



DELAWARE ART MUSEUM

Arthur B. Davies Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the
Helen Farr Sloan Library & Archives, Delaware Art Museum

Acquisition Information

Gift of Bennard B. Perlman, 1999

Extent

17 linear feet

Abstract

The collection contains the research materials for Bennard B. Perlman's book, *The Lives, Loves and Art of Arthur B. Davies*.

Access Restrictions

Some restrictions apply

Contact Information

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Preferred Citation

Arthur B. Davies Papers, Helen Farr Sloan Library & Archives, Delaware Art Museum

Related Materials

Arthur B. Davies Printing Plates
Virginia M. Davies Correspondence, 1891-1935

Biography of Arthur B. Davies

American painter and printmaker, 1862–1928

Arthur Bowen Davies was an influential painter, printmaker, and advocate for modern art in the United States. Born in Utica, New York, Davies was interested in art from a young age. He studied in Chicago before moving to New York City to study at the Art Students League. Davies favorite subjects were nudes and dreamy images of women in the landscape, and his work sold well. He was represented by William Macbeth, a leading dealer of American art in New York. Despite his success, he was not part of the powerful National Academy of Design. In 1908, he joined with seven other painters--John Sloan, Robert Henri, George Luks, Everett Shinn, William Glackens, Maurice Prendergast, and Ernest Lawson--to mount an exhibition in protest to the conservative policies of the National Academy. It became known as the exhibition of the Eight and was held at Macbeth Gallery. In 1913 he would be a key player in bringing modern European art to a broad American audience through the Armory Show.

Scope and Contents Note

The Arthur B. Davies Papers at the Delaware Art Museum were donated by Bennard B. Perlman, the author of *The Lives, Loves and Art of Arthur B. Davies*. These papers represent a significant portion of Mr. Perlman's research material. Brooks Wright, another Davies author, gave a portion of his research materials to Mr. Perlman. These materials are also included in the collection. There are no restrictions to this collection for research use, excepting the box of materials from private ABD Collectors.

The collection is highly diverse and contains some primary materials, such as correspondence of the Davies family, and a broad range of secondary materials, including newspaper and magazine articles, exhibition catalogs, correspondence with collectors, and photographs.

Organization of the Collection

Series I. Biographical & Genealogical

Series II. Magazine & Newspaper Articles

Series III. Correspondence

Series IV. Exhibition Catalogs

Series V. Perlman Research Material – Microfilm Copies

Series VI. Perlman Research Material

Series VII. Perlman Biography & Brooks Wright Biography Manuscripts

Series VIII. Private Art Collections – Restricted Access

Series IX. Arthur B. Davies Artwork Photographs

Series X. Oversize Materials

Description of the Collection

Series I. Biographical & Genealogical

Box 1

Folder

- 1 Biography, nd
- 2 Obituaries, 1928
- 3 Davies family obituaries, various dates
- 4 Davies family genealogy documentation, various dates
 - Entry for Niles Meriwether from *Transactions of American Society of Civil Engineers*
 - Photocopy of prenuptial agreement between Arthur Davies and Lucy V. Davis
 - Photocopy of contract for sale of land between Francis Knapp and Virginia Davies
 - Photocopy of a document titled "Ancestry of Arthur B. Davies" (page 2 only)
 - Photocopy of family record from Davies bible
 - Photocopy of handwritten document titled "Who is Sylvia? Being an Autobiography by Sylvia Ann Davies" (dated 1942; it looks to have been written in high school)
 - Photocopy of statement regarding Davies' estate after his death, written by Mildred D. Davies
 - Photocopy of last will and testament of Erica R. Davies
 - Handwritten poem, unsigned, dated Oct. 1884
- 5 The Cubies' - 1913: From Davies to John Bothwell Mowbray-Clarke
1965: Mowbray-Clarke to Niles Meriwether Davies III
- 6 Art and Philosophy of A. B. Davies, nd
- 7 Inventories, insurance, receipt of his work, various dates
- 8 Tapestries correspondence, nd
- 9 *Century*, September 1890
- 10 *Century*, December 1890
- 11 *Elite*, April 1895
- 12 Magazine illustration *Harper's Magazine*, June 1928
- 13 *The Arts*, February 1929
- 14 *The Literary Digest*, March 29, 1930

