

William Zorach Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the
Library of Congress

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Manuscript Division, Library of
Congress

Washington, D.C.

2010

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Finding aid encoded by Library of
Congress Manuscript Division, 2011

Finding aid URL: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms011237>

Collection Summary

Title: William Zorach Papers

Span Dates: 1822-1974

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1930-1968)

ID No.: MSS46938

Creator: Zorach, William, 1889-1966

Extent: 14,000 items; 48 containers plus 1 oversize; 7 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Abstract: Artist. Correspondence; speeches, articles, and books; lectures; sketches; newspaper clippings; financial records; printed material; subject files; and other papers relating principally to the creation, production, and sale of sculpture and paintings by Zorach and his fellow artists.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People

Barr, Alfred Hamilton, 1902-1981--Correspondence.

Bywaters, Jerry--Correspondence.

Dodd, Lamar--Correspondence.

Eaves, Winslow, b. 1922--Correspondence.

Epstein, Jacob, Sir, 1880-1959--Correspondence.

Franzheim, Kenneth, 1890-1959--Correspondence.

Goodrich, Lloyd, 1897- --Correspondence.

Halpert, Edith Gregor, 1900-1970--Correspondence.

Halpert, Edith Gregor, 1900-1970.

Rockefeller family--Correspondence.

Weber, Max, 1881-1961--Correspondence.

Zorach family--Correspondence.

Zorach, Marguerite, 1889-1966--Correspondence.

Zorach, Marguerite, 1889-1966.

Zorach, William, 1889-1966.

Zorach, William, 1889-1966. Art Is My Life. 1967.

Organizations

Art Students League (New York, N.Y.)

Columbia University. Oral History Research Office.

Ellerbe and Company--Correspondence.

Murphy & Mackey--Correspondence.

Subjects

Aesthetics.

Art, Abstract.

Art--Study and teaching.

Art.

Painting, American

Sculpture, American.

Occupations

Artists.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of William Zorach, artist, were given to the Library of Congress between 1962 and 1965 by Zorach. Additional materials were given by his son, Tessim Zorach, between 1967 and 1978 and in 1988.

Processing History

The papers of William Zorach were arranged and described in 1963. Material received in 1965 and 1967 was incorporated into the collection in 1968. Further additions and revisions were made in 1978 and in 2010.

Transfers

Items have been transferred from the Manuscript Division to other custodial divisions of the Library. Motion pictures and tapes have been transferred to the Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division. Photographs and slides have been transferred to the Prints and Photographs Division. All transfers are identified in these divisions as part of the William Zorach Papers.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of William Zorach is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of William Zorach are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, William Zorach Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1889, Feb. 28	Born, Euberick, Lithuania
1891	Immigrated with family to the United States
1903-1906	Apprenticed at Morgan Lithograph Co., Cleveland, Ohio; studied at Cleveland School of Art, Cleveland, Ohio
1908-1910	Studied at National Academy of Design, New York, N.Y.
1910	Studied at La Palette, Paris, France
1912	Married Marguerite Thompson (died 1968)
1913	Exhibited in Armory Show, New York, N.Y.

1927-1930	Executed sculpture "Mother and Child"
1929-1957	Instructor, Art Students League, New York, N.Y.
1931	Awarded Logan Medal for sculpture, Chicago Art Institute, Chicago, Ill.
1932	Commissioned to execute "Spirit of the Dance" in Radio City Music Hall, New York, N.Y. Awarded Logan Prize for watercolor, Chicago Art Institute, Chicago, Ill.
1936-1940	Executed sculpture "Youth"
1937	Awarded commission by U. S. Treasury to execute Benjamin Franklin statue for the Post Office, Washington, D.C.
1939	Executed monument "Builders of the Future," New York World's Fair, New York, N.Y.
1947	Published <i>Zorach Explains Sculpture</i> . New York: American Artists Group
1961	Received Gold Medal for sculpture, National Institute of Arts and Letters
1966, Nov. 15	Died, Bath, Maine
1967	Posthumous publication of autobiography, <i>Art Is My Life</i> . Cleveland: World Pub.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of William Zorach (1889-1967) span the years 1822-1974, with the bulk of the material falling between 1930 and 1968. The original portion of the collection consists of correspondence, speeches, articles, book manuscripts, sketches, printed matter, newspaper clippings, and miscellaneous material organized in six series: [Family Correspondence](#); [General Correspondence](#); [Speech, Article, and Book File](#); [Printed Matter](#); [Miscellany](#), and [Oversize](#). Addition I contains similar material arranged in five series: [Family Correspondence](#), [General Correspondence](#), [Subject File](#), [Speeches and Writings File](#), and [Miscellany](#). [Addition II](#) consists of photocopies of correspondence and related documents.

