



DELAWARE ART MUSEUM

Frank E. Schoonover Catalogue Raisonné Collection

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

Acquisition Information

Gift of the Frank E. Schoonover Fund, Inc., 2009

Extent

34 linear feet

Processed

Rachael DiEleuterio, 2010

Contents

Research materials, periodicals, exhibition files, sales catalogs, tear sheets, negatives, proofs, and administrative files relating to the Frank E. Schoonover Catalogue Raisonné

Access Restrictions

Series IV is restricted

Contact Information

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Preferred Citation

Frank E. Schoonover Catalogue Raisonné Collection, Helen Farr Sloan Library & Archives, Delaware Art Museum

Related Materials

Frank E. Schoonover Manuscript Collection

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Biography of Frank E. Schoonover

Frank Earle Schoonover was born on August 19th, 1877 in Oxford, NJ, son of Colonel John Schoonover and Elizabeth LaBarre Schoonover. After graduating with honors from the Trenton Model School in 1896, he briefly considered the Presbyterian ministry. However, a Philadelphia Inquirer advertisement for illustration classes steered him to Drexel Institute, where he was accepted into Howard Pyle's class for aspiring illustrators. Fellow students included Stanley Arthurs, Jessie Wilcox Smith, Elizabeth Shippen Green, and Thornton Oakley. In both 1898 and '99, Pyle took note of Schoonover's incipient talents, offering him one of only ten scholarships at his Chadds Ford summer school. By early 1900 the uniquely trained and confident young artist had moved to Wilmington, continuing his studies with Pyle at the mentor's studios on Franklin Street, launching his career with a commission of four illustrations in the book, *A Jersey Boy in the Revolution*. Thus began a very successful and prolific artistic career spanning over sixty years, and encompassing approximately 2,200 illustrations for over 130 books and many of the popular magazines and periodicals of the day; *Saturday Evening Post*, *Harpers*, *Scribners*, *Outing*, *American Boy Magazine*, *Ladies Home Journal*, and *Colliers*, among others. In addition, he completed over three hundred landscapes of the Brandywine and Delaware river valleys primarily after the mid-1930's, by which time *The Golden Age of American Illustration* had essentially ended. After 1906, Schoonover's studio at 1616 N. Rodney Street was the epicenter of this artistic activity. His travels, however, took him to lands far away; Hudson and James Bay (Winter 1903-04), Montana (1905), Europe (1907), the The Canadian frontier again (Summer 1911), New Orleans (1911), Cuba (1936). From these travels, Schoonover gleaned sketches, diaries, and photographs that were the inspiration for many of his paintings of the North American Frontier. He also published several magazine stories recounting these trips, including; 'The Edge of the Wilderness', and 'The Haunts of Jean Lafitte'. His canvases were filled with dramatic images of trappers, Indians, cowboys, and pirates, breaker boys, coal miners, and women in the Pennsylvania Silk Mills. Writers including Jack London, Zane Grey, James Gilbert Parker, Henry Van Dyke, and George Marsh relished the Schoonover illustrations in their books.

Schoonover married Martha Culberston in 1911, then ended the decade with a series of fourteen powerful World War One paintings, published in the *Ladies Home Journal* as *The Souvenir Pictures of the Great War*. Of his book illustration during the teens, the most notable are those found in the two Burroughs books, *Princess of Mars* and *Gods of Mars*. Fifty-three years later he would receive the Edgar Rice Burroughs Bibliophile's National Award. Throughout the twenties, his book illustration prospered, highlighted by covers for the Harper's Children's classics, notably; *Kidnapped*, *Robinson Crusoe*, *Heidi*, *Hans Brinker*, and *Swiss Family Robinson*.

His other significant contribution to the artistic community was the formation of the Wilmington

Sketch Club with fellow illustrator Gayle Hoskins. This later evolved into the Delaware Art Museum of which Schoonover was one of the original founders. Even throughout the thirties, commissions continued for publications like American Boy Magazine, Youths Companion, and Country Gentleman. Schoonover also designed a magnificent series of stained glass windows for Immanuel church, and completed his only mural in 1936 for the H. Fletcher Brown School. Another impressive commission involved two large Pirate compositions for Irene du Pont's Cuba estate, Xanadu. They remain there to this day.

