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Arthur W. Hall Collection

Collection Summary

Title:	Arthur W. Hall Collection
Call Number:	MS 2017-04
Size:	0.25 linear feet (1 box)
Acquisition:	Donated by Barbara Thompson, 6-2016
Processed by:	JZ, 8-2016
Restrictions:	None

Literary Rights

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Content Note

This collection contains personal records, clippings, correspondence, images, artwork, and research material relating to the life and career of artist Arthur W. Hall. Some material documents the life and work of his first wife, Norma Bassett Hall, as well as art communities in Kansas and New Mexico during the 20th century.

Biography

Arthur William Hall was born in Bowie, Texas, on October 30, 1889. An avid drawer as a child, he worked as a court reporter in Hobart, Oklahoma, for several years following graduation from high school in 1908. He attended the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) from 1915 until April 1917, when he enlisted in the army following the United States' declaration of war on Germany. Hall saw service in France and, after the armistice, sketched French scenes and landscapes before being discharged in July 1919.

In 1922 Hall married former SAIC classmate Norma Bassett (1890-1957); the two settled in El Dorado, Kansas, where Arthur found employment as a court reporter for the 13th Judicial District. In the summers when court was not in session, the Halls used their free time to work on painting, etching, and printmaking. From 1925 to 1927 they studied and traveled in France and Britain. With their work gaining notice from Kansas artists such as C. A. Seward, the Halls became charter members of the Prairie Print Makers in 1930.

Arthur continued working as a court reporter in El Dorado until 1942, when he and Norma relocated to Bluemont, Virginia, where they had built a house. Due to financial concerns, they eventually sold the home and briefly returned to Kansas before purchasing the home of deceased artist Gerald Cassidy, in Santa Fe, New Mexico, in 1944. The Halls became co-owners of a large hacienda outside the city in 1950 and converted it into a resort and art school called Rancho del Rio, where they lived and taught for the remainder of Norma's life.

Following her death in 1957, Arthur continued to teach and exhibit his work. He married fellow artist Glada Lockhart (professionally known as Avanelle Trenchard) in 1963 and focused his artistic energy on watercolor painting. After selling the property on which the art school was located in the late 1960s, the couple lived for a time in Arizona, but relocated to Albuquerque in 1976. Arthur W. Hall died on February 12, 1981.

Hall was a member of the Society of American Etchers, the Chicago Society of Etchers, the New York Society of Etchers, and the Printmakers Society of California. His work has been displayed at the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian, the Bibliothèque Nationale, the Kansas City Art Institute, the Wichita Art Museum, the Spencer Museum of Art, the Beach Museum of Art, the Sandzén Memorial Gallery, and Baker University.

Series Listing

Series 1	Box 1 FF 1-7	Personal. This series contains vital, legal, and professional records and manuscripts relating to Arthur and Norma Bassett Hall, as well as the residences in which they lived, 1919-1981. Material is arranged by subject.
Series 2	Box 1 FF 8	Correspondence. This series consists of reproductions of letters and cards mainly sent by Arthur and Norma Bassett Hall to Norma's nephew Ray Nash, as well as other artists, 1928-1979. Topics include the production and sale of artwork, travel, and family life. Material is arranged chronologically.
Series 3	Box 1 FF 9-11	Press Material. This series contains original and reproduced newspaper, journal, and magazine articles on the lives and careers of Arthur and Norma Bassett Hall, the Prairie Print Makers, the Rancho del Rio art school, and other artists, 1909-1986. Material is arranged chronologically.
Series 4	Box 1 FF 12-22	Professional. This series contains reproduced art, inventories of Hall's work, articles, catalogs, sales invoices, and assorted correspondence and notes concerning Arthur's output, 1929-2016. Material is arranged

by subject.

Series 5	Box 1 FF 23-24	Images. This series contains photographs and negatives of Arthur and Norma Bassett Hall, as well as their artwork, 1916-late 1970s.
Series 6	Box 1 FF 25-32	Research for 2016 Exhibition. The material in this series represents the work of art historian Barbara Thompson, who oversaw the 2016 exhibition of Arthur's prints at the Wichita Art Museum, 1968-2016. Thompson's correspondence with relatives and acquaintances of Hall is included in this series along with research notes and articles, and drafts of her exhibition catalog. Topics include Arthur's personal and family history, his artwork, the Halls' various homes, and related matters. Material is arranged by subject.

