

# Katharine Dunn Pagon papers

MS.021

Finding Aid prepared by Hoang Tran

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PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMY  
OF THE FINE ARTS

The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts  
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Philadelphia, PA 19102

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Updated by Hoang Tran, January 2016

## **Summary Information**

<b>Repository</b>	The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Dorothy and Kenneth Woodcock Archives
<b>Creator</b>	Katharine Dunn Pagon (1892-1988)
<b>Title</b>	Katharine Dunn papers
<b>Date [bulk]</b>	
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1926-1939; undated
<b>Extent</b>	1/2 document box
<b>Location note</b>	
<b>Language</b>	
<b>Language of Materials note</b>	English
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>The collection includes letters from Hugh Breckenridge to Katharine Pagon, 1926-1937. They deal with personal news including the poor health of his wife, Grace, who died in 1934; the progress of his summer art school in Gloucester, Massachusetts; and the book he started writing in 1932, dedicated to his students. Breckenridge also wrote to Mrs. Pagon as a fellow artist, offering advice, informing her of events at the Academy, and his own artistic progress.</p> <p>In addition to letters from Hugh Breckenridge, the collection contains a few from his wife, Grace, and daughter, Margaret Breckenridge Skinner. There are also very cordial letters from Dorothy Dozier Breckenridge, the artist's second wife. The collection also includes various news clippings and exhibition notices concerning Breckenridge; an album of photographs of Breckenridge paintings; a photograph taken of Breckenridge in the last year of his life; and his death mask, made at the request of Mrs. Pagon.</p>

### **Preferred Citation note**

[identification of item], Title of Collection, Collection ID#, The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Dorothy and Kenneth Woodcock Archives, Philadelphia, PA.

## **Historical note**

Katharine Dunn Pagon attended the Springside School as a youth and it was there she first met the artist Hugh Breckenridge. Dunn became a student of his once again when she enrolled at the Pennsylvania Academy from 1910 to 1918. She won Cresson Travel Scholarships in 1916 and 1918. She exhibited still lifes and landscapes in Academy annuals in 1918, 1921, 1928, 1931, 1933, 1936, and 1962. A friendship born of mutual admiration brought about their correspondence after Katharine Dunn married William Watters Pagon in 1916, and moved to Baltimore, Maryland. (Her marriage announcement and a photograph of her at about this time survive in a scrapbook compiled by Jane Allen Boyer, a fellow student.)

Hugh H. Breckenridge (1870-1937) was an artist long associated with the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. He was born in Virginia in 1870, and at seventeen came to Philadelphia to study at the Academy, where he subsequently won the Academy's European Travel Scholarship in 1892. After studying in Paris, he returned to Philadelphia and acquired his first teaching position at the Springside School. Breckenridge became an instructor at the Academy in 1894, where he was to continue teaching for over forty years.

## **Scope and Contents note**

The collection includes letters from Hugh Breckenridge to Katharine Pagon, 1926-1937. They deal with personal news including the poor health of his wife, Grace, who died in 1934; the progress of his summer art school in Gloucester, Massachusetts; and the book he started writing in 1932, dedicated to his students. Breckenridge also wrote to Mrs. Pagon as a fellow artist, offering advice, informing her of events at the Academy, and his own artistic progress.

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The collection has been microfilmed by the Archives of American Art on reel 3658:434-801. Also see the Hugh Breckenridge Papers.

## **Arrangement note**

## **Administrative Information**

### **Conditions Governing Access note**

Collection is open for research.

The archives reserves the right to restrict access to materials of sensitive nature. Please contact the department for further information.

### **Conditions Governing Use note**

The collection is the physical property of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Archives. The Museum holds literary rights only for material created by Museum personnel or given to the Museum with such rights specifically assigned. For all other material, literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. Researchers are responsible for obtaining permission from rights holders for publication and for other purposes where stated.

### **Immediate Source of Acquisition note**

#### **Provenance note**

The papers and memorabilia were donated by Mrs. Pagon in 1980.

#### **Processing Information note**

## **Controlled Access Headings**

Person(s)

Corporate Name(s)

Genre(s)

Geographic Name(s)

Subject(s)

## **Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements note**

## **Collection Inventory**

Folder title	Date	Box	Folder
Letters from Hugh H. Breckenridge	1926-1937	1	1
Letters from Grace Breckenridge	1929-1934	1	2

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Folder title	Date	Box	Folder
Correspondence with Dorothy Breckenridge	1936-1939	1	3
Letters from Margaret Breckenridge Skinner	1938; undated	1	4
News Clippings, exhibition notices, etc., re: Hugh Breckenridge		1	5
Correspondence: Miscellaneous		1	6
Death mask of Hugh Breckenridge		2	
<p>Photograph album containing 29 photographs of Breckenridge paintings. Image list for the album of black and white photographs of paintings by Hugh Breckenridge (part of the Katharine Dunn Pagon Papers)</p> <p>Flyleaf: Engraving by Breckenridge inscribed: "To my friend Katharine Pagon / whose appreciation and sympathy has been an inspiration for me. /Hugh H. Breckenridge / Oct. 1929"</p> <p>The Boat Builder's Yard Old China Egg Plants Fire Lustre Ware and Fruit Ivory, Gold and Blue Bowl of Fruit Interior – The Tapestryed Wall Italian Pitcher and Fruit Still Life – Blue and Gold Nude with Still Life Edge of the Woods The Creek – Winter The City Tower (PAFA's <i>Philadelphia</i>) The Grotto The Japanese Jar The Lake Across the Harbor The Pirate's Chest [1921] Still Waters The Waterfall Return of the Fishing Boat Portuguese Boats, Gloucester The Still Harbor Decoration in Green and Violet Still Life Interior</p>		3	

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Folder title	Date	Box	Folder
Aeronautics The Tree of Life Genesis: The Creation of Light [1929]			