



Smithsonian
*Freer Gallery of Art and
Arthur M. Sackler Gallery*

Anne J. van Biema Papers

Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery Archives
National Museum of Asian Art Archives
Washington, D.C. 20013
Business Number: 202-633-0533
AVRreference@si.edu
<https://asia.si.edu/research/archives/>

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery Archives
Title:	Anne J. van Biema Papers
Date:	1896-2003
Identifier:	FSA.A2004.02
Creator:	Biema, Anne van
Extent:	6 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Image(s): Anne J. van Biema Papers

Administrative Information

Provenance

Bequest of Anne J. van Biema detailed in her will dated April 3, 2003, received 2004.

Citation

Anne J. van Biema Papers. National Museum of Asian Art Archives. Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C.

Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Permission to publish, quote, or reproduce must be secured from the repository.

Biographical / Historical

Anne Joseph van Biema was born in Cleveland, Ohio on February 18, 1915 to Helen Haiman Joseph and Ernest A. Joseph. At a young age she became interested in Japanese prints and artwork, in part due to a modern reproduction which was framed and hung in their home (This piece can be found in Box 11 of the collection). She married Hendrick Hans van Biema, a Jewish-German lawyer. She was an avid collector and researcher of Japanese woodblock prints, specifically in the ukiyo-e style. This led her to do much research in the field, as well as amass a significant collection. Some of her collection is now in the permanent collection of the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, previously displayed as a loan in the Sackler's "Masterful Illusions" exhibition in 2002. For much of her life Anne was a founder and active member of the Ukiyo-e Society of America (now the Japanese Art Society of America), at one time acting as a governing officer. Anne died in her home in New York City on January 14th, 2004.

Scope and Contents

This collection contains correspondence to colleagues, friends, and family; research files; genealogical records of both Anne J. van Biema and her husband's families; and records pertaining to the Ukiyo-e Society of America. It includes photographs of the pieces in her collection, three framed pieces of artwork from her household, and images of her and her mother. This collection also contains material related to Helen Haiman Joseph, van Biema's mother and the "Grandmother of Puppetry" in the United States. The collection also contains information about van Biema's donations to various art institutions and charities, as well as collection documentation and exhibit records.

Arrangement

The collection is organized into four series:

- Series 1: Biographical Materials
 - Series 2: Collection Records
 - Series 3: Correspondence
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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:

Color prints, Japanese -- Collectors and collecting -- United States
Color prints, Japanese -- Edo period, 1600-1868
Ukiyoe
Ukiyoe -- Collectors and collecting -- United States

Types of Materials:

Personal papers
Photographs

Names:

Ukiyo-e Society of America

Places:

USA -- New York -- New York

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Materials, 1896-2003

Language: English, German.
 Arrangement: Organized into three subseries: • Subseries 1: Anne van Biema • Subseries 2: Helen Haiman Joseph • Subseries 3: Other Family
 Scope and Contents: This series contains genealogical records for both Anne van Biema and her husband, Hendrick Hans van Biema's families. This includes personal documentation, some specifically from Hendrick's time living in Germany during the Third Reich. It also includes information on Anne's mother, Helen Haiman Joseph, who was known as the "Grandmother of Puppetry". The New York Public Library's archives house the rest of Joseph's papers.

1: Anne van Biema, 1928-2003

Language: English.
 Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically by title.
 Scope and Contents: This subseries pertains to van Biema's childhood and genealogical records of her family. This includes framed photographs and drawings, a reproduction of a woodblock print which she kept from her childhood home, as well as large prints of her with her collection and ones of her, her mother, and her sister.

Box 1, Folder 1	Special Events, 1981
Box 1, Folder 2	Travel, 1994-1995
Box 8, Folder 1	van Biema Family and Ludwig Papers, 1928-2003
Box 1, Folder 4	van Biema, 1990-1999
Box 8, Folder 2	Wertheim Family and Anna v. B
Box 11, Folder 1	Framed Child Portrait
Box 11, Folder 2	Framed Modern Reproduction of Japanese Print
Box 11, Folder 3	Framed Pastel Child Portrait
Box 11, Folder 4	Newspaper Clippings, August 13, 1932
Box 11, Folder 5	Helen? And Anne? Childhood Photographs
Box 11, Folder 6	Photographs of Anne and Collection Pieces

2: Helen Haiman Joseph, 1896-1979

Language: English, German.
 Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically by title.

