Guide to the Elizabeth Fuller Chapman Papers and Films

YCAL MSS 442

by Molly Wheeler

2009

P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
beinecke.library@yale.edu
http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/
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Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
beinecke.library@yale.edu
http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/

**CALL NUMBER:** YCAL MSS 442

**CREATOR:** Chapman, Elizabeth Fuller

**TITLE:** Elizabeth Fuller Chapman papers and films

**DATES:** 1932–1976

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 0.88 linear feet (2 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The papers and films document the friendships between Elizabeth Fuller Chapman (1893-1980) and several writers and artists, most notably Alice B. Toklas, Gertrude Stein and Thornton Wilder. Letters in Box 1 date from 1932-1976. Printed material in Box 1 includes theater programs, clippings on Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas, and interview notes and transcripts from the filming of the 1970 documentary by Perry Miller Adato, "Gertrude Stein: When You See, Remember Me." The films in Box 2 are three reels of black and white 16mm motion picture film, duplicates made in 1982 of the original 16mm footage. One film, titled "Winter Parties," contains footage of parties at Chapman's home in Chicago between 1934 and 1935, and includes a scene from a 1934 holiday party with Gertrude Stein, Alice B. Toklas, and Thornton Wilder. The other two films, titled "Lectures," were made by Chapman during trips to Paris between 1934 and 1938. The films were used during Chapman's lectures. Scenes feature notable artists, writers, dancers, philosophers, and gallerists, including: Pedro Pruna, Constantin Brancusi, Gertrude Stein, Alice B. Toklas, Pablo Picasso, Colette, Thornton Wilder, Henri Matisse, Georges Braque, Marcel Duchamp, Igor Stravinsky, Nicolas Nabokov, Francis Poulenc, Salvador and Gala Dali, André Derain, Chick Austin, Christian Berard, Leonce Massine, Bernard Fây, Mary Garden, Louis Marcoussis, and Edouard Vuillard.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.chapman

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 http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.chapman.

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
Elizabeth Fuller Chapman

Elizabeth Fuller Chapman, was an American socialite and patron of the arts. Born Elizabeth Fuller in 1893 in Evanston, Illinois to Dr. Charles Gordon and Isabella Fuller, she had one sister, Dorothy. From a young age she was known as “Bobsy.” Elizabeth was educated in Paris at the Villa Dupont, a boarding school for American girls. She received an education in art and literature and remained in Paris until she was 20 years old. She continued her studies at the Art Institute of Chicago. After graduating in 1914, Elizabeth became active in several local women’s organizations, acted and danced in local productions, and made regular appearances in Chicago’s society pages. In 1916, Elizabeth married Charles Goodspeed (“Barney” to friends). Goodspeed was a trustee of the University of Chicago, among other arts organizations, and was active in his father’s Ohio steel company. The couple maintained a high profile in the city, hosted popular parties at the Lincoln Park apartment, and traveled often.

In 1934, Elizabeth invited Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas to Chicago, an invitation that spawned Stein’s strong relationship with Chicago. Stein and Toklas stayed at the Goodspeeds’ apartment during their stays and it was at one of their parties that Stein was introduced to Thornton Wilder. The two remained friends...
until Stein’s death. Throughout the 1930s, Elizabeth made trips to Paris, where she spent time with notable artists, writers, dancers, philosophers, and gallerists. An amateur film maker, Elizabeth sometimes filmed her visits to Paris and her parties in Chicago. She served as President of the Arts Club of Chicago from 1932 to 1940 and was responsible for inviting important cultural figures to Chicago for lectures and exhibitions. WWII forced an end to Elizabeth’s visits to Paris but she remained in touch with Stein and Toklas until their deaths in 1946 and 1967, respectively.

In 1946, Barney Goodspeed fell ill and was hospitalized. After months of hospitalization, he and Elizabeth traveled to Castle Hot Springs, Arizona, hoping that the desert would help him recover but he died in February of 1947. In 1950, Elizabeth married Gilbert Whipple Chapman, a wealthy New York industrialist and future head of the New York Public Library, and moved to Manhattan and Long Island. Elizabeth continued her life of art patronage and involvement in art organizations in New York, including with the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts and the Museum of Modern Art. In December 1979, Gilbert Chapman died. Elizabeth died nine months later of a heart attack, at the age of 87.

Scope and Contents

The Elizabeth Fuller Chapman papers and films document the friendships between Elizabeth Fuller Chapman and several writers and artists, most notably Alice B. Toklas, Gertrude Stein and Thornton Wilder. Papers include correspondence dating from circa 1932-1976, theater programs, clippings on Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas, and notes and transcripts of an interview with Chapman for the documentary, *Gertrude Stein: When You See, Remember Me*. The films consist of three reels of black and white 16mm motion picture film, which are duplicates made in 1982 of the original 16mm footage that is not part of the collection.

