

National Gallery of Art Library

John Marin Family Papers

9.7 linear feet in 9 boxes and 17 binders

The family papers of John Marin (1870-1953), American painter, were given to the National Gallery of Art by John Marin Jr., the artist's son, in 1986.

The papers were processed and cataloged by Jane Collins with the help of Sharon Millman in 1992.

Suggested citation: John Marin Family Papers, National Gallery of Art Library,
Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content

The history of the John Marin family papers is unclear. It appears to have been started by John Marin himself and was then inherited by John Marin Jr. when his father died in 1953. John Marin Jr. maintained and added to the collection until it was given to the National Gallery in 1986. It is not known if other people in the family worked on it or if outside employees were involved with its organization or maintenance. Whenever possible, the original arrangement of material has been respected. An inventory of the collection as it was received in the Library from the Print Department in 1992 is available in the files of the Manuscript Cataloger in the Cataloging Section.

The papers consist mainly of correspondence both to and by John Marin with a small amount of correspondence both to and by John Marin Jr. They also include writings by John Marin (his thoughts on art and artists, the creative process, abstraction, colors, nature, music, etc.) and other documents relating to his career as an American painter such as exhibition catalogs, newspaper and periodical clippings, lists of his works, etc.

The correspondence contains letters by well-known American artists or collectors, colleagues of Marin's, such as Ansel Adams, Georgia O'Keeffe, Alfred Stieglitz, Duncan and Marjorie Phillips as well as many letters from family members including his father, son, stepbrother and cousins.

Certain documents in the collection were in such brittle or fragile condition that they were photocopied on acid-free paper. These photocopies were then incorporated with the rest of the papers. Some of the originals were kept and can be found in Box 6; they can be examined only with special permission from the Executive Librarian. Those that were impossible to preserve (chiefly newspaper clippings) were discarded and a note to that effect has been made on the photocopy.

Biographical Information

(Based on information in John Marin. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1956.)

- 1870** Born, Rutherford, New Jersey, December 23. Raised in Weehawken, New Jersey. Education: public school, Hoboken Academy, Stevens Preparatory, Stevens Institute (one year). Worked four years in architect's office.
- 1893** Freelance architect.
- 1899-1901** Studied at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts in Philadelphia. Won prize (1900) for Weehawken sketches.
- 1904** Studied briefly at Art Student's League, New York.
- 1905** (Summer) Went to Europe; located in Paris. Influenced by Whistler.
- 1906** Trip to Amsterdam and Belgian Coast.
- 1907** Trip to Italy; saw Rome, Florence, spent six weeks in Venice.
- 1908** Trips to London, Amsterdam, Bruges, Antwerp, Brussels. *The Mills of Meaux*, 1906, purchased for Luxembourg Museum. Exhibited in Autumn Salon. Louis Katz sold his etchings.
- 1909** (March) Stieglitz first exhibited water colors at Photo-Secession Gallery, "291" Fifth Avenue. Marin returned to America (December).
- 1910** "291" Fifth Avenue (February). First one man show.
- 1910** Returned to Europe in spring. Painted in Tyrol.
- 1911** Returned to America permanently (May). Ten water colors, left behind, exhibited in Autumn Salon. Summer in Egremont Plains, Berkshires.
- 1912** Summer in Berkshires and Adirondacks. Married.

1913-1953 Lived in Brooklyn, then New York, then permanently in Cliffside, New Jersey, from 1916 to 1953. Summers: Castorland, New York, 1913; West Point, Maine, 1914; Small Point, Maine, 1915; Echo Lake, Pennsylvania, 1916; Small Point, 1917; Rowe, Massachusetts, 1918; Stonington, Deer Isle, Maine, and Small Point, 1919; Stonington, 1920-24; Cliffside, 1925; Chocorua, New Hampshire, Stonington and Small Point, 1926; White Mountains, Lake Champlain, Small Point, 1927; Small Point, Stonington, and Lake George, New York, 1928; Taos and Santa Fe, New Mexico, 1929-30; Small Point, 1931; Cape Split, Addison, Maine, 1933-1953.

