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Guide to the Gaston Lachaise Collection

YCAL MSS 434



by Beinecke staff

2010

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
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CALL NUMBER: YCAL MSS 434

CREATOR: Lachaise, Gaston, 1882-1935

TITLE: Gaston Lachaise collection

DATES: 1867-1979

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 8.96 linear feet (16 boxes + 1 broadside folder)

LANGUAGE: In English and French.

SUMMARY: Collection contains correspondence, writings, photographs, scrapbooks, and other materials documenting the life and artistic career of French sculptor Gaston Lachaise. General Correspondence consists chiefly of incoming and outgoing correspondence between Gaston Lachaise and others, including family, friends, artists and writers, art critics and patrons, and cultural institutions. The correspondence features 567 outgoing letters from Lachaise to his wife Isabel Dutaud Nagle Lachaise, dating from 1910 to 1934, and incoming correspondence from New York area artists and cultural figures of the 1920s and 1930s. There are a few pieces of writing by Lachaise and several works by others. Photographs include over 200 black-and-white images of Lachaise, family members, and friends, and of artwork by Lachaise and Pierre-Robert Christophe. Scrapbooks and printed ephemera document publicity and critical reception of Lachaise's work from the 1920s through 1970s and other materials, such as lists of Lachaise's work and the names of private owners, identify his work and document its custodial history. Third-party correspondence can be found between Gaston Lachaise's sister Ally and Lincoln Kirstein and others.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.lachaise>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.lachaise>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Isabel Lachaise (1949 and 1951), Lincoln Kirstein (1949), and the estate of Allys Lachaise (1968), with additional small gifts and purchases from other sources.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The Gaston Lachaise Collection is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Preferred Citation

Gaston Lachaise Collection. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Processing Information

Processing was done on the Gaston Lachaise Collection in 1975 with support from The Lachaise Foundation. During reprocessing of the collection in 2010, the arrangement of correspondence and writings was largely preserved in Series I and II, with two notable exceptions: groups of Allys Lachaise and Lincoln Kirstein correspondence were moved out of the alphabetical run of general correspondence and established as Series VI and VII respectively. In addition, photographs, scrapbooks, and printed ephemera, previously removed from the collection and cataloged separately, were repatriated and can now be found in Series III, IV, and V respectively.

Formerly classed as Za Lachaise, Za L117 +1, Za L117 +2, and Za L117 +G1.

Existence and Location of Copies

Microfilm available for portions of the collection.

Associated Materials

The Lachaise Foundation, 10 Federal Street, Boston, Massachusetts, 02110.

Gaston Lachaise (1882-1935)

Gaston Lachaise was a French sculptor best known for his female nudes. Born in Paris, Lachaise trained in the decorative arts, and from 1898 to 1904, studied sculpture at the École des Beaux-Arts. He began his artistic career as a designer of Art Nouveau decorative objects for the French jeweler René Lalique. After falling in love with an American woman, Isabel Dutaud Nagle, Lachaise immigrated to the United States in 1906, working first in Boston for H. H. Kitson, an academic sculptor of military monuments, before moving to New York City in 1912.

Biographical information on Gaston Lachaise taken from the Wikipedia entry on Lachaise (accessed 22 December 2010) and the biography of Lachaise by The Lachaise Foundation (accessed 22 December 2010).

Scope and Contents

The Gaston Lachaise collection contains correspondence, writings, photographs, scrapbooks, and other materials documenting the life and artistic career of French sculptor Gaston Lachaise. The General Correspondence in the collection consists chiefly of incoming and outgoing correspondence between Gaston Lachaise and others, including family, friends, artists and writers, art critics and patrons, and cultural institutions. The correspondence features 567 outgoing letters from Lachaise to his wife Isabel Dutaud Nagle Lachaise, dating from 1910 to 1934, and incoming correspondence from New York area artists and cultural figures of the 1920s and 1930s. There are only a few pieces of writing by Lachaise, including a typescript draft of the essay "A Comment on My Sculpture" published in *Creative Art* in 1928, and several works by others relating to Lachaise. Photographs include over 200 black-and-white images of Lachaise, family members, and friends, and of artwork by Lachaise and French sculptor Pierre-Robert Christophe. Scrapbooks and printed ephemera document publicity and critical reception of Lachaise's work from the 1920s through 1970s and other materials, such as lists of Lachaise's work and the names of private owners, identify his work and document its custodial history. Lastly, third-party correspondence can be found between Gaston Lachaise's sister Allys and Lincoln Kirstein and others.

