



Smithsonian  
*Archives of American Art*

A Finding Aid to the Jane Wade Papers  
Regarding Curt Valentin, 1903-1971,  
in the Archives of American Art

Stephanie Ashley

Funding for the processing and digitization of this  
collection was provided by The Walton Family Foundation.

2018/05/07

# Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	1
Administrative Information .....	1
Arrangement.....	3
Biographical / Historical.....	2
Scope and Contents.....	2
Names and Subjects .....	3
Container Listing .....	5
Series 1: Jane Wade Papers Regarding Curt Valentin, 1903-1971.....	5

## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Jane Wade papers regarding Curt Valentin
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.wadejane
<b>Date:</b>	1903-1971
<b>Extent:</b>	0.6 Linear feet
<b>Creator:</b>	Wade, Jane, 1925-
<b>Language:</b>	Multiple languages  This collection is in English and German.
<b>Summary:</b>	The Jane Wade papers regarding art dealer and New York gallery owner Curt Valentin, measure 0.6 linear feet and date from 1903-1971. This small collection consists of papers donated by former Curt Valentin Gallery employee Jane Wade, which provide scattered documentation of Valentin's life and exhibitions at the Buchholz Gallery (renamed Curt Valentin Gallery in 1951) including biographical material, correspondence from artists Valentin represented, writings and notes, lists documenting clients, exhibitions held, and artwork by Picasso sold by the gallery, clippings of obituaries for Valentin, and a complete set of Buchholz Gallery exhibition catalogs from 1937-1948.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

The Jane Wade papers were donated by Jane Wade in 1976. The catalogs of exhibitions organized by Curt Valentin were donated in 1977 by Jane Wade. In 2018 the two collections were merged and named the Jane Wade papers regarding Curt Valentin.

### Related Materials

The bulk of Curt Valentin's papers are held by the Museum of Modern Art Archives.

### Available Formats

This collection was digitized in 2018 and is available on the Archives of American Art website.

### Processing Information

The collection was donated separately in two accessions: The Jane Wade papers, and the Catalogs of exhibitions organized by Curt Valentin. Both accessions were microfilmed after donation on reels 2322 and 5742 respectively. Due to their related subject matter and provenance the two collections were merged as the Jane Wade papers regarding Curt Valentin. The collection was then processed, prepared for digitization, and described in a

finding aid by Stephanie Ashley in 2018 and digitized with funding provided by The Walton Family Foundation.

## Preferred Citation

Jane Wade papers regarding Curt Valentin, 1903-1971. 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.

## Conditions Governing Use

The Jane Wade papers regarding Curt Valentin are owned by the Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution. Literary rights as possessed by the donor have been dedicated to public use for research, study, and scholarship. The collection is subject to all copyright laws.

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## Biographical / Historical

Born in Germany in 1902, modern art dealer Curt Valentin immigrated to the United States in 1937 where he opened the Buchholz Gallery on West Forty-sixth Street in New York city. After two years he moved the gallery to West Fifty-seventh Street and in 1951 it was renamed the Curt Valentin Gallery.

Valentin's first job was with Alfred Flechtheim, the leading dealer in modern art in Berlin at that time. In 1934 he began working with Karl Buchholz in Hamburg, selling modern art classified as degenerate by the Nazi government from the rear of Buchholz's bookstore. In 1937 Valentin was granted a permit from the Reichskammer der bildenden Künste in Berlin to purchase and sell German artwork outside of Germany. He left Germany that same year with a number of pictures and came to the United States.

Valentin was a widely respected dealer who specialized in modern paintings, sculpture, and prints, and handled the work of major artists including Alexander Calder, John Flannagan, Gerhard Marcks, Marino Marini, and Henry Moore.

Valentin died suddenly of a heart attack at the age of 52, while visiting Mario Marini in Italy in 1954.

Jane Wade was employed as Valentin's assistant and continued to help run the Curt Valentin Gallery after his death, until it closed in 1955. She then worked for Otto Gerson at Fine Arts Associates, where she helped to handle the works of some of the artists previously represented by Valentin.

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## Scope and Contents

The Jane Wade papers regarding art dealer and New York gallery owner Curt Valentin, measure 0.6 linear feet and date from 1903-1971. This small collection consists of papers donated by former Curt Valentin Gallery employee Jane Wade, which provide scattered documentation of Valentin's life and exhibitions at the Buchholz Gallery (renamed Curt Valentin Gallery in 1951) including biographical material, correspondence from artists Valentin represented, writings and notes, lists documenting clients, exhibitions held, and artwork by Picasso sold by the gallery, clippings of obituaries for Valentin, and a complete set of Buchholz Gallery exhibition catalogs from 1937-1948.

