

# Guide to the Theodore Sizer Papers

MS 453



compiled by John Espy

November 1980

Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
mssa.assist@yale.edu  
<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

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## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	3
Requesting Instructions .....	3
Administrative Information .....	4
Immediate Source of Acquisition .....	4
Conditions Governing Access .....	4
Conditions Governing Use .....	4
Preferred Citation .....	4
Biographical / Historical .....	4
Scope and Contents .....	4
Arrangement .....	4
Collection Contents .....	5
Inventory, 1916-1966 .....	5
Accession 1993-M-028: Additional Material, 1992 .....	7
Accession 1999-M-086: Additional Material .....	8
Accession 2000-M-071: Additional Material .....	9
Accession 2000-M-073: Additional Material .....	10
Selected Search Terms .....	11

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
mssa.assist@yale.edu  
<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 453

**CREATOR:** Sizer, Theodore, 1892-1967

**TITLE:** Theodore Sizer papers

**DATES:** 1679-1992

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 8.25 linear feet

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The papers consist of correspondence, writings, drawings for posters, bookplates, Christmas cards, and armorial designs for Yale College. Also included is material related to Theodore Sizer's service as an officer in the Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives Section of the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. Important correspondents are Eric Gill, James Lukens McConaughy, Gifford Pinchot, Neal Lawson Lewis and Sir Edmund Kerchever Chambers. Also in the papers are grade and attendance books from his courses at Yale (1927-1955). Papers relating to the Yale University Art Gallery include correspondence and drafts for a "History of the Visual Arts at Yale, 1701-1957," material on James Jackson Jarves, and correspondence and notes on John Marshall Phillips who succeeded Sizer as director of the Art Gallery.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0453>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0453>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to [http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr\\_copy\\_order.html](http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html). The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

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

b.        box  
f.        folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Accession 93-M-28 was the gift of Judith Ryland Sizer, 1992; Accession 99-M-86 was transfer from Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, 1999; accession 2000-M-071 was the gift of Theodore R. Sizer, 1999; accession 2000-M-073 was transfer from Arts of the Book Collection, 1999.

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### Conditions Governing Access

Gradebooks are restricted until 2030.

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### Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

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### Preferred Citation

Theodore Sizer Papers. Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

Theodore Sizer was born on March 19, 1892 in New York City. He received a B.S. degree from Harvard in 1915. He worked in the import-export business from 1915 until 1922 and served as a first lieutenant in the Army in World War I. He was curator at the Cleveland Museum of Art from 1922 to 1927, and a lecturer at Case Western Reserve College from 1924 to 1927. He became an associate professor of the history of art at Yale and associate director of the Yale Art Gallery in 1927. Sizer was a professor of art history at Yale University from 1931 until his retirement in 1957. He was director of the Yale University Art Gallery from 1940 to 1947. An expert on heraldry, he became the first Pursuivant of Arms at Yale University in 1963 and created banners for Yale and the city of St. Louis. Sizer died on June 21, 1967 in West Haven, Connecticut.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers consist of correspondence, writings, drawings for posters, bookplates, Christmas cards, and armorial designs for Yale College. Also included is material related to Theodore Sizer's service as an officer in the Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives Section of the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. Important correspondents are Eric Gill, James Lukens McConaughy, Gifford Pinchot, Neal Lawson Lewis and Sir Edmund Kerchever Chambers. Also in the papers are grade and attendance books from his courses at Yale (1927-1955). Papers relating to the Yale University Art Gallery include correspondence and drafts for a "History of the Visual Arts at Yale, 1701-1957," material on James Jackson Jarves, and correspondence and notes on John Marshall Phillips who succeeded Sizer as director of the Art Gallery.

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## Arrangement

Arranged by accession.

## Collection Contents

### Inventory, 1916-1966

4.75 linear feet (13 boxes, 1 folio)

Early and Art Gallery correspondence (alphabetical)		Circa 1928- (1940-1942)-1956
b. 1	A - D	
b. 2	E - K	
b. 3	L - P, W, miscellaneous	
b. 4	miscellaneous	
b. 5	Correspondence (chronological)	[1925?]-1963
b. 5, f. 2	<a href="#">Correspondence and drawings re: Yale armorial banners designed by Sizer</a>	1956-1959
Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives Section of the Military Government		
b. 5	Correspondence	1943-1948
b. 5	Printed matter: articles and newspaper clippings	Circa 1945-1950
b. 6	Scrapbooks with mounted clippings, other printed matter, and some correspondence	1942-1950
b. 7	Scrapbooks with mounted clippings, other printed matter, and some correspondence	1942-1950
Writings		
b. 7	"A Confidential and Informal Report regarding proposed Exhibitions of Australian and New Zealand Art...," Carnegie Corporation of New York: typescript, bound, with photographs	1941
b. 7	<i>John Marshall Phillips, 1905-1953</i> : correspondence, notes, drafts, proofs, printed matter, photographs	1953-1954
b. 7	Address at Seniors-Fellows Dinner, Davenport College, on Daniel Merriman's tenth anniversary as Master: carbon of typescript	1956 May 9
b. 7	"Benjamin Silliman and His Uncle-in-Law Colonel Trumbull," paper read before the Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences: carbon of typescript, with annotations English	1959 May 19
b. 7	"An Adventure: The Story of the Edwards Portraits": correspondence, annotated typescript, proofs, clippings, photographs	1959
b. 8	"The Recollections of John Ferguson Weir": correspondence, typescript, notes, note cards, photographs	1956-1958
b. 8A	Photographs	1956-1958

