



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Paul B. Travis Papers, 1925-1989, in the Archives of American Art

Ricky Gomez

The processing of this collection received Federal support from the Smithsonian Collections Care and Preservation Fund, administered by the National Collections Program and the Smithsonian Collections Advisory Committee.

2019/11/15

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Paul B. Travis papers
Date:	1925-1989
Identifier:	AAA.travpaul
Creator:	Travis, Paul Bough, 1891-1975
Extent:	3.4 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of artist Paul B. Travis measure 3.4 linear feet and date from 1925 to 1989. The papers document his career as an artist and educator through correspondence; writings such as manuscripts, lectures, and transcripts for radio broadcasts; a collection of diaries on his travels through Africa and entries reflecting on his childhood; and a collection of motion picture films of home movies, at work in his studio, and his travels through Africa.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The Paul B. Travis papers were donated by Mrs. Paul Travis, Paul Travis's widow, between 1976 and 1977.

Location of Originals

Originals film reels of the five U-Matic videocassettes of African and Greece and Italy travels are held in the Smithsonian Human Studies Film Archive at the Smithsonian National Museum of National History.

Related Materials

Also found in the Archives of American Art is an oral history interview with Paul Travis conducted by Dennis Barrie, September 24, 1973.

Available Formats

Portions of the collection are available on 35mm microfilm reels 834-835, 1122, and 3480 at the Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan. Researchers should note that the arrangement of material described in the container inventory does not reflect the arrangement of the collection on microfilm.

Processing Information

The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Ricky Gomez in 2019.

Preferred Citation

Paul B. Travis papers, 1925-1989. 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 References Services for more information.

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Biographical / Historical

Paul B. Travis (1891-1975) was born and spent most of his career in Ohio. He studied art at the Cleveland School of Art and received a degree in illustration in 1917. After serving in World War I, Travis returned to Cleveland and began teaching at the Cleveland School of Art. He also began submitting his artwork to the May Show, an annual exhibition of local artists sponsored by the Cleveland Museum of Art. In 1928, Travis took an eight month sabbatical from teaching to travel through Africa, and he sketched, took video and photographs, and collected artifacts throughout his travels. Travis died in 1975.

Scope and Contents

The papers of artist Paul B. Travis measure 3.4 linear feet and date from 1925 to 1989. The papers document his career as an artist and educator through correspondence; writings such as manuscripts, lectures, and transcripts for radio broadcasts; a collection of diaries on his travels through Africa and entries reflecting on his childhood; and a collection of motion picture films of home movies, at work in his studio, and his travels through Africa.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into four series with the writing series divided into a further four sub-series.

- Series 1: Correspondence, 1927-1965 (0.2 linear feet; Box 1)
- Series 2: Diaries, 1965-1971 (1.0 linear feet; Box 1-2)
- Series 3: Writings, 1936-1958 (0.7 linear feet; Box 2)
- Series 4: Home Movies, 1925-1989 (1.5 linear feet; Boxes 2-4)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Types of Materials:

Diaries
Motion pictures

Video recordings

Occupations:

Educators -- Ohio -- Cleveland

Painters -- Ohio -- Cleveland

Container Listing

Series 1: Correspondence, 1927-1965

0.2 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Material consists primarily of letter written to friends and colleagues during his trip throughout Africa.

Box 1, Folder 1	Correspondence, 1927 August 28-October 10
Box 1, Folder 2	Correspondence, 1927 October 16-November 7
Box 1, Folder 3-4	Correspondence, 1927 September-December
Box 1, Folder 5	Correspondence, 1927 November 8-December 5
Box 1, Folder 6	Correspondence, 1927 December 16-December 30
Box 1, Folder 7	Correspondence, 1928 January 10-February 13
Box 1, Folder 8	Correspondence, 1928 February 14-February 23
Box 1, Folder 9	Correspondence, 1928 February 23-May 9
Box 1, Folder 10	Correspondence, 1928 January 1-May 10
Box 1, Folder 11	Correspondence, 1930-1965

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Series 2: Diaries, 1965-1971

1 Linear foot (Boxes 1-2)

Scope and Contents: Diaries are primarily of Travis's trip through Africa as well as recollections of his youth.

