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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. | undated |
| 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 Whitney Museum of American Art See: Force, Juliana, Box 1 | 1928, undated |
| 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