As the 1930s closed, and having witnessed the twilight of his illustrative career, Schoonover dedicated his artistic efforts to the landscape of his youth, especially Pike County, where he spent so many summers at the family Bushkill house. He painted actively until the late sixties. By that time he had been honored by a retrospective at the Delaware Art Museum, and been conferred an Honorary Masters of Art Degree by the University of Delaware. He also found time to conduct art classes at his studio for almost thirty years. By the time of his death in 1972, the Delaware Press had acknowledged him as "The Dean of Delaware Artists".

Subsequently, his son, Cortlandt, authored two books celebrating his father's important contribution to the annuals of American art and illustration; *The Edge of the Wilderness*, 1974, and *Frank E. Schoonover, Illustrator, North American Frontier*, 1976. Perhaps the greatest tribute to Schoonover occurred during his first foray into the frozen Canadian north in 1903. The Ojibways he encountered proudly gave him the Indian name; "Miss-a-nog-a-neegan," the picture making man and made him a blood brother of the tribe.

Source: Schoonover Fund (<http://schoonoverfund.com/about-fes.html>)

Organization of the Collection

- Series I. Research Packets
- Series II. Artist's Files
- Series III. Catalogue Raisonné Proofs
- Series IV. Research Sheets – **RESTRICTED**
- Series V. Printed Materials
- Series VI. Exhibition History
- Series VII. Administrative Files
- Series VIII. Catalog Preparation
- Series IX. Sales Catalogs
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- Series XI. Tear Sheets
- Series XII. Biographical Material (to be delivered)
- Series XIII. Miscellaneous Historical Data (to be delivered)

Description of the Collection

Series I. Research Packets

Research packet numbers correlate with Schoonover's Day Book numbers

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Box 2

Research Packets #406 – 840

Box 3

Research Packets #841 – 1275

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Research Packets #1276 – 1675

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Research Packets #2301 – SW95

Series II. Artist's Files

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Day Book Copies

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Friday Evening, 1948 – 1954

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Saturday Morning, 1954 – 1957

Monday Evening, 1954 – 1965

Class names to research

Student addresses

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Original Day Book Pages

Series III. Catalogue Raisonné Proofs

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Proofs

Series IV. Research Sheets – RESTRICTED

Boxes 11 and 12 contain contact information about private owners. These records are sealed.

Box 11

Research Sheets SW1 – 2000

Box 12

Research Sheets

Owner Information

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Series V. Printed Materials

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Periodicals A-L

America the Beautiful: Delaware

American Art Review, February 2006

American Art Review, December 2006

American Artist, November 1964

American Book Collector, October 1966

American History, December 1996

American History Illustrated, November 1973

American Realism and the Industrial Age

Art and Antiques, May-June 1981

Arizona Highways, November 1980

Books from Watson-Guptill, Fall/Winter 1976

The Brandywine Bugle

Chasse-marée Histoire et Ethnologie Maritimes

Commercial Design

County Lines, December 1979

Dateline Delaware, September-October 1960

Delaware County Scene, September-October 1972
Delaware History, Fall/Winter 1998-1999 Spring /Summer 1999
Delaware Engagement Calendar, 1969
Delaware Stays in the Union
Delaware Today, October 1970
Delaware Today, December 1986
The Diary of a Slave Girl, Ruby Jo
The Du Pont Magazine, April 1928
The Du Pont Magazine, May 1928
Edgar Rice Burroughs, Fall 1982
Fluor Magazine, 1981
Frontier Legacy
The Gateway to Bookland, 1928-1929
The Graphic Arts, January 1912
Harper and Brothers Holiday Books, Christmas 1901
Harper's Magazine, Centennial Issue 1850-1950, October 1950
Historic Delaware, Longwood Open Air Theatre, June 20-22 1935
The Hunt, Spring 2003
Illustrating and Cartooning
Illustration Collectors Newsletter, 1977
Illustration Collectors Newsletter, 1979
The Vanderboncoeur Collection of Images, March 2002
The International Studio, December 1916
Judy Goffman Fine Art, 1990 Appointment Calendar
Life in the Finger Lakes, Winter 2005

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Periodicals M-Z

Main Line Today, August 2003
Media History Digest, Spring/Summer 1986
Military Heritage, August 1999
Military Heritage, June 2001
Military History, October 1992
Military History, October 1993
Military History, June 1997
Montana, Summer 2003
My Brandywine Valley
Family Ties: The Citadel Theatre 30th Anniversary Season, 1994-1995
Frank E. Schoonover A Collectors Catalogue, 1979
Heroes in the Fight for Beauty: The Muralists of the Hudson Valley Court House
National Geographic, June 1987
The National Museum of American Illustration: The Grand Tour
Oinonen Book Auction, October 16, 1984
The Princeton University Library Chronicle, November 1941
Realms of Fantasy, June 1996

