

Georgia O'Keeffe and Alfred Stieglitz Correspondence and Related Material

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2018

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

Catalog Record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm2018086262>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms018035>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

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Collection Summary

Title: Georgia O'Keeffe and Alfred Stieglitz Correspondence and Related Material

Inclusive Dates: 1929-1947

Bulk Dates: 1935-1946

ID No.: MSS86262

Creator: O'Keeffe, Georgia, 1887-1986

Creator: Stieglitz, Alfred, 1864-1946

Extent: 157 items

Extent: 2 containers

Extent: 0.6 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm2018086262>

Summary: Artist, Georgia O'Keeffe, and photographer, Alfred Stieglitz. Letters of Georgia O'Keeffe and Alfred Stieglitz to filmmaker Henwar Rodakiewicz, along with related printed and typed miscellany.

Online Content: The Georgia O'Keeffe and Alfred Stieglitz Correspondence and Related Material is available on the Library of Congress Web site at <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/collmss.ms000107>. *To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the online edition as available.*

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

Adams, Ansel, 1902-1984.

Brett, Dorothy, 1883-1977.

Dove, Arthur Garfield, 1880-1946.

Garland, Marie Tudor, 1870-1949.

Geddes, Norman Bel, 1893-1958.

James, Rebecca Salsbury, 1891-1968.

Kiskadden, Margaret Bok Rodakiewicz, 1904-1994.

Lawrence, Frieda, 1879-1956.

Luhan, Mabel Dodge, 1879-1962.

Marin, John, 1870-1953.

Norman, Dorothy, 1905-1997.

O'Keeffe, Georgia, 1887-1986--Friends and associates.

O'Keeffe, Georgia, 1887-1986--Health.

O'Keeffe, Georgia, 1887-1986--Homes and haunts--New Mexico--Abiquiu.

O'Keeffe, Georgia, 1887-1986--Homes and haunts--New York (State)--Lake George Region.

O'Keeffe, Georgia, 1887-1986--Travel.

O'Keeffe, Georgia, 1887-1986.

Pack, Arthur Newton, 1893-1975.

Picasso, Pablo, 1881-1973.

Rodakiewicz, Henwar--Correspondence.

Rodakiewicz, Henwar--Friends and associates.

Rodakiewicz, Margaret, 1904-1994.

Stieglitz, Alfred, 1864-1946--Art patronage.

Stieglitz, Alfred, 1864-1946--Friends and associates.

Stieglitz, Alfred, 1864-1946--Health.

Stieglitz, Alfred, 1864-1946. Georgia O'Keeffe and Alfred Stieglitz correspondence and related material. 1929-1947.

Strand, Paul, 1890-1976.

Organizations

American Place (Gallery)

Subjects

Art galleries, Commercial--New York (State)--New York.
Art museums--New York (State)--New York.
Art--Exhibitions.
Artist couples--United States.
Artists--United States.
Modernism (Art)
Motion pictures--Production and direction.
Painting, American--20th century.
Photography, Artistic--20th century.
Women artists--United States.

Places

Abiquiu (N.M.)--History.
Bahamas--Description and travel.
Ghost Ranch (Abiquiu, N.M.)--History.
Lake George (N.Y.)--Description and travel.
Manhattan (New York, N.Y.)--Description and travel.
New Mexico--Description and travel.
New Mexico--Social life and customs.
New York (N.Y.)--Description and travel.
New York (N.Y.)--Intellectual life.
New York (N.Y.)--Social life and customs.
New York (State)--Description and travel.

Titles

Alfred Stieglitz papers
Georgia O'Keeffe and Alfred Stieglitz Correspondence at the Library of Congress
Georgia O'Keeffe and Alfred Stieglitz papers
Georgia O'Keeffe papers

Occupations

Artists.
Photographers.

Acquisition Information

The correspondence and related material of Georgia O'Keeffe and Alfred Stieglitz were acquired by the Library as a purchase and gift from Susan Todd and Michael Kramm in 2018.

Processing History

When found in Santa Fe, New Mexico, the papers were in no order. Susan Todd, seller and donor, arranged the correspondence and placed the items in chronological order by estimated or designated dates. The collection was processed in 2018 by Connie L. Cartledge.

Other Repositories

Other collections of Georgia O'Keeffe and Alfred Stieglitz material are located in the Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University, New Haven, Conn.

Related Material

Related collections in the Library of Congress include the Alfred Stieglitz Collection in the Prints and Photographs Division and the Constance Friess Essay in the Manuscript Division.

