Duncan Phillips Collects: Paris between the Wars

1991

Finding Aid
INTRODUCTORY INFORMATION

Collection Title: Duncan Phillips Collects: Paris between the Wars; exhibition records
Author/Creator: The Phillips Collection Curatorial Department. Elizabeth “Beth” Hutton Turner, Associate Curator
Collection No:
Size: 2.92 linear feet
Inclusive Dates: 1989-1992 [Note that there are photocopies of research materials dating 1905-1991]
Repository: The Phillips Collection Archives

INFORMATION FOR USERS OF THE COLLECTION

Restrictions: The collection contains restricted materials. Please contact Karen Schneider, Librarian, with any questions regarding access.
Handling Requirements: None
Preferred Citation: The Phillips Collection Archives, Washington, D.C.
Publication and Reproduction Rights: See Karen Schneider, Librarian, for further information and to obtain required forms.
SPECIAL NOTE: The majority of materials in the Research Series of this collection were photocopied or acquired by The Phillips Collection with the appropriate permissions and/or payments, but are not owned by The Phillips Collection Archives, which consequently cannot grant copying, publication or reproduction rights to these materials. For these permissions, the originating repository must be contacted, which is the sole responsibility of the researcher (see ‘Related Material’ below for some contact information.)

ABSTRACT

Duncan Phillips Collects: Paris between the Wars exhibition records contain materials created and/or collected by the Curatorial Department of The Phillips Collection, during the course of organizing the exhibition at The Phillips Collection. Included are research, catalog, and exhibition planning files.

HISTORICAL NOTE

One of the most notable aspects of Duncan Phillips’s collecting career is his relationship to modern French art. Initially rejecting European modernists like Matisse as “crude,” Phillips had a change of vision in the mid 1920’s that led to a deep appreciation of French modernist painting and a period of passionate collecting. Before 1925, the Phillips Memorial Gallery exhibited paintings by old masters and modern American artists, with noticeable omissions of works by French modernists. By the mid-twenties, Duncan Phillips began feverishly collecting works by artists of the School of Paris, including mature works by Bonnard, Braque, Dufy, Matisse,
Picasso, Rouault, Soutine, and others. This exhibition spotlights the important acquisitions of French modernism that were made during that time.

**SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE COLLECTION**

This exhibition explores Duncan Phillips’ period of intense collecting of artists of the School of Paris, between World War I and World War II. The exhibition is almost entirely comprised of works in the permanent collection of The Phillips Collection, including works by Bonnard, Braque, Dufy, Rouault, Matisse, and Picasso.

These curatorial records were collected and created in the course of researching, planning, and executing the exhibition and its catalog.


The primary creator of the exhibition records was Elizabeth Hutton Turner, Associate Curator at The Phillips Collection.

The collection consists of the research and exhibition planning files of Beth Turner. These records consist of research materials assembled, catalog and exhibition planning and execution documents such as legal and financial records, lender files (restricted) and checklists (restricted).

This exhibition and accompanying catalog represent a significant amount of research on the history of Duncan Phillips’ practice of collecting art during the period between the World Wars. Research was conducted by Elizabeth Turner and the curatorial staff at The Phillips Collection, to support the development of the exhibition and catalog.

Great emphasis was placed on the creation of a detailed chronology of acquisitions, exhibitions, and writings, which appeared in the catalog. The chronology research contains correspondence between Duncan Phillips and various collectors and dealers. Significant and/or frequent correspondents are Bernheim-Jeune Gallery, Charles Daniel, De Hauke and Company, F. Valentine Dudensing, Frank Jewett Mather, Pierre Matisse, and Wildenstein and Company.

The files include photocopies of primary sources relating to Duncan Phillips and The Phillips Collection. Various secondary sources on artists, collectors, and dealers, consist of photocopies of articles, reviews, exhibition catalogs, and book excerpts.

**CUSTODIAL HISTORY AND ACQUISITION INFORMATION**
This collection is owned by The Phillips Collection, and was accessioned from the curators’ offices in accordance with the museum’s records schedule.

**PROCESSING AND DESCRIPTION INFORMATION**

**Date Processed:** February 2010 – May 2010  
**Processed By:** Emily Hunter, UMD Graduate Student; Supervised by Karen Schneider, Librarian  
**Processing Notes:** In a meeting with the librarian, it was decided to discard duplicative materials, general housekeeping materials (such as payment requisition forms and invoices), duplicative photocopies, as well as curatorial notes that were illegible.