Arrangement: The diaries are arranged with those having titles at the beginning followed by notepads of writings. The notepads are in no general order and arranged just as they were found during processing.

Box 1, Folder 12	Diary, 1965
Box 1, Folder 13	Untitled, undated
Box 1, Folder 14-15	The Boston Common, undated
Box 1, Folder 16	Burchfield - The Storm, undated
Box 1, Folder 17	Early Boyhood, undated
Box 1, Folder 18-50	Notepad, circa 1968-1971
Box 2, Folder 1-9	Notepad, circa 1968-1971

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Series 3: Writings, 1936-1958

0.7 Linear feet (Box 2)

Scope and Contents: Materials consist of manuscripts of essays, poetry, and short stories; lectures and speeches; miscellaneous notes and a notebook; transcripts of radio broadcasts Travis took part in for the Cleveland Museum of Art in the 1930s.

Arrangement: The series is divided into four sub-series.

- 3.1: Draft Manuscripts, circa 1958
- 3.2: Lectures and Speeches, circa 1957
- 3.3: Notes, circa 1954
- 3.4: Radio Broadcasts, 1936-1953

Subseries 3.1: Draft Manuscripts, circa 1958

Box 2, Folder 10	A Dialogue in limbo Upon Contemporary Art Part II, undated
Box 2, Folder 11	The Arts for Development: The Visual Sense, 1958
Box 2, Folder 12	Death of Luigi, the Purple Parakeet, undated
Box 2, Folder 13	Dialogues of the Dead, undated
Box 2, Folder 14-16	Literary Works, undated
Box 2, Folder 17	Miscellaneous, undated

Subseries 3.2: Lectures and Speeches, circa 1957

Box 2, Folder 18	An Analysis on Figure Drawing, undated
Box 2, Folder 19	The Artist as a Human Being, undated
Box 2, Folder 20	The Destruction of Pompeii, undated
Box 2, Folder 21	Human Relations, undated
Box 2, Folder 22	Poetry and Painting: Creative Stimuli, 1957
Box 2, Folder 23	Western Landscape, undated
Box 2, Folder 24	Miscellaneous, undated

Subseries 3.3: Notes, circa 1954

Box 2, Folder 25	Notebook, circa 1954
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Box 2, Folder 26 Miscellaneous, undated