1953 Died, Cape Split, Maine, October 1.

Awards

American Institute of Arts and Letters—1945 (made member)

American Institute of Architects—1948

Philadelphia Watercolor Club (Pa. Academy of the Fine Arts)—1949

Metropolitan Museum of Art—1952

Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts—Temple Gold Medal—1954
(posthumously)

Degrees

Doctor of Fine Arts, Yale University—June, 1950

Doctor of Fine Arts, University of Maine—July, 1950

Key Marin Family Members

John Marin's father's name was John Chéri Marin (1839-1922).

His first wife (Annie Louise Currey, Marin's mother) died nine days after John Marin was born. He remarried Isabella Bittinger on Sept. 23, 1897. He died at the age of 83 and was survived by his two sons: John Marin and Marin's stepbrother, Charles Bittinger.

Marin was raised by his two aunts in Weehawken: Jennie S. Currey and Lelia F. Currey.

Marin was very close to his two cousins, Misses Retta A. and Lyda A. Currey, daughters of his uncle, Richard Currey.

Marin Married Marie Jane Hughes on Dec. 7, 1912; she died on Feb. 12, 1945.

John Currey Marin Jr., Marin's only child, was born on Nov. 22, 1914 and died in March 1988. He married Grace Morley, but they were divorced in 1950. He then married Norma Boom.

For brief biographic descriptions of people with whom John Marin corresponded, see: p.237-241 in The Selected Writings of John Marin (New York: Pellegrini, 1949).

GENERAL ORGANIZATION OF PAPERS

<u>Box number</u>		<u>No. of folders</u>
1-7	Section I: John Marin papers	69
1-2	Part I: Letters, etc. <u>to</u> John Marin	31
3	Part II: Letters <u>by</u> John Marin	9
4	Part III: Writings by John Marin	5
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8	Section II: John Marin Jr. papers	9
8	Part I: Letters <u>to</u> John Marin, Jr.	5
8	Part II: Letters <u>by</u> John Marin Jr.	1
8	Part III: Other correspondence	3

John Marin Family Papers

Section III: Marin Family Periodical Clippings and Miscellaneous Items

Part I: Miscellaneous loose clippings

Part II: Martin family notebooks

- v.1: 1929-1934
- v.2: 1934-1937
- v.3: 1938-1947
- v.4: 1948-1949
- v.5: 1949-1950
- v.6: 1950-1951
- v.7: 1952-1953
- v.8: Oct. 1953 – Jan. 1954
- v.9: Jan.-Mar. 1955
- v.10: Mar. 6-27, 1955
- v.11: Apr.-May 1955

Non-Marin scraps and clippings

- v.12: 1932-1938 and undated
- v.13: 1941-1948
- v.14: undated (no.1)
- v.15: undated (no.2)

Unlabelled miscellaneous clippings

- v.16: miscellaneous
- v.17: miscellaneous

LIST OF FOLDERS CONTAINED IN BOXES

Box	Folder	
<u>No.</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Contents</u>
		Section I: John Marin papers
		Part I: Letters, etc. <u>to</u> John Marin
		Group I: Major correspondents
1	1	Adams, Ansel
	2	Bittinger, Charles
	3	Currey, Lyda and Retta
	4	Davis, James
	5	Freund, Robert
	6	Halpert, Edith
	7	Hartman, Bertram
	8	Helm, Mackinley
	9	Jackson, Martha
	10	Kalonyme, Louis
	11	Marin, John, Sr.
	12	Marin, John, Jr.
	13	Marshall, Betty
	14	Mellquist, Jerome
	15	Norman, Dorothy
	16	O'Keeffe, Georgia
	17	Phillips, Duncan and Marjorie
	18	Seligmann, Herbert J.
	19	Stieglitz, Alfred
	20	Strand, Paul
	21	Thompson, Susie and Bill
2	22	Wass, Harry, Leo and Roy
	23	Zoler, E.C.
2		Group II: Other correspondents
	1	Cape Split, Addison, Maine
	2	Taos, New Mexico
	3	Cliffside Park, New Jersey
	4	Artists
	5	Corporate bodies
	6	Relatives other than Lyda and Retta Currey
	7	Letters from the 1930's and 1940's
	8	Letters from the 1950's and undated