Series II. Magazine & Newspaper Articles

Box 2

Folder

- 1 *Magazine of Art*, 1952
- 2 *Harper's Magazine*, p. 14, 62, June 1954
- 3 Magazine Illustration, *Arts*, February 1958
- 4 *Time*, 1962
- 5 *Art News*, October 1962
- 6 *New York*, September 1969
- 7 Magazine articles, various dates
- 8 Magazine article, unnamed magazine, p. 61, nd
- 9 Newspaper articles, nd
- 10 Newspaper articles, nd
- 11 Newspaper articles, nd
- 12 Newspaper articles – The Eight Exhibitions, 1908, 1938, 1958

Box 3

Folder

- 1 Newspaper articles, 1893-1919
- 2 Newspaper articles, 1920-1927
- 3 Newspaper articles, 1928
- 4 Newspaper articles, January-March 1929
- 5 Newspaper articles, April-December 1929
- 6 Newspaper articles, 1930
- 7 Newspaper articles, 1931

- 8 Newspaper articles, 1932-1959
- 9 Newspaper articles, 1960-1963
- 10 Newspaper articles, 1964-1974
- 11 Newspaper articles, 1975-present

Series III. Correspondence

Box 4

Folder

- 1 Letters to the Davies family and relatives
- 2 Letters from Davies family and relatives
- 3 Letters to ABD
- 4 Letters written by ABD
- 5 Correspondence from ABD to Docky
- 6 Non-Davies correspondence
- 7 Letters to Wreath McIntyre from Walt Kuhn regarding ABD (2); sketch: Kuhn caricature of himself; envelope from ABD to McIntyre; photocopy of a sketch of bamboo bench; letter to Bennard Perlman from McIntyre

Box 5

Folder

- 1 Business correspondence
- 2 Photocopies of personal correspondence

Series IV. Exhibition Catalogs

Box 6A

Folder

- 1 Exhibition catalogs, 1896-1899
- 2 Exhibition catalogs, 1900-1919
- 3 Exhibition catalogs, 1920-1929
- 4 Exhibition catalogs, 1930
- 5 Exhibition catalogs, 1931-1934
- 6 Exhibition catalogs, 1935-1939
- 7 Exhibition catalogs, 1940-1949

Box 6B

Folder

- 1 Exhibition catalogs, 1950-1959
- 2 Exhibition catalogs, 1960-1964
- 3 Exhibition catalogs, 1965-1969
- 4 Exhibition catalogs, 1970-1979
- 5 Exhibition catalogs, 1980-1989
- 6 Exhibition catalogs, 1990-1999
- 7 Exhibition catalogs, 2000-present
- 8 Exhibition catalogs, nd

Box 7

Folder

- 1 Miscellaneous – exhibition catalogs, various dates
- 2 Miscellaneous – exhibition catalogs , various dates

Box 8

Folder

- 1 Miscellaneous – exhibition catalogs, various dates

- 2 Miscellaneous – exhibition catalogs, various dates

Series V. Perlman Research Material (PR) – Microfilm Copies

Box 9

Folder

- 1 Davies material from Margault Marder – PR
- 2 Davies correspondence from the Corcoran Gallery – PR
- 3 Correspondence with Mr. Macbeth – PR
- 4 Ferargil Galleries, New York – PR
- 5 Correspondence with Walt Kuhn – PR
- 6 Articles and correspondence – PR
- 7 Articles and Maurier Dawson's journal – PR
- 8 Davies correspondence – PR
- 9 Ferargil Galleries: scrapbook – PR
- 10 Research material from Archives of American Art – PR
- 11 Printed works and research – PR
- 12 Published works – PR
- 13 Special collections – Research sources (Perlman M.)
- 14 Newlin Price

Box 10

Folder

- 1 ABD correspondence with Phillips Collection – Perlman Material
- 2 California Research Centers – PM
- 3 ABD correspondence – PM
- 4 ABD correspondence – PM
- 5 ABD correspondence – PM