Box and Folder Listing

Series 1 – Personal

Box 1	FF 1	Arthur W. Hall – Folder 1. Contains a birth affidavit, reproduced census records from 1900, military records, passports, and a marriage license for Hall and Glada Lockhart, 1919, 1925, 1958, 1963, n.d.
Box 1	FF 2	Arthur W. Hall – Folder 2. Contains a National Retired Teachers Association membership card, a shipping form concerning personal possessions, and invitations to his 90th birthday party, 1976, 1978, and 1979.
Box 1	FF 3	Arthur W. Hall – Folder 3. Contains Hall's last will and testament, related correspondence, and his death certificate, 1976-1977, 1980-1981.
Box 1	FF 4	Bluemont, Virginia, home. Reproduced sales deeds from 1936 and 1943, n.d.
Box 1	FF 5	Gerald Cassidy home. Reproduced sales deeds from 1944, 1950, and 1962, as well as information on Cassidy, n.d.
Box 1	FF 6	Rancho del Rio. Contains postcards and reproduced brochures promoting the art school, a survey of the property, and related correspondence, 1956-1957, 1962-1963, 1968, n.d.
Box 1	FF 7	Norma Bassett Hall. Contains three manuscripts on Hall's background and printmaking method, c. late 1930s-1944, n.d.

Series 2 – Correspondence

Box 1	FF 8	Correspondence, 1928-1979, n.d.
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Series 3 – Press Material

Box 1	FF 9	Press material, 1909-1939
Box 1	FF 10	Press material, 1940-1957
Box 1	FF 11	Press material, 1961-1986, n.d.

Series 4 – Professional

Box 1	FF 12	Artwork. Contains cards with reproduced prints and paintings by Arthur and Norma Bassett Hall, 1957, 1965, n.d.
Box 1	FF 13	Catalogs, print brochures, and exhibition material. Originals and reproductions featuring the Halls' work and Arthur's one-man exhibitions, 1929-1932, 1944, 1967, 1979.
Box 1	FF 14	Consignment forms and correspondence. Invoices, letters, and lists relating to the selling of the Halls' work to art dealers, 1974-1985, n.d.
Box 1	FF 15	Exhibitions in New Mexico and California. Reproductions of annual art exhibition programs listing the work of the Halls and Prairie Print Makers Seward and Birger Sandzén, 1925-1960.
Box 1	FF 16	Images on CD. "AWH Photos" CD contains 224 images of Arthur's and Norma's work, n.d. "June 2015 – WAM prints" CD contains prints by Hall and others exhibited at the Wichita Art Museum, 2015. "Thompson Disc 3" CD contains digital images of Arthur's prints, n.d.
Box 1	FF 17	Inventories of artwork (folder 1 of 2). Incomplete catalogs of Hall's work, n.d.
Box 1	FF 18	Inventories of artwork (folder 2 of 2). Incomplete catalogs of Hall's work, n.d.
Box 1	FF 19	Kansas Magazine. Reproductions of artwork by the Halls and other Prairie Print Makers appearing in this journal, 1935-1965.
Box 1	FF 20	Norma Bassett Hall. Copies of an article from <i>The American Architect</i> on Hall's prints, April 1931. Gift print brochure for Prairie Print Makers, 1943. Reproductions of prints, n.d.
Box 1	FF 21	Notes and invoices collected by Leonard Lockhart. Items relating to the cataloging, framing and selling of Arthur and Norma Bassett Hall's artwork, 1970s-1980s. Lockhart was Arthur's stepson.
Box 1	FF 22	Wichita Art Museum catalogs. Lists the Arthur Hall prints displayed at the Museum during its 2016 exhibition of his work.

Series 5 – Images

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| Box 1 | FF 23 | Images (folder 1 of 2). Photographs and negatives of Arthur and Norma Bassett Hall, as well as their residences, artwork, and associates, 1916, 1954, n.d. |
| Box 1 | FF 24 | Images (folder 2 of 2). Photographs and negatives of Arthur Hall, his artwork, residences, and associates, 1964-late 1970s, n.d. |

Series 6 – Research for 2016 Exhibition

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| Box 1 | FF 25 | Arthur W. Hall exhibition catalog (drafts), 2015 |
| Box 1 | FF 26 | Research – Catalogue raisonné of Hall's work. Contains correspondence, notes, and research pertaining to Thompson's efforts to identify museums owning Arthur Hall's prints, 2014-2016, n.d. |
| Box 1 | FF 27 | Research – Other. Contains correspondence, notes, reproduced articles, and research material on Hall's life, art, and associates, 2010-2016, n.d. |
| Box 1 | FF 28 | Research – Other artists. Reproduced material on New Mexico and California artists, 2011, n.d. |
| Box 1 | FF 29 | Research – Rancho del Rio. Copies of property surveys and deeds, correspondence, and notes pertaining to the art school, 1968-1969, 1977, 2015, n.d. |
| Box 1 | FF 30 | Research – Thompson's correspondence with Barbara Lewis. Emails and letters between the two concerning Hall family history, 2015. Lewis is the widow of Arthur's nephew, composer Robert Hall Lewis. |
| Box 1 | FF 31 | Research – Thompson's correspondence with Julie Lockhart. Emails and attached reproductions of letters concerning Arthur's life and work, 2015. Lockhart is the daughter of Arthur's stepson, Leonard. |
| Box 1 | FF 32 | Research – Thompson's correspondence with others. Emails and letters between Thompson and various relatives and acquaintances of Arthur, along with her research queries directed to institutions concerning his life and work, 2011, 2015, n.d. |

For information, please contact us at:

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