One film, titled “Winter Parties,” contains footage of parties at Chapman’s home in Chicago between 1934 and 1935, and includes a scene from a 1934 holiday party with Gertrude Stein, Alice B. Toklas, and Thornton Wilder. The other two films, titled “Lectures,” were made by Chapman during trips to Paris between 1934 and 1938, and were used during Chapman’s lectures. Scenes feature notable artists, writers, dancers, philosophers, and gallerists, including: Pedro Pruna, Constantin Brancusi, Gertrude Stein, Alice B. Toklas, Pablo Picasso, Colette, Thornton Wilder, Henri Matisse, Georges Braque, Marcel Duchamp, Igor Stravinsky, Nikolas Nicolas, Francis Poulenc, Salvador Dali, Gala Dali, André Derain, Chick Austin, Christian Berard, Leonide Massine, Bernard Faÿ, Mary Garden, Louis Marcoussis, and Edouard Vuillard.

Arrangement

### Collection Contents

#### Series I. Correspondence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 2</td>
<td><em>The New Yorker</em></td>
<td>1965–1967</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| b. 1, f. 3-10 | Toklas, Alice B.  
Includes letter to Mr. Sulcer | 1934–1965, undated |
| b. 1, f. 11 | Van Vechten, Carl | 1934–1936, 1940 |
| b. 1, f. 12 | Walters Art Gallery, University of Chicago  
3 folders | 1934 |
| b. 1, f. 13 | Wilder, Isabel | undated |
| b. 1, f. 14-16 | Wilder, Thornton | 1932–1974, undated |
| b. 1, f. 17 | Woodward, Frederic  
Includes telegram to Gertrude Stein | 1934 November 19 |
| b. 1, f. 18 | “A-Z” general | 1940–1976 |
## Series II. Other Papers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 19</td>
<td>Program for production of “Four Saints in Three Acts” at Auditorium Theatre in Chicago</td>
<td>1934 November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 20</td>
<td>Program for “The Making of Americans: An Opera in Three Acts” at Judson Poets’ Theater</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 21</td>
<td>“The Art Institute of Chicago Weekly News Letter” Regards Gertrude Stein’s visit to the galleries</td>
<td>1934 December 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 22</td>
<td>Transcript of and notes on National Educational Television interview with Chapman on Gertrude Stein for the filming of “Gertrude Stein: When You See, Remember Me” 3 folders</td>
<td>1969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 23</td>
<td>National Educational Television news release for program on Gertrude Stein, “Gertrude Stein: When You See, Remember Me”</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 24</td>
<td>Clippings on Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas 2 folders</td>
<td>1935–1972</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Series III. Films

These films are duplicates made in 1982. Original films are not owned by the Beinecke Library.

Reference copies are available. Consult Access Services for information about reference copies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Film Title</th>
<th>Reel Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“Winter Parties.”</td>
<td>One 16mm film reel, 400 feet</td>
<td>1934–1935</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stored in: Restricted Fragile, Box 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Lectures.”</td>
<td>Two 16mm film reels, 400 feet each</td>
<td>1934–1938</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stored in: Restricted Fragile, Box 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 25</td>
<td>Photocopy notes of films’ content, written by Chapman</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Restricted Fragile**

Box 2 (films): Restricted fragile material. Reference copies are available. Consult Access Services for further information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 2</td>
<td>“Winter Parties.” One 16mm film reel, 400 feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2</td>
<td>“Lectures,” Two 16mm film reels, 400 feet each</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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
Artists -- 20th Century
Authors -- 20th Century
Socialites -- Illinois -- Chicago

Geographic Names
Chicago (Ill.) -- Intellectual life -- 20th Century
Paris (France) -- Intellectual life -- 20th Century

Genres / Formats
Audiovisual materials
Home movies
Motion pictures (visual works)

Names
Austin, Arthur Everett, 1900-1957
Brancusi, Constantin, 1876-1957
Braque, Georges, 1882-1963
Bérard, Christian, 1902-1949
Chapman, Elizabeth Fuller
Colette, 1873-1954
Dalí, Gala
Dalí, Salvador, 1904-1989
Derain, André, 1880-1954
Duchamp, Marcel, 1887-1968
Faÿ, Bernard, 1893-1978
Garden, Mary, 1874-1967
Marcoussis, Louis, 1878-1941
Massine, Leonide, 1896-1979
Matisse, Henri, 1869-1954
Nabokov, Nicolas, 1903-1978
Picasso, Pablo, 1881-1973
Poulenc, Francis, 1899-1963
Stein, Gertrude, 1874-1946
Stravinsky, Igor, 1882-1971
Toklas, Alice B.
Vuillard, Édouard, 1868-1940
Wilder, Thornton, 1897-1975