Arrangement

Organized into seven series: I. General Correspondence, 1906-1957. II. Writings, 1927-1964. III. Photographs, 1867-1944. IV. Scrapbooks, 1918-1945. V. Personal Papers, 1882-1979. VI. Allys Lachaise Correspondence, 1905-1967. VII. Lincoln Kirstein Correspondence Relating to Gaston and Isabel Lachaise, 1933-1961.

Collection Contents

Series I: General Correspondence, 1906-1957

2.71 linear feet (7 boxes)

Series I. Correspondence consists chiefly of incoming and outgoing correspondence between Gaston Lachaise and others, including family, friends, artists and writers, art critics and patrons, and cultural institutions. The series features 567 original outgoing letters from Lachaise to his wife Isabel Dutaud Nagle Lachaise, dating from 1910 to 1934, and incoming correspondence from New York area artists and cultural figures of the 1920s and 1930s, including Albert Eugene Gallatin, Marsden Hartley, Lincoln Kirstein, Gorham Munson, Dorothy Norman, Alfred Stieglitz, Carrie Stettheimer, Carl Van Vechten, Edward Warburg, and Marguerite Zorach.

There are a number of letters addressed to Lachaise's wife, most of which follow his death in 1935.

Arranged alphabetically by correspondent.

b.1	"A" general Includes letters from H. B. Alexander, Winslow Amers, and Merle Armitage	1923-1938
b.1	Adlow, Dorothy	undated
b.1	Allen, Atkinson and Charlotte Whitney	1927
b.1	Art Institute of Chicago	1928, 1940
b.1	"B" general Includes letter from Lucile Blanch	1928, undated
b.1	Bacon, Peggy	1923 February 29
b.1	Barr, Alfred Hamilton	1930 November 21
b.1	Beebe, William	1929 February 8
b.1	Bosworth, Welles	1923-1929
b.1	Bourgeois Galleries	1917-1922
b.1	Brancusi, Constantin	undated
b.1	Brown, Slater	undated
b.1	Buhlig, Richard	1939
b.1	Burke, Kenneth	1932 October 27
b.1	"C" general Includes letters from G. Alan Chidsey, Mary Churchill, L. Pierce Clark, Jacques Copeau, and Henry Cowell	1919-1922, undated
b.1	Christophe, Pierre-Robert	1907-1909
b.1	Clafin, Agnes Rindge	1937, undated
b.1	Cleveland Museum of Art	1924 June 27

b.1	Crane, Hart and Grace Hart	1924-1933
b.1	Craven, Thomas	1928 March 25
b.1	<i>Creative Art</i>	1928
b.1	Crowninshield, Frank	1938
b.1	"D" general	1935, undated
b.1	Dove, Arthur	1928, undated
b.1	Dreier, Katherine Sophie	1926 October 23
b.1	"E" general Includes letter from Arthur Egner	1929, 1936
b.1	Fiene, Ernest and Jeanette	1926, 1935
b.1	Force, Juliana	1935-1945
b.1	French, Daniel Chester	1918 June 28
b.1	Frost, Rosamund	1937 May 24
b.1	"G" general Includes letter from Eva Gauthier	1930, undated
b.1	Gallatin, A. E. (Albert Eugene)	1924-1927, undated
b.1	Goodwin, Philip Lippincott	1927-1935
b.1	Goodyear, A. Conger (Anson Conger)	1934 June 21
b.1	Gould, Joe	1930
b.1	"H" general Contains letters from Irwin Heilner, Clarence B. Hill, and Honolulu Academy of Arts	1931-1941, undated
b.1	Hartley, Marsden Includes letter from Rosalind Irvine	1928-1942, undated
b.1	Hartman, C. Bertram	1935, 1942
b.1	Howe, George	1928, 1931
b.1	Iselin, O'Donnell	1927, undated
b.1	Ittelson, Miriam	1932 February 29
b.1	James, Rebecca Salisbury	1935
b.1	Jones, Marjorie	1937-1938
b.1	Kahn, Ely Jacques	1926