Scope and Contents: This subseries contains papers collected by van Biema about her mother's work in puppetry, as well as personal writings and correspondence between Joseph and various people. Also included are newspaper clippings, playbills, and drafts of Joseph's puppetry books.

Box 1, Folder 6	Helen Haiman Joseph
Box 1, Folder 7	[Helen Haiman Joseph- archival materials], 1945-1979
Box 1, Folder 8	[Helen Haiman Joseph- correspondence, clippings], 1896-1970
Box 1, Folder 9	[Writings by Helen Haiman Joseph]

3: Other Family, 1952-2002

Language: English, English, German.
Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically by title.

Scope and Contents: Included in this subseries are papers pertaining to other members of van Biema's family and genealogical records, as well as records of van Biema's husband family.

Box 2, Folder 1	Black-Joseph Family, 1952-1999
Box 2, Folder 2	[Death of Hendrick van Biema], 1982-1983
Box 8, Folder 3	Hendrick van Biema (Hans Herman)
Box 2, Folder 4	Lanny and Don, (January 7, 1947- March 29, 1973), (August 24 -August 23 2000)
Box 8, Folder 4	Peter Haiman Family, 1996-2002
Box 2, Folder 6	[Photographs]
Box 9, Folder 1	Hendrick van Biema Leather Pouch
Box 9, Folder 2	Hendrick van Biema Metal Necklace (Formerly Inside Pouch)

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Series 2: Collection Records, 1960-2003

Language: English.
 Arrangement: Organized into three subseries: • Subseries 1: Collection Documentation • Subseries 2: Research • Subseries 3: Donations
 Scope and Contents: This series contains the records and research of van Biema's collection of Ukiyo-e Japanese woodblock prints. This includes documentation, research which she conducted on various artists of the style, and donation records of her gifts to museums and other cultural institutions, both monetary and of physical art items.

1: Collection Documentation, 1960-2003

Language: English.
 Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically by title.
 Scope and Contents: This subseries is concerned with documentation and records van Biema kept of her collection, such as invoices, notes on care, and loan agreements made with museums to display parts of her collection in exhibitions.

Box 2, Folder 7	Care of Collection- Photography
Box 2, Folder 8	Cataloguing
Box 2, Folder 9	Collectors Note Book, 1972
Box 2, Folder 10	[Consignments to Christie's], 1984-1985
Box 2, Folder 11	Cristies, 1981-1984
Box 2, Folder 12	[Edythe] Polster/ [Collection Records], 1976-1990
Box 3, Folder 1	Eldred Auctions, 1982-1983
Box 3, Folder 2	G. [Gary] Levine/ [Collection Records], 1979-1983
Box 3, Folder 3	[Gallery Reciepts], 1968-1981
Box 3, Folder 4	[Herbert] Egenolf/ [Collection Records], 1981-2003
Box 3, Folder 5	Israel Goldman/ [Collection Records], 1994-2003
Box 3, Folder 6	[Joan B.] Mirviss/ [Collection Records], 1982-1993
Box 3, Folder 7	[Merlin] Dailey/ [Collection Records], 1980-2002
Box 3, Folder 8	Misc., 1976
Box 3, Folder 9	[Misc.] Collection [Records], 1963-2003
Box 3, Folder 10	Other, 1976-1988

Box 3, Folder 11	[Preparations for Masterful Illusions exhibit], 2002-2003
Box 3, Folder 12	Print Collection
Box 3, Folder 13	Prints- Exhibition- Requests, 2000-2002
Box 3, Folder 14	Publishers
Box 3, Folder 15	Smithsonian-Other
Box 3, Folder 16	Sotheby- Park Bernet and PB84, 1969-1980
Box 3, Folder 17	Sotheby Sale, 1987 June
Box 10	Reference Photographs, 1960-2000

2: Research, 1962-1987

Language: English.

Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically by title.

Scope and Contents: This subseries includes materials related to research van Biema conducted on various artists of the Ukiyo-e style and caring for the prints which she already owned. It also includes information on artists signatures, Japanese ruling eras, and various brushwork styles.