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Georgia O'Keeffe in these papers and in other collections in the custody of the Library of Congress is reserved. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division for further information. The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Alfred Stieglitz is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The correspondence and related material of Georgia O'Keeffe and Alfred Stieglitz 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.

Online Content

The Georgia O'Keeffe and Alfred Stieglitz Correspondence and Related Material is available on the Library of Congress Web site at <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/collmss.ms000107>. *To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the online edition as available.*

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Georgia O'Keeffe and Alfred Stieglitz Correspondence and Related Material, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Georgia O'Keeffe

Date	Event
1887, Nov. 15	Born, Sun Prairie, Wis.
1905-1906	Student, School of the Art Institute, Chicago, Ill.
1907-1908	Student, Art Students League, New York, N.Y.
1911-1918	Taught art at various schools and colleges in Virginia, Texas, and South Carolina
1912	Student, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va.
1914-1916	Student, Columbia University, New York, N.Y.
1917	Paintings exhibited by Alfred Stieglitz at 291 gallery, New York, N.Y.
1918	Moved to New York, N.Y.
1923-1925	Exhibitions at Anderson Galleries, New York, N.Y.
1924	Married Alfred Stieglitz
1929	Traveled to New Mexico with Rebecca Strand Guest of Mabel Dodge Luhan, Taos, N. Mex.
1933	Hospitalized after suffering a nervous breakdown and did not paint for a period of time
1934	Began painting again
1947-1949	Worked on settling Alfred Stieglitz's estate, living primarily in New York, N.Y.

1949	Moved permanently to New Mexico
1951	Traveled to Mexico
1953-1969	Traveled in Europe, Asia, India, Middle East, Pacific Islands, and North America
1972	Painted her last unassisted painting due to vision loss
1977	Received Presidential Medal of Freedom
1985	Awarded National Medal of Arts
1986, Mar. 6	Died, Santa Fe, N. Mex.

Alfred Stieglitz

Date	Event
1864, Jan. 1	Born, Hoboken, N.J.
1882-1884	Studied mechanical engineering, Technische Hochschule, Berlin, Germany
1884-1888	Studied photochemistry and photography, Berlin Polytechnic, Berlin, Germany
1889-1890	Studied chemistry, University of Berlin, Berlin, Germany
1890	Returned to New York, N.Y.
	Displayed photographs at a small photography studio purchased for him by his father
1893	Married Emmeline Obermeyer (divorced 1924)
1893-1896	Editor, <i>American Amateur Photographer</i>
1897-1902	Editor, <i>Camera Notes</i> , journal of the Camera Club of New York
1902	Formed the group Photo-Secession with others emphasizing photography as fine art
1903-1917	Editor, <i>Camera Work</i>
1905	Founder of Little Galleries of the Photo-Secession that became known as 291 gallery
1917	Exhibited paintings by Georgia O'Keeffe at 291 gallery
1918-1925	Took numerous photographs of Georgia O'Keeffe
1921-1925	Director, Anderson Galleries, New York, N.Y.
1922	Organized a show of John Marin's paintings and etchings at the Anderson Galleries, New York, N.Y.
1924	Married Georgia O'Keeffe
	Received the Royal Photographic Society's Progress Medal for advancing photography
1925-1929	Director, The Intimate Gallery
1929-1946	Director, An American Place gallery
1946, July 13	Died, New York, N.Y.
1947	Restrospective exhibition of Steiglitz's photographs, mounted with Georgia O'Keeffe's assistance, Museum of Modern Art, New York, N.Y.

Henwar Rodakiewicz

Date	Event
1902, Sept. 19	Born, Vienna, Austria
1927	Married Marie Tudor Garland
1931	Writer, director, editor, and cinematographer, <i>Portrait of Young Man in Three Movements</i>
1936	Married Margaret ("Peggy") Bok
	Writer, <i>Redes</i> , released in 1937 in the United States as <i>The Wave</i>
1939	Writer and producer, <i>The City</i>
1940	Co-producer, co-director, and cameraman, <i>One Tenth of Our Nation</i>
1941	Editor and producer, <i>Adventure in the Bronx</i>
1942	Director, <i>It's Up to You</i>
1947	Writer and director, <i>Land of Enchantment: Southwest U.S.A</i> , featuring Georgia O'Keeffe
1953	Married Olga Kotchoukova
1976, Feb. 12	Died, New York, N.Y.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Georgia O'Keeffe (1887-1986) and Alfred Stieglitz (1864-1946) span the years from 1929 to 1947 with the bulk of the material dating from 1935 to 1946. The majority of the collection consists of handwritten letters by Georgia O'Keeffe and her husband, Alfred Stieglitz, to their friend and colleague, filmmaker Henwar Rodakiewicz (1902-1976). Also included in the collection are a few items of printed and typed miscellany. The letters are written in English and organized by correspondent and therein chronologically. Many of the letters were not dated when written. Dates were supplied by the seller and donor, Susan Todd, using resources of the Alfred Stieglitz Archive at the Yale Collection of American Literature in the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale University and the Archive and Library of the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum, Santa Fe, New Mexico. Dates on the letters written in pencil and in green ink were made by Rodakiewicz.