Because the chronology was an important element of this exhibition and catalog, research materials supporting the chronology were kept in their original order by year.

The original alphabetical arrangement was maintained for all folders except Chronology Research. Within folders, materials are arranged chronologically by date of creation as indicated on the document, and followed by any undated materials. Folder headings were maintained when applicable, but were rewritten in some cases for greater clarity and accuracy. Metal paperclips and staples were removed and replaced with plastic clips. All documents were re-folded in acid-free folders and placed in acid-free archival boxes. Folders containing restricted materials were marked with a red dot (see note above re ‘restrictions’).

**Finding Aid Written By:** Emily Hunter, UMD Graduate Student; Supervised by Karen Schneider, Librarian

**RELATED MATERIAL**

Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution  
750 9th St. NW, Victor Building, Suite 2200  
Washington, DC 20001  
tel. 202-633-7950  
http://www.aaa.si.edu

See also: Exhibition History, The Phillips Collection Archives

**ARRANGEMENT OF THE COLLECTION**

The collection is organized as two series:  
- Series 1: Research  
- Series 2: Exhibition Planning
The Research series is arranged alphabetically by subject or person, and within folders chronologically by publication date. The original arrangement of the Chronology sub-series was maintained; folders are arranged chronologically by year, with folder contents arranged chronologically by date. The Exhibition Planning series is arranged alphabetically.

**SERIES DESCRIPTIONS**

Series 1: Research
Series 1 consists of research materials assembled in planning the exhibition and catalog.

Sub-series 1.1: Topical Research 1934-1991
Photocopied articles and curatorial notes, arranged alphabetically by subject.

Sub-series 1.2: Artist Research 1916-1991
Photocopied articles, correspondence, and photographs on specific artists in the exhibition, arranged alphabetically by artist. Includes some provenance research.

Sub-series 1.3: Collector Research 1913-1991
Photocopied articles, correspondence, and curatorial notes on art collectors, arranged alphabetically by collector.

Sub-series 1.4: Dealer Research 1927-1991
Photocopied articles, correspondence, and curatorial notes on art dealers, arranged alphabetically by dealer.

Sub-series 1.5: Chronology Research 1912-1969
Photocopied articles, book excerpts, correspondence, and curatorial notes that support the chronology generated for the exhibition catalog.

Sub-series 1.6: The Phillips Collection Research 1905-1989
Photocopied articles, book excerpts, correspondence, curatorial notes, and journal entries on Duncan Phillips and The Phillips Collection.

Series 2: Exhibition Planning
Series 2 consists of correspondence, financial, legal, image, and administrative records, arranged alphabetically.

**BOX INVENTORY**

**Series 1: Research**

**Sub-series 1: Topical Research**

**Box 1**

- Folder 1: American Views of the School of Paris, 1934 and undated
- Folder 2: Cubism and its Enemies, 1991 and undated
- Folder 3: Pre/Post-War Periodization, undated
- Folder 4: Responses to Modern Art in New York in the 1920’s, excerpts from writing by Susan Noyes Platt, 1981
Sub-series 2: Artist Research

Folder 5  Artists’ studio addresses, curatorial notes, undated
Folder 6  Bourdelle, Emile Antoine, curatorial notes, undated
Folder 7  Braque, Georges, articles, book excerpts, curatorial notes, photographs, 1927-1941 and undated
Folder 8  Chagall, Marc, articles, correspondence, curatorial notes, 1989-1991 and undated
Folder 9  De Chirico, Giorgio, book excerpts, undated
Folder 11  Despiau, Charles, book excerpt, correspondence, undated
Folder 12  Dufy, Raoul, biographical materials, correspondence, provenance research, 1939-1991 and undated
Folder 13  Gris, Juan, articles, book excerpts, 1984 and undated
Folder 14  Kandinsky, Wassily, articles, 1992 and undated
Folder 15  Lipchitz, Jacques, book excerpts, curatorial notes, undated
Folder 16  Masson, Andre, curatorial notes, undated
Folder 17  Matisse, Henri, articles, book excerpts, curatorial notes, provenance research, 1916-1987 and undated

Box 2

Folder 1  Miró, Joan, curatorial notes, undated
Folder 2  Modigliani, Amedeo, articles, book excerpts, curatorial notes, photographs, 1989-1990 and undated
Folder 3  Picasso, Pablo, articles, book excerpts, correspondence, curatorial notes, provenance research, 1930-1980 and undated
Folder 4  Renoir, Pierre Auguste, book excerpts, undated
Folder 5  Rouault, Georges, articles, book excerpts, correspondence, curatorial notes, photographs, 1939-1990 and undated
Folder 6  Soutine, Chaim, biographical materials, exhibition catalogs, 1940-1984 and undated

