



Santa Barbara Museum of Art Archives
1130 State Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Finding Aid to the Santa Barbara Museum of Art Wright S. Ludington Collection, 1900 - 1993

Collection number: ARCH.COLL.001

Finding Aid written by: Mackenzie Kelly

Completed: 2018

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Collection Summary

Collection Title

Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Wright S. Ludington Collection, 1900 – 1993

Collection Number

ARCH.COLL.001

Creator

Ludington, Wright S., 1900 – 1992

Extent

3 boxes (1.5 linear feet)

Repository

Santa Barbara Museum of Art Archives

1130 State Street

Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Abstract

The Santa Barbara Museum of Art Wright S. Ludington Collection documents the personal papers of Wright S. Ludington from 1900 – 1992. Many of the records overlap Ludington's involvement with the Santa Barbara Museum of Art from 1940 until his death in 1992 as donor, president and art collector. The collection includes scrapbooks, photograph prints, 35 mm slides, exhibition and auction catalogues, correspondence, art collection inventory, invoices and receipts, news clippings and ephemera.

Language

Records are in English

Physical Location

Collection is housed in the Santa Barbara Museum of Art Archives

Information for Researchers

Access and Use Restrictions

Collection is available for use. Some items restricted. Contact SBMA Archives.

Publication Information

All requests for permission to publish should be directed to the SBMA Manager of Archives

Preferred Citation

[Item description including date], Wright S. Ludington Collection, Santa Barbara Museum of Art Archives.

Access Points

Santa Barbara Museum of Art

Santa Barbara Museum of Art – Archives

Santa Barbara Museum of Art – Institution

Santa Barbara Museum of Art – Donor Records

Related Materials

SBMA Archives Exhibition Records

SBMA Archives Photography

SBMA Archives Oral History Project

SBMA Archives Margaret Mallory and Ala Story Collection

Administrative Information

Acquisition

A bulk of the material was generated by SBMA or collected by SBMA staff in the performance of work duties. Additional material was donated to SBMA by the Ludington Estate in 1992.

Level of description

Records are described at the folder level. Some records are described at the item level.

Processed by

Ron Crozier, 1992 - 2002

Heather Brodhead, 2002 - 2016

Mackenzie Kelly, 2016 – current

Biographical Note

Wright Saltus Ludington (1900 – 1992) was an avid art collector, aspiring artist and one of the founding members of the Santa Barbara Museum of Art. Born in New York City on June 10, 1900 to Charles and Ethel Ludington. He had two brothers Charles Townsend Ludington who was born in New York City in 1896 and Nicholas Saltus Ludington born in Philadelphia in 1904. Ludington attended the preparatory boarding Groton School in northern Massachusetts before moving to Santa Barbara with his family where he attended the Thacher School in Ojai, California. After his time at Thacher, Ludington went to Yale to study architecture; however, after one year he dropped out to pursue the study of art. He enrolled at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts and later the Art Student League in New York. In 1927 Ludington officially settled in Santa Barbara. He became involved with the Santa Barbara Museum of Art since its founding having been part of the building committee, later its president in 1951 and a long time trustee and donor for over 50 years until his death in 1992.

Scope and Content

The Wright S. Ludington Collection is a group of material maintained by SBMA donor Wright S. Ludington and collected by SBMA staff in the course of work duties. Papers include biographical material, correspondence, photographs, inventories, receipts, appraisals, news clippings, notes and audio cassette tapes. A bulk of the material is correspondence between Ludington and Museum staff/trustees with additional correspondence between dealers and lenders.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into seven series. Records are arranged by material type and chronologically within each series or subseries.

Series 1: Biographical, 1906-1992

Series 2: Correspondence, 1959-1993

Series 3: Inventories, Bequests and Deeds, 1930 – 1993

Series 4: Invoices, Receipts and Appraisals, 1925 – 1993

Series 5: News Clippings and Articles, 1941 – 1997

Series 6: Photographs, 1900 – 1993

Series 7: Publications, 1931 – 1967

Container List

Series 1: Biographical, 1906-1992

Box	Folder	Contents	Dates
3	1	Childhood drawings, memorial brochure and two audio recordings from Ludington's tribute service	1906-1992

Series 2: Correspondence

Box	Folder	Contents	Dates
1	1-3	Correspondence typically between Ludington and SBMA staff/trustees. Some correspondence between dealers and lenders. Additional correspondence regarding his collection	1959-1993
1	4	Correspondence regarding the gift and sale of Ludington's second home, Hesperides, to the SBMA	1974-1975
1	5	Correspondence on an unmaterialized Ludington Festschrift project	1993

Series 3: Inventories, Bequests and Deeds

Box	Folder	Contents	Dates
2	1	Contains inventories of Ludington's art collection at his various homes as well as bequests and deeds of gifts to the SBMA	1930-1993

Series 4: Invoices, Receipts and Appraisals

Box	Folder	Contents	Dates
3	2	Primarily contains invoices and receipts for art purchases made by Ludington	1925-1993
3	3	Includes appraisals for Ludington's collection	

Series 5: News Clippings and Articles

Box	Folder	Contents	Dates
3	4	Clippings on Ludington's collection, homes and several exhibitions	1941-1997

Series 6: Photographs, 1900 – 1990

Subseries 6.1: Homes

Box	Folder	Contents	Dates
3	6	Photographic prints of both the interior and exterior of each of Ludington's three homes: Val Verde, Hesperides and October Hill	1920s?-1992

Subseries 6.2: Art Collection

Box	Folder	Contents	Dates
3	7	Photographic prints, 35mm slides and color positives of Ludington's art collection. Also includes installation photography of SBMA exhibition	1946-1993

Subseries 6.3: Other

Box	Folder	Contents	Dates
3	8	Contains 35mm slides, black and white prints, and color positives of Ludington and friends. Also contains one album with photographic prints of friends and family ca.1930	1900-1980s?

Series 7: Publications

Box	Folder	Contents	Dates
3	9	Primarily contains Xerox copies of Ludington exhibition catalogues produced outside of the SBMA	1931-1967