



Stanley Massey Arthurs Manuscript Collection

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

Acquisition Information

Gift of Marjorie and Frank Virdin, 1973-1974; some material collected by the Library

Extent

7 linear feet

Scope and Contents Note

Series I through IV contain biographical information, correspondence, exhibition catalogs, photographs, and tear sheets. This material was collected by the Library. Series V through VII consist of fifteen scrapbooks of illustrations compiled by Stanley Arthurs, as well as a separate gift of scrapbooks, sketchbooks, photographs, clippings, memorabilia by Arthurs' niece and nephew.

Access Restrictions

Unrestricted

Contact Information

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Preferred Citation

Stanley Massey Arthurs Manuscript Collection, Helen Farr Sloan Library & Archives, Delaware Art Museum

Related Materials

Howard Pyle Manuscript Collection

Biography of Stanley Arthurs

American painter and illustrator, 1877-1950

Stanley Massey Arthurs was born November 27, 1877 to Nancy and Joshua Arthurs, in Kenton, Delaware, where Joshua Arthurs owned a general store. Arthurs was interested in art as a boy, and, after leaving school, he studied in Wilmington with Clawson Hammitt, who urged him to study with Howard Pyle. Convinced of his talent, Pyle enthusiastically accepted him as a student. In 1897 Arthurs joined the classes Pyle was teaching at Drexel Institute, and in 1898 he was invited to attend the summer scholarship classes at Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania. His first illustration was published in the December 2, 1899 issue of *Harper's Weekly*. When Pyle left Drexel to open his own school in Wilmington, Arthurs went with him and worked in one of the studios Pyle had built for the school. When Pyle died in 1911, Arthurs purchased his studio and, until he died, led a quiet, solitary life there, dedicated to his work. He lectured occasionally at the Wilmington Academy and did some teaching in his studio.

Although Arthurs illustrated a great deal of popular literature, his real specialty was illustrating historical texts. His pictures were as historically accurate as he could make them. He did several murals of historical subjects for the State House in Dover, Delaware, and for the Minnesota State capitol building and produced a long series of historical paintings for DuPont Company calendars and the *DuPont Magazine*. Many of these were published in book form in the *American Historical Scene* in 1935. The historical illustrations occupied most of Arthurs' attention after 1920, but he also painted landscapes, not only of local scenes but also in Florida, the Western states, and Europe.

Source: Elzea, Rowland and Elizabeth H. Hawkes, eds. *A Small School of Art: The Students of Howard Pyle*. Wilmington: Delaware Art Museum, 1980.

Organization of the Collection

Series I: Biographical Information

Series II: Correspondence

Series III: Exhibitions and Murals

Series IV: Illustrations

Series V: Scrapbooks

Series VI: Miscellaneous

Series VII: Photographs

Description of the Collection

Series I: Biographical Information

Box 1

Folder

- 1 Biographical material
- 2 Newspaper clippings, 1899-1949
- 3 Newspaper clippings, 1950-present
- 4 Newspaper clippings, no date
- 5 Material regarding auction of Arthurs' library, 1951 – *Rare and Valuable Books at Public Auction from the Libraries of the Late Stanley M. Arthurs . . .* (catalog; 4 copies)

Series II: Correspondence

Box 2

Folder

- 1 Howard Pyle to Arthurs, 1896, 1897; Pyle to Mrs. Arthurs, 1897 (photocopies)
- 2 Arthurs to Joseph Bancroft, 1922; Arthurs to Willard Morse, 1923; Paul Strayer to Arthurs, 1936 (photocopy); Arthurs to Strayer, 1936 (photocopy)
- 3 Arthurs and Richard Wayne Lykes, 1945-1948 (photocopies)
- 4 Helen L. Card and Marshall W. Hall regarding auction of Arthurs' library, 1951
- 5 Miscellaneous

Series III: Exhibitions and Murals

Box 2

Folder

- 6 Exhibition catalogs, 1913, 1917, and unknown year
- 7 Exhibition catalogs, 1935, 1945
- 8 Exhibition catalog and clippings – *Stanley Arthurs*, Delaware Art Museum, 1974
- 9 *The Minnesota Capital: Official Guide and History*, 1912