b. 1	Kirstein, Lincoln <i>4 Folders</i>	1929-1944, undated
b. 1	Kitson, Henry	1911 September 9
b. 1	Knollenberg, Bernhard and Mary Lightfoot Tarleton	1936, 1957
b. 1	"L" general Includes letters from Charles Dowing Lay, Julian E. Levi, and <i>Life</i>	1922-1937, undated
b. 2	Lachaise, Allys (sister) and Marie Barré (mother) <i>3 Folders</i>	1906-1916
b. 2	Lachaise, Isabel Dutaud Nagle (wife) <i>8 Folders</i>	1910-1920
b. 3	Lachaise, Isabel Dutaud Nagle (wife) <i>8 Folders</i>	1921-1933
b. 4	Lachaise, Isabel Dutaud Nagle (wife) <i>7 Folders</i>	1933-1934
b. 5	Lachaise, Isabel Dutaud Nagle (wife) <i>7 Folders</i>	1934, undated
b. 5	Lachaise, Marie Barré (mother)	1908-1934
b. 5	"M" general Includes letters from Robert McCordock and Macmillan Company	1928-1938
b. 5	McBride, Henry	1928-1935
b. 5	Marin, John	1926-1945
b. 5	Marshall, Lorna J.	May 1928
b. 5	Mayor, A. Hyatt (Alpheus Hyatt)	undated
b. 5	Meigs, Arthur I.	1925-1931
b. 6	Mellquist, Jerome	1943 September 4
b. 6	Moncel, Alphonse Emmanuel	1899
b. 6	Morgan, Christiana D.	undated
b. 6	Morris, George L. K.	1934-1935, undated
b. 6	Munson, Gorham Bert	1934 January 25
b. 6	Murray, Henry A.	1935, undated
b. 6	"N" general Includes letter from Reuben Nakian	1935, undated

b. 6	Nagle, Edward (stepson) <i>7 Folders</i>	1918-1934
b. 7	Nagle, Edward (stepson) <i>2 Folders</i>	1933-1935
b. 7	Norman, Dorothy	1937-1938
b. 7	"O" general	1917, undated
b. 7	"P" general	1935-1945, undated
b. 7	Paine, Anna Hooker	1935
b. 7	Parkes, Kineton	1922
b. 7	Philadelphia Art Alliance	1933
b. 7	Pierce, Ruth	undated
b. 7	Purdy, W. Frank and Mabel Dulon	1935-1944
b. 7	"R" general Includes letters from Rebecca H. Reyher and viscountess Mary Lilian Share Harmsworth Rothermere	1921-1936, undated
b. 7	Rosenfeld, Paul	1926, 1943
b. 7	"S" general Includes letters from Paul J. Sachs, Herbert Seligmann, and Carl Sprinchorn	1926-1937, undated
b. 7	Scott, Stevenson	1928, undated
b. 7	Seldes, Gilbert	1928-1930, undated
b. 7	Stettheimer, Carrie Walter	1931 April 11
b. 7	Stieglitz, Alfred	1935 October 20
b. 7	Strand, Paul Includes third-party letter from Strand to Buffalo Fine Art Museum	1929-1939
b. 7	Thacher, John	1937
b. 7	Thayer, Ellen	1935, undated
b. 7	Thayer, Scofield	1919-1935
b. 7	Town Hall (New York, N.Y.)	1937-1939
b. 7	University of Rochester. Memorial Art Gallery	1926-1935
b. 7	Untermeyer, Jean Starr	1936, undated
b. 7	Van Vechten, Carl	1932-1935

b. 7	"W" general Includes letters from George Henry Warren Jr., E. Weyhe, and F. A. Whiting Jr.	1933-1935
b. 7	Walker, Hudson	1937 September 2
b. 7	Warburg, Edward M. M.	1933-1939
b. 7	Watson, James S. (James Sibley) and Hildegarde Lasell	1930-1935, undated
b. 7	Weber, Max	1941 March 9
b. 7	Werner, M. R. (Morris Robert)	1933, 1935
b. 7	Wertheim, Maurice and Alma	1928, undated
	Whitney Museum of American Art See: Force, Juliana, Box 1	
b. 7	Zorach, Marguerite	1935
b. 7	Unidentified <i>2 Folders</i>	1909-1935