Box <u>No.</u>	Folder <u>No.</u>	<u>Contents</u>
3		Part II: Letters <u>by</u> John Marin
		Group I: Major correspondents
	1	Marin, John, Sr. and Mrs. John Marin Sr.
	2	Marin, Marie
	3	Marin, John, Jr.
	4	Bittinger, Charles
	5	Currey, Jennie and Lelia
	6	Currey, Lyda and Retta
	7	Odets, Clifford
		Group II: Other correspondents
	1	Other correspondents, by name (Kalonyme, Louis; Lane, Mr.; Phillips, Duncan and Marjorie; Stieglitz, Alfred; Thompson, Bill and Susie; Wass, Harry and Roy)
	2	Other correspondents, by date and undated
4	1-5	Part III: Writings by John Marin
5		Part IV: Documents relating to John Marin
	1	Clippings on John Marin's art; on art in general and other artists; on non-art subjects
	2	Clippings of John Marin obituaries
	3	Clippings of Marin family obituaries
	4	Typed lists of John Marin watercolors
	5	Material on Sheldon Reich's catalogue raisonné
	6	Other documents relating to John Marin's art (exhibition catalogs, etc.)
	7	Other documents relating to John Marin's biography (related family letters; papers about John Marin Sr.; Letters from Archives of American Art to Charles Duncan, etc.)
	8	Other documents (letters from Georgia O'Keeffe to Clifford Odets; from Dorothy Norman to Georgia O'Keeffe and Mrs. Thompson)
6	1-14	Part V: Fragile originals
7		Part VI: Oversize papers
	1	Writings <u>by</u> Marin on cardboard, 1 addressed to Kalonyme and the other unaddressed
	2	2 photocopies of maps of the Addison, Maine area

Box	Folder	<u>Contents</u>
<u>No.</u>	<u>No.</u>	
8		Section II: John Marin papers
		Part I: Letters <u>to</u> John Marin Jr.
	1	Bittinger, Charles
	2	Davis, James
	3	O’Keeffe, Georgia
	4	Zoler, E.C.
	5	Others, by name (Dove, Helen; Downtown Gallery; Halpert, Edith; Phillips, Duncan; Weber, Max)
		Part II: Letters <u>by</u> John Marin Jr.
	1	Currey, Lyda and Retta
		Part III: Other correspondence
	1	Yale University Art Gallery (Moore, Lamont)
	2	Currier Gallery of Art (Buckley, Charles)
	3	Others (various museum and collectors, including Information on John Marin Jr.’s own art collection, etc.)

Section III: Marin Family Periodical Clippings and Miscellaneous Items

Box 9	Part I:	Miscellaneous clippings (19 folders)
v.1-17	Part II:	Marin Family Notebooks
		Clippings (1929-1955) (v.1-11)
		Non-Marin scraps and clippings (1932-48)(v.12.15)
		Unlabelled miscellaneous clippings (v.16-17)

CONTENTS OF BOX 1

Folder

No.

Section I: John Marin papers

Part I: Letters, etc. to John Marin

Group I: Major correspondents

1	Adams, Ansel
2	Bittinger, Charles
3	Currey, Lyda and Retta
4	Davis, James
5	Freund, Robert
6	Halpert, Edith
7	Hartman, Bertram
8	Helm, Mackinley
9	Jackson, Martha
10	Kalonyme, Louis
11	Marin, John, Sr.
12	Marin, John, Jr.
13	Marshall, Betty
14	Mellquist, Jerome
15	Norman, Dorothy
16	O'Keefe, Georgia
17	Phillips, Duncan and Marjorie
18	Seligmann, Herbert J.
19	Stieglitz, Alfred
20	Strand, Paul
21	Thompson, Susie and Bill

CONTENTS OF BOX 2

Folder

No.