The [General Correspondence](#) in the main portion deals largely with the creation, production, and sale of works of art by William Zorach and his fellow artists. Zorach worked closely with the architects of the buildings for which he was commissioned to execute sculpture. He corresponded with Ellerbe and Company about a Mayo Clinic project; with Murphy & Mackey about his sculpture "The Runner" for the St. Louis Kiener Memorial Foundation; and with Kenneth Franzheim about the Second National Bank Building in Houston.

Zorach also served as an instructor for the Art Students League where he conducted numerous courses in sculpture; and notes for speeches and lectures delivered before both professional and general audiences are contained in the [Speech, Article, and Book File](#) series. Additional notes in the same series give Zorach's views concerning subjects such as abstract art, aesthetics, and art instruction for children.

Edith Gregor Halpert of the Downtown Gallery in New York was Zorach's agent, and there is considerable business and personal correspondence between them. Many bills, receipts, and purchase slips pertaining to his works are retained in the collection.

In 1956, Zorach recorded his memoirs for the Columbia University Oral History Program. Typewritten transcripts of his dictated recollections are contained in the main body of these papers and in the Addition. The American Artists Group published a monograph on Zorach's life and work, and copies of the material for this book are in the collection, as are notes for his books.

Principal correspondents in the main portion of the collection, in addition to those named above, include Sir Jacob Epstein, Winslow Eaves, Max Weber, and Jerry Bywaters of the Dallas Museum of Fine Arts, Lloyd Goodrich of the Whitney Museum of Art, Lamar Dodd of the Department of Art at the University of Georgia, and the Rockefeller family. There is also substantial family correspondence in the main portion.

Although he maintained a studio-home in Brooklyn, N. Y., Zorach resided at Robinhood, a farm near Bath, Maine. Two letters addressed to James Riggs, a nineteenth-century owner of the estate, are included in the papers.

Addition I

Addition I of the Zorach Papers consists of items received by the Library in 1968-1978. It includes correspondence, drafts of poems and other writings, legal and financial records, sketches, printed matter, and miscellaneous material. The papers in this part are dated 1918 to 1974, but are concentrated in the period, 1959-1968.

Many of the papers in the Addition pertain to the years immediately before and after William Zorach's death in 1966 and provide documentation of legal and financial problems encountered by Zorach's estate. Correspondence of William and Marguerite Zorach with friends, students, organizations, and admirers is contained in the [General Correspondence](#) and is largely personal in nature. Correspondence with Edith Halpert is also in this series. Material relating to the bitter legal dispute between Halpert and the Zorach estate is located in the [Subject File](#). Discussion on the nature of art in general and of Zorach's sculptures in particular, advice to inquiring artists and collectors, and direction provided to various art associations seeking assistance are some of the more important topics covered in the correspondence series.

Art was the cement of the Zorach's life together as demonstrated in the title of William Zorach's autobiography, *Art Is My Life*. Two drafts of this book are provided in the speeches and writings series along with poems and writings penned by both Zorach's.

William Zorach's contacts with the art world as represented by sales, exhibitions, and castings of his works are gathered in the business correspondence folders in the [Subject File](#) series. Correspondence concerning gallery exhibits of works by Marguerite Zorach, a noted regional New England artist, is also concentrated in these folders.

Addition II

Addition II spans the years 1955-1962. It consists of photocopies of letters with related legal documents from Zorach to his niece, Rosemary Lewis, concerning his citizenship, and photocopies of correspondence with Alfred Hamilton Barr and related documents concerning accusations against him of Communist associations.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in twelve series:

- [Family Correspondence, 1911-1966](#)
- [General Correspondence, 1927-1966](#)

- Speech, Article, and Book File, 1921-1965
- Printed Matter, 1913-1966
- Miscellany, 1822-1966
- Addition I: Family Correspondence, 1932-1974
- Addition I: General Correspondence, 1918-1968
- Addition I: Subject File, 1925-1970
- Addition I: Speeches and Writings File, 1956-1968
- Addition I: Miscellany, 1918-1968
- Addition II, 1955-1962
- Oversize

Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1-3	<u>Family Correspondence, 1911-1966</u> Letters sent and received by Zorach and his family. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 4-12	<u>General Correspondence, 1927-1966</u> Letters sent and received. Arranged alphabetically and therein chronologically.
BOX 13-23	<u>Speech, Article, and Book File, 1921-1965</u> Speeches, lectures, articles, poems, miscellaneous notes, and memoirs. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 24-30	<u>Printed Matter, 1913-1966</u> Newspaper clippings, bulletins, announcements, brochures, and magazines. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 31-35	<u>Miscellany, 1822-1966</u> Financial papers, telephone books, notebooks, citations and awards, invitations, sketches and blueprints, scrapbook, and mailing lists. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 36	<u>Addition I: Family Correspondence, 1932-1974</u> Letters sent and received between family members, telegrams, and postcards. Arranged by correspondents and therein chronologically.
BOX 37-38	<u>Addition I: General Correspondence, 1918-1968</u> Letters received and copies of letters sent, telegrams, postcards, and miscellaneous attachments. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 38-40	<u>Addition I: Subject File, 1925-1970</u> Correspondence, financial and legal material, business records, memoranda, and art sketches and drawings. Arranged alphabetically by subject and therein chronologically.
BOX 41-43	<u>Addition I: Speeches and Writings File, 1956-1968</u> Handwritten and typewritten drafts, transcripts, correspondence, legal documents, poems, and notes relating to speeches, books and miscellaneous writings. Arranged by type of material and therein chronologically.
BOX 43-48	<u>Addition I: Miscellany, 1918-1968</u> Diaries, printed matter, cards, invitations, correspondence, condolences, documents, notes, and writings. Arranged alphabetically by topic.

BOX 48

Addition II, 1955-1962

Photocopies of letters from Zorach to his niece and between Zorach and Alfred H. Barr and related related documents.

Arranged by type of material.

BOX OV 1

Oversize

Sketches and blueprints.

Arranged and described according to the series, folder, and container from which the items were removed.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-3	Family Correspondence, 1911-1966 Letters sent and received by Zorach and his family. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 1	Correspondence between William and Marguerite Zorach
BOX 1	1911-1912 (10 folders)
BOX 2	1912-1960 (4 folders)
BOX 2	Undated
BOX 2	Ipcar, Adolph (son-in-law)
BOX 2	Ipcar, Dahlov Zorach (daughter), 1940-1966 (2 folders)
BOX 2	Zorach, Tessim and Peggy (son and daughter-in-law), and grandchildren (2 folders)
BOX 3	Correspondence with family members
BOX 3	Correspondence from Dahlov to Marguerite Zorach, 1929-1957 (6 folders)
BOX 3	Condolences to Marguerite Zorach on death of William Zorach
BOX 4-12	General Correspondence, 1927-1966 Letters sent and received. Arranged alphabetically and therein chronologically.
BOX 4	"Ab-All" miscellaneous
BOX 4	Allegheny conference
BOX 4	"Alu-Ay" miscellaneous
BOX 4	"Ba-Bl" miscellaneous (3 folders)
BOX 4	Blum, Helaine and family
BOX 4	"Bo-Bon" miscellaneous
BOX 4	Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine
BOX 4	"Bow-Buo" miscellaneous (2 folders)
BOX 4	Bywaters, Jerry
BOX 5	"Ca-Col" miscellaneous (2 folders)
BOX 5	Colby College, Waterville, Maine
BOX 5	"Col-Cu" miscellaneous (2 folders)
BOX 5	"Da-Di" miscellaneous
BOX 5	Dodd, Lamar
BOX 5	"Do-Dy" miscellaneous

General Correspondence, 1927-1966

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 5	Eaves, Winslow
BOX 5	"Eb-Eld" miscellaneous
BOX 6	Ellerbe and Co. (2 folders)
BOX 6	"Elm-Ep" miscellaneous
BOX 6	Epstein, Jacob
BOX 6	"Eq-Ev" miscellaneous
BOX 6	"Fa-Fu" miscellaneous (2 folders)
BOX 6	Franzheim, Kenneth (8 folders)
BOX 7	"Ga-Gu" miscellaneous (2 folders)
BOX 7	"Ha-Hall" miscellaneous
BOX 7	Halpert, Edith
BOX 7	"Ha-Hu" miscellaneous (4 folders)
BOX 7	"I" miscellaneous
BOX 7	"Ja-Ju" (2 folders)
BOX 8	"Ka-Ku" miscellaneous (3 folders)
BOX 8	"La-Leo" miscellaneous (2 folders)
BOX 8	Lerner, A. R.
BOX 8	Leva, Marie (2 folders)
BOX 8	"Levi-Ly" miscellaneous (2 folders)
BOX 9	"Ma-Mun" miscellaneous (5 folders)
BOX 9	Murphy & Mackey
BOX 9	Museum
BOX 9	"Musi-My" miscellaneous
BOX 9	"Na-News" miscellaneous (2 folders)
BOX 9	New York
BOX 9	"No" miscellaneous
BOX 9	"O" miscellaneous
BOX 10	"Pa-Pr" miscellaneous (5 folders)
BOX 10	"Ra-Roch" miscellaneous (2 folders)
BOX 10	Rockefeller family
BOX 10	"Rock-Rosi" miscellaneous
BOX 10	Ross, Ellin and family (2 folders)

