



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the A.G. (Abel George)
Warshawsky papers, circa 1900-1988,
in the Archives of American Art

Jayna M. Josefson

Funding for the processing and digitization of this collection
was provided by the Terra Foundation for American Art

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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: Biographical Material, 1923-circa 1940.....	5
Series 2: Correspondence, 1941-1964.....	6
Series 3: Writings and Notes, circa 1930-circa 1950.....	7
Series 4: Printed Material, 1920-1964.....	8
Series 5: Scrapbooks, 1913-1960.....	9
Series 6: Photographs, circa 1910-1988.....	10
Series 7: Sketchbooks, circa 1910-circa 1950.....	13
Series 8: Artwork, circa 1900-1951.....	16

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	A.G. (Abel George) Warshawsky papers
Identifier:	AAA.warsabel
Date:	circa 1900-1988
Extent:	3.8 Linear feet
Creator:	Warshawsky, A. G. (Abel G.), 1883-1962
Language:	The collection is in English
Summary:	The papers of A.G. (Abel George) Warshawsky date from circa 1900 to 1988 and measure 3.8 linear feet. the papers contain biographical materials; scattered correspondence, most of which consists of letters from Warshawsky to his wife Ruth; writings, including versions of Warshawsky's autobiography; printed materials; two scrapbooks; photographs and eight photo albums; twenty-six sketchbooks; and artworks by Warshawsky and others.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The bulk of the A.G. Warshawsky papers were donated in 1996 by Froma Goldberg, Warshawsky's niece. In 1978, Ruth Warshawsky donated a typescript copy of her husband's autobiography, "My Brush with Life."

Separated Materials

The Western Reserve Historical Society in Cleveland, Ohio holds the Abel G. Warshawsky Family papers.

Available Formats

The collection was digitized in 2015 and is available via the Archives of American Art's Website.

Processing Information

The A.G. Warshawsky papers were arranged upon receipt and partially microfilmed on reel 3893. In 2013, the collection was fully merged, processed, described, and digitized by Jayna Josefson with funding provided by the Terra Foundation for American Art.

Preferred Citation

A.G. (Abel George) Warshawsky papers, circa 1900-1988. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington D.C. Research Facility. Contact Reference Services for more information.

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Biographical / Historical

Impressionist painter A.G. Warshawsky (1883-1962) was active in Paris and Monterey, California.

Abel George "Buck" Warshawsky was born in Sharon, Pennsylvania in 1883. He spent his childhood in Cleveland, Ohio where he studied at the Cleveland Art Institute. Warshawsky moved to New York where he studied at the Art Students League and the National Academy of Design. His brother, Alexander also became an artist.

In 1909, Abel Warshawsky left the U.S. for Paris where he remained for thirty years. There, he developed his unique style, combining Impressionism and Realism. He returned to the United States annually, mostly to sell his paintings, but remained active in the Parisian art scene until 1939. He exhibited his works in Cleveland, New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Paris.

Before the start of World War II, Warshawsky left Paris and settled in Monterey, California. Warshawsky married Ruth Tate in 1941. He died from heart failure in 1962. His works are in the permanent collections of the Akron Art institute, the Cleveland museum of Art, the Luxembourg Museum, the De Young Museum, the Petit Palais, and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

Scope and Contents

The papers of A.G. (Abel George) Warshawsky date from circa 1900 to 1988 and measure 3.8 linear feet. The papers contain biographical materials; scattered correspondence, most of which consists of letters from Warshawsky to his wife Ruth; writings, including versions of Warshawsky's autobiography; printed materials; two scrapbooks; photographs and eight photo albums; twenty-six sketchbooks; and artworks by Warshawsky and others.

Biographical materials consist of passports, an identification card, and a *Who's Who* entry. Correspondence is scattered and contains letters written by A.G. Warshawsky to his wife Ruth. There are also telegrams of congratulations for the Warshawskys' 1941 marriage and a few letters from museums and institutions regarding Warshawsky's art.

Writings and notes include three versions of Warshawsky's autobiography entitled: "My Brush with Life," "Adventures with Color and Brush," and "Warshawsky's Autobiography." The autobiography concerns his

life in Paris, activities, and acquaintances as a young art student in Paris. Also found are other writings about art and a notebook.

Printed material includes exhibition catalogs, xeroxed copies of news clippings and a clippings file concerning Warshawsky's career, published material, and reproductions of works of art. Also found is a printed portfolio comprised of an introduction to Warshawsky and reproductions of his paintings.

There is one original and one xeroxed scrapbook, containing news clippings, and exhibition materials from 1913 to 1960.

