



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Marion Walton Papers, 1915-1976, in the Archives of American Art

Jean Fitzgerald

2006

Archives of American Art
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Marion Walton papers
Date:	1915-1976
Identifier:	AAA.waltmari
Creator:	Walton, Marion, b. 1899
Extent:	0.8 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	This small collection of the papers of sculptor Marion Walton measures 0.8 linear feet and dates from 1915-1976. Fifteen folders of letters written to Marion and her mother Blanche Wetherill Walton include many from artists and photographers, writers, musicians and composers, and political figures. Also found are printed materials, photographs, and a file concerning a reception for author Jonathan Daniels.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The Marion Walton papers were donated in 1976 by Marion Walton.

Processing Information

The papers were processed in December 2006 by Jean Fitzgerald.

Preferred Citation

Marion Walton papers, 1915-1976. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions on Access

The collection is open for research. Use requires an appointment.

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Biographical Note

Marion Walton was born in 1905 in New Rochelle, New York, the daughter of Ernest Forster Walton and music patron Blanche Wetherill Walton. During the 1920s, she studied at the Art Students League and,

from approximately 1922 to 1924, at the Académie de la Grande Chaumière in Paris under sculptor Antoine Bourdelle. One of her classmates was Alberto Giacometti.

In 1933, Walton had a solo exhibition at the Weyhe Gallery and later participated in numerous group exhibitions primarily in New York City and in Paris, France. Her work is represented in private collections in the United States and abroad, and in the museum of the University of Nebraska.

Walton taught students in her studio in New York City and at Sarah Lawrence College. She was also a member of Artists Equity and a charter member of the Sculptors Guild.

Walton was married to James Putnam, assistant to the President of the publishing house, MacMillan Company.

Marion Walton died in 1996.

Scope and Content Note

The collection measures 0.8 linear feet, dates from 1915-1976, and documents the career of sculptor Marion Walton. Found within the papers are letters, printed material, photographs, and a file concerning a reception for author Jonathan Daniels.

Letters include those received by Walton and her mother, music patron Blanche Wetherill Walton, from many notable correspondents, including artist Charles Green Shaw, historian and suffragist Mary Beard, and novelist Vera Brittain. There are scattered letters from artists Béla Kádár, Rockwell Kent, Fred Dana Marsh, Georgia O'Keeffe, John Singer Sargent, Theo Stamos, and Abbott Handerson Thayer, composers Henry Cowell and Carl Ruggles, musician Pete Seeger, lecturer Ruth Gage-Colby, photographer Roy E. Stryker, political figures James Forrestal, Eleanor Roosevelt, and Shirley Williams, and writers Carl Carner and Margaret Storm Jameson.

Printed material primarily consists of clippings and exhibition catalogs, and photographs are of Walton, her family, colleagues, and artwork. Of special interest is an early photograph of Alberto Giacometti with Rodin's model Carmen, and a photograph of Pablo Picasso autographed on the reverse.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into 4 series. All series are arranged chronologically.

Missing Title:

- Series 1: Letters, 1922-1976 (Box 1; 15 folders)
- Series 2: File Concerning a Reception for Jonathan Daniels, 1946 (Box 1; 14 folders)
- Series 3: Printed Material, 1924-1976 (Boxes 1-2; 17 folders)
- Series 4: Photographs, 1915-1972 (Box 2; 18 folders)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Women artists
Women sculptors

Types of Materials:

Photographs

Scrapbooks

Names:

Beard, Mary Ritter, 1876-1958
Carmer, Carl Lamson, 1893
Cowell, Henry, 1897-1965
Daniels, Jonathan, 1902-1981
Forrestal, James, 1892-1949
Gage-Colby, Ruth
Giacometti, Alberto, 1901-1966 -- Photographs
Jameson, Storm, 1891-1986
Kadar, Bela
Kent, Rockwell, 1882-1971
Marsh, Fred Dana, 1872-1961
O'Keeffe, Georgia , 1887-1986
Picasso, Pablo, 1881-1973 -- Photographs
Roosevelt, Eleanor, 1884-1962
Ruggles, Carl, 1876-1971
Sargent, John Singer, 1856-1925
Seeger, Pete, 1919-2014
Shaw, Charles Green, 1892-1974
Stamos, Theodoros, 1922-1997
Thayer, Abbott Handerson, 1849-1921
Walton, Blanche Wetherill
Williams, Shirley, 1930-

Container Listing

Series 1: Letters, 1922-1976

(Box 1; 15 folders)

Scope and Contents: This series contains letters received primarily by Walton and her mother, Blanche Wetherill Walton, from friends and colleagues including artist Charles Green Shaw, historian and suffragist Mary Beard, and novelist Vera Brittain. There are scattered letters from artists Béla Kádár, Rockwell Kent, Fred Dana Marsh, Georgia O'Keeffe, John Singer Sargent, Theo Stamos, and Abbott Handerson Thayer, composers Henry Cowell and Carl Ruggles, musician Pete Seeger, lecturer Ruth Gage-Colby, photographer Roy E. Stryker, political figures James Forrestal, Eleanor Roosevelt, and Shirley Williams, and writers Carl Carner and Margaret Storm Jameson.

