



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## A Finding Aid to the Ezra Winter papers, 1918-1948, in the Archives of American Art

Allessandra Liberati

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.

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Ezra Winter papers
<b>Date:</b>	1918-1948
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.wintezra
<b>Creator:</b>	Winter, Ezra, 1886-1949
<b>Extent:</b>	2.4 Linear feet
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	The Ezra Winter papers measure 2.4 linear feet and date from 1918-1948 and document the life and work of Ezra Winter through correspondence, writings, project and commission files, personal business records, printed materials, photographic materials, and artwork.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Papers were donated in 1969 by the Cooper Hewitt Museum and in 1973 by son in law Albert W. Moss. The bulk of the microfilmed materials were donated in 1973 by Albert W. Moss. Unmicrofilmed materials were donated by the Cooper Hewitt Museum in 1969.

### Separated Materials

The Archives of American Art also holds microfilm of material donated for microfilming (reels 971-972) including: Correspondence, clippings, receipts, contracts, sketches and descriptions related to mural commissions for the Birmingham Public Library, George Rogers Clark Memorial, University of Rochester and the Eastman School of Music, Library of Congress, U.S. Supreme Court Building, and the Chase National Bank International Building; biographical material; and material relating to the Commissions of Fine Arts, Washington, D.C. and the Commissions of Sculpture, State of Connecticut.

### Processing Information

This collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared, by Alessandra Liberati in 2023.

### Preferred Citation

Ezra Winter papers, circa 1918-1948. 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.

### Conditions Governing Use

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## Biographical / Historical

Ezra Winter (1886-1949) was a prominent muralist, illustrator, and painter based in Falls Village, Connecticut. Winter was born in Traverse City, Michigan and would pursue training in art; in 1908 he trained at the Chicago Academy of Fine Arts and at the American Academy of Rome in 1914. Throughout his training Winter gravitated towards murals. His best-known works include *The Canterbury Tales* at the Library of Congress and *Fountain of Youth* located in the foyer of Radio City Music Hall. Winter was associated with the National Society of Mural Painters, the Architectural League of New York, the US Commission of Fine Arts, and was a member of the National Institute of Arts and Letters. Throughout his career Winter also completed works for the US Supreme Court Building, the US Chamber of Commerce, the University of Rochester and Eastman School of Music, and a six-story work for the Guardian Building in Detroit. During World War 1, Winter was a designer for the US Shipping Board. Later in his career Winter taught at the Grand Central School of Art and maintained a studio in Falls Village, Connecticut. While painting a mural Winter fell which resulted in a broken and compacted tailbone. Due to his injuries Winter was unable to continue painting. In 1949 he ended his own life near his Connecticut studio at the age of 63.

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## Scope and Contents

The Ezra Winter papers measure 2.4 linear feet and date from 1918-1948. Correspondence consists of personal letters to Winter from friends and family, as well as letters between George Putnam and Winter regarding the property at Rye and various projects, as well as correspondence written by Winter to multiple individuals. Project and Commission Files includes materials relating to each of Winter's mural projects and commissions, as well as various committees Winter was a part of and competitions. Materials include correspondence, supply receipts, plans, sketches, and contracts. Personal Business Records consists of materials relating to the Winter chicken farm business in Falls Village, Connecticut and correspondence, bills, and other documents relating to Winter's studio in Connecticut. Printed Materials includes newspaper clippings referencing Winter's sculptures and murals, and booklets and pamphlets relating to the locations of Winter's murals and sculptures. Photographic materials present depict Winter's murals and artwork. Artwork consists of prints of murals by Winter, and prints of sketched Christmas cards sent by Winter to family and friends.

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## Arrangement

This collection is arranged in 7 series:

- Series 1: Correspondence, circa 1925-1945 (0.1 Linear feet: Box 1)
- Series 2: Writings, circa 1918-1933 (0.1 Linear feet: Box 1)
- Series 3: Project and Commission Files, circa 1920-1948 (0.9 Linear feet: Box 1-2)
- Series 4: Personal Business Records, circa 1920-1939 (0.3 Linear feet: Box 2)
- Series 5: Printed Materials, circa 1922-1941 (0.3 Linear feet: Box 2, OV 3)
- Series 6: Photographic Materials, circa 1929-1932 (0.4 Linear feet: Box 2, OV 4)
- Series 7: Artwork, circa 1929-1932 (0.3 Linear feet: Box 2, OV 5, OV 6)

## Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Mural painting and decoration -- 20th century -- United States

Types of Materials:

Drawings

Occupations:

Illustrators -- Connecticut

Muralists -- Connecticut -- Falls Village

Painters -- Connecticut

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Correspondence, circa 1925-1945

#### *.1 Linear feet*

Scope and Contents: Correspondence includes letters from friends and family to Winter, as well as materials written by Winter and correspondence from George Putnam regarding Winter's estate in Rye and various projects of Winter's.

Box 1, Folder 1	A-M, circa 1929-1939
Box 1, Folder 2	R-W, circa 1926-1934
Box 1, Folder 3	George Palmer Putnam, circa 1925-1932
Box 1, Folder 4	By Ezra Winter, circa 1927-1945

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## Series 2: Writings, circa 1918-1933

### .1 Linear feet

Scope and Contents: Writings contains Winter's Resume/CV and notes of speeches given by Winter for CBS, the Mural Painters Society, and others.

