magazines, and a few miscellaneous items including an exhibition announcement for Tod's retrospective in 1981 and instructional brochures by Tod.

Box 4, Folder 6	Booklets on Lace Crafts, circa 1967
Box 4, Folder 7	Clippings, 1938-1941
Box 5, Folder 5	Clippings, 1942-1943
Box 5, Folder 6	Clippings Scrapbook, circa 1925-circa 1951
Box 4, Folder 8	Magazines, 1940-1945
Box 5, Folder 7	Magazines, 1927-1932
Box 4, Folder 9	Miscellaneous, circa 1929-1981

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