

Gertrude Quastler and Henry Quastler Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2023

Contact information: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm88065683>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms007034>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Manuscript Division staff, 2007
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Collection Summary

Title: Gertrude Quastler and Henry Quastler Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1895-1965

Bulk Dates: 1940-1963

ID No.: MSS65683

Creator: Quastler, Gertrude, 1909-1963

Creator: Quastler, Henry, 1908-1963

Extent: 1,025 items

Extent: 4 containers plus 1 oversize

Extent: 2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English and German, with French and Albanian

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm88065683>

Summary: Gertrude Quastler, painter and printmaker; and her husband, Henry Quastler, radiologist known for applying information theory to the field of biology. Correspondence, photographs, biographical material, notes, price lists, receipts, clippings, and printed matter pertaining to Gertrude's art and exhibitions, Henry's medical career and research activities, and their personal lives.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Diebenkorn, Richard, 1922-1993--Correspondence.

Greene, Balcomb, 1904-1990--Correspondence.

Quastler, Gertrude, 1909-1963.

Zimmerman, Johanna, 1917-1998--Correspondence.

Organizations

Brookhaven National Laboratory.

Subjects

Art--Exhibitions.

Art--New York (State)--Upton--Exhibitions.

Painting, American--20th century.

Prints, American--20th century.

Radiology.

Titles

Gertrude Quastler papers

Henry Quastler papers

Occupations

Artists.

Printmakers.

Radiologists.

Acquisition Information

The papers of Gertrude Quastler were given to the Library of Congress by Johanna S. Zimmerman in 1987 and 1988. Additional material, primarily documenting Henry Quastler, were given by Lynn Rubin in 2002.

Processing History

The papers of Gertrude Quastler were arranged and described by Michael Spangler in 1995. An addition was processed and the finding aid revised by Rachel McNellis in 2023. At this time, the collection name was changed to reflect the increased proportion of material documenting Henry Quastler's career.

Other Repositories

Correspondence between Henry Quastler and Sidney Dancoff is located in the Niels Bohr Library and Archives at the American Institute of Physics as part of the Sidney Dancoff Papers. The Prints and Photographs Division of the Library of Congress houses woodcuts and monotypes by Gertrude Quastler.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Gertrude Quastler and Henry Quastler are governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Gertrude Quastler and Henry Quastler are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Gertrude Quastler and Henry Quastler Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Notes

Gertrude Quastler

Date	Event
1909, Feb. 10	Born, Vienna, Austria
1934	Married Henry Quastler (died 1963)
1934-1939	Resided in Tirana, Albania
1939	Emigrated to the United States
1940	Applied for United States citizenship Began painting
1940s	Studied art at Columbia University, University of Illinois, and Chicago Institute of Design
1950	First solo exhibition, Palmer House Galleries, Chicago, Ill.
1950-1961	Exhibited widely in the United States
1951	Began printmaking <i>Counterpoint</i> , a woodcut, acquired by the Museum of Modern Art, New York, N.Y.
1956	Moved to Brookhaven Village, N.Y.
1960-1962	Arranged art shows at Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, N.Y.
1963, July 8	Died, Blue Point, Suffolk, N.Y.

Henry Quastler

Date	Event
1908, May 21	Born, Vienna, Austria
1932	M.D., University of Vienna
1934	Married Gertrude Panek (died 1963)
1934-1939	Radiologist, General Civic Hospital, Tirana, Albania
1939	Emigrated to the United States
1940	Applied for United States citizenship
1941	Radiologist, New Rochelle Hospital, N.Y.
1942	Radiologist, Carle Clinic, Urbana, Ill.
1947-1955	Faculty, Control Systems Laboratory, University of Illinois, Urbana
circa 1949-1951	Worked with Sidney Dancoff on applying information theory to biology
1953	Edited <i>Essays on the Use of Information Theory in Biology</i> . Urbana: University of Illinois Press
1956	Organizer, Symposium on Information Theory in Biology, Gatlinburg, Tenn. Researcher, Argonne National Laboratory, Lemont, Ill.
1956-1963	Researcher, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, N.Y.
1962-1963	Visiting Professor of Theoretical Biology, Yale University
1963, July 8	Died, Blue Point, Suffolk, N.Y.
1965	Publication of <i>The Emergence of Biological Organization</i> . New Haven: Yale University Press

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Gertrude Quastler and Henry Quastler span the years 1895-1965, with the bulk of the material concentrated between 1940 and 1963. The correspondence file is comprised of general and personal correspondence, including a significant number of letters exchanged between Gertrude and Henry. The exhibition files encompass exhibitions of Gertrude's own artwork, as well as her activities arranging annual art shows at Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, New York. Notable items include letters from artists Richard Diebenkorn and Balcomb Greene. Price lists, receipts, clippings, notes, and photographs also document Gertrude's career as a painter and printmaker.

