Guide to the Polly Scribner Ames Papers 1938-1993
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Descriptive Summary

Identifier  ICU.SPCL.AMESPS

Title  Ames, Polly Scribner. Papers

Date  1938-1993

Size  8.75 linear feet (17 boxes)

Repository  Special Collections Research Center
University of Chicago Library
1100 East 57th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60637 U.S.A.

Abstract  Polly Scribner Ames (1908-1993) was a painter, sculptor, and writer who lived in Chicago, New York, and Europe. The Polly Scribner Ames papers contain manuscripts, correspondence, journals, and records of exhibitions and sales of artwork.

Information on Use

Access  The collection is open for research.

Citation  When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is: Polly Scribner Ames. Papers, [Box #, Folder #], Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library

Biographical Note  Polly Scribner Ames was the daughter of University of Chicago philosophy professor and University Church pastor Edward Scribner Ames and the sister of Van Meter Ames, University of Cincinnati philosophy professor and author. Born in 1908, Ames attended the School of the Art Institute Chicago and received a Ph.B. from the University of Chicago. She lived in New York City for much of her adult life and also spent time in Europe, including several years in France. She exhibited paintings and sculpture and taught art courses in both the United States and Europe. Ames died in Chicago in 1993.

Scope Note  Series I contains drafts of published and unpublished manuscripts, including a memoir, short stories, nonfiction articles, and poetry. Correspondence concerning the publication of Ames’s book about the painter Marsden Hartley is also included in this series. Some manuscripts by others are contained in this series, as well as publicity for and reviews of exhibitions of Ames’s painting and sculpture. Series II contains correspondence among various members of the Ames
family, as well as Polly Scribner Ames’s other personal and professional correspondence. Also included are Ames’s journals, the bulk of which are from the 1960s. Series III contains several oversize items, including exhibition advertisements and press clippings as well as research for Ames’s book about Marsden Hartley.

The contents of Box 12A were previously part of the Miscellaneous Manuscripts Collection.

Related Resources
The following related resources are located in the Department of Special Collections:

http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/spcl/select.html

Subject Headings
• Ames, Polly Scribner, 1908-
• Ames, Edward Scribner, 1870-1958
• Art, American
• Women artists
• Women sculptors
• Women authors

INVENTORY
Series I: Writing and Artwork

Box 1
Folder 1
A Chance of My Making, manuscript draft
Box 1
Folder 2
A Chance of My Making, manuscript draft
Box 1
Folder 3
A Chance of My Making, manuscript draft
Box 1
Folder 4
A Chance of My Making, manuscript draft
Box 1
Folder 5
A Chance of My Making, manuscript draft
Box 2
Folder 1
A Chance of My Making, manuscript draft
Box 2
Folder 2
A Chance of My Making, manuscript draft
Box 8
Folder 3
A Chance of My Making, manuscript draft
Box 8
Folder 4
A Chance of My Making, synopses
Box 8
Folder 5
French notes for A Chance of My Making
Box 8
Folder 6
Photos and illustrations for A Chance of My Making
Box 8
Folder 7
"An Unexpected Welcome at Cezanne’s Hometown," manuscript
Box 8
Folder 8
"Greece," Manuscript
Box 9
Folder 1
"Notes on Teaching Painting," Manuscript
Box 9
Folder 2
Poetry, manuscripts
Box 9
Folder 3
Poetry, manuscripts
Box 9
Folder 4
Poetry, manuscripts
Box 9
Folder 5
Poetry, manuscripts
Box 9
Folder 6
"Spain, 1965," manuscript
Box 9
Folder 7
"The Invisible Fortress," manuscript drafts
Box 9
Folder 8
"Evolution of Man," manuscript
Box 10
Folder 1
"The Driftwood Horse," manuscript drafts
Folder 2
"Toreo de Novilladas," manuscript
Box 10
Folder 3
"Creative Women," manuscript drafts
Box 10
Folder 4
"The Toy Train," manuscript drafts
Box 10
Folder 5
"Cat Tales"/"Mr. Annie," manuscript drafts
Box 10
Folder 6
"Sketches from Life," manuscript drafts
Box 10
Folder 7
"Knucklebones, Jacks, and Craps," manuscript drafts
Box 10
Folder 8
"An Americanist in Paris," manuscript
Box 10
Folder 9
"Round Robin Portrait," manuscript drafts
Box 10
Folder 10
Marsden Hartley in Maine, book
Box 10
Folder 11
Illustrations for Marsden Hartley in Maine
Box 10
Folder 12
Marsden Hartley in Maine, manuscript drafts and illustrations
Box 10
Folder 13
Correspondence about Marsden Hartley and Hartley manuscript, 1943-1971
Box 10
Folder 14
Correspondence about Marsden Hartley and Hartley manuscript, 1972-1977
Box 10
Folder 15
Correspondence about Marsden Hartley in Maine, 1972-1976
Box 11
Folder 1
Marsden Hartley, exhibits
Box 11
Folder 2
Manuscript fragments and notes
Box 11
Folder 3
  Four Strings to a Note, manuscript
Box 11
Folder 4
  Miscellaneous photos and documents
Box 11
Folder 5
  Drawing, undated
Box 11
Folder 6
  Articles by Van Meter Ames
Box 11
Folder 7
  Poems by Vere Dargan
Box 11
Folder 8
  "The Illuminati," Manuscript by Charles Harvey Arnold
Box 11
Folder 9
  Press coverage and sales of paintings
Box 11
Folder 10
  Publicity and correspondence for exhibitions
Box 11
Folder 11
  Publicity and correspondence for exhibitions
Box 11
Folder 12
  Press clippings
Box 11
Folder 13
  Miscellaneous articles and programs

Series II: Correspondence and Journals
Box 12
Folder 1
  Correspondence about death of E.S. Ames, 1958
Box 12
Folder 2
  Correspondence about death of E.S. Ames, 1958-1959
Box 12
Folder 3
  Correspondence about death of E.S. Ames, undated
Box 12
Folder 4
  Miscellaneous documents about E.S. Ames
Box 12
Folder 5
  Miscellaneous personal and professional correspondence, 1938-1986
Box 12
Folder 6
