



# DELAWARE ART MUSEUM

## **Albert Sterner Correspondence, 1927-1946 and undated**

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

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### **Acquisition Information**

Gift of Josephine G. and Robert H. Taggart in memory of Lee Bartlett Golden, 1995

### **Extent**

.06 linear feet

### **Contents**

Handwritten letters by the artist to Lee Bartlett Goddard, including a number of Christmas cards

### **Access Restrictions**

Unrestricted

### **Processed**

Sarena Fletcher, 2006

### **Contact Information**

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### **Preferred Citation**

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Delaware Art Museum

## Biography of Albert Sterner

Born in London, Albert Sterner began taking drawing classes in 1875 at the Birmingham Art Institute while still attending King Edward's School. Although his family moved to America, Sterner stayed with relatives in Germany until about 1879 or 1880. Rejoining his family in Chicago, he began working for a lithography firm and also painted stage scenery for the Grand Opera House, as well as doing some illustration. In 1885 Sterner established a studio in New York and began working for magazines such as *Harper's*, *Scribner's*, *Century*, and *Collier's*. He traveled frequently to Europe and in 1888 enrolled at the Académie Julian in Paris, where he studied with Gustave Boulanger and Jules Lefebvre. He continued to do illustration while also studying with Jean-Léon Gérôme at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts. In 1891 Sterner first exhibited at the Paris Salon and received an honorable mention. In 1918 he returned to America and began teaching at the Art Students League in New York. Among the many institutions that presented exhibitions of his work were the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, the Carnegie Museum, and the Art Institute of Chicago. He also won several major awards, including the Carnegie Prize at the National Academy of Design in 1941.

Source: <http://americanart.si.edu/exhibitions/online/monotypes/sternerbio.html>

## Description of the Collection

### Series I. Handwritten letters, addressed to Lee from Monst.

1. Letterhead Brick House ... Richmond, Mass., October 6, 1931.
2. Letterhead Brick House ... Richmond, Mass., September 4, 1941. Ink sketch on each side.
3. March 2, 1943. Ink sketch of man holding bouquet of flowers.
4. Letterhead Albert Sterner ... Long Island, no date.
5. Letterhead Hotel Gramercy Park, New York, no date.
6. Letterhead Fifteen Gramercy Park, Thursday, no date, 2 leaves.

### Series II. Envelopes addressed to Lee Bartlett Goddard, New York City

1. Postmark, Madison Sq[are] Sta[tion], NY, December 22, 1936. Addressed to 421 West 118<sup>th</sup> Street.
2. Postmark, Altamonte Springs, Fla., December 22, 1936. Addressed to 421 West 118<sup>th</sup> Street.
3. Postmark, New York, NY, February 6, 1941. Addressed to 502 West 113<sup>th</sup> Street.
4. Postmark, Pittsfield, Mass., December 2, 1941. Addressed to 49 Grove Street.

5. Postmark, New York, NY, March 2, 1943. Addressed to 49 Grove Street.

6. Postmark, Madison Sq[are] Sta[tion], NY, March 2, no date. Addressed to 49 Grove Street.

### **Series III. Christmas cards**

1. Caption: Wishes you a merry Xmas and a Happy New Year, 1927-28.

Image: Man facing forward, bowing his head slightly, right hand over the left side of his chest. His left hand is at his side, holding a top hat.

Card, black ink on gray paper.

2. Caption: Flora and Albert Sterner wish you a Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year, 1928-1929

Image: Man and woman walking through snow.

Card, sienna and white ink on green paper.

3. Caption: Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, 1929-30

Image: Woman is kneeling, painting greeting message on canvas laid flat on floor. She is looking up toward a man, dressed in white smock, who is holding a palette and paint brushes in his left hand. He is looking down at her work. Behind him is a canvas on an easel.

Inscribed to Lee from Monst.

Card, black and white ink on blue paper.

4. Caption: Flora and Albert Sterner wish you joy and happiness for Xmas and the New Year, 1930-1931.

Image: Man and woman decorating with garland; woman is standing on ladder, man is standing below.

Card, sienna ink on blue paper.

5. Caption: Nevertheless Flora and Albert Sterner wish you a merry Xmas and happy New Year, 1931-1932.

Image: Santa Claus holding empty bag, standing before open doorway with man and woman peering out. Black ink sketch of male silhouette holding heart on back of card.

Card, sienna ink on green paper.

6. Caption: Flora & Albert Sterner Wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, 1933-34

Image: Man and woman each looking out through windows, door between. Snow is on steps and outer window sills.

7. Caption: Flora and Albert Sterner send you Glad Greetings of the Season [Love, Monst.], 1934-35

Image: Man and woman's head each floating in life preservers, in water. Life preservers have words imprinted: S.S. Hope. Swirled in water is the word "depression."

Card, blue ink on blue paper.

8. Caption: Flora and Albert Sterner would like to wish you a merry Xmas and Happy new year, 1935-1936.

Image: Man and woman sitting on globe filled with images of war.

Card, sienna ink on paper.

9. Caption: A Merry Xmas and a happy New Year, Flora & Albert Sterner, 1936-1937

Image: Man and woman holding hands, walking. Man is holding palette and paintbrush in left hand.

Card, sienna ink on paper.

10. Caption: Flora and Albert Sterner with you A merry Xmas and a happy New Year, 1937-38

Image: Man and woman looking through large magnifying glass.

Inscribed to Lee and signed M.

Card, sienna ink on paper.

11. Caption: Peace on Earth Goodwill towards Men ... Not Yet! So Flora and Albert Sterner will wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year, 1939-1940.

Inscribed and signed: Monst.

Image: Man and woman sitting cross legged, holding hands, in window frame; alternate hand on respective cheeks.

Card, sienna ink on paper.

12. Caption: [backwards question mark] Christ-Mass? A.D 1941.

Image: Bald man and woman looking up at Christmas style tree with ornaments representing objects of war (pistol, soldier in uniform, rifle, poison gas, red cross, gas mask, war ship, submarine, airplane, skull, etc.). Two ornaments set beside tree emitting smoke-like substance that surrounds entire tree in circle.

On verso is handwritten, green pencil: Love Greetings and Good Wishes from Flora & Albert Sterner.

In town after Xmas will call you. M

Card, green ink on paper.

13. Caption: Flora and Albert Sterner send you Xmas Greetings and wish you a happy New Year, 1945-1946.

Image: Bald man sitting on the top of a ladder, hanging decorative ribbon; woman in dress is leaning on the ladder, looking up at the man.

Card, sienna ink on paper.

14. Card, print of painting at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Museum Press, signed Monst, no date.