

Guide to the Jared French Papers

GEN MSS 732



by Michael L. Forstrom

May 4, 2010

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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: GEN MSS 732

CREATOR: French, Jared, 1905-1988

TITLE: Jared French papers

DATES: 1921-1990

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 3.97 linear feet (12 boxes) + 1 broadside

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Collection contains correspondence, photographs, and other materials documenting the life and career of painter Jared French and a circle of friends and collaborators. Correspondence with individuals and cultural institutions, chiefly museums and galleries, document French's personal and professional affairs, with significant representation from members of the literary and artistic and gay male communities in New York during the middle decades of the twentieth century. In addition to large groups of letters from his wife Margaret (Hoening) French and painter Paul Cadmus, correspondents include Jack Dunphy, E. M. Forster, Edward Hopper, Lincoln Kirstein, George Platt Lynes, Bernard Perlin, George Tooker, Carl Van Vechten, Glenway Wescott, Monroe Wheeler, and Donald Windham. Photographs in the collection document French's personal relationships, interests in classical statuary and architecture, and artistic collaborations. Travel photographs depict statuary, architecture, and public scenes and events, with groups, travel companions, and friends. Some photographs appear to have been taken during the early 1950s in Europe, mostly in Italy (Florence). Others, depicting scenes in Europe, Vermont, New York City, and Coney Island, date from the 1920s through 1940s. People present include Jared and Margaret French, Paul Cadmus, E. M. Forster, Lincoln Kirstein, Osbert Sitwell, and others. Photographs from the "PaJaMa" collective formed by French with his wife and Cadmus, many of which were taken during the 1930s and 1940s on Fire Island, Provincetown, and Nantucket beaches, include George Tooker, Lincoln Kirstein, Truman Capote, George Platt Lynes, Donald Windham, Jack Dunphy, and Monroe Wheeler.

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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.jfrench>.

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
- f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Elysium Press on the Edwin J. Beinecke Book Fund, 2009 and 2013.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Box 10: Restricted fragile material. Reference surrogates have been substituted in the main files. For further information consult the appropriate curator.

Conditions Governing Use

The Jared French Papers 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

Jared French Papers. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

Jared French (1905-1988)

Jared French, a painter who specialized in the medium of egg tempera, was part of a circle of friends and colleagues, including Paul Cadmus and George Tooker, sometimes referred to as magic realists. French received a B.A. degree from Amherst College in 1925 before moving to New York City, where he befriended Cadmus. He married artist Margaret Hoening in 1937 and, with Cadmus, they formed the PaJaMa photographic collective. French relocated to Italy in 1961, where he remained until his death in 1988.

Scope and Contents

The Jared French papers contain correspondence, photographs, and other materials documenting the life and career of artist Jared French and a circle of friends and collaborators. Correspondence with individuals and cultural institutions, chiefly museums and galleries, document French's personal and professional affairs, with significant representation from members of the literary and artistic communities in New York during the middle decades of the twentieth century. In addition to large groups of letters from his wife Margaret (Hoening) French, painter Paul Cadmus, and longtime companion Roberto Giannotta, correspondents include members of the French family, Jack Dunphy, E. M. Forster, Edward Hopper, Lincoln Kirstein, George Platt Lynes, Dan Maloney, Bernard Perlin, George Tooker, Carl Van Vechten, Glenway Wescott, Monroe Wheeler, and Donald Windham.

Over 600 photographs in the collection document French's artwork, personal relationships, interests in classical statuary and architecture, and collaborations from roughly the 1930s through 1960s. Photographs

from the PaJaMa collective ("Paul, Jared, and Margaret") formed by French with his wife and Cadmus were taken during the 1930s and 1940s on Fire Island, Provincetown, and Nantucket beaches, as well as in Vermont and Hoboken. Photographs include George Tooker, Lincoln and Fidelma Kirstein, Truman Capote, George Platt Lynes, Donald Windham, Jack Dunphy, Monroe Wheeler, and others. In addition to the PaJaMa photographs, there are approximately 250 travel photographs depicting statuary, architecture, and public scenes and events, with groups, travel companions, and friends. More than half the photographs appear to have been taken during the early 1950s in Europe, mostly in Florence, Italy. Others, depicting scenes in Europe, Vermont, New York City, and Coney Island, date from the 1920s through 1940s. People present include Jared and Margaret French, Paul Cadmus, E. M. Forster, Lincoln Kirstein, Osbert Sitwell, and Jensen Yow.

Language(s)

Chiefly in English; some materials in Italian.

Arrangement

Organized into four series: I. Correspondence, 1921-1989. II. Photographs, 1920s-1980. III. Personal Papers, 1925-1986. IV. 2013 Addition, 1927-1990.