6 Perlman research for “The Lives, Loves and Art of...”

7 Illustrations for Perlman biography

Series VI. Perlman Research Material

Box 11A

Folder

- 1 Images of Davies' work with letters concerning them
- 2 Images of Davies' work from National Museum of American Art (photocopies)
- 3 Images of Davies' work from National Museum of American Art (photocopies)
- 4 Transparencies from Payson Galleries and "American Art Search"
- 5 Black and white photographs of Davies' work and people
- 6 Black and white photographs of Davies' work and people
- 7 Letters photocopied from Yale Manuscript Collection: Correspondence of ABD
- 8 Correspondence of Perlman and articles on ABD
- 9 Photographs of Davies, Wreath, Ronnie, Lizzie (Lillie) Bliss, Alice Kellogg
- 10 Photographs of Davies, Wreath, Ronnie, Lizzie (Lillie) Bliss, Alice Kellogg
- 11 Photos of sketchbook (photocopies and transparencies)

Box 11B

Folder

- 1 Color illustrations for ABD book (final selection)
- 2 NYC addresses; ABD clipping; exhibition list from Art Institute of Chicago; information on Davies' wife
- 3 Perlman correspondence regarding ABD book and Adele Watson

Box 12A

Folder

- 1 *The Known Paintings of Arthur B. Davies* catalog (photocopy)
- 2 *Arthur B. Davies: Essays on the Man and His Art* (photocopy)
- 3 List of Davies' works in museums

- 4 Davies' paintings owned by Frederic Newlin Price
- 5 Davies' works sold by MacBeth, Ferargil, and Montross Galleries
- 6 Paper – "Arthur B. Davies' *Polyphemus and Galatea* and the Question of Symbolism"
- 7 Article – "On Target: Symbolist Roots of American Abstraction" by Robert Pincus-Witten (photocopy)
- 8 *The Notable Private Collection on Modern Pictures Belonging to the Widely Known Antiquarian Dikran Khan Kelekian* auction catalog, Jan. 1922 (photocopy)
- 9 Works by Arthur B. Davies from the Ferargil Galleries Registry (photocopy)
- 10 Court documents regarding sales of Davies' works (photocopies)
- 11 Court documents regarding last will and testament of Lizzie (Lillie) Bliss (photocopies)
- 12 *The Index of Twentieth Century Artists: Arthur Bowen Davies, Painter and Graver*, February 1937 (photocopy)
- 13 Inventory of American Paintings: Arthur B. Davies (Smithsonian Institution, February 1985)
- 14 Inventory of American Paintings: Arthur B. Davies (Smithsonian Institution, May 1989)
- 15 *The Arthur B. Davies Art Collection*, auction catalog, American Art Association, 1929 (photocopy)
- 16 Arthur B. Davies' Illustrations (photocopies)
- 17 "Inventory and Appraisal of the Art and Literary Property Belonging to the Estate of the Late Arthur B. Davies"

Box 12B

Folder

- 1 Reproductions of Davies' art
- 2 *Arthur B. Davies: Essays on His Art*, 1974 (photocopy)
- 3 Miscellaneous ephemera
- 4 Documents pertaining to Davies' estate
- 5 Paper – "Arthur B. Davies" by Paul D. Schweizer

Boxes 13-14

Perlman correspondence files, arranged alphabetically

Boxes 15-17

Research cards

Box 18

Research papers, articles, photocopies

Box 19

Interviews conducted by Perlman, 1985-1994

Cassette

- 1 Wreath Mason (Arthur B. Davies model from 1914-1928), May 25, 1985

- 2 Wreath Mason, May 25, 1985
Niles Davies, Jr., (grandson of Arthur B. Davies), May 25, 1985
Wreath Mason, December 3, 1986

- 3 Lawrence Fleischman (President of the Kennedy Galleries, NY), May 27, 1985
Dorothy Schneiderman (Director/Owner of Harbor Gallery NY), May 27, 1985