Series II: Writings, 1927-1964*17 Folders*

Series II. Writings contains a few pieces of writing by Lachaise, including a typescript draft of the essay "A Comment on My Sculpture" published in *Creative Art* in 1928, and several works by others relating to Lachaise.

Organized into three subseries: Writings by Gaston Lachaise, Writings by Allys Lachaise, and Writings by Others.

Writings by Gaston Lachaise		
b. 8	[Autobiography] <i>2 Folders</i>	[1931]
b. 8	"A Comment on My Sculpture"	[1928]
b. 8	[On Paul Strand]	undated
Writings by Allys Lachaise		
b. 8	"Collection à Beaune"	1962
b. 8	"Gaston Lachaise"	undated
b. 8	"Gaston: son amour pour les animaux"	undated
b. 8	"In and Out of the Dark"	1964 October
Writings by Others		
b. 8	Gerstein, Evelyn	undated
b. 8	Goodall, Donald B.	1961 August 28
b. 8	Grant-Stuart, Evelyn	undated
b. 8	Lachaise, Isabel (Dutaud) <i>4 Folders</i>	undated
b. 8	Nagle, Edward	undated
b. 8	Woodside, B. H.	[1927]

Series III: Photographs, 1867-1944*0.63 linear feet (2 boxes)*

Series III. Photographs contains over 200 black-and-white photographs, including cabinet cards, with images of Gaston Lachaise, family members, and friends, and of his artwork and the artwork of fellow French sculptor Pierre-Robert Christophe. Photographs are identified on the "List of photographs in the Gaston Lachaise Collection" and arranged numerically.

The series includes photographs by Carl Van Vechten.

Arranged into thirteen subdivisions: Photographs of the family of Gaston Lachaise; Photographs of Pierre Christophe, his family, and his work; Photographs of Mr. and Mrs. Jules Billet-Petitjean; Photographs of the d'Orgeval family; Photographs of Marie Lachaise; Photographs of Jean Lachaise; Photographs of Allys Lachaise; Photographs of Gaston Lachaise; Photographs of Gaston Lachaise by Carl Van Vechten; Photographs of early work by Gaston Lachaise in the Collection of Mme. Jeane d'Orgeval; Photographs of sculpture by Gaston Lachaise; and Miscellaneous photographs.

b. 8	"List of photographs in the Gaston Lachaise Collection"	undated
b. 8	Photographs <i>15 Folders</i>	1867-1944, undated
b. 9	Photographs <i>49 Folders</i>	1867-1944, undated
b. 12 Broadside	Photographs	undated

Series IV: Scrapbooks, 1918-1945*4.59 linear feet (5 boxes)*

Series IV. Scrapbooks contains exhibition catalogues, letters, clippings, and other ephemera relating to the work of Gaston Lachaise. Scrapbook volumes IV and V contain clippings dating from 1935 onward, following Lachaise's death, and were, possibly along with earlier volumes, compiled by Isabel Dutaud Nagle Lachaise.

Arranged chronologically by dates of content.

b. 13 Oversize	Volume 1	1918-1926
b. 14 Oversize	Volume 2	1927-1929
b. 15 Oversize	Volume 3	1930-1934
b. 16 Oversize	Volume 4	1935-1940
b. 17 Oversize	Volume 5	1941-1945

Series V: Personal Papers, 1882-1980*0.42 linear feet (1 box)*

Series V. Personal Papers contains original artwork, lists identifying artwork by Lachaise, the names of private owners of artwork by Lachaise, a small number of personal documents, and printed ephemera documenting publicity for and critical reception of Lachaise's work from the 1920s through 1970s.