General Correspondence, 1927-1966

Container

Contents

BOX 10	"Rot-Ry" miscellaneous
BOX 11	"Sa-Shel" miscellaneous (4 folders)
BOX 11	Shepard, James Edward (2 folders)
BOX 11	"Sho-Su" miscellaneous (2 folders)
BOX 11	"Ta-Tu" (4 folders)
BOX 12	"U" miscellaneous
BOX 12	"V" miscellaneous
BOX 12	"Wa-Webb"
BOX 12	Weber, Max (2 folders)
BOX 12	"Wei-Whit" miscellaneous (2 folders)
BOX 12	Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, N.Y.
BOX 12	"Wi-Wy" miscellaneous
BOX 12	"Y-Z"
BOX 12	Unidentified
BOX 13-23	Speech, Article, and Book File, 1921-1965 Speeches, lectures, articles, poems, miscellaneous notes, and memoirs. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 13	Speeches
BOX 13	Lectures (7 folders)
BOX 13	Articles (2 folders)
BOX 13	(3 folders)
BOX 14	Autobiographical articles
BOX 14	Poems (2 folders)
BOX 14	Poems by William and Marguerite Zorach
BOX 14	Miscellaneous notes (2 folders)
BOX 15	(8 folders)
BOX 16	<i>Zorach Explains Sculpture</i> (4 folders)
BOX 17	(5 folders)
BOX 18	(5 folders)
BOX 19	(6 folders)
BOX 20	(7 folders)
BOX 21	Autobiographical notes (6 folders)
BOX 22	(5 folders)

Speech, Article, and Book File, 1921-1965

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 23	"The Reminiscences of William Zorach," unpublished transcription of Columbia University, New York, N.Y., oral history project (4 folders)
BOX 24-30	Printed Matter, 1913-1966 Newspaper clippings, bulletins, announcements, brochures, and magazines. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 24	Newspaper clippings (4 folders)
BOX 25	(9 folders)
BOX 26	(7 folders)
BOX 26	Bulletins and announcements
BOX 27	Printed material (5 folders)
BOX 28	(5 folders)
BOX 29	(8 folders)
BOX 30	(5 folders)
BOX 31-35	Miscellany, 1822-1966 Financial papers, telephone books, notebooks, citations and awards, invitations, sketches and blueprints, scrapbook, and mailing lists. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 31	Ledger account book (2 vols.)
BOX 31	Bills and receipts (3 folders)
BOX 31	Purchase slips (2 folders)
BOX 31	Expense account
BOX 32	Letters to James Riggs, former owner of Robinhood farm, 1822, 1826
BOX 32	Telephone books
BOX 32	Notebooks
BOX 32	Biographical articles
BOX 32	Passport and ration books
BOX 32	Citations and awards
BOX 32	Invitations
BOX 32	Lists of works
BOX 33	Mailing lists
BOX 33	Archives of American Art finding aid
BOX 33	Poems by Marguerite Zorach (2 folders)
BOX 33	Ipcar, Dahlov Zorach, printed matter and poems
BOX 33	Zorach, Marguerite, printed matter
BOX 34	Printed matter collected by William Zorach (7 folders)