Series IV: Illustrations

Box 3

Folder

- 1 Advertisements
- 2 *American History Magazine*, 1966
- 3 *American Magazine*, 1908, 1911, 1912
- 4 *Architectural League Year Book*, 1916, 1918
- 5 *Art and Progress*, 1912
- 6 Book illustrations
- 7 Calendars
- 8 *Century Magazine*, 1905, 1907, 1913, 1914
- 9 *Collier's Weekly*, 1900, 1902, 1904, 1913, 1915, 1918, 1919
- 10 Delaware Tercentenary, 1938: Official Program of the Celebration; brochure/order form for Delaware Tercentenary Almanack & Historical Repository
- 11 *Delineator*, 1908, 1915
- 12 *Everybody's Magazine*, 1902, 1919, 1912, 1921
- 13 *The Explosives Engineer*, 1934
- 14 *Far West Illustrated*, 1928
- 15 Frank Leslie's Popular Monthly

Box 4

Folder

- 1 *Good Housekeeping*, 1902, 1910
- 2 *Harper's Bazar*, 1909
- 3 *Harper's Magazine*, 1905, 1906
- 4 *Harper's Magazine*, 1907, 1908
- 5 *Harper's Magazine*, 1910-1923
- 6 *Harper's Weekly*, 1899-1910
- 7 *Ladies' Home Journal*, 1902, 1918, 1919
- 8 *McClure's*, 1904, 1907
- 9 *The Mentor*, 1927
- 10 Miscellaneous
- 11 *Outing*, 1906
- 12 *Outing*, 1907, 1910

Box 5

Folder

- 1 *Popular Magazine*, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1914, 1917
- 2 Postage stamp, 1938
- 3 *Red Book*, April 1913
- 4 *St. Nicholas*, December 1900
- 5 *Saturday Evening Post*, 1902, 1905, 1908, 1909, 1911
- 6 *Saturday Evening Post*, 1912, 1913, 1914, 1921
- 7 *Scribner's*, 1903-1906
- 8 *Scribner's*, 1908
- 9 *Scribner's*, 1909, 1912
- 10 Souvenir of the Pilgrimage of the Swedish-American Societies to Wilmington, Delaware, June 7, 1926 (from Frank E. Schoonover Collection)
- 11 *Success Magazine*, 1901
- 12 Unidentified
- 13 Wilmington Trust publication
- 14 *Western Story Magazine*, 1921, 1928
- 15 *Youth's Companion*, 1896, 1900, 1926

Series V: Scrapbooks

Series V: Scrapbooks contain clippings of magazine illustrations by Arthurs, including large-scale reproductions of paintings and Ketterlinus Calendars.

Box 6	Five (5) scrapbooks
Box 7	Three (3) scrapbooks: 1902-1906, 1907-1909, 1910-March 1912
Box 8	Six (6) scrapbooks: 1912-1913, #7, three (3) miscellaneous
Box 9	Three (3) scrapbooks: 1914-1925
Box 10	Two (2) scrapbooks
Box 11	Two (2) scrapbooks
Box 12	One (1) scrapbook; Photographs of pictures done in France

Series VI: Miscellaneous

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| Box 13 | Glass plate negatives: Arthurs' pictures (7); Scenes around Delaware (7); Scenes of Kenton, Delaware (4); Pictures of his own work (4); Family members (6); Pictures used for posing (12) |
| Box 14 | Calendars: Ketterlinus Calendars – 1922, 1923, 1924-1927 complete, 1924 November and December; Puzzle; DAM catalog index |
| Box 15 | Oversize materials (see also cabinet 1, drawer 5 in Rare Books Room) |

Series VII: Photographs

Box 16

Folder

- 1 Stanley Arthurs
- 2 Arthurs family
- 3 Group with Arthurs
- 4 Models
- 5 Artwork
- 6 Studios, houses, architecture
- 7 Scrapbook pages