RP&S Calendar of Events, January-February-March 1983
Rare Books XIV
Scribner's Magazine, January 1937
Sporting Classics, May-June 2001
Sports Afield, April 1984
University of Nebraska Press, Spring/Summer 1988
Wilmington Trust 90th Anniversary Calendar, 1993
Guide to Winterthur Museum and Country Estate
Your Future

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Oversized Periodicals

American Boy

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New England, January 23, 1977

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Exhibition files, 1898-2009

Catalogs and Exhibition Materials

- Adventure Ho!: Popular American Illustrations, 1897-1935*, Kelly Collection of American Illustration, October 20, 1998 – January 20, 1999
- Adventures in Art: The Brandywine Artists: Masters through Illustration*, Pensacola Museum of Art, November 30, 2001 – February 9, 2002
- American Illustration 1890 – 1925: Romance, Adventure, and Suspense*, Glenbow Museum, 1986
- American Illustration from the Collection of Charles Martignette*, Selby Gallery, March 4 – April 9, 2005
- The American Magazine 1890 – 1940*, Delaware Art Museum, Fall 1979
- The Art of American Illustration*, Brandywine River Museum, September 11 – November 21, 1976
- Art of the Illustrator*, Kelly Collection of American Illustration, June 2 – November 20, 1997
- Art in Progress: The Evolution of a Collection and Shaping Our Future*, Delaware Art Museum, September 7 – October 20, 2001
- Artists of the Brandywine: Howard Pyle and his Students*, Greenville County Museum of Art, January 7 – February 25, 1979
- The Best of American Illustration: Selections from the Delaware Art Museum*, Delaware Art Museum, 1985
- The Brandywine Heritage: An American Tradition*, The Society of the Four Arts, March 21 – April 19, 1981
- Centennial Exhibition: Frank E. Schoonover 1877 – 1972*, WSWF Exhibit Hall, July 11 – 29, 1977
- Childhood Enchantments: British and American Illustrations for Children 1880 – 1940*, Museum of Cartoon Art, April 2 – June 25, 1989
- Distant Lands: The Art of the Story*, Knoxville Museum of Art, January 19 – May 6, 2001
- Drexel's Great School of American Illustration: Violet Oakley and Her Contemporaries*, Drexel University Museum, November 15, 1984 – May 31, 1985
- Enchanted Images: American Children's Illustration 1850 – 1925*, Santa Barbara Museum of Art, December 9, 1980 – January 20, 1981
- Exhibition of Paintings & Drawings by Frank E. Schoonover*, Montrose Galleries,

January 1979

Frank E. Schoonover at Drexel: Illustration and the Academic Tradition 1892 – 1903,
Drexel University Museum, February 14 – June 8, 1986

Four Decades: The Hotel DuPont Collection, Delaware Art Museum, 1982

Gone Fishing!, Philadelphia Maritime Museum, May 12, 1987 – October 5, 1987

*Howard Pyle and His Students: Works from the Kelly Collection of American
Illustration*, McGraw - Page Library, Randolph – Macon College, October 7 – December
9, 1995

*Howard Pyle Illustrators of the Brandywine School: From the Collection of the Free
Library of Philadelphia*, Federal Reserve Board, Marriner S. Eccles Building,
October 10, 2006 – March 30, 2007

In Tradition: Works by Brandywine Artists, University of Delaware, April 20 - July 20, 2007

*Nostalgic Journey: American Illustration from the Collection of the Delaware Art
Museum*, Delaware Art Museum, 1994

The Popular West: American Illustrators 1900 - 1940, Phoenix Art Museum, April 2 –
May 30, 1982

Stories to Tell: Masterworks from the Kelly Collection of American Illustration, Dahesh
Museum of Art, February 14 – May 21, 2006

Visions of American 1787 – 1987, ACA Galleries, September 30 – October 24, 1987

Visions of the West, Dallas Museum of Art, September 20 – November 30, 1986

Where the West Begins, Diamond M Museum of Fine Art

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Brandywine Museum
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Series X. Negatives

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Negatives

Series XI. Tear Sheets

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Tear Sheets

Series XII. Biographical Material (to be delivered)

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