Arranged alphabetically by material type.

b. 10	Addresses of owners of Gaston Lachaise's work <i>2 Folders</i>	undated
b. 10	Bibliography	undated
b. 10	Crayon portrait of Gaston Lachaise by unidentified artist	[circa 1888]
b. 10	Drawing by Gaston Lachaise	1905 May
b. 10	Gaston Lachaise collection inventories	undated
b. 10	Journal "Reference to Sculpture and Drawings"	undated
b. 10	List of exhibition items "At Kraushaar Galleries"	undated
b. 10	Miscellaneous personal documents	1882-1962, undated
b. 10	Printed ephemera <i>6 Folders</i>	1921-1980, undated

Series VI: Allys Lachaise Correspondence, 1905-1967*15 Folders*

Series VI. Allys Lachaise Correspondence contains correspondence between Gaston Lachaise's sister Allys and others, as well as additional third-party correspondence between family members and others.

Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent.

b. 11	Chapman, Alice	1950 September 4
b. 11	Caruchet, Isabel	[1911] December 28
b. 11	Christophe, Pierre-Robert <i>3 Folders</i>	1935-1967
b. 11	Lachaise, Allys to Marie (Barré) Lachaise	1910-1919
b. 11	Lachaise, Allys (postcards to her from unidentified correspondents)	1919
b. 11	Lachaise, Isabel (Dutaud) to Allys Lachaise	1935-1947
b. 11	Lachaise, Marie (Barré) to Allys Lachaise	1911-1916
b. 11	Lachaise, Marie (Barré) (postcards to her from unidentified correspondents)	[1908?]-1919
b. 11	Lachaise, Isabel (Dutaud) to Marie (Barré) Lachaise	1909-1935
b. 11	Moncel, Alphonse Emmanuel to Allys Lachaise	1905 October 4
b. 11	Petrov, Basil to Henriette Caruchet	1948
b. 11	Petrov, Basil to Pierre-Robert Christophe	1948
b. 11	Petrov, Basil to Allys Lachaise	1947 April 1

Series VII: Lincoln Kirstein Correspondence Relating to Gaston and Isabel Lachaise, 1933-1961

21 Folders

Series VII. Lincoln Kirstein Correspondence contains correspondence between Lincoln Kirstein and others, including carbons of outgoing letters. Most letters date from the mid 1930s, following Lachaise's death in late 1935, and relate to Kirstein's efforts on behalf of Mrs. Isabel Lachaise and the Lachaise estate.

Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent.

b. 11	Archer, Edmund Minor	1936 December
b. 11	Barr, Alfred Hamilton	1936
b. 11	Buchholz Gallery	1947 January 24
b. 11	Draper, Muriel	1950-1951, undated
b. 11	E. Gargani & Sons, Inc.	1938
b. 11	ETTL Studios	1935-1936
b. 11	Fish, Morris	1938 February 25
b. 11	Garfield, Gustave B.	1935, 1938
b. 11	Goodall, Donald B.	1959-1961
b. 11	Ingersoll, R. Sturgis (Robert Sturgis)	1935, 1947
b. 11	Ittleson, Blanche	1933 November 21
b. 11	Lincoln Warehouse Corp.	1940-1942
b. 11	Lukens, Savage & Washburn	1935 October
b. 11	McIlhenny, Henry P.	1936
b. 11	Philadelphia Art Alliance	1933, undated
b. 11	Phillips, John Goodsmith	1936-1937
b. 11	Sailors' Snug Harbor (Institution)	1938-1939
b. 11	Straus, Flora Stieglitz	1947 March 4
b. 11	Youtz, Philip Newell	1937 December
b. 11	Unsorted 2 Folders	1934-1947, undated

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.

Subjects

Art, Modern -- 20th Century
Sculptors
Sculpture, French -- 20th Century
Sculpture, Modern -- 20th Century

Genres / Formats

Photographic prints

Occupations

Artists

Names

Christophe, Pierre-Robert
Kirstein, Lincoln, 1907-1996
Lachaise, Allys
Lachaise, Gaston, 1882-1935
Lachaise, Isabel Dutaud Nagle