

Jo Davidson Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2011

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm78017830>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/eadmss.ms011199>

Prepared by Haley Barnett

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2011

Collection Summary

Title: Jo Davidson Papers

Span Dates: 1906-1952

ID No.: MSS17830

Creator: Davidson, Jo, 1883-1952

Extent: 5,400 items

Extent: 18 containers

Extent: 7.2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm78017830>

Summary: Sculptor. Correspondence, notes, speeches, articles, clippings, photographs, and miscellaneous material relating to Davidson's career as a sculptor and to his political activities with the Progressive Citizens of America and the National Wallace for President Committee.

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

Davidson family.

Davidson, Florence Lucius, -1962--Correspondence.

Davidson, Jean, 1914- --Correspondence.

Davidson, Jo, 1883-1952.

Davidson, Jo, 1883-1952. Between sittings; an informal autobiography. 1951.

Davidson, Yvon Jacques, 1910- --Correspondence.

Davidson, Yvonne, -1934--Correspondence.

Keller, Helen, 1880-1968--Correspondence.

Steffens, Lincoln, 1866-1936--Correspondence.

Swinnerton, Frank, 1884-1982--Correspondence.

Wallace, Henry A. (Henry Agard), 1888-1965--Correspondence.

Wallace, Henry A. (Henry Agard), 1888-1965.

Organizations

National Wallace for President Committee.

Progressive Citizens of America.

Subjects

Art.

Portrait sculpture.

Presidents--United States--Election--1948.

Progressivism (United States politics)

Sculpture.

Places

United States--Politics and government--1945-1953.

Occupations

Artists.

Sculptors.

Provenance

The papers of Jo Davidson, sculptor, were given to the Library of Congress by his wife, Florence Lucius Davidson, in 1953. Additional items were acquired by purchase, 1967-1969.

Processing History

The papers of Jo Davidson were arranged and described in 1960. The finding aid was revised in 1999 and 2011.

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Jo Davidson in these papers and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress has been dedicated to the public.

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Jo Davidson 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, Jo Davidson Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1883, Mar. 30	Born, New York, N.Y.
Early 1900s	Entered Yale Medical School, New Haven, Conn.
1904	Left Yale Medical School, New Haven, Conn., to pursue a sculpting career
1907	Enrolled in the École nationale supérieure des beaux-arts, Paris, France, to study sculpture
1909	Married Yvonne de Kerstrat (died 1934)
1911	Secured his first solo gallery show
1927	Invited to compete in the Pioneer Woman statue competition
1934	Awarded the Isaac W. Maynard Prize of the National Academy of Design
1941	Married Florence Gertrude Lucius
1946-1948	Cochairman, Progressive Citizens of America, that supported Henry A. Wallace for president in 1948 on the Progressive Party ticket; chairman, National Wallace for President Committee
1947	Retrospective show sponsored by the American Academy of Arts and Letters
1949	Exhibited in the Third Sculpture International, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, Pa.
1951	Published <i>Between Sittings</i> . New York: Dial Press
1952, Jan. 2	Died, Saché, France

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Jo Davidson (1883-1952) span the years 1906-1952. The collection contains family and general correspondence, articles, speeches, photographs, clippings, and miscellaneous material pertaining to Davidson's career

as a sculptor of international renown. The papers are organized into the following series: [Family Correspondence](#), [General Correspondence](#), [Autobiography \(*Between Sittings*\)](#), [Speeches and Writings](#), [Sculpture File](#), [Miscellany](#), and [Clippings](#).

The [Family Correspondence](#) includes letters to and from Jo Davidson; his first wife, Yvonne; his second wife, Florence Lucius; and his two sons, Jean and Yvon Jacques. [General Correspondence](#) contains both personal and business letters. Correspondents include Helen Keller, Lincoln Steffens, and Frank Swinnerton. The series also contains Davidson's correspondence as cochairman of the Progressive Citizens of America and chairman of the National Wallace for President Committee including several letters from Henry A. Wallace.

The [Sculpture File](#) reflects Davidson's career as an international portrait sculptor and includes correspondence, photographs, articles, clippings, and the sculptor's personal notes about many of his subjects. The files have been retained in their original order with papers pertaining to a particular sculpture filed together by name of subject.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in seven series:

- [Family Correspondence, 1908-1951](#)
- [General Correspondence, 1906-1952](#)
- [Autobiography \(*Between Sittings*\), 1951](#)
- [Speeches and Writings, undated](#)
- [Sculpture File, 1939-1949](#)
- [Miscellany, undated](#)
- [Clippings, 1910-1951](#)

Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1	<p><u>Family Correspondence, 1908-1951</u> Letters sent and received by family members. Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 2-8	<p><u>General Correspondence, 1906-1952</u> Letters sent and received. Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 9	<p><u>Autobiography (<i>Between Sittings</i>), 1951</u> Draft, notes, and miscellaneous items used by Davidson in writing his autobiography. Arranged alphabetically by type of material.</p>
BOX 10	<p><u>Speeches and Writings, undated</u> Correspondence, drafts, biographical writings, notes, printed matter, and miscellaneous items relating to Davidson's speeches, writings, and interviews. Arranged alphabetically by type of material.</p>
BOX 11-15	<p><u>Sculpture File, 1939-1949</u> Letters, personal notes, clippings, photographs, and miscellaneous items relating to individual works of sculpture. Arranged alphabetically by name of subject.</p>
BOX 16	<p><u>Miscellany, undated</u> Sketches, agreements, exhibition catalogs, photographs, printed matter, and miscellaneous items. Arranged alphabetically by subject and type of material.</p>
BOX 17-18	<p><u>Clippings, 1910-1951</u> Clippings pertaining to Davidson's career as a sculptor, his political affiliations, and to other miscellaneous items of interest. Unarranged.</p>