Valentin's biographical material is in German and includes his baptismal certificate, a report book from Hamburg University, a letter of recommendation from Commetersche Kunsthandlung, a 1937 permit authorizing Valentin to buy and sell the work of German artists outside Germany, and his 1950 passport.

Valentin's correspondence is primarily with artists and includes letters from Ben-Zion, Reg Butler, Alexander Calder, Jan Cox, Lyonel Feininger, John Flannagan, Barbara Hepworth, Karl Knaths, Gerhard Marcks, André Masson, Henry Moore, Clifford Odets, Carl Pickhardt, Alton Pickens, John Piper, Kurt Roesch, and Graham Sutherland. There are also photocopies of three letters in German from Georg Kolbe. Many of the letters are substantial and provide details about the artists and their work. Also found are a letter vouching for Valentin's loyalty to the United States from Alfred Barr, and two 1942 letters from France from art dealer Henry Kahnweiler, containing news of European artists including Picasso and André Masson.

Jane Wade's correspondence extends to her time working for Otto Gerson at Fine Arts Associates, and includes letters from some of the artists whose work was handled by Curt Valentin, including Alexander Calder, Lois Dailey, and Henry Moore. There are also thirteen letters and telegrams from David Smith, with some responses from Jane Wade and Otto Gerson, which document exhibitions and details of his artist-dealer relationship with Gerson and include sketches of his sculpture with information about prices. Also found in Wade's correspondence are letters from Gertrude Lennart and Marino Marini. Lennart describes the last days of Valentin's life as she accompanied him on a visit to Marini in Italy in August 1954.

There are three folders of condolence letters written upon Valentin's death, from artists, museum and gallery professionals, and other colleagues and friends.

Writings and notes include two appreciations of Valentin written after his death by André Masson and Henry Moore, and a sheet of notes written by John Flannagan with an accompanying note entitled "Some of Johns' thoughts...."

Printed material is comprised of news clippings of obituaries and reviews of a memorial exhibition for Valentin, in addition to a complete set of bound exhibition catalogs for Buchholz Gallery from 1937-1948. Also found is a bound collection of 1929 exhibition catalogs for Galerie Alfred Flechtheim.

Artwork includes a Christmas card from Valentin designed by an artist whose name is illegible; a print by Gerhard Marcks; and a colored pencil sketch of "127 Evil Eye II" on Curt Valentin letter head, with an address on the Rue de Seine written beside it.

Photographs include two of Valentin in his gallery and two of an unidentified woman, possibly Jane Wade, in the gallery; a folder of photographs of Valentin's apartment showing his art collection; a photo of a Robert Osborn cartoon about Valentin; and a photo of "Portrait of Curt Valentin" by Jacques Lipchitz.

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## Arrangement

The collection is arranged as a single series.

- Series 1: Jane Wade Papers Regarding Curt Valentin, 1903-1971 (0.6 linear feet; Boxes 1-2)

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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 dealers -- New York (State) -- New York  
Art galleries, Commercial -- New York (State) -- New York  
Art, Modern -- 20th century  
Gallery owners -- New York (State) -- New York

Types of Materials:

Photographs  
Prints  
Sketches

Names:

Barr, Alfred H., Jr., 1902-1981  
Ben-Zion  
Buchholz Gallery (New York, N.Y.)  
Butler, Reg, 1913-1981  
Calder, Alexander, 1898-1976  
Cox, Jan, 1919-1980  
Curt Valentin Gallery (New York, N.Y.)  
Feininger, Lyonel, 1871-1956  
Fine Arts Associates  
Flannagan, John Bernard, 1895?-1942  
Gerson, Otto  
Hepworth, Barbara, Dame, 1903-1975  
Kahnweiler, Daniel Henry, 1884-  
Knaths, Karl, 1891-1971  
Kolbe, Georg, 1877-1947  
Lipchitz, Jacques, 1891-1973  
Marcks, Gerhard  
Marini, Marino, 1901-1980  
Masson, André, 1896-1987  
Moore, Henry, 1898-1986  
Odets, Clifford, 1906-1963  
Osborn, Robert Chesley, 1904-1994  
Picasso, Pablo, 1881-1973  
Pickens, Alton  
Pickhardt, Carl E.  
Piper, John, 1903-  
Roesch, Kurt, 1905-  
Smith, David, 1906-1965  
Sutherland, Graham Vivian, 1903-  
Universität Hamburg  
Valentin, Curt, 1902-1954

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Jane Wade Papers Regarding Curt Valentin, 1903-1971

#### *0.6 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2)*

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Papers are grouped by type. Correspondence is arranged alphabetically and includes notes at the folder level of correspondents found in each folder.