Subseries 3.4: Radio Broadcasts, 1936-1953

Box 2, Folder 27 Oil and Water Color Painting in the May Show, 1936 May 18

Box 2, Folder 28 Untitled, 1936 July 6

Box 2, Folder 29 Untitled, 1936 July 13

Box 2, Folder 30 Untitled, 1936 July 20

Box 2, Folder 31 Untitled, 1936 July 27

Box 2, Folder 32 Untitled, 1936 August 10

Box 2, Folder 33 Gallery IX, 1936 August 24

Box 2, Folder 34 Gallery X, 1936 September 14

Box 2, Folder 35 Gallery XI, 1936 September 28

Box 2, Folder 36 General Paintings, 1936 November 18

Box 2, Folder 37 Untitled, 1937 March 23

Box 2, Folder 38 The May Show, 1937 May 17

Box 2, Folder 39 Untitled, 1937 June 28

Box 2, Folder 40 Duvaneck, Sargent, and Ryder, 1937 July 26

Box 2, Folder 41 New Horizons in American Art, 1938 February 21

Box 2, Folder 42 Oil Painting in the May Show, 1938 May 9

Box 2, Folder 43 The May Show, 1938 May 17

Box 2, Folder 44 Untitled, 1939 February 19

Box 2, Folder 45 The Great Lakes Exhibition, 1939 March 16

Box 2, Folder 46 Rembrandt and the Dutch Tradition, 1939 April 16

Box 2, Folder 47 Gauguin Papers, 1939 October 15

Box 2, Folder 48	Masterpieces of art From Foreign Collections, 1940 February 9
Box 2, Folder 49	Masterpieces of Art Exhibition, 1940 February 25
Box 2, Folder 50	The May Show, 1940 May 12
Box 2, Folder 51	The May Show, 1940 May 27
Box 2, Folder 52	National Art Week, 1940 November 26
Box 2, Folder 53	The May Show, 1942 May 9
Box 2, Folder 54	The May Show, 1943 May 15
Box 2, Folder 55	Degas, 1947 March 1
Box 2, Folder 56	The May Show, 1948
Box 2, Folder 57	Chas Burchfield Drawings, 1953 November 18
Box 2, Folder 58	New Horizons in American Art, undated
Box 2, Folder 59	An Artist Views WTAM, undated
Box 2, Folder 60	The May Show, undated
Box 2, Folder 61	The West as Material for American Artists, undated
Box 2, Folder 62	The Christmas Story in Art, undated
Box 2, Folder 63	Art and War, undated
Box 2, Folder 64	New Year Show, undated
Box 2, Folder 65	Van Gogh, undated
Box 2, Folder 66	The Easter Story in Art, undated
Box 2, Folder 67	Miscellaneous, undated

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Series 4: Home Movies, 1925-1989

1.5 Linear feet (Boxes 2-4, FC 5)

Scope and Contents: Materials include motion picture reels of Travis at work on art, home movies of his family, and material related to his trip through Africa between 1927 and 1928.

Box 2, Folder 68	"Paul Travis African Travel Footage, 1927-1928, Rolls #1 and #2", 1989 October 25 2 Videocassettes (U-matic)
Box 3, Folder 1	"Paul Travis African Travel Footage, 1927-1928, Rolls #3 and #4", 1989 October 25 2 Videocassettes (U-matic)
Box 3, Folder 2	"Paul Travis Travel Footage: Greece and Italy", 1989 October 5 1 Videocassettes (U-matic)
	Home Movies, 1926-1933; 1946-1954 12 Motion picture films
Item FC 13	Home Movies, Paul Travis Personal Footage, reel 1, 1926 1 Film reel (16mm)
Item FC 14	Home Movies, Paul Travis Personal Footage, reel 2, 1926 1 Film reel (16mm)
Item FC 15	Home Movies, Paul Travis Personal Footage, reel 3, 1926 1 Film reel (16mm)
Item FC 16	Home Movies, Paul Travis Personal Footage, reel 4, 1926 1 Film reel (16mm)
Item FC 17	Home Movies, Paul Travis Personal Footage, reel 5, 1926 1 Film reel (16mm)
Item FC 18	Home Movies, Paul Travis Personal Footage, reel 6, 1926 1 Film reel (16mm)
Item FC 19	Home Movies, Paul Travis Personal Footage, reel 7, 1926 1 Film reel (16mm)
Item FC 5	Home Movies, Paul Travis Personal Footage, reel 8, 1926 1 Film reel (16mm)
Item FC 20	Home Movies, Paul Travis Personal Footage, reel 9, 1946 1 Film reel (16mm)
Item FC 21	Home Movies, Paul Travis Personal Footage, reel 10, 1947-1954

	1 Film reel (16mm)
Item FC 22	Home Movies, Paul Travis Personal Footage, reel 11, 1947-1954 1 Film reel (16mm)
Item FC 23	Home Movies, Paul Travis Personal Footage, reel 12, 1947-1954 1 Film reel (16mm)
Item FC 24	Home Movies, Paul Travis Personal Footage, reel 13, 1947-1954 1 Film reel (16mm)
	Staged Amateur Films, 1925 4 Motion picture films Notes: The titles of the films are as follows: "A Dastardly Deed," "The Photographer," "Looking for Pledge Material," and "...Approved by Humor Society."
Item FC 6	Staged Amateur Films, reel 1, 1924 1 Film reel (16mm)
Item FC 7	Staged Amateur Films, reel 2, 1924 1 Film reel (16mm)
Item FC 8	Staged Amateur Films, reel 3, 1924 1 Film reel (16mm)
Item FC 9	Staged Amateur Films, reel 4, 1924 1 Film reel (16mm)
	Travel Footage, Kenya and Tanzania, circa 1936 2 Motion picture films
Item FC 10	Travel Footage, Kenya and Tanzania, reel 1, 1936 1 Film reel (16mm)
Item FC 11	Travel Footage, Kenya and Tanzania, reel 2, 1936 2 Film reels (16mm)
Item FC 12	Footage of Paul Travis Painting, circa 1938 1 Motion picture film Notes: Paul Travis at work painting. Head Leader note: PAUL TRAVIS TRAVEL FOOTAGE Reel 4 HEAD

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