

Conservation Department records

Collection ID: RG.12

Finding Aid prepared by Hoang Tran



PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMY
OF THE FINE ARTS

The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts
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Summary Information

Repository	The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Dorothy and Kenneth Woodcock Archives
Creator	PAFA
Title	Conservation Department records
Date [bulk]	
Date [inclusive]	1984-1990
Extent	1 document box
Location note	
Language	English
Language of Materials note	English
Abstract	Small collection of grant materials by PAFA's conservation department. Information important for tracing collection management activities and renovation projects. Images can be found in PC.01.26 for sculpture conservation.

Preferred Citation note

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

Historical note

Little information exists about the early history of conservation activities at the Pennsylvania Academy. Board minutes contain references to artists such as Thomas Sully or others “repairing” or varnishing various works. Treatment reports preserved in the object files offer valuable clues. For example, there are references from the late nineteenth century to works being sent to outside restorers. In the 1920s Thomas H. Stevenson and Ernest L. Parker are known to have restored works in the collection. In the 1930s the names Hannah Mae Horner and A. J. Brooks appear in the records for several paintings.

In 1939 the Academy hired Joseph Schindler, a Viennese émigré, as a professional conservator. He also instructed Academy students in the chemistry of paints and color, a practice continued today by the Academy’s conservator or by a faculty member. Schindler died in 1951. In 1999 Schindler’s lecture notes on grounds, supports, and varnishes were donated to the Archives (see 3-B).

Schindler’s successor, Theodor Siegl, had begun as his assistant in 1950. Siegl worked on paintings for both the Academy and the Philadelphia Museum of Art for about fifteen years. In the late 1960s, Siegl became the full-time conservator for the Philadelphia Museum of Art. His conservation work at the Academy was continued by his assistant, Joseph Amarotico, an Academy faculty member. In 1971 the former Gallery G, in the northwest corner of the gallery floor, was converted into a professional conservation lab. Air conditioning, an X-ray machine, a small spray booth, and a dark room were installed. The facility was dedicated to Mrs. T. Carrick Jordan, the major donor of the funds for these improvements. Amarotico died in 1984.

Mark F. Bockrath began as the full-time painting conservator in 1986 and assumed the title of chief conservator in 1992. During his tenure more scientific equipment was added to the lab, including several microscopes, a tabletop humidification and suction unit, and an infrared video camera and monitor. A program hosting interns from graduate conservation training centers began in 1988. Aella Diamantopoulos succeeded Bockrath in 1998. She inaugurated conservation lab monitoring of the building’s environmental systems, and performs in-house frame conservation as well as the day to day work on paintings.

In the 1980s Virginia Norton Naudé conserved almost every sculpture in the collection as part of a grant-funded project to catalogue and publishes the Academy’s sculpture. Currently, contracted staff conserves sculpture and works on paper under the supervision of the chief conservator. In 1994 a separate paper conservation lab was installed in the basement vault area.

Treatment reports, test results, and detail photographs are maintained in the conservation office. Special project and overview photographs are in the Archives.

Conservators

Joseph Schindler	1939-1951
Theodor Siegl	1951–1976
Joseph Amarotico	1976-1984
Mark Bockrath	1986-1997
Aella Diamantopoulos	1998-2014
Mary McGinn	2014-2017

Scope and Contents note

Arrangement note

No specific arrangement.

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

Processing Information note

Processed by Hoang Tran.

Controlled Access Headings

Person(s)

Corporate Name(s)

Genre(s)

Geographic Name(s)

Subject(s)

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements note

Collection Inventory

Date	Item Title	Box #	Folder #
circa 2000s	Medal: Pennsylvania Academy Gold Medal of Honor (blank)	3	
circa 1970s	Medal die: Pennsylvania Academy Gold Medal of Honor (2 boxes)	see box label	
circa 1970s	Medal die: Carol H. Beck Gold Medal	see box label	
circa 1970s	Medal die: collars	see box label	
circa 1970s	Medal die: Jennie Sesnan Gold Medal	see box label	
circa 1970s	Medal die: George D. Widener Memorial Gold	see box label	
circa 1970s	Medal die: Joseph E. Temple Fund Gold Medal	see box label	
2005	Medal: National Medal of Arts	5	
2005	Certificate: National Medal of Arts	5	
1845	Ruby glass dish	2	
1974	Neographics Award	1	
1977	Neographics Award	1	
1980	Neographics Award	1	
1977	National Trust for Historic Preservation Award	1	
1980	1955, 1980, 1976 stamp paper weight	3	
1980	1955, 1980, 1976 stamp paper weight	3	
	Engraving plate	3	
1991	Plaster mock-up of the chocolate bar distributed to guest at the opening reception and press lunch from Thomas Eakins Rediscovered.	3	
1991	Founders' Day Dinner Chocolate	3	
3/29/1996	Founders Day Medal for Vivian O. Potamkin	4	
3/29/1996	Founders Day Medal for Meyer P. Potamkin	4	
Oct. 23, 1938- Apr. 4, 1991	Founders Day Medal for H. John Heinz III	4	
3/11/1997	Founders Day Medal for Jacob Lawrence	4	
3/18/1994	Founders Day Medal for Sir Roger de Grey	4	
6/18/1992	Founders Day Medal for Edna S. Tuttleman	4	
6/21/1990	Founders Day Medal for Red Grooms	4	
3/24/1995	Founders Day Medal for Dorrance H. Hamilton	4	
3/24/1995	Founders Day Medal for Samuel M.V. Hamilton	4	
3/13/2001	Founders Day Medal for the Women's Committee of the	4	

Conservation Department records (RG.12)

	Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts		
5/20/1998	Founders Day Medal for Andrew Wyeth	4	
circa 1876	Stereopticon Viewer	6	
circa 1876	Stereopticon slides	7	
circa 1870	Stencil: "Copied from the original in the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts"	8	1
1955	Stamps: \$.03 with Peal's Artist in His Museum	8	2
1976	Commemorative Stamps: George Washington at Princeton	8	3
1980	Commemorative Stamps: Four monuments of American Architecture	8	4
1991	Milk carton advertisement: Thomas Eakins Rediscovered	8	5
1880	Cartoon: Who is to Run the Academy?	8	6
	Photograph: enamel pillbox	8	7
1998-1999	Food product labels	8	8
	Pendant (with chain) - based on the design of the Fellowship seal	8	9
1893-1894	Book: Descriptive Zoopraxography or the science of Animal Locomotion (inscribed by Muybridge, author).	8	10
1968-1969	Correspondence: re: gift of cake mould	8	11
undated	Cake mould: image of Furness Building	8	12
circa 1969-1974	Gilbert Stuart's Dolley Madison portrait - White House reproduction made for use by Patricia Nixon	8	13
circa 1870s	Horse shoe	8	14
2005	Banner: 200 years of American Art	flat file 60	1
circa 1969	Map of the world with signatures from international visitors	flat file 16	2
1976	Maxfield Parrish lithograph, Thanksgiving, #219 and 220	flat file 5	1