Box 1, Folder 5	Resume/CV, circa 1918
	Notes for Speeches
Box 1, Folder 6	CBS Radio Program, circa 1932-1933
Box 1, Folder 7	Dinner at the Art Center, circa 1932-1933
Box 1, Folder 8	Mural Painters Society, circa 1932-1933
Box 1, Folder 9	Miscellaneous, circa 1933

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## Series 3: Project and Commission Files, circa 1920-1948

*.9 Linear feet*

Scope and Contents: Project and Commission Files contains materials related to Winter's mural projects at the Library of Congress, Birmingham Public Library, the Finance Building in Harrisburg Pennsylvania, the United States Post Office, Court house and Customs House in New York, the Chase Bank International Building, Radio City Music Hall in Rockefeller Center, the Cutler Union Building, the United States Supreme Court Building, the George Rogers Clark Memorial, the mural of George Washington's inauguration, a commissioned sculpture for the state of Connecticut, and work for the Commission of Fine Arts.

## Mural Projects

Box 1, Folder 10	Library of Congress, circa 1929-1941
Box 1, Folder 11	Birmingham Alabama Public Library, circa 1930-1934
Box 1, Folder 12	Finance Building, Harrisburg, PA, circa 1937
Box 1, Folder 13	United States Post Office, Court House, and Customs House in New York, circa 1934
Box 1, Folder 14	Chase National Bank, International Building, circa 1937-1938
Box 1, Folder 15	Radio Music City Hall, Rockefeller Center, circa 1932-1934
Box 1, Folder 16	Cutler Union Building and Eastman School of Music, circa 1932-1934
US Supreme Court Building	
Box 1, Folder 17-18	Correspondence, circa 1934-1935
Box 1, Folder 19	Business Records and Receipts , circa 1934-1935
George Rogers Clark Memorial	
Box 1, Folder 20-26	Correspondence, circa 1930-1941
Box 1, Folder 27	Sesquicentennial Committee Meeting Minutes , circa 1930-1934
Box 1, Folder 28	Contract, Insurance, and Business Accounts, circa 1932-1934
Box 1, Folder 29	Research Notes and Sketch for Mural, circa 1920-1934
Box 1, Folder 30	Mural of the Inauguration of George Washington, circa 1933-1934
The Commission of Fine Arts	
Box 1, Folder 31-32	Minutes and Correspondence, circa 1931-1936



Box 2, Folder 1	Minutes and Correspondence, circa 1931-1936
Box 2, Folder 2	Commission of Sculpture, State of Connecticut, circa 1945-1948
Box 2, Folder 3	New York State Roosevelt Memorial Competition, circa 1932-1933

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## Series 4: Personal Business Records, circa 1920-1939

### .3 Linear feet

Scope and Contents: Personal Business Records consist of materials relating to Winter's chicken farm in Falls Village, Connecticut, materials regarding Winter's studio in Connecticut, documents regarding payments and work schedules, and commission receipts for various jobs and projects completed by Winter.

Box 2, Folder 4	Falls Village Chicken Farm, circa 1932-1934
Box 2, Folder 5	Studio Lease and Notary Letter, circa 1931-1934
Box 2, Folder 6	Regarding Grand Central Terminal Studio, circa 1929-1939
Box 2, Folder 7	Studio Rental, Repair, and Supply Bills, circa 1929-1934
Box 2, Folder 8	Payroll and Work Schedules, circa 1933-1936
Box 2, Folder 9	Payments and Receipts for New York Business, circa 1920-1935
Box 2, Folder 10-12	Commission Receipts (Ezra Winter Time of Men), circa 1932-1936

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## Series 5: Printed Materials, circa 1922-1941

### .3 Linear feet

Scope and Contents: Printed Materials includes an obituary for Glenn Brown by Charles Moore, pamphlets and booklets regarding various locations associated with Winter's art, newspaper clippings relating to Winter's projects, and commission illustrations for various murals.

Box 2, Folder 13	Obituary for Glenn Brown by Charles Moore, 1932-10-15
Box 2, Folder 14	Pamphlets and Booklets, circa 1932
Box 2, Folder 15-16	Newspaper Clippings, circa 1922-1941
Box 2, Folder 17	Holiday Cards, circa 1929-1932
Oversize 3	Commission Illustrations, circa 1929-1932

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## Series 6: Photographic Materials, circa 1929-1932

*.4 Linear feet*

Scope and Contents: Photographic Materials includes photographs of murals and other artworks by Winter.

Box 2, Folder 18-27	Photographs of Artwork, circa 1929-1932
Oversize 4	Photographs of Artwork, circa 1929-1932

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## Series 7: Artwork, circa 1929-1932

.3 Linear feet

Scope and Contents: Artwork includes prints of landscapes, portraits, and images on holiday cards as well as mechanicals of seal sketches for the Chamber of Commerce.

Box 2, Folder 28      Prints , circa 1929-1932

Oversize 5      Mechanicals of Seal Sketches for the Chamber of Commerce, circa 1929-1932

Oversize 6      Prints, circa 1929-1932

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