- 4 Brenda Kuhn (daughter of Walter Kuhn), July 3, 1985
Bert Baum, July 8, 1985

- 5 Brenda Kuhn, July 21, 1985

- 6 Brenda Kuhn, August, 8, 1985

- 7 Niles Davies, Jr., and Jan Davies, November 28, 1985

- 8 Sylvia Davies Diehl (granddaughter of Arthur B. Davies), January 19, 1986
Kurt Lange, January 19, 1986
Mrs. Herbert Brill (owns 62 Davies in NYC), January 19, 1986
Allan Gussow, January 20, 1986

- 9 Sylvia Davies Diehl, January 26, 1986

- 10 Robert Graham, Sr. (Graham Gallery, NY), January 28, 1986

- 11 Mrs. E. I. Bartholet (NYC art consultant), March 1, 1986
Herbert B. Brill (Davies collector in NYC), March 1, 1986

- 12 Margaret Davies Marder (granddaughter of Arthur B. Davies), March 8, 1986
- 13 Robert Lee (Philadelphia collector of Davies), and Philip Rhys Adams, March 9, 1985
Phoebe Craig Macbeth (granddaughter of W. Macbeth, New York gallery owner), May 10, 1986
Margaret Davies Marder, August 18, 1986
- 14 Niles Davies, Jr. and Sylvia Davies Diehl, August 10, 1986
- 15 Margaret Davies Marder and Alan Davies, August 24, 1986
Brenda Kuhn (daughter of painter Walt Kuhn), September 5, 1986
- 16 Brenda Kuhn, September 5, 1986
- 17 Wreath Mason, October 18, 1986
- 18 Blanche Martin Mougel (former Mrs. Frank A. Nankivell), January 10, 1987
- 19 Mrs. Henry I. Cobb (niece of Lizzie Bliss), January 20, 1986 (1987?)
Brenda Kuhn, January 26, 1987
- 20 Mrs. Henry C. Potter (granddaughter of Henry Codman Potter), February 8, 1987
Margaret Davies Marder, April 23, 1987
- 21 Margaret Davies Marder, June 9, 1987
- 22 Mrs. Walter Oakman and Richard Prudence (knew Dwight Williams, Davies's teacher),
August 5, 1987
- 23 Brenda Kuhn, August 10-11, 1987
- 24 Brenda Kuhn, August 11, 1987
Raymond and Ruth Pach, August 11, 1987
- 25 Barbara Copins Worth (daughter of Edna Copins who wrote Davies biography with Ronnie Owen), August 17, 1987
- 26 Symposium at the Philips Collection: "Men of the Rebellion: The Eight and their Associates,"
October 13, 1990
- 27 Brenda Kuhn, August 21, 1992
Bill Homer, October 11, 1980
- 28 Niles Davies, Jr. and Sylvia Davies Diehl, July 31, 1994

29 Geoffrey Michael Lemmer (former Chief Conservationist at Baltimore Museum of Art), nd

30 "American Masters: Thomas Eakins," nd

Box 20

Rights and reproduction requests

Series VII. Perlman Biography & Brooks Wright Biography Manuscripts

Box 21

Folder

- 1 Manuscript 1: "The Lives, Loves.."- Chap. 1: 5 (p. 1: 60), 1997
- 2 Manuscript 1: "The Lives, Loves.."- Chap. 6-11 (p. 61: 144), 1997
- 3 Manuscript 1: "The Lives, Loves.."- Chap. 12-15 (p. 145-215), 1997
- 4 Manuscript 1: "The Lives, Loves.."- Chap. 16-18 (p. 216-290), 1997
- 5 Manuscript 1: "The Lives, Loves.."- Ch. 19- Epilogue (291: 345), 1997
- 6 Manuscript 1: "The Lives, Loves.."- Appendices I- III (346-364), 1997
- 7 Manuscript 1: "The Lives, Loves.."- Notes (p. 365-387), 1997
- 8 Manuscript 1: "The Lives, Loves.."- Bibliography (p. 388-399), 1997
- 9 Manuscript 2: "The Lives, Loves.."- Chap. 1-4 (1-48), 1997
- 10 Manuscript 2: "The Lives, Loves.."- Chap. 5-8 (p. 49-120), 1997
- 11 Manuscript 2: "The Lives, Loves.."- Chap. 9-13 (p. 121-198), 1997
- 12 Manuscript 2: "The Lives, Loves.."- Chap. 14-16 (p. 199-256), 1997
- 13 Manuscript 2: "The Lives, Loves.."- Chap. 17-18 (p. 257-326), 1997
- 14 Manuscript 2: "The Lives, Loves.."- Ch. 19- Epilogue(327-380), 1997
- 15 Manuscript 2: "The Lives, Loves.."- Appendices I-III (381-406), 1997
- 16 Manuscript 2: "The Lives, Loves.."- Notes (p. 407-436), 1997