Miscellany, 1822-1966

Container

Contents

BOX 35	Sketches and blueprints <i>See also Oversize</i> (5 folders)
BOX 35	Scrapbook, Columbia Savings and Loan Association, 1964
BOX 36	Addition I: Family Correspondence, 1932-1974 Letters sent and received between family members, telegrams, and postcards. Arranged by correspondents and therein chronologically.
BOX 36	Correspondence between William and Marguerite Zorach
BOX 36	Ipcar, Dahlov Zorach, May 1935-Mar. 1968 (2 folders)
BOX 36	Zorach, Tessim and Peggy, Mar. 1932-Sept. 1967, undated (3 folders)
BOX 36	Correspondence with family members
BOX 36	Correspondence of Dahlov Zorach Ipcar
BOX 36	Correspondence of Tessim and Peggy Zorach
BOX 37-38	Addition I: General Correspondence, 1918-1968 Letters received and copies of letters sent, telegrams, postcards, and miscellaneous attachments. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 37	Oct. 1918 - Aug. 1966 (6 folders)
BOX 38	Sept. 1966 - June 1968, undated (5 folders)
BOX 38-40	Addition I: Subject File, 1925-1970 Correspondence, financial and legal material, business records, memoranda, and art sketches and drawings. Arranged alphabetically by subject and therein chronologically.
BOX 38	Business correspondence, Jan. 1925 - Jan. 1968 (2 folders)
BOX 39	Columbia Savings and Loan Association
BOX 39	Council of the National Institute of Arts and Letters, minutes of meetings
BOX 39	Financial records (2 folders)
BOX 39	Kraushaar Galleries, New York, N.Y.
BOX 39	Modern Art Foundry, New York, N.Y.
BOX 39	Sketches and blueprints
BOX 39	Tax records
BOX 39	1954-1963 (2 folders)
BOX 40	1964-1966
BOX 40	1968-1969
BOX 40	Receipts and working papers
BOX 40	<i>Zorach, Tessim and Dahlov v. Edith Halpert</i>

Addition I: Subject File, 1925-1970

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 40	Zorach, William (estate of)
BOX 40	July 1964-July 1970 (2 folders)
BOX 40	Undated
BOX 41-43	Addition I: Speeches and Writings File, 1956-1968 Handwritten and typewritten drafts, transcripts, correspondence, legal documents, poems, and notes relating to speeches, books and miscellaneous writings. Arranged by type of material and therein chronologically.
BOX 41	<i>Art Is My Life</i>
BOX 41	Manuscript copy and index (3 folders)
BOX 41	Final copy (2 folders)
BOX 41	Contracts
BOX 42	Correspondence
BOX 42	Poems (2 folders)
BOX 42	"The Reminiscences of William Zorach," unpublished transcription of Columbia University, New York, N.Y., oral history project (2 folders)
BOX 42	Speeches
BOX 42	Writings (2 folders)
BOX 43	(7 folders)
BOX 43-48	Addition I: Miscellany, 1918-1968 Diaries, printed matter, cards, invitations, correspondence, condolences, documents, notes, and writings. Arranged alphabetically by topic.
BOX 43	Address books (8 vols.) (2 folders)
BOX 44	Art notes
BOX 44	Awards and honorary degrees
BOX 44	Bank books
BOX 44	Cards and invitations (2 folders)
BOX 45	Catalogue and index to Zorach's sculpture (1 folder)
BOX 45	(1 folder)
BOX 45	Certificates and records
BOX 45	Condolences on death of William Zorach (3 folders)
BOX 45	Correspondence between others than William and Marguerite Zorach
BOX 45	Diagrams of house garden

Addition I: Miscellany, 1918-1968

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 45	Diary of Tessium Zorach
BOX 45	Undated
BOX 46	June 1933-Oct. 1934 (6 vols.)
BOX 46	Guest books
BOX 46	<i>The Name of Rose</i> , by Helen Hoyt
BOX 46	National Institute of Arts and Letters
BOX 46	Notebooks
BOX 46	Notes
BOX 47	Obituaries
BOX 47	Passports
BOX 47	Poem by Dahlov Zorach Ipcar and Tessim Zorach
BOX 47	Printed matter
BOX 47	Pamphlets, brochures, and catalogues (4 folders)
BOX 47	Newspaper clippings
BOX 48	Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Skowhegan, Maine
BOX 48	Travel notes of Marguerite Zorach
BOX 48	Wills
BOX 48	Writings by others
BOX 48	Addition II, 1955-1962 Photocopies of letters from Zorach to his niece and between Zorach and Alfred H. Barr and related related documents. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 48	Photocopies of letters from Zorach to his niece, Rosemary Lewis, and related legal documents concerning his citizenship, 1957-1959
BOX 48	Photocopies of correspondence with Alfred H. Barr and related documents concerning accusations of Communist associations, 1955-1962
BOX OV 1	Oversize Sketches and blueprints. Arranged and described according to the series, folder, and container from which the items were removed.
BOX OV 1	Miscellany
BOX OV 1	Sketches and blueprints (Container 35)