Box 1, Folder 1	Biographical Material, 1903-1936 <a href="#">Image(s)</a>
Box 1, Folder 2	Biographical Material, Passport, 1950

[Image\(s\)](#)

## Correspondence

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Box 1, Folder 3  | Curt Valentin Correspondence, B, 1940-1952<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a><br>Barr, Alfred; Ben-Zion; Butler, Reg   |
| Box 1, Folder 4  | Curt Valentin Correspondence, C, circa 1944<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a><br>Calder, Alexander; Cox, Jan  |
| Box 1, Folder 5  | Curt Valentin Correspondence, F, circa 1939-circa 1942<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a><br>Feininger, Lyonel; Flannagan, John; Flesch, Tetta               |
| Box 1, Folder 6  | Curt Valentin Correspondence, H, circa 1942<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a><br>Hayter; Hepworth, Barbara  |
| Box 1, Folder 7  | Curt Valentin Correspondence, K, circa 1938-circa 1942<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a><br>Kahnweiler, Henry; Kirchner; Knaths, Karl; Kolbe, Georg         |
| Box 1, Folder 8  | Curt Valentin Correspondence, M, circa 1937-circa 1954<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a><br>Maillol; Marcks, Gerhard; Masson, André; Moore, Henry           |
| Box 1, Folder 9  | Curt Valentin Correspondence, O-P, circa 1947-circa 1948<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a><br>Odets, Clifford; Pickhardt, Carl; Pickens, Alton; Piper, John |
| Box 1, Folder 10 | Curt Valentin Correspondence, R-S, 1944-1951<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a><br>Roesch, Kurt; Sutherland, Graham  |
| Box 1, Folder 11 | Curt Valentin Correspondence, Unidentified/Illegible, 1938-1954<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a>   |
| Box 1, Folder 12 | Jane Wade Correspondence, A-B, 1954<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a><br>Albright Art Gallery; Beckmann, Quappi   |
| Box 1, Folder 13 | Jane Wade Correspondence, C-D, circa 1954   |



- [Image\(s\)](#)  
Calder, Alexander; Dailey, Lois
- Box 1, Folder 14      Jane Wade Correspondence, G-L, circa 1954-1962  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
Grohmann, Will; Lefebvre-Foinet
- Box 1, Folder 15      Jane Wade Correspondence, M-P, 1954-1971  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
Maurice; Marini, Marino; Moore, Henry; Ness, June; Pickens, Alton
- Box 1, Folder 16      Jane Wade Correspondence, Smith, David, circa 1957-circa 1961  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 17      Jane Wade Correspondence, Smith, David, circa 1954  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 18      Jane Wade Correspondence, Z and Unidentified/Illegible, 1954  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
Zette
- Box 1, Folder 19      Condolence Letters after Valentin's Death, A-H, 1954  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 20      Condolence Letters after Valentin's Death, I-Z, 1954  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 21      Condolence Letters after Valentin's Death, Unidentified/Illegible, 1954  
[Image\(s\)](#)

#### Writings and Notes

- Box 1, Folder 22      Appreciations of Valentin by André Masson and Henry Moore, 1954  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 23      Notes by John Flannagan, circa 1930s  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 24      Short Story "Little Bush" by Unidentified Author, undated  
[Image\(s\)](#)

#### Business Records

- Box 1, Folder 25      List of Clients/Contacts, circa 1955

[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 1, Folder 26      List of "Picasso Items Sold by the Valentin Gallery", circa 1950  
[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 1, Folder 27      List of "Some Important Curt Valentin Exhibitions", circa 1955  
[Image\(s\)](#)

Printed Material

Box 1, Folder 28      Clippings, Obituaries, 1954  
[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 2, Folder 1      Exhibition Catalogs, Galerie Alfred Flechtheim, 1929  
[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 2, Folder 2      Exhibition Catalogs, Buchholz Gallery, 1937-1941  
[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 2, Folder 3      Exhibition Catalogs, Buchholz Gallery, 1943-1944  
[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 2, Folder 4      Exhibition Catalogs, Buchholz Gallery, 1944-1945  
[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 2, Folder 5      Exhibition Catalogs, Buchholz Gallery, 1945-1946  
[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 2, Folder 6      Exhibition Catalogs, Buchholz Gallery, 1946-1947  
[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 2, Folder 7      Exhibition Catalogs, Buchholz Gallery, 1947-1948  
[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 2, Folder 8      Artwork, circa 1940s  
[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 2, Folder 9      Photographs of Valentin and Gallery, circa 1940s  
[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 2, Folder 10      Photographs of Valentin's Apartment, circa 1940s  
[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 2, Folder 11      Photographs of Artwork, circa 1940s  
[Image\(s\)](#)

*[Return to Table of Contents](#)*