Photographs includes eight photo albums and photographs of Warshawsky, of family and friends, and of works of art. The bulk of the photo albums contain photographs of works of art. Two photo albums consist of personal photos of Warshawsky and his wife Ruth in their home in California. Other photographs are of Warshawsky painting in his studio, with his art, and of his wife, family, friends, and artist models.

Twenty-six sketchbooks are primarily in pencil and are undated or unidentified. Some sketchbooks include place names such as Monterey and Carmel, California, Mexico, and Paris.

Additional artwork includes loose sketches and a print by Warshawsky. Also found are prints and drawings by others, including Goya, Edwin Kaufman, and Paul de Lassece.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 8 series.

- Series 1: Biographical Material, 1923-circa 1940 (3 folders; Box 1)
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1941-1964 (4 folders; Box 1)
- Series 3: Writings and Notes, circa 1930-circa 1950 (0.4 linear feet; Box 1)
- Series 4: Printed Material, 1920-1964 (0.2 linear feet; Box 1, 6, OV 12)
- Series 5: Scrapbooks, 1913-1960 (0.3 linear feet; Box 1, 9)
- Series 6: Photographs, circa 1910-1988 (1.4 linear feet; Box 1-2, 5, 7-8, OV 10)
- Series 7: Sketchbooks, circa 1910-circa 1950 (1.0 linear feet; Box 2-3, 5-6)
- Series 8: Artwork, circa 1900-1951 (0.5 linear feet; Box 3-5, OV 11)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Art -- Study and teaching -- France -- Paris
Art students -- France -- Paris
Artists' studios -- Photographs
Expatriate painters -- France -- Paris
Impressionism (Art)

Types of Materials:

Drawings
Photograph albums
Photographs
Prints

Scrapbooks
Sketchbooks
Sketches

Names:

Warshawsky, Ruth

Occupations:

Painters -- California -- Los Angeles

Geographic Names:

Paris (France)

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Material, 1923-circa 1940

3 Folders (Box 1)

Biographical materials include a membership card, three passports, and a *Who's Who* entry for A.G. Warshawsky.

This series has been scanned in its entirety.

Box 1, Folder 1	Identification Card, Société de la Légion d'honneur, 1938 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 2	Passports, 1923-1938 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 3	<i>Who's Who</i> Entry, circa 1940 Image(s)

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 2: Correspondence, 1941-1964

4 Folders (Box 1)

Correspondence includes letters from A.G. Warshawsky to his wife, Ruth, telegrams, and scattered letters from museums and institutions concerning his art.

This series has been scanned in its entirety.

Box 1, Folder 4-5 Abel Warshawsky to Ruth Tate Warshawsky, 1941-1950

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 1, Folder 6 Telegrams, 1941 June

[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 1, Folder 7 Museums and Institutions to Abel and Ruth Warshawsky, 1959-1964

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 3: Writings and Notes, circa 1930-circa 1950

0.4 Linear feet (Box 1)

Writings by A.G. Warshawsky include versions of his autobiography entitled: "My Brush with Life," "Adventures with Color and Brush," and a later typescript entitled "Warshawsky's Autobiography." Also found are other writings on art and a notebook.

Warshawsky's autobiography records his life in Paris, activities, and acquaintances as a young art student in Paris. He recalls meeting Winslow Homer, (Gustave) Dounies Courtois, Modigliani, Paul Signac and Auguste Renoir. Mentioned are Jack Casey, Arthur Burdett Frost, Jr., Samuel Halpert, Ben Kafka, David Karfunkle, Leon Kroll, Louis Loeb, Henry Mathes, Ivan Olinsky, Alfred Rigny, Hugo Robus, Daniel Gale Turnbull, Alexander Warshawsky (his brother), Wythe Williams, and William Zorach.

This series has been scanned in its entirety.

Box 1, Folder 8	"The Barnums of Art," by A.G. Warshawsky, circa 1930 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 9	[After Ethel's Funeral], by A.G. Warshawsky, circa 1930 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 10-14	"My Brush with Life," by A.G. Warshawsky, circa 1940 Image(s) Image(s) Image(s) Image(s) Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 15-16	"Adventures with Color and Brush," by A.G. Warshawsky, circa 1940 Image(s) Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 17	[Craftsmanship], by A.G. Warshawsky, circa 1950 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 18	"Warshawsky's Autobiography," by A.G. Warshawsky, circa 1950 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 19	Notebook, circa 1940 Image(s)

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 4: Printed Material, 1920-1964

0.2 Linear feet (Box 1, 6, OV 12)

Printed materials include exhibition catalogs, clippings and xeroxed copies of clippings relating to Warshawsky's career, an issue of *Art and Archaeology*, and reproductions of works of art. Also found is film publicity materials for *The Story Behind the Film, Creation of a Portrait* featuring Warshawsky. There is a portfolio publication on Warshawsky that includes reproductions of his work of art.

