



Smithsonian Institution Archives

Records, 1930-1969

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu
Title:	Records
Identifier:	Record Unit 280
Date:	1930-1969
Extent:	18 cu. ft. (18 record storage boxes)
Creator::	Cooper Union Museum for the Arts of Decoration. Department of Exhibitions
Language:	Language of Materials: English

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 280, Cooper Union Museum for the Arts of Decoration. Department of Exhibitions, Records

Historical Note

The Department of Exhibitions was first organized as the Exhibits Section in 1946. Prior to 1946, persons in charge of exhibitions were Assistants to the Curator of the Cooper Union Museum for the Arts of Decoration. Alliene E. Dodge, D. Graeme Keith, James I. Rambo, Everett P. Lesley, Jr., and William R. Osmun were Assistants, Exhibits Section, during the period from 1946 to 1953. The Assistants were under the supervision of the Curator, and later, under the Director.

In 1953 the Exhibits Section was redesignated the Department of Exhibitions, and the title of Assistants was changed to Keepers. Lesley, Osmun, and Christian Rohlfing held the title of Keepers during the period from 1953 to 1958. The title of Keeper, Department of Exhibitions was changed to Curator, Department of Exhibitions in 1958. Rohlfing held the title of Curator, and Edward L. Kallop, who became Associate Keeper in 1957, became Associate Curator. When Rohlfing became Acting Administrator of the Museum in 1963, the position of Curator remained vacant. The Department was discontinued as an administrative unit when the Cooper Union Museum transferred to the Smithsonian Institution in 1968.

The Department of Exhibitions was responsible for the design, preparation, installation, maintenance, and dismantling of "special" or theme exhibitions of museum and non-museum collections for the general public, including exhibitions for other branches of the Cooper Union for the Advancement of Sciences and Arts.

Descriptive Entry

These records document, for the most part, the Department under the administration of Calvin S. Hathaway, Curator, 1946-1951, and Director, 1951-1963. Included is correspondence of Hathaway with members of the exhibition staff and with collectors and institutions concerning the exhibits in the museum; exhibit files, arranged alphabetically by exhibition titles and including photographs, pamphlets, floor plans, drawings, publicity materials, specimen lists and descriptions, and correspondence; and annual reports.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Art museums
- Decorative arts

Types of Materials:

- Black-and-white photographs
- Floor plans
- Illustrations
- Manuscripts

Names:

- Cooper Union Museum for the Arts of Decoration
- Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art
- Cooper-Hewitt Museum. Department of Exhibitions
- Dodge, Alleine E.
- Hathaway, Calvin S.
- Kallop, Edward L.
- Keith, D. Graeme (David Graeme), 1934-
- Lesley, Everett P., Jr.
- Osmun, William R.
- Rambo, James I.
- Rohlfing, H. Christian

Container Listing

Series 1: ADMINISTRATIVE FILES, 1934-1936, 1942, 1946-1967

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- Box 1 of 18 Folders 3-16 Annual reports, 1950-1951 to 1962-1963, 1964-1965
- Box 1 of 18 Folder 17 Announcements
- Box 1 of 18 Folder 18 *Antiques* magazine booth, 1964. Concerning items loaned to booth at Winter Antiques Show.
- Box 1 of 18 Folder 19 Appeal, 1962. Requests for contributions to Museum sent from Exhibitions.
- Box 1 of 18 Folder 20 *Art Journal* article, 1963-1964. Concerning article by Edward Kallop.
- Box 1 of 18 Folder 21 Bar Kochba caves, 1962. Concerning possibility of exhibition of archaeological objects.
- Box 1 of 18 Folder 22 Budgets, circa 1946-1963
- Box 1 of 18 Folder 23 Center Gallery, 1962-1963. Concerning renovation of gallery.
- Box 1 of 18 Folder 24 Charleston Foundation, Historic, 1958. Concerning American Association of Museums meeting and decorating of Russell House.
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- Box 1 of 18 Folder 26 Cooper Union policy, 1962-1963
- Box 1 of 18 Folder 27 Current report, 1963-1967. Concerning budget allocations.
- Box 1 of 18 Folder 28 Entertainment, 1961. Concerning supplies on hand.
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- Box 2 of 18 Folders 4-11 Alter Ego - Masks, Their Art and Use, 1951
- Box 2 of 18 Folder 12 American Drawings, 1954
- Box 2 of 18 Folder 13 American Institute of Architects Centennial Show, 1956-1957. Smithsonian traveling exhibition requested but not shown.
- Box 2 of 18 Folder 14 Ancient Mexico in Miniature, 1966
- Box 2 of 18 Folders 15-16 Architect's Eye, The, 1962
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- Box 3 of 18 Folders 4-6 Art Sacre, 1952
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- Box 3 of 18 Folder 10 Craftsmen Preview the Sixties, 1960
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