Collection Contents

Series I: Correspondence, 1921-1989

1.46 linear feet (4 boxes)

Series I, Correspondence, consists chiefly of incoming letters to Jared French. Letters from individuals and cultural institutions document French's personal and professional affairs, with significant representation from members of the literary and artistic communities in New York during the middle part of the twentieth century. Correspondents include his wife Margaret French, members of the French family, Paul Cadmus, Jack Dunphy, E. M. Forster, Edward Hopper, Lincoln Kirstein, George Platt Lynes, Dan Maloney, Marianne Moore, Bernard Perlin, Jerome Robbins, George Tooker, Carl Van Vechten, Glenway Wescott, Monroe Wheeler, and Donald Windham. There are also numerous folders of business correspondence from museums and galleries.

There are scattered letters from French to others, including copies of letters from French to his father, Henry, as well as four folders of letters from Margaret French to their friend Roberto Giannotta. Outgoing letters are identified in folder notes.

Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent.

b. 1, f. 1	Archives of American Art	1972, 1981
b. 1, f. 2	<i>Art International</i>	1967 December 22
b. 1, f. 3	Art Students League (New York, N.Y.)	1968 March 7
b. 1, f. 4	The Babtkis Foundation Includes draft of letter from French	1977-1979
b. 1, f. 5-6	Banfer Gallery	1963-1966, undated
b. 1, f. 7	Barker, Jim	1964 October 16
b. 1, f. 8	Barnes, Grover C.	1969 February 24
b. 1, f. 9	Berman, Avis Includes notes by French on Juliana Force	1978
b. 1, f. 10	British Museum	1968 April 11
b. 1, f. 11	Browne, Turner	1980 September 16
b. 1, f. 12-16	Cadmus, Paul Includes letters from Cadmus to Roberto Giannotta and from French to Cadmus	[1949?]-1985
b. 1, f. 17	Campbell, Sandy Includes letter to Margaret	1943-1985
b. 1, f. 18	Christopher, William	[19]67 November 27
b. 1, f. 19	Dunphy, Jack	[circa 1950]-1987

b. 1, f. 20	Edel, Leon Includes copy of letter from French to Edel	1976-1977
b. 1, f. 21	Eliasoph, Philip Includes draft of letter from French	1980
b. 1, f. 22	Fairleigh Dickinson University	1966 October 6
b. 1, f. 23	Fonderia artistica Vincigliata	1967 April 1
b. 1, f. 24	Forster, E. M. (Edward Morgan)	1947-1959
b. 1, f. 25-27	French, Frances (sister)	1921-1945, undated
b. 2, f. 28-32	French, Henry (father) Also stored in: Oversize, Box, folder	1921-1957, undated
b. 2, f. 33-44	French, Margaret (wife)	1937-1985, undated
b. 3, f. 45	Furbank, [Philip Nicholas]	1971-1976
b. 3, f. 46	Gaff, Lloyd Includes photograph	1942-1961
b. 3, f. 47-51	Giannotta, Roberto	1959-1975, undated-
b. 3, f. 52-55	Giannotta, Roberto (letters from Margaret French)	1969-1989, undated
b. 3, f. 56	Hewitt, Ed	undated
b. 3, f. 57	Hopper, Edward Includes letter from Jo Hopper	1949
b. 3, f. 58	Institute for Sex Research	1949-1950
b. 3, f. 59	King's College (Cambridge University) Includes draft of letter from French	1978 March
b. 3, f. 60	Kirstein, Lincoln Copy of letter from French to Kirstein	1964 December 28
b. 3, f. 61	Lago, Mary	1983, undated
b. 3, f. 62	Lynes, George Platt	1943-1955, undated
b. 3, f. 63	Maloney, Dan	1959-1979, undated
b. 3, f. 64	Midtown Galleries (New York, N.Y.) Includes drafts of letters from French to gallery	1975-1981