The O'Keeffe letters include descriptions of landscapes in New Mexico, Manhattan and Lake George, New York, the Bahamas, and other locations. Also documented in the correspondence is her relationship with Stieglitz and their life in New York, her illnesses, her artistic career (including a mention of a big flower painting for Elizabeth Arden, letter of May 1936), her travels, and references to art works by her. Some of the individuals mentioned in the letters are photographers Ansel Adams and Paul Strand; set designer Norman Bel Geddes; Margaret ("Peggy") Bok, second wife of Rodakiewicz; and Arthur Newton Pack, American naturalist, writer, and owner of Ghost Ranch, near Abiquiu, New Mexico. A significant portion of the 1940s correspondence is written from Ghost Ranch where O'Keeffe lived and painted for several months at a time during those years.

The Stieglitz letters discuss the art and museum culture of New York City, the management of Stieglitz's gallery, An American Place, and personal matters, such as O'Keeffe's recovery from a nervous breakdown and descriptions of Stieglitz's health. Also referenced in the letters are some of Rodakiewicz's films and film projects, the relationship between Rodakiewicz and Peggy Bok, and mentions of mutual acquaintances, friends, and work colleagues: Marie Tudor Garland (Rodakiewicz's first wife), Dorothy Brett, Frieda Lawrence, Mabel Dodge Luhan, John Marin and Rebecca Salsbury James (formerly Rebecca Strand). Most of the letters are written from Stieglitz's gallery, An American Place, and his and O'Keeffe's country home at Lake George, New York. The Stieglitz correspondence includes transcriptions for each letter with the transcription filed before each original letter.

The miscellany, 1933, 1940-1941, consists mainly of printed and typed items relating to exhibitions at An American Place, featuring O'Keeffe, Stieglitz, John Marin, Arthur Garfield Dove, and Pablo Picasso. Also filed in miscellany is a print advertisement for Dorothy Norman's *Dualities*, An American Place publication number 2.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material. The letters are further organized by correspondent and therein chronologically. The miscellany is arranged chronologically.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Letters to Henwar Rodakiewicz
BOX 1	O'Keeffe, Georgia
BOX 1	1929-1932 Digital content available
BOX 1	1933-1934 Digital content available
BOX 1	1935, Jan. Digital content available
BOX 1	1935, Feb. Digital content available
BOX 1	1935, May-Sept. Digital content available
BOX 1	1935, Oct.-Dec. Digital content available
BOX 1	1936, Jan.-June Digital content available
BOX 1	1936, July-Nov. Digital content available
BOX 1	1937, Jan.-Apr. Digital content available
BOX 1	1937, May-Dec. Digital content available
BOX 1	1938, May-June Digital content available
BOX 1	1938, July-Oct. Digital content available
BOX 1	1939 Digital content available
BOX 1	1940, Feb.-Apr. Digital content available
BOX 1	1940, May-Oct. Digital content available
BOX 1	1941, July-Sept. Digital content available
BOX 1	1941, Oct.-Dec. Digital content available
BOX 1	1942, Jan.-July Digital content available
BOX 1	1942, Aug.-Sept. Digital content available
BOX 1	1942, Oct.-Nov. Digital content available

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	1943, May-June Digital content available
BOX 1	1943, Aug.-Oct. Digital content available
BOX 1	1944 Digital content available
BOX 2	1945, May-July Digital content available
BOX 2	1945, Sept.-Oct. Digital content available
BOX 2	1946, Sept-Oct. Digital content available
BOX 2	1946, Nov. Digital content available
BOX 2	1947 Digital content available
BOX 2	Stieglitz, Alfred
BOX 2	1933-1934 Digital content available
BOX 2	1936-1938 Digital content available
BOX 2	1939-1940 Digital content available
BOX 2	1941 Digital content available
BOX 2	1942 Digital content available
BOX 2	Miscellany, 1933, 1940-1941 Digital content available