Eric Johnson Collection of Ernest Bloch Photographs
Guides to Special Collections in the Music Division of the Library of Congress

Music Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2010

Contact information: http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.music/perform.contact

Catalog Record: https://lccn.loc.gov/2010561021

Additional search options available at: https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.music/eadmus.mu010003

Processed by the Music Division of the Library of Congress
Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Music Division, 2010
Revised 2010 August
Collection Summary

**Title:** Eric Johnson Collection of Ernest Bloch Photographs  
**Span Dates:** 1896-2008  
**Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1896-1937)  
**Call No.:** ML31.J64  
**Creator:** Bloch, Ernest, 1880-1959  
**Collector:** Johnson, Eric  
**Extent:** circa 105 items  
**Extent:** 2 containers  
**Extent:** 1 linear foot  
**Language:** Collection material in English.  
**Location:** Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.  
**LC Catalog record:** [https://lccn.loc.gov/2010561021](https://lccn.loc.gov/2010561021)  
**Summary:** The collection consists of photographic prints taken by Swiss-born American composer Ernest Bloch during the first half of the 20th century. These prints were developed during the 1970s by photographer Eric Johnson. The collection also includes a variety of research materials related to Bloch and his experiences with photography.

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**
Barjansky, Alexandre--Photographs.  
Barjansky, Catherine--Photographs.  
Clement, Ada--Photographs.  
Hodgehead, Lillian--Photographs.  
Johnson, Eric.  
Ysaÿe, Eugène, 1858-1931--Photographs.

**Subjects**
Photography.  
Portrait photography.

**Form/Genre**
Correspondence.  
Photographic prints.

Provenance


Accruals

No further accruals are expected.
Processing History

The Eric Johnson Collection of Ernest Bloch Photographs was processed in 2010 by Ephraim Schäfli and encoded for EAD by Christopher Hartten.

Other Repositories

Over 6000 negatives and 2000 prints are housed in the Ernest Bloch Archive at the Center for Creative Photography at the University of Arizona.

Related Material

The Library of Congress Music Division holds the [Ernest Bloch Collection](#).

Copyright Status

The status of copyright on the materials of the Eric Johnson Collection of Ernest Bloch Photographs is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The Eric Johnson Collection of Ernest Bloch Photographs is open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Performing Arts Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Certain restrictions to use or copying of materials may apply.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: container number, Eric Johnson Collection of Ernest Bloch Photographs, Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Well known to most as a composer, Ernest Bloch is also recognized for his considerable genius in the field of photography. Bloch took up the camera in his teenage years and constantly documented his experiences using still images until his death in 1959. Throughout his life, he produced over 6000 negatives and 2000 prints that are now housed in the Ernest Bloch Archive at the Center for Creative Photography at the University of Arizona.

Bloch’s subject matter ranged from landscapes to self-portraits, family portraits, and other images of nature and people that surrounded him. His photographs were praised by such contemporary authorities as Alfred Stieglitz and captured the interest of other prominent photographers, including Ansel Adams, Georgia O’Keeffe, Edward Weston, and Diego Rivera.

The prints in this collection were selected for development as a product of photographer Eric Johnson's exploratory study of relationships between music and photography conducted in the early 1970s. The resulting publication, *A Composer's Vision: Photographs by Ernest Bloch* (1972) documents his findings.
Scope and Content Note

The Eric Johnson Collection of Ernest Bloch Photographs contains 105 black and white prints, the majority of which date from 1896-1937. Notable prints include "mushroom lady" (1912), trees depicting the characters of various composers, including Bach, Beethoven, and Debussy (1931 and 1935), and images of Alexandre Barjansky, Catherine Barjansky, Ada Clement, Lillian Hodgehead, Yehudi Menuhin, Roger Sessions, and Eugène Ysaïe. Photographs are arranged by date of inscription. "Research materials" contains preliminary and final drafts of Johnson's article, as well as a pamphlet on Bloch published by the Ernest Bloch Legacy Project in 2008.

Arrangement of the Eric Johnson Collection of Ernest Bloch Photographs

The Eric Johnson Collection of Ernest Bloch Photographs is organized in 2 series:

- Photographs, 1896-1976
## Description of Series

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Series</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1-2</td>
<td>Photographs, 1896-1976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 2</td>
<td>Research Materials, 1971-2008</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Container List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>BOX 1-2</strong></td>
<td><strong>Photographs, 1896-1976</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BOX-FOLDER 1/1</strong></td>
<td>1896-1900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11 photographs</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BOX-FOLDER 1/2</strong></td>
<td>1901-1910</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10 photographs</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Images include: Eugène Ysaÿe, Leon Goetschel, &quot;peasant near Geneva&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BOX-FOLDER 1/3</strong></td>
<td>1911-1915, 1917-1920</td>
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<tr>
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<td>14 photographs</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Images include: Leon Goetschel, &quot;mushroom lady&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BOX-FOLDER 1/4</strong></td>
<td>1916</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>18 photographs</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Images include: Alexandre Barjansky, Catherine Barjansky, &quot;Schelomo sculpture&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BOX-FOLDER 1/5</strong></td>
<td>1921-1923</td>
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<tr>
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<td>14 photographs</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BOX-FOLDER 2/1</strong></td>
<td>1924-1930</td>
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<td>9 photographs</td>
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<td>Images include: New Mexico, &quot;Indian&quot;, Ada Clement, Lillian Hodgehead</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BOX-FOLDER 2/2</strong></td>
<td>1931-1935</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12 photographs</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Images include: &quot;peasant&quot;, &quot;tree pictures&quot; (Bach, Beethoven, Debussy), Yehudi Menuhin, Alexandre Barjansky, Mary Tibaldi Chiesa</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BOX-FOLDER 2/3</strong></td>
<td>1936-1937, 1956-1957, 1976</td>
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<td>10 photographs</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Images include: Mary Tibaldi Chiesa</td>
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<td><strong>BOX-FOLDER 2/4</strong></td>
<td>Undated</td>
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<td>7 photographs</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Images include: Roger Sessions</td>
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<td><strong>BOX 2</strong></td>
<td><strong>Research Materials, 1971-2008</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BOX-FOLDER 2/5</strong></td>
<td>Articles and publications</td>
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