The 2023 Addition is comprised of biographical material, correspondence, photographs, and subject files, with the bulk documenting Henry's life and career. The biographical material includes Gertrude and Henry's passports, membership cards, and other personal material pertaining to their marriage and emigration to the United States. Report cards, record books, credential letters, licensure paperwork, and diplomas document Henry's schooling and medical career. The correspondence consists predominantly of letters Henry wrote to Gertrude. Additional personal correspondence is comprised of letters friends and family wrote to Gertrude and Henry, both individually and as a couple, and Henry's half-sister Johanna Zimmerman. The subject files include correspondence, contracts, syllabi, notes, and proposals related to Henry's teaching and research activities.

Arrangement of the Collection

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material or subject, followed by an addition.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Correspondence
BOX 1	General, 1939-1963, undated (2 folders)
BOX 1	Personal, 1920-1963, undated (3 folders)
BOX 1	Subject file
BOX 1	Biographical material, 1952-1963, undated
BOX 1	Birthday poems and drawings, 1936-1963, undated <i>See also Oversize</i> (3 folders)
BOX 1	Exhibitions
BOX 1	By Quastler
BOX 1	Elizabeth Nelson Galleries, Chicago, Ill., 1952, undated
BOX 1	Francis Miller's Studio, New York, N.Y., 1960-1961, undated
BOX 1	Kraushaar Galleries, New York, N.Y., 1950-1960, undated
BOX 2	Palmer House Galleries, Chicago, Ill., 1950-1952, undated
BOX 2	Retrospective exhibit, 1963
BOX 2	Ruth Dickins Gallery, Chicago, Ill., 1951-1952
BOX 2	Showcase, Northport, N.Y., 1958-1959, undated
BOX 2	Weyhe Gallery, New York, N.Y., 1951-1961
BOX 2	By various artists
BOX 2	Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, N.Y., 1960-1962 (3 folders)
BOX 2	Diebenkorn, Richard, 1954-1965, undated <i>See also Oversize</i>
BOX 2	Greene, Balcomb, 1958-1960, undated
BOX 2	Miscellany, 1895-1965
BOX 2	Notes, undated
BOX 2	Photographs
BOX 2	Art, 1957, undated
BOX 2	Family, 1905-1962, undated (2 folders)
BOX 2	Portraits, 1933, 1963, undated
BOX 2	Price lists, 1949-1962, undated
BOX 2	Printed matter
BOX 2	Clippings, 1948-1964, undated
BOX 3	Miscellaneous, 1939-1963, undated
BOX 3	Receipts, 1940-1962, undated
BOX 3	2023 Addition
BOX 3	Biographical
BOX 3	Awards, 1944-1948
BOX 3	Medical credentials, 1931-1941
BOX 3	Medical examination and license, New York, 1940
BOX 3	Medical school, University of Vienna, 1927-1932

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 3	Membership cards, 1941, 1956-1964
BOX 3	Passports, 1939, 1955, 1960
BOX 3	Personal documents, 1932-1939
BOX 3	School report cards and awards, Henry Quastler, 1914-1927
BOX 3	United States citizenship, 1939-1943
BOX 3	United States draft, 1942-1943
BOX 3	Correspondence
BOX 3	General, 1934-1962
BOX 3	Personal, 1923-1945, 1953-1962, undated
BOX 3	Quastler, Henry to Gertrude Quastler, 1945, 1955-1957
BOX 4	Quastler, Henry to Gertrude Quastler, 1958-1962, undated (2 folders)
BOX 4	Zimmerman, Johanna, 1963-1964
BOX 4	Miscellany, 1934-1963, undated
BOX 4	Photographs
BOX 4	Art exhibits, undated
BOX 4	Family and friends, circa 1900-circa 1960
BOX 4	Quastler, Gertrude, undated
BOX 4	Quastler, Henry, undated
BOX 4	Slide rule and slide adder, undated
BOX 4	Subject files
BOX 4	Argonne National Laboratory, 1949-1950
BOX 4	General Civic Hospital, Tirana, Albania, 1934-1939
BOX 4	Radiobiology Research Group, 1949
BOX 4	University of Illinois, Urbana, 1947-1955
BOX 4	Yale University, 1962
BOX OV 1	Oversize
BOX OV 1	Subject file
BOX OV 1	Birthday poems and drawings, 1943-1961, undated (Container 1)
BOX OV 1	Exhibitions
BOX OV 1	By various artists
BOX OV 1	Diebenkorn, Richard, 1961 (Container 2)