This series has been scanned in its entirety.

Box 1, Folder 20	Exhibition Catalog, 1958-1962 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 21-22	Clippings (xerox), circa 1930-1964 Image(s) Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 23	<i>Art and Archaeology</i> , Vol IX, No. 6, 1920 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 24	Film Publicity Material, <i>The Story Behind the Film, Creation of a Portrait</i> , circa 1950 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 25	Reproductions of Works of Art, circa 1930 Image(s)
Box 6, Folder 1	Clippings File, 1949 Image(s)
Box OV 12, Folder 1	Portfolio, 1927 Image(s)

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 5: Scrapbooks, 1913-1960

0.3 Linear feet (Box 1, 9)

There are two scrapbooks, one a photocopy, containing printed materials.

This series has been scanned in its entirety.

Box 1, Folder 26-27 Scrapbook 1 (xerox), 1913-1960

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 9, Folder 1 Scrapbook 2, circa 1910-circa 1930

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 6: Photographs, circa 1910-1988

1.4 Linear feet (Box 1-2, 5, 7-8, OV 10)

Eight photo albums house photos of A.G. and Ruth Warshawsky, of family and friends, and of works of art. The majority of the photo albums consist of photos of portraits and other works of art by Warshawsky. There are two photo albums with personal photographs of Warshawsky, Ruth, their home and studio in Monterey, California. Photos of Warshawsky include snapshots and portraits, some of which depict the artist painting in his studio or with his art. Other photos of Warshawsky are with his wife, family, and friends. Also found are photographs of models, probably used as inspiration for Warshawsky's art and of works of art in situ.

This series has been scanned in its entirety.

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| Box 1, Folder 28 | Photo Album 1, circa 1940
Image(s)
Monterey, California. Includes Portraits, Warshawsky painting in studio, homes, and landscapes. Likely taken by Max Reichmann. |
| Box 1, Folder 29 | Photo Album 2, circa 1960
Image(s)
Includes photos of portraits by Warshawsky. Album was dismantled and pages with identification were photocopied. |
| Box 1, Folder 30 | Photo Album 3, circa 1960
Image(s)
Includes photographs of portraits by Warshawsky. |
| Box 1, Folder 31-32 | Photo Album 4, circa 1960
Image(s)
Image(s)
Includes photographs of portraits by Warshawsky. |
| Box 1, Folder 33-34 | Photo Album 5, circa 1940
Image(s)
Image(s)
Includes personal and studio photos. Also found are clippings. |
| Box 1, Folder 35 | Photo Album 6, 1901-circa 1940
Image(s)
Oversized material housed in Box 7. Contains photos of works of art, portraits, and sketches. |
| Box 1, Folder 36 | Photo Album 7, circa 1940
Image(s)
Oversized material housed in Box 8. Includes photos of works of art and an exhibition catalog. |

- Box 1, Folder 37 Photo Album 8, circa 1960
[Image\(s\)](#)
Oversized material housed in Box 5, F1. Includes photos of works of art.
- Box 2, Folder 1 A.G. Warshawsky, 1952-1957
[Image\(s\)](#)
Oversized material housed in Box 5, F7 and OV 10.
- Box 2, Folder 2 A.G. and Ruth Warshawsky, circa 1956
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 2, Folder 3 Ruth Warshawsky, circa 1950-1956
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 2, Folder 4 Ruth Warshawsky with Art, circa 1960
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 2, Folder 5 Warshawsky with Family and Friends, circa 1950-1958
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 2, Folder 6-7 Family, circa 1910-circa 1930
[Image\(s\)](#)
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 2, Folder 8 Filming a Movie, circa 1940
[Image\(s\)](#)
Includes A.G. and Ruth Warshawsky, Joseph P. Davies, and J.R. Kray
- Box 2, Folder 9 Models, circa 1920-circa 1940
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 2, Folder 10 Works of Art, In Situ, circa 1930
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 2, Folder 11 Works of Art, circa 1940-1988
[Image\(s\)](#)
Oversized material housed in Box 5, F9 and OV 10.
- Box 2, Folder 12-13 Negatives, Slides, and Transparencies, circa 1950-circa 1970
[Image\(s\)](#)
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 5, Folder 1 Oversized Photo Album 8, Scanned with Box 1, F37, circa 1960
- Box 5, Folder 7 Oversized Photo of A.G. Warshawsky, Scanned with Box 2, F1, 1952-1957

Box 5, Folder 9	Oversized Photos of Works of Art, Scanned with Box 2, F11, circa 1940-1988
Box 7	Oversized Photo Album 6, Scanned with Box 1, F35, circa 1940
Box 8	Oversized Photo Album 7, Scanned with Box 1, F36, 1901-circa 1940
Box OV 10	Oversized Photos of Warshawsky and Works of Art, Scanned with Box 2, F1, 11, circa 1940-1988

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 7: Sketchbooks, circa 1910-circa 1950

1 Linear foot (Box 2-3, 5-6)

There are twenty-six sketchbooks by A.G. Warshawsky, likely dating from circa 1910 to circa 1950. Most are unlabeled, however a few places are referenced, including Monterey and Carmel, California, Paris, France, and Mexico.