Section 1: John Marin papers

Part I: Letters, etc. to John Marin

Group I: Major correspondents

22 Wass, Harry, Leo and Roy

23 Zoler, E.C.

Group II: Other correspondents

1 Cape Split, Addison, Maine

2 Taos, New Mexico

3 Cliffside Park, New Jersey

4 Artists

5 Corporate bodies

6 Relatives other than Lyda and Retta Currey

7 Letters from the 1930's and 1940's

8 Letters from the 1950's and undated

CONTENTS OF BOX 3

Folder

No.

Section I: John Marin papers

Part II: Letters by John Marin

Group I: Major correspondents

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 | Marin, John, Sr. and Mrs. John Marin Sr. |
| 2 | Marin, Marie |
| 3 | Marin, John, Jr. |
| 4 | Bittinger, Charles |
| 5 | Currey, Jennie and Lelia |
| 6 | Currey, Lyda and Retta |
| 7 | Odets, Clifford |

Group II: Other correspondents

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 | Other correspondents, by name (Kalonyme, Louis;
Lane, Mr.; Phillips, Duncan and Marjorie;
Stieglitz, Alfred; Thompson, Bill and Susie;
Wass, Harry and Roy) |
| 2 | Other correspondents, by date and undated |

CONTENTS OF BOX 4

Folder

No.

Section I: John Marin papers

1-5

Part III: Writings by John Marin

CONTENTS OF BOX 5

Folder

No.

Section I: John Marin papers

Part IV: Documents relating to John Marin

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Clippings on John Marin's art; on art in general and other artists;
on non-art subjects |
| 2 | Clippings of John Marin obituaries |
| 3 | Clippings of Marin family obituaries |
| 4 | Typed lists of John Marin watercolors |
| 5 | Material on Sheldon Reich's catalogue raisonné |
| 6 | Other documents relating to John Marin's art
(exhibition catalogs, etc.) |
| 7 | Other documents relating to John Marin's biography
(related family letters; papers about John Marin Sr.; letters
from Archives of American Art to Charles Duncan, etc.) |
| 8 | Other documents (letters from Georgia O'Keeffe to Clifford Odets;
from Dorothy Norman to Georgia O'Keeffe and Mrs.
Thompson) |

CONTENTS OF BOX 6

Folder

No.

Section I: John Marin papers

1-14

Part V: Fragile originals

John Marin Family Papers – Box 6

Documents in this box are not available without special permission from the chief librarian because of their condition. They have all been photocopied and photocopies are available in the other boxes.

CONTENTS OF BOX 7

Folder

No.

Section I: John Marin papers

Part VI: Oversize papers

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 | Writings <u>by</u> Marin on cardboard, 1 addressed to Kalonyme and the other unaddressed |
| 2 | 2 photocopies of maps of the Addison, Maine area |

CONTENTS OF BOX 8

Folder

No.

Section II: John Marin Jr. papers

Part I: Letters to John Marin Jr.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 | Bittinger, Charles |
| 2 | Davis, James |
| 3 | O'Keeffe, Georgia |
| 4 | Zoler, E.C. |
| 5 | Others, by name (Dove, Helen; Downtown Gallery; Halpert, Edith;
Phillips, Duncan; Weber, Max) |

Part II: Letters by John Marin Jr.

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| 1 | Currey, Lyda and Retta |
|---|------------------------|

Part III: Other correspondence

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 | Yale University Art Gallery (Moore, Lamont) |
| 2 | Currier Gallery of Art (Buckley, Charles) |
| 3 | Others (various museums and collectors, including information on
John Marin Jr.'s own art collection, etc.) |