



William N. Eisendrath Papers (S0019)

Collection Number: S0019

Collection Title: William N. Eisendrath Papers

Dates: 1929-1976

Creator: Eisendrath, William N., 1903-1983

Abstract: The William N. Eisendrath Papers contain correspondence sent to Eisendrath from internationally prominent artists, including Alexander Calder, Henry Moore, Virginie Peusner, Alexander Archipenko, and Robert Osborne.

Collection Size: 0.04 cubic foot
(19 folders)

Language: Collection materials are in English and French.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis](https://www.shsmo.org/research-center). If you would like more information, please contact us at stlouis@shsmo.org.

Restrictions on Use: The Donor has given and assigned to the University all rights of copyright, which the Donor has in the Materials and in such of the Donor's works as may be found among any collections of Materials received by the University from others.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *William N. Eisendrath Papers* (S0019); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-St. Louis].

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by William N. Eisendrath on July 24, 1974 (Accession No. SA0358). Additions were made on December 15, 1975 by William N. Eisendrath (Accession No. SA0737). Additions were made on December 22, 1975 by William N. Eisendrath (Accession No. SA0738); September 7, 1976 by William Eisendrath (Accession No. SA0889); June 28, 1978 by Marcia Mellitz (Accession No. SA2035); and September 1, 1983 by an unidentified donor (Accession No. SA2557).

Processed by: Processed by AJ Medlock and Isaac Alexander, August 2023

Biographical Note:

William N. Eisendrath, Jr. was born in Chicago, Illinois, on March 4, 1903. He studied at Yale University beginning in 1921, where he first became interested in art. After graduating, he worked in his father's tanning business in Chicago until retiring in 1950. After retiring, he immediately enrolled at Northwestern University to study art history, though he never finished the degree.

Outside of business, Eisendrath helped stage exhibitions at the Renaissance Society of the University of Chicago from 1928 to 1937. Then, from 1933 to 1950, he was a trustee with *Poetry Magazine*. Around 1940, Eisendrath helped found the Society of American Art at the Art Institute of Chicago. During this same period, he became a governing life member of the Art Institute. He also served as chairman of the Exhibition Committee of the Arts Club of Chicago from 1941 to 1947 and from 1950 to 1952.

In 1952, Eisendrath moved to St. Louis and became assistant director of the St. Louis Art Museum. He served as acting director in May–June 1955 and July–October 1964. In 1960, Washington University appointed Eisendrath as curator of the Steinberg Hall Art Gallery, where he worked until retiring a second time in 1968 as professor emeritus. In 1965, he served on the St. Louis Bicentennial Committee representing the arts and helped organize the Bicentennial sculpture show.

Some notable exhibitions Eisendrath organized included one of the first American shows for Swiss painter Paul Klee and French Cubist painter Fernand Leger, and one of the first shows for American Abstract Expressionist painter Jackson Pollock. After his second retirement, Eisendrath volunteered at the University of Missouri-St. Louis Thomas Jefferson Library. Eisendrath died after a long illness on February 21, 1983.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into 1 series with 1 subseries.

Scope and Content Note:

The William N. Eisendrath Papers consist of magazine and newspaper clippings and correspondence documenting his lifelong interest in the arts. Materials of interest include a feature story in an unidentified University of Missouri-St. Louis detailing Eisendrath's career and volunteer work with the Thomas Jefferson Library. Also included are newspaper clippings from the *St. Louis Post Dispatch* and the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* describing the St. Louis Bicentennial Sculptures show, which Eisendrath helped organize. The materials in this collection are arranged alphabetically, dating from 1965 to 1973.

The correspondence subseries consists of letters written to William N. Eisendrath from prominent artists, including Alexander Calder, Henry Moore, Virginie Peusner, Alexander Archipenko, and Robert Osborne. In the letters, correspondents discuss art exhibitions of the work Eisendrath was involved in hosting, as well as materials of a personal nature, such as travel and family life. Interspersed in the correspondence are small drawings created by some of the correspondents. For example, within Vladimir Golschmann's correspondence, the former conductor for the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra (1931-1957), are drawings he created of

musicians and unidentified cityscapes. Some of the correspondence in folders 3, 4, 7, and 17 are partially written in French. The materials in this subseries are arranged by correspondent chronologically, dating from 1927 to 1971.

Container List:

f. 1	Biographical information, no date
f. 2	St. Louis Bicentennial Sculptures show, newspaper clipping, 1965
f. 3-19	Correspondence
f. 3-4	Robert Chesley Osborne, 1927-1967, 1976
f. 5	Mark Tobey, 1929
f. 6	Ferdinand Leger, 1935
f. 7	Vladmir Golschmann, 1939-1959
f. 8-9	Sandy (Alexander) Calder, 1944, 1959
f. 10	Ruttles and Perry Rathbone, 1952-1971
f. 11	Joseph Albers, 1953
f. 12	Greco Emillio, 1955-1956
f. 13	Henry Moore, 1956
f. 14	James Johnson Sweeney, 1958
f. 15	Max Bill, 1960
f. 16	Ronald R. Penrose, 1960
f. 17	Virginie A. Peusner, 1960
f. 18	Henry Moore sculptures, 1960-1965
f. 19	Alexander Archipenko, 1963

Index:

Index Terms	Folders
Albers, Josef, 1888-1976	11
Albers, Josef, 1888-1976--Exhibitions	11
Archipenko, Alexander, 1887-1964	19
Art historians--United States--20 th century	1-19
Artists--Correspondence	3-19
Bill, Max, 1908-1994	15
Bronze sculpture, Italian	12
Calder, Alexander, 1898-1976	8-9
Cartoonists	3-4
Comic books, strips, etc.	3-4
Conductors (Music)	7
Eisendrath, William N., 1903-1983	1-19
Golschmann, Vladimir, 1893-1972	7
Greco, Emilio, 1913-1995	12
Greco, Emilio, 1913-1995--Exhibitions	12
Léger, Fernand, 1881-1955	6

Index Terms	Folders
Leger, Fernand, 1881-1955--Exhibitions	6
London : Institute of Contemporary Arts	16
May, Morton D., 1914-1983	19
Moore, Henry, 1898-1986	13, 15, 18
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston	10
Osborne, Robert Chesley, 1904-1994	3-4
Painting--20 th century--Exhibitions	6
Penrose, Roland	16
Peusner, Virginie A.	17
Rathbone, Perry Townsend, 1911-2000	10
Rathbone, Rattles	10
Saint Louis Art Museum	10, 16
Sculptors	8-9, 18-19
Sculpture--Missouri--Saint Louis	2
Sweeney, James Johnson, 1900-1986	14
Tobey, Mark, 1890-1976	5
Wright, Frank Lloyd, 1867-1959--Exhibitions	10