This series has been scanned in its entirety.

Box 2, Folder 14	Sketchbook 1, circa 1910-circa 1950 Image(s) Monterey and Carmel
Box 2, Folder 15	Sketchbook 2, circa 1910-circa 1950 Image(s) Mexico
Box 2, Folder 16	Sketchbook 3, circa 1910-circa 1950 Image(s) Taxco, Mexico
Box 2, Folder 17	Sketchbook 4, circa 1910-circa 1950 Image(s) Paris
Box 2, Folder 18	Sketchbook 5, circa 1910-circa 1950 Image(s)
Box 3, Folder 1	Sketchbook 6, circa 1910-circa 1950 Image(s)
Box 3, Folder 2	Sketchbook 7, circa 1910-circa 1950 Image(s)
Box 3, Folder 3	Sketchbook 8, circa 1910-circa 1950 Image(s)
Box 3, Folder 4	Sketchbook 9, circa 1910-circa 1950 Image(s)
Box 3, Folder 5	Sketchbook 10, circa 1910-circa 1950 Image(s)
Box 3, Folder 6	Sketchbook 11, circa 1910-circa 1950

[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 3, Folder 7	Sketchbook 12, circa 1910-circa 1950 Image(s) Fragment
Box 3, Folder 8	Sketchbook 13, circa 1910-circa 1950 Image(s)
Box 3, Folder 9	Sketchbook 14, circa 1910-circa 1950 Image(s)
Box 3, Folder 10	Sketchbook 15, circa 1910-circa 1950 Image(s)
Box 3, Folder 11	Sketchbook 16, circa 1910-circa 1950 Image(s)
Box 3, Folder 12	Sketchbook 17, circa 1910-circa 1950 Image(s)
Box 3, Folder 13	Sketchbook 18, circa 1910-circa 1950 Image(s)
Box 5, Folder 2	Sketchbook 19, circa 1910-circa 1950 Image(s)
Box 5, Folder 3	Sketchbook 20, circa 1910-circa 1950 Image(s)
Box 5, Folder 4	Sketchbook 21, circa 1910-circa 1950 Image(s)
Box 6, Folder 2	Sketchbook 22, circa 1910-circa 1950 Image(s)
Box 6, Folder 3	Sketchbook 23, circa 1910-circa 1950 Image(s)
Box 6, Folder 4	Sketchbook 24, circa 1910-circa 1950 Image(s)
Box 6, Folder 5	Sketchbook 25, circa 1910-circa 1950 Image(s)
Box 6, Folder 6	Sketchbook 26, circa 1910-circa 1950

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 8: Artwork, circa 1900-1951

0.5 Linear feet (Box 3-5, OV 11)

Additional artwork consists of pencil and pen and ink sketches and a print by A.G. Warshawsky. Also found are prints and drawings by others, with some signatures illegible. Some artworks by others are inscribed to Warshawsky as "Buck" and dated. Other artists include Goya, Edwin Kaufman, and Paul de Lassence.

This series has been scanned in its entirety.

Box 3, Folder 14	Loose Sketches, circa 1900-circa 1950 Image(s) Oversized material housed in Box 5, F8. Intended to be framed.
Box 4, Folder 1	Loose Sketches, circa 1900-circa 1950 Image(s) Intended to be framed
Box 4, Folder 2-3	Loose Sketches, circa 1900-circa 1940 Image(s) Image(s)
Box 4, Folder 4	Print, Likely by Warshawsky, circa 1920 Image(s) Oversized material housed in Box 5, F5.
Box 4, Folder 5	Artwork by Others, circa 1920s-1951 Image(s) Oversized material housed in Box 5, F6 and OV11.
Box 5, Folder 5	Oversized Print by Warshawsky, Scanned with Box 4, F4, circa 1920
Box 5, Folder 10	Oversized Loose Sketches, Scanned with Box 4, F2-3, circa 1900-circa 1940
Box 5, Folder 6	Oversized Artwork by Others, Scanned with Box 4, F5, circa 1920s
Box 5, Folder 8	Oversized Sketches Intended to be Framed, Scanned with Box 3, F1, circa 1900-circa 1950
Box OV 11	Oversized Artwork by Others, Scanned with Box 4, F5, circa 1920s-1951

[Return to Table of Contents](#)