Box 1, Folder 1-2	Letters, Surnames "A-Z", undated (2 folders)
Box 1, Folder 3	Letters, 1922-1929
Box 1, Folder 4	Letters, 1932-1933
Box 1, Folder 5	Letters, 1934-1938
Box 1, Folder 6-7	Letters, 1940 (2 folders)
Box 1, Folder 8	Letters, 1941-1942
Box 1, Folder 9	Letters, 1943-1945
Box 1, Folder 10	Letters, 1946
Box 1, Folder 11	Letters, 1947-1948
Box 1, Folder 12	Letters, 1950-1957
Box 1, Folder 13	Letters, 1960-1966
Box 1, Folder 14	Letters, 1967
Box 1, Folder 15	Letters, 1970-1976

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Series 2: File Concerning a Reception for Jonathan Daniels, 1946

(Box 1; 14 folders)

Scope and Contents: This file contains address lists of invitees and their letters of response for a reception to honor Jonathan Daniels, author of *Frontier on the Potomac*. The event took place on October 22, 1946, and was organized by Walton's husband, James Putnam, for the MacMillan Company publishing house. Among the responses, primarily from politicians and publishers, are letters signed by Bernard Baruch, Felix Frankfurter, J. Edgar Hoover, Lyndon B. Johnson, and Estes Kefauver.

Box 1, Folder 16 Address Lists, 1946

Box 1, Folder 17-29 Letters in Response to the Invitation, 1946
(13 folders)

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Series 3: Printed Material, 1924-1976

(Boxes 1-2; 17 folders)

Scope and Contents: Printed material consists of clippings, exhibition announcements and catalogs for Walton and others, a program for a concert in tribute to Walton's mother, and a book about and autographed by Walton's art professor Antoine Bourdelle. A 1939 Sculptors Guild exhibition catalog is autographed by 18 artists including Saul Baizerman, Jose De Creeft, Dorothea Greenbaum, Chaim Gross, and William Zorach.

Box 1, Folder 30	Clippings, undated
Box 1, Folder 31	Clippings, 1926-1933
Box 1, Folder 32	Clippings, 1938-1939
Box 1, Folder 33	Clippings, 1940
Box 1, Folder 34	Clippings, 1941-1947
Box 1, Folder 35	Clippings, 1959-1976
Box 1, Folder 36	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs for Walton, undated
Box 1, Folder 37	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs for Walton, 1933-1939
Box 1, Folder 38	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs for Walton, 1940-1941
Box 1, Folder 39	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs for Walton, 1962
Box 1, Folder 40	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs for Walton, 1964-1967
Box 1, Folder 41	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs for Walton, 1968
Box 1, Folder 42	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs for Walton, 1970-1972
Box 1, Folder 43	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs for Walton, 1973-1976
Box 1, Folder 44	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs for Others, 1933-1975
Box 1, Folder 45	Program for a Concert in Tribute to Blanche Walton, 1959
Box 1, Folder 46	Book, L'Essor Pathétique de Bourdelle, 1924

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Series 4: Photographs, 1915-1972

(Box 2; 18 folders)

Scope and Contents: Photographs are of Marion Walton, her family, and colleagues including French actress Danielle Delorme, composer Carl Ruggles, writers Carl Carmer and J. E. Spingarn, artists Gladys Thayer Reasoner and Alberto Giacometti with Rodin's model Carmen, and works of art. There is a photograph of a party at the Art Students League, and a commercially produced photograph of Antoine Bourdelle with Auguste Rodin. There is also a photograph by L. Yvroud of Pablo Picasso standing next to his sculpture *L'Homme au Mouton* in the town square of French riviera town Vallauris Golfe-Juan. The reverse of this photograph is stamped "Parti Communiste Français" by the photographer and autographed in pencil by Picasso. Travel photographs show views of Greece, Italy, and France, including the town of Vallauris where Walton studied pottery near Picasso's home.

Box 2, Folder 1	Photographs of Marion Walton, 1918-1935
Box 2, Folder 2	Photographs of Marion Walton, 1954-1971
Box 2, Folder 3	Photographs of Family Members, 1915-1961
Box 2, Folder 4-6	Photographs of Artists, 1921-1972, undated (3 folders)
Box 2, Folder 7-17	Photographs of Artwork by Walton, 1933, undated (11 folders)
Box 2, Folder 18	Travel Photographs, 1951-1953, undated

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