Sub-series 3: Collector Research

Folder 7  Barnes, Albert C., articles, 1928-1991
Folder 8  Barr, Alfred, book excerpts, curatorial notes, 1986 and undated
Folder 9  Gallatin, A.E., curatorial notes, 1989 and undated
Folder 10  Guillaume, Paul, articles, curatorial notes, 1913-1929 and undated
Folder 11  Mather, Frank Jewett, articles, 1989
Folder 12  Modern Art Collectors in America, articles, 1982

Sub-series 4: Dealer Research

Folder 13  Brummer, Joseph, book excerpts, undated
Folder 14  Dudensing, F. Valentine, correspondence, curatorial notes, 1928 and undated
Folder 15  Durand-Ruel, correspondence, 1927-1928 and undated
Folder 17  Neumann, J.B, articles, 1989
Folder 18  Reinhardt, Henry, correspondence, 1928

**Sub-series 5:** Chronology Research

**Box 3**
Folder 1  Art News Chronology, 1920-1941
Folder 2  1912-1924
Folder 3  1925
Folder 4  1926
Folder 5  1927 [January-May]
Folder 6  1927 [June-December]
Folder 7  1928 [January-October]

**Box 4**
Folder 1  1928 [November-December]
Folder 2  1929 [January-May]
Folder 3  1929 [June-December]
Folder 4  1930 [January-May]
Folder 5  1930 [June-December]
Folder 6  1931 [January-May]
Folder 7  1931 [June-October]

**Box 5**
Folder 1  1932-1933
Folder 2  1934
Folder 3  1935
Folder 4  1936
Folder 5  1937
Folder 6  1938
Folder 7  1939
Folder 8  1940-1949
Folder 9  1950-1969

**Sub-series 6:** The Phillips Collection Research

**Box 6**
Folder 1  Acquisitions Chronology, 1989
Folder 2  Chronology, Duncan Phillips: Life and Writings, compiled by Maura K. Parrott, undated
Folder 3  Correspondence, Duchamp, Marcel, and Duncan Phillips, undated
Folder 4  Correspondence, Mather, Frank Jewett, and Duncan Phillips, 1921-1946
Folder 5  
Correspondence, Matisse, Pierre, and Duncan Phillips, 1931-1950

Folder 6  
Correspondence, Notes and list of Foxhall correspondence, undated

Folder 7  
Correspondence, Notes from TPC library microfilm, includes notes on Duncan Phillips' correspondence with Arthur B. Davies, Charles Daniel, Ernest Lawson, Rockwell Kent, Walt Kuhn, Louis Kalonyme, 1927-1933

Folder 8  
Duncan Phillips' Annotated copy of Art by Clive Bell

Folder 9  
Duncan Phillips Biographical materials, 1914

Folder 10  
Duncan Phillips' Book Proposal, 1918?-1920

Folder 11  
Duncan Phillips' Journal Excerpts (from journals M, Y, EE), full list of journals with descriptions, 1915-1922

Folder 12  
Duncan Phillips' Library

Folder 13  
Duncan Phillips' Writings, 1905-1918

Folder 14  
Duncan Phillips' Writings, 1927-1934

Folder 15  
Duncan Phillips' Writings about the Phillips Memorial Gallery, 1923-1931

Folder 16  
Duncan Phillips' Writings, unpublished, c.1917-1918

Folder 17  
Exhibitions, 1919-1931

Folder 18  
Inventory of Paintings, pre-1921

Folder 19  
Miscellaneous archival materials, from Painting Files (notes, correspondence, exhibition lists), 1917-1935 and undated

Folder 20  
Writings about Duncan Phillips and The Phillips Collection, 1922-1981

Series 2: Exhibition Planning

Box 7

Folder 1  
Budget, 1991 and undated

Folder 2  
Catalog, 1991 and undated

Folder 3  
Catalog, Photograph Requests, 1991

Folder 4  
Checklist, 1991

Folder 5  
Conservation, 1991 and undated

Folder 6  
Funding, 1991

Folder 7  
Installation, 1991 and undated

Folder 8  
Lender, Archives of American Art, 1991

Folder 9  
Lender, The Museum of Modern Art [not granted], 1991

Folder 10  

Folder 11  
Tour schedule, 1991-1992 and undated

Folder 12  
Programming, 1991

Folder 13  
Publicity, 1991-1992