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Family Correspondence, 1908-1951 Letters sent and received by family members. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 1	1908-1951, undated (5 folders)
BOX 2-8	General Correspondence, 1906-1952 Letters sent and received. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 2	1906-1929, includes theater project file (12 folders)
BOX 3	1930-1933, includes Leon Sola file (7 folders)
BOX 4	1934-1941, includes Independent Citizens Committee file (9 folders)
BOX 5	1942-1946 (7 folders)
BOX 6	1947-1948 (5 folders)
BOX 7	1949-1951 (5 folders)
BOX 8	1952 (4 folders)
BOX 8	Undated, includes addresses and notes file (3 folders)
BOX 9	Autobiography (<i>Between Sitzings</i>), 1951 Draft, notes, and miscellaneous items used by Davidson in writing his autobiography. Arranged alphabetically by type of material.
BOX 9	Draft of autobiography (2 folders)
BOX 9	Biographical notes
BOX 9	Clippings
BOX 10	Speeches and Writings, undated Correspondence, drafts, biographical writings, notes, printed matter, and miscellaneous items relating to Davidson's speeches, writings, and interviews. Arranged alphabetically by type of material.
BOX 10	Correspondence with models
BOX 10	Notes about models

Speeches and Writings, undated

Container	Contents
BOX 10	Speech and interview file
BOX 10	Writings
BOX 11-15	Sculpture File, 1939-1949 Letters, personal notes, clippings, photographs, and miscellaneous items relating to individual works of sculpture. Arranged alphabetically by name of subject.
BOX 11	American Cemetery of Suresnes
BOX 11	Astor, Nancy Witcher Langhorne Astor, Viscountess
BOX 11	Barrie, James
BOX 11	Bennett, Arnold
BOX 11	Bruce, David
BOX 11	Conrad, Joseph
BOX 11	Darrow, Clarence
BOX 11	Dawes, Charles G.
BOX 11	Doughboy statue
BOX 11	Doyle, Arthur Conan, Sir
BOX 11	Foch, Ferdinand
BOX 11	Ford, William Henry
BOX 11	Furusest, Andrew
BOX 11	Gandhi, Mahatma
BOX 11	Gide, André
BOX 11	Grant, R. M.
BOX 11	Harris, Frank
BOX 11	Hearst, William Randolph
BOX 11	Herrick, Myron T.
BOX 11	Huxley, Aldous
BOX 11	Israel
BOX 11	Jackson-Johnson-Polk
BOX 11	Joyce, James
BOX 11	Keller, Helen
BOX 11	Koo, Wellington
BOX 12	La Follette, Robert M.
BOX 12	La Roque, Elizabeth M.
BOX 12	Lawrence, D. H.
BOX 12	Libbey, Edmond Drummond
BOX 12	Marine Corps
BOX 12	Marland, Edward W.
BOX 12	Maugham, Somerset
BOX 12	Mellon, Andrew W.
BOX 12	Mussolini, Benito
BOX 13	Paine, Thomas
BOX 13	Patterson, John M.
BOX 13	Peace Conference members
BOX 13	Pershing, John J.
BOX 13	Primo de Rivera, José Antonio

Sculpture File, 1939-1949

Container	Contents
BOX 13	Reeves-Smith, George
BOX 13	Robinson, Joseph T.
BOX 13	Rockefeller, John D. (2 folders)
BOX 13	Rogers, Will
BOX 13	Roosevelt, Franklin D.
BOX 14	Schaffuer, Joseph
BOX 14	Scripps, Robert P.
BOX 14	Shaw, George Bernard
BOX 14	South American busts, 1941
BOX 14	Spanish loyalists busts, 1939
BOX 14	Spirit of France
BOX 14	Steffens, Lincoln (2 folders)
BOX 14	Stein, Gertrude
BOX 14	Sunbonnet women
BOX 14	Swinnerton, Frank
BOX 15	Thoreau, Henry David
BOX 15	Tito, Josip Broz (2 folders)
BOX 15	Vanderbilt, Muriel and Reginald
BOX 15	Vauclain, Samuel M.
BOX 15	Wallace, Edgar
BOX 15	Wallace, Henry A.
BOX 15	Walpole, Hugh
BOX 15	Warsaw Memorial
BOX 15	Wells, H. G.
BOX 15	White, William Allen
BOX 15	Whitman, Walt
BOX 15	Wilson, Woodrow (2 folders)
BOX 15	World Congress for Peace, 1949
BOX 15	Ypres, John Denton Pinkstone, Earl of
BOX 15	Zukor, Adolph
BOX 16	Miscellany, undated Sketches, agreements, exhibition catalogs, photographs, printed matter, and miscellaneous items. Arranged alphabetically by subject and type of material.
BOX 16	Agreements, sculpture lists, prices, and other items
BOX 16	Exhibition catalogs
BOX 16	French resistance fighters
BOX 16	Photographs
BOX 16	Printed matter

Miscellany, undated

Container	Contents
BOX 16	Sketches
BOX 17-18	Clippings, 1910-1951 Clippings pertaining to Davidson's career as a sculptor, his political affiliations, and to other miscellaneous items of interest. Unarranged.
BOX 17	Clippings, 1910-1951 (4 folders)
BOX 18	(4 folders)