



Smithsonian

Institution Archives

Records, 1916, 1922, 1929-1930, 1946-1984

Finding aid prepared by Smithsonian Institution Archives

Smithsonian Institution Archives
Washington, D.C.
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu
Title:	Records
Date:	1916, 1922, 1929-1930, 1946-1984
Identifier:	Record Unit 463
Creator::	National Museum of American Art and Portrait Gallery. Library
Extent:	6.58 cu. ft. (6 record storage boxes) (1 tall document box)
Language:	English

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 463, National Museum of American Art and Portrait Gallery, Library, Records

Historical Note

The Fine Arts and Portrait Gallery Library was established in 1965 as a joint operation of the National Collection of Fine Arts (NFCA) and the National Portrait Gallery (NPG) and was originally housed in the Arts and Industries Building. In 1968, the two museums moved into the newly-renovated Old Patent Office Building, renamed the Fine Arts and Portrait Gallery Building, where the Library continued as before. In 1980, the Library became the National Museum of American Art and Portrait Gallery Library (AA&PG) as a result of the name change.

William B. Walker was hired as Librarian in 1965 and held that position until 1979. Katherine Ratzenberger was named Acting Librarian in 1980 followed by Acting Librarian Susan Gurney in 1981. Cecilia H. Chin served as Librarian of AA&PG Library, 1982- .

Descriptive Entry

These records document the opening of the National Collection of Fine Arts and the National Portrait Gallery in the Patent Office Building in 1968. Included are press kits; photographs; development files; pamphlets of the opening; catalogs from the *Henry Ward Ranger* exhibition, 1929-1930; an annotated copy of *Catalog of Collections*, volume I, 1922, by William Henry Holmes; and minutes of the Smithsonian Art Commission, 1963-1964. There is also one folder devoted to the bequest of Reverend Bruce Hughes of Lebanon, Pennsylvania, to establish the "Hughes Alcove" and fund efforts to amass "a reference library of art works" for study.

Also included are newsletters, library count sheets, policies, minutes of meetings, surveys, a variety of reports, brochures, volunteer and internship information, and other records. Some materials date to when the museum was known as the National Gallery of Art.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Art museums
- Museum exhibits
- Museum libraries
- Museum publications

Types of Materials:

- Black-and-white photographs
- Brochures
- Exhibition catalogs
- Manuscripts
- Newsletters
- Pamphlets

Names:

- Arts and Industries Building (Washington, D.C.)
- Chin, Cecilia H.
- Gurney, Susan
- Henry Ward Ranger (Exhibition) (1929-1930 : Washington, D.C.)
- Holmes, William Henry, 1846-1933
- Hughes, Bruce. Reverend
- National Collection of Fine Arts (U.S.)
- National Gallery of Art (U.S.)
- National Portrait Gallery (Smithsonian Institution)
- Patent Office Building (Washington, D.C.)
- Ratzenberger, Katherine
- Smithsonian Art Commission
- Walker, William Bond, 1930-

Preferred Titles:

- Catalog of Collections (Monograph : 1922)*

Container Listing

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Box 1 of 7	List Posters: Acceptances/Regrets
Box 1 of 7	Opening Invitations: Correspondence
Box 1 of 7	Media Contacts: Pre-Opening
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Box 1 of 7	Material: NCFA background
Box 1 of 7	Post-Opening Correspondence
Box 1 of 7	Pre-Opening Dinner Parties
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Box 1 of 7	NCFA Opening Publications
Box 1 of 7	Lists: Post-Opening Thank-You Notes
Box 1 of 7	Contributors to Exhibits
Box 1 of 7	NPG Photos Digital Content: Reception Hall of the Nation Collection of Fine Arts, 1968. [Image no. SIA2017-048938]
Box 1 of 7	"Johnson Wax" label information and mediums
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Box 1 of 7	Meeting of Smithsonian Art Commission, December 1, 1964
Box 1 of 7	Smithsonian Art Commission Forty-First Annual Meeting, December 3, 1963
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Box 1 of 7	Presentation of a Portrait of Joseph Smith Photos
Box 1 of 7	John J. Lewis Unveiling, June 16th, 1971 Photos
Box 1 of 7	NPG Opening Symposium
Box 1 of 7	NPG Adams Exhibit, December 8, 1970
Box 1 of 7	NPG Opening, A & I Building, October 4, 1966
Box 1 of 7	NCFA Fellows, May 1978
Box 1 of 7	Staff Photographs, NPG and NCFA
Box 1 of 7	NCFA Opening, May 1968. Includes photographs of President and Mrs. Lyndon Baines Johnson. Digital Content: President Lyndon B. Johnson's Opening Speech at the National Collection of Fine Arts, May 1968. [Image no. SIA2017-048937]
Box 1 of 7	NPG Opening - clippings Digital Content: "This American - This New Man" Symposium Program [Image no. SIA2017-048936]
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Box 7 of 7	Washington Art Library Resources Committee
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Box 7 of 7	Washington Star, May 5, 1968