*History of the Visual Arts at Yale, 1701-1957*

## Writings &gt; History of the Visual Arts at Yale, 1701-1957 (continued)

b. 8	Drafts	1957
b. 9	Correspondence, notes, note cards, printed matter, photographs, including early research on James Jackson Jarves	1933- (1954-1957)
b. 10	Correspondence, notes, note cards, printed matter, photographs, including early research on James Jackson Jarves	1933- (1954-1957)
b. 11	Correspondence, notes, note cards, printed matter, photographs, including early research on James Jackson Jarves	1933- (1954-1957)
b. 11A	Correspondence, notes, note cards, printed matter, photographs, including early research on James Jackson Jarves	1933- (1954-1957)
b. 12	"List of principal collections, bequests, gifts and funds of Yale University Art Gallery": typescript, note cards English	undated
Writings of others		
b. 12	Song, "Lilli Marlene": manuscript, transcribed by John Marshall Phillips, copy of printed version	1944
b. 12	Alfred Whitney Griswold, "Lines Composed in Honor of T. Sizer": carbon of typescript Robert Nanteuil's "Maxims," tr. H.-M. Cadgène	1956 May 17, 1941
b. 12	Harvard University: The Signet Society Medal for Achievement in the Arts: certificate	1966 April 30
b. 13	Grade and attendance books [restricted for 75 years] These records are restricted until 2030.	1927-1955
Oversize		
b. 14	Photograph of painting by John F. Weir of Robert W. Weir's studio	undated
b. 14	Drawings for greeting cards, and printed copies	1916-1961
b. 14	Armorial and bookplate drawings	1959-1960, undated
b. 14	Drawings for posters	1960, 1962
b. 14	Certificates from Harvard University, Rowfant Club, American Antiquarian Society, New York Historical Society, and Massachusetts Historical Society	1916-1954
b. 14	Design for arms (Morse and Stiles) <i>Note: See also the John Trumbull Papers, MS 506, for Sizer materials concerning Trumbull's <i>Auto-biography</i>.</i>	undated

**Accession 1993-M-028: Additional Material, 1992**

*0.25 linear feet (1 box)*

Addition inventory by Carol King 1993 Feb

Received from: Judith Ryland Sizer, 1992 Oct 15

b.1

*THEODORE SIZER: A Centennial Album of His Life and Art*, prepared by  
descendants of Theodore Sizer

1992

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## **Accession 1999-M-086: Additional Material**

This addition contains material pertaining to the creation of the official flag of St. Louis, Missouri, designed by Theodore Sizer in conjunction with the bicentennial celebration in 1964.

b. 1, f. 1	Correspondence
b. 1, f. 2	Research materials, sketches
b. 1, f. 3	Newspaper/magazine clippings
b. 1, f. 4	Memorabilia



## **Accession 2000-M-071: Additional Material**

- b.1 "A display of heraldry: manifesting a more easy access to the knowledge thereof than hath been hitherto published by any, through the benefit of method/whereunto it is now reduced by the study and industry of John Guillim, late pursuivant at arms," by John Guillim, fifth edition, 1679 [includes typed poem by A. Whitney Griswold for the presentation of volume to Sizer on the occasion of his retirement in 1956]  
English
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**Accession 2000-M-073: Additional Material**

b. 1, f. 1	Correspondence [includes unidentified sketches]	1963, 1965, undated
	Arms, heraldic	
b. 1, f. 2	Graduate School	1965, 1966, undated
b. 1, f. 3	Morse College	1959, 1960, undated
b. 1, f. 4	Banner [Yale College]	1959-1961, 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  
Art historians  
Heraldry  
World War, 1939-1945 -- Art and the war

### **Names**

Chambers, E. K. (Edmund Kerchever), 1866-1954  
Gill, Eric, 1882-1940  
Jarves, James Jackson, 1818-1888  
Lewis, Neal Lawson  
McConaughy, James L. (James Lukens),  
1887-1948  
Phillips, John Marshall, 1905-1953  
Pinchot, Gifford, 1865-1946  
Sizer, Theodore, 1892-1967  
Weir, Irene, 1863-1944

### **Corporate Bodies**

Yale University. Art Gallery  
Yale University. Art Gallery. Jarves Collection  
Yale University -- Faculty