Box 22

Folder

- 1 Manuscript 2: "The Lives, Loves.."- Bibliography (p. 437-52), 1997
- 2 Manuscript 2: "The Lives, Loves.."- Illustration notes (p. 1-17), 1997
- 3 Manuscript 3: "The Lives, Loves.."- Chap. 1-4 (p. 1-48), 1998

- 4 Manuscript 3: "The Lives, Loves.." - Chap. 5-8 (p. 49-120), 1998
- 5 Manuscript 3: "The Lives, Loves.." - Chap. 9-12 (p. 121-180), 1998
- 6 Manuscript 3: "The Lives, Loves.." - Chap. 13: 16 (p. 181-256), 1998
- 7 Manuscript 3: "The Lives, Loves.." - Chap. 17-18 (p. 257-326), 1998
- 8 Manuscript 3: "The Lives, Loves.." - Chap.19-Epilogue(p. 327-80), 1998
- 9 Manuscript 3: "The Lives, Loves.." - Appendices I-III (p. 381-406), 1998
- 10 Manuscript 3: "The Lives, Loves.." - Notes (p. 407-436), 1998
- 11 Manuscript 3: "The Lives, Loves.." - Bibliography (p. 437-52), 1998
- 12 Manuscript 1: "The Life of ABD" - Inventory of Primary Sources, nd
- 13 Manuscript 1: "The Life of ABD" - Copies of letters, nd
- 14 Manuscript 1: "The Life of ABD" - 'Thoughts on Art', nd
- 15 Manuscript 1: "The Life of ABD" - Chap. 1-5, nd
- 16 Manuscript 1: "The Life of ABD" - Chap. 6-10, nd

Box 23

Folder

- 1 Manuscript 1: "The Life of ABD" - Appendices, nd
- 2 Manuscript 2: "The Life of ABD" - Chap. 1-6 (p. 1-167), nd
- 3 Manuscript 2: "The Life of ABD" - Chap. 7-8 (p. 168-239), nd
- 4 Manuscript 2: "The Life of ABD" - Chap. 9 (p. 240-290), nd
- 5 Manuscript 2: "The Life of ABD" - Notes for Ch. 1-9 (p. 295-361), nd
- 6 Manuscript 2: "The Life of ABD" - Inv. of Primary Sources (p. 362-418), nd
- 7 Manuscript 3: "The Life of ABD" - Foreword, Ch. 1, Ch. 1 Notes, nd
- 8 Manuscript 3: "The Life of ABD" - Chap. 2-3, Chap. 2-3 Notes, nd

- 9 Manuscript 3: "The Life of ABD"- Chap. 4-5, Chap. 4-5 Notes, nd
- 10 Manuscript 3: "The Life of ABD"- Chap. 6-7, Chap. 6-7 Notes, nd
- 11 Manuscript 3: "The Life of ABD"- Chap. 8, Chap. 8 Notes by Perlman, nd
- 12 Manuscript 3: "The Life of ABD"- Miscellaneous, nd

Series VIII. Private Art Collections – Restricted Access

Box 24

Folder

- 1 Art work in private collections – Perlman Research
- 2 Art work in private collections – Perlman Research
- 3 Private collections

Series IX. Arthur B. Davies Artwork Photographs

Box 25

Arthur B. Davies artwork photographs

Box 26

Arthur B. Davies artwork photographs – family album

Box 27

Arthur B. Davies artwork photographs – family album

Series X. Oversize Materials

Box 28

Six Plaster of Paris molds of faces for studying the light and shadows for painting

Photograph of Arthur B. Davies' farm house and farm buildings, Congers, NY, c. 1917

Negatives of Davies' drawings of Indian model (from Alan Davies)