b. 3, f. 65	Monique Knowlton Gallery Includes draft of letter from French	1971, 1978
b. 3, f. 66	Moore, Marianne	1955 April 17
b. 3, f. 67	Morrin, Peter Includes drafts of letters from French	1979
b. 3, f. 68	National Institute of Arts and Letters (U.S.) Includes draft of letter from French	1966-1971, undated
b. 3, f. 69	Perlin, Bernard	1947-1953, undated
b. 3, f. 70	Réalité Galleries	undated
b. 3, f. 71	Robbins, Jerome	1951 September 25
b. 3, f. 72	Robert Isaacson Gallery	1960
b. 3, f. 73	Robert Samuel Gallery	1979-1980, undated
b. 3, f. 74	Royce, Louise	1974 August 3
b. 3, f. 75	Rutgers University. Art Gallery Includes draft of letter from French	1976-1980
b. 4, f. 76	Schiff, Ruth	undated
b. 4, f. 77	Schnakenberg, H. E. (Henry Ernest) Includes copy of letter from French	1967, undated
b. 4, f. 78	Starkowski, Ted	1954-1977
b. 4, f. 79	[Steffler, Reinhart?]	undated
b. 4, f. 80	Syracuse University. Library. Manuscript Collections	1964
b. 4, f. 81	Thayer, Forrest	1944 November 1
b. 4, f. 82	Tooker, George Includes clipping	1949, 1957
b. 4, f. 83	University of Rochester. Memorial Art Gallery	1964
b. 4, f. 84	Van Vechten, Carl Includes note to Paul Cadmus	1939, 1962
b. 4, f. 85	Vandervall, Arthur H.	1977
b. 4, f. 86-87	Wescott, Glenway Includes letters to Margaret	1938-1944, undated

b. 4, f. 88	Wheeler, Monroe Includes draft of letter from French	1942-1977
b. 4, f. 89	Whitney Museum of American Art	1963-1981
b. 4, f. 90	Windham, Donald	1948, undated
b. 4, f. 91	Yow, [Jensen]	1960 May 30
b. 4, f. 92	Others	1932-1984, undated

Series II: Photographs, 1920s-1980*1.46 linear feet (4 boxes)*

The Photographs series features 182 photographs from the PaJaMa collective ("Paul, Jared, and Margaret") formed by Paul Cadmus, Jared French, and Margaret French. Most of the PaJaMa photographs, shot in black-and-white and printed 5" x 7" or smaller, were taken during the 1930s and 1940s on Fire Island, Provincetown, and Nantucket beaches, but there are also images from Vermont and Hoboken. Photographs include the artists, George Tooker, Lincoln and Fidelma Kirstein, Truman Capote, George Platt Lynes, Donald Windham, Jack Dunphy, Monroe Wheeler, and others.

In addition to the PaJaMa photographs, there are approximately 250 travel photographs shot in black-and-white and printed 2 1/2" x 3 1/2". Photographs depict statuary, architecture, and public scenes and events, with groups, travel companions, and friends. More than half the photographs appear to have been taken during the early 1950s in Europe, mostly in Italy (Florence). Others, depicting scenes in Europe, Vermont, New York City, and Coney Island, date from the 1920s through 1940s. People present include Jared and Margeret French, Paul Cadmus, E. M. Forster, Lincoln Kirstein, Osbert Sitwell, Jensen Yow, and others.

There are also a number of photographs of original paintings and drawings by Cadmus, French and Luigi Lucioni. Other photographs include erotica, with images of French, Robert Giannotta, and others, a bullfight, and an unidentified place. Erotica can also be found in the PaJaMa photographs.

Additional photographs documenting artwork by French and other artisits can be found in Series IV.

Organized into five subseries: People, PaJaMa Photographs, Travel, Art, and Other.

PEOPLE		
b. 5, f. 93-98	French, Jared Includes photographs by Carl Van Vechten	1939, undated
b. 5, f. 99	French, Margaret	undated
b. 5, f. 100	Kirstein, Lincoln	undated
b. 5, f. 101	Groups	undated
b. 5, f. 102	Unidentified	undated
PaJaMa PHOTOGRAPHS		
b. 5, f. 103-104	Photographs	1930s-1940s
b. 6, f. 105-109	Photographs	1930s-1940s
TRAVEL		
b. 6, f. 110-113	Photographs	1920s-1950s
b. 7, f. 114-126	Photographs	1920s-1950s
ARTWORK		
b. 8, f. 127	Paul Cadmus painting of Jared French	undated
b. 8, f. 128	Jared French paintings and drawings Photographs by D. James Dee	1978-1980

ARTWORK (continued)

b. 8, f. 129	Luigi Lucioni painting of Jared French Includes clipping dated 1931	undated
b. 8, f. 130	PaJaMa drawings	undated
b. 8, f. 131	Unidentified	undated

OTHERS

b. 8, f. 132	138 [Howe?] Ave., Rutherford, N.J.	1940 June
b. 8, f. 133	Bullfight	undated
b. 8, f. 134-136	Erotica	undated
b. 8, f. 137	Foliage in unidentified place	undated

Series III: Personal Papers, 1925-1986*0.21 linear feet (1 box)*

Series III, Personal Papers, contains miscellaneous other materials, including fragments of proofs for writings by E. M. Forster and a notebook, by French, of recollections of Forster and others covering the period from 1939 to 1959.