Box 4, Folder 1	[Correspondence, receipts & invoices for Ukiyo-e Catalogs], 1983-1986
Box 4, Folder 2	Floating in box (Research)
Box 4, Folder 3	Hiroshige, 1975
Box 4, Folder 4	Japanese Chronology
Box 8, Folder 5; Box 4, Folder 5	Kuniyoshi, 1977-1984
Box 5, Folder 6; Box 8, Folder 7	Lowenthal
Box 4, Folder 7	[Miscellaneous Collection Records], 1987
Box 4, Folder 8	Misc.
Box 4, Folder 9	Misc., 1973-1985
Box 4, Folder 10	[Notes, catalogs & publication lists of books on Ukiyo-e] I, 1981-1982
Box 4, Folder 11	[Notes, catalogs & publication lists of books on Ukiyo-e] II, 1981-1982

Box 4, Folder 12	Osaka, 1979
Box 8, Folder 6	Oversize Newspaper Prints, 1969
Box 4, Folder 14	[Reference file of Japanese Prints] II
Box 5, Folder 1	[Reference file of Japanese Prints] II
Box 5, Folder 2	Signatures (general)
Box 5, Folder 3	Toshiyoshi and His School [unclear] and Meiji, 1979
Box 5, Folder 4	Toyokuni- Kunisada (Toyokuni III), 1962

3: Donations, 1980-2001

Language: English.

Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically by title.

Scope and Contents: This subseries includes information on donations van Biema made to various art institutions throughout the United States, both monetary and physical pieces of artwork. The Smithsonian, along with Notre Dame's Snite Museum are included.

Box 5, Folder 6	Art Gift with Newark, 1981
Box 5, Folder 7	Collection of Anne van Biema at Princeton
Box 5, Folder 8	Contracts and Gifts-Smithsonian
Box 5, Folder 9	Donation: NY Public Library, 1997-1999
Box 5, Folder 10	Donation: WCC [Women's City Club], 1997
Box 5, Folder 11	Friends of the Freer/Sackler
Box 5, Folder 12	London [Smithsonian Donation], 1991
Box 5, Folder 13	Notre Dame Snite Museum, 1988-1991
Box 5, Folder 14	Princeton- Art Trust
Box 5, Folder 15	Smithsonian - Catalogue
Box 5, Folder 16	Smithsonian- Endowment
Box 6, Folder 1	Smithsonian- Gift Annuity AvB
Box 6, Folder 2	Smithsonian Membership, 1980-2001

Box 6, Folder 3

Stocks Contributed to Smithsonian

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Series 3: Correspondence, 1919-2003

Language: English.

Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically by title.

Scope and Contents: This series contains the correspondence between van Biema and her colleagues, friends, and family members, including correspondence between van Biema and friends she made while traveling in Japan and collecting artwork.

Box 6, Folder 4	Book of Drawings from German Correspondence Folder
Box 6, Folder 5	[Correspondence from Ernestine and Her Husband Paul], 1941-1966
Box 6, Folder 6	[Correspondence from Helen Haiman Joseph], 1970-1975
Box 6, Folder 7; Box 8, Folder 8	[Correspondence from Hendrick van Biema], 1942-1954
Box 6, Folder 8	[Correspondence to Hendrick van Biema], 1971, 1973
Box 6, Folder 9	[Correspondence to Anne Joseph], 1919-1953
Box 6, Folder 10	[Correspondence to Helen Joseph], 1933-1934
Box 6, Folder 11	German Correspondence, 1982-1998
Box 6, Folder 12	HHJ Letters from Hawaii, 1963
Box 6, Folder 13	Japanese Correspondence, 1984-1995
Box 7, Folder 1	Japanese Correspondence, 1954-1984
Box 7, Folder 2	Letterhead
Box 7, Folder 3	[Miscellaneous Correspondence to Helen Haiman Joseph], 1919-1959
Box 7, Folder 4	[Miscellaneous Correspondence] (1937)
Box 7, Folder 5	Roger Keyes, 1981-1985
Box 7, Folder 6	Sackler, 2002
Box 7, Folder 7	Sackler/Freer Correspondence, 1995-2003

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