Arranged alphabetically by material type.

b. 9, f. 138	Clippings Also stored in: Oversize, Box, folder	1949-1986, undated
b. 9, f. 138a	Drawing	undated
b. 9, f. 139	Financial records	1958-1977
b. 9, f. 140	Manuscript fragments	1977-1981, undated
b. 9, f. 141-142	Notebook on E. M. Forster	[circa 1970]
b. 9, f. 143-144	Proofs for E.M. Forster texts, corrected, with proofreaders marks in unidentified hand Includes portions of "The New Disorder" and <i>On Criticism in the Arts, Especially Music</i>	[1949?]
b. 9, f. 145	Postcard book, "Aix-les-Bains," annotated	undated
b. 9, f. 146-147	Printed ephemera	1925-1980, undated
b. 9, f. 148	Vendor description	[2009]

Series IV: 2013 Addition, 1927-1990*0.63 linear feet (2 boxes) + 1 broadside*

Series IV, 2013 Addition, consists of correspondence and photographic and printed documentation of artwork. There is additional correspondence with Paul Cadmus and Lincoln Kirstein, but most correspondence found in Series IV is with galleries and museums. The largest file relates to the Banfer Gallery in New York. Several folders containing approximately 145 photographs (including multiples) document artwork by French, Cadmus, and other artists.

Organized into two subseries: Correspondence and Other Papers.

CORRESPONDENCE

b. 11, f. 151	ACA Galleries	1985 May 18
b. 11, f. 152	Amherst College	1988
b. 11, f. 153-156	Banfer Gallery, Inc.	1964-1969, undated
b. 11, f. 157	Cadmus, Paul	1984-1988, undated
b. 11, f. 158	Circus World Museum	1971-1972, undated
b. 11, f. 159	French, Mrs. H. R.	1927-1928
b. 11, f. 160	Imago Imprint	1984, undated
b. 11, f. 161	Kirstein, Lincoln	1987 February 7
b. 11, f. 162	Madison Art Center	1987 March 18
b. 11, f. 163	Maroney, James	1984, 1988
b. 11, f. 164	Midtown Galleries (New York, N.Y.)	1985-1990, undated
b. 11, f. 165	Museum of Fine Arts, Boston	1984 March
b. 11, f. 166	National Museum of American Art (U.S.)	1984-1989, undated
b. 11, f. 167	Nelken, Axel	1987 February 11
b. 11, f. 168	Norton Gallery and School of Art	1984
b. 11, f. 169	Sid Deutsch Gallery (New York, N.Y.)	1987-1988
b. 11, f. 170	Simon and Schuster, Inc.	1985 June 13
b. 11, f. 171	Sutherland, David	1984-1986, undated
b. 11, f. 172	United States. Treasury Dept.	1937
b. 11, f. 173	Whitney Museum of American Art	1986 May 13

CORRESPONDENCE (continued)

b. 11, f. 174	Others	1982-1988, undated
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OTHER PAPERS

b. 11, f. 175-177	Artwork documentation Includes photographs of artwork by Oliver Baker, Geoffrey Clements, D. James Dee, and others	1979, undated
b. 12, f. 178-180	Artwork documentation	undated
b. 12, f. 181	Clippings Also stored in: 13 (Broadside)	1939-1972, undated
b. 12, f. 182	Manuscript notes	undated
b. 12, f. 183	"Model Trouble," autograph manuscript	undated
b. 13 (Broadside)	Clipping	1941 January 4

Restricted Fragile Papers

0.21 linear feet (1 box)

Box 10: Restricted fragile material. Reference surrogates have been substituted in the main files. For further information consult the appropriate curator.

b. 10, f. 149 Clippings (In Series I)

b. 10, f. 150 Proofs (In Series III)

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, American -- 20th Century
Artists, American -- 20th Century
LGBTQ resource
Photography, Artistic
Photography, Erotic

Genres / Formats

Photographic prints

Occupations

Artists

Names

Cadmus, Paul, 1904-1999
Capote, Truman, 1924-1984
Dunphy, Jack, 1914-
Forster, E. M. (Edward Morgan), 1879-1970
French, Jared, 1905-1988
French, Margaret
Hopper, Edward, 1882-1967
Kirstein, Lincoln, 1907-1996
Lynes, George Platt, 1907-1955
Perlin, Bernard, 1918-2014
Sitwell, Osbert, 1892-1969
Tooker, George
Van Vechten, Carl, 1880-1964
Wescott, Glenway, 1901-1987
Wheeler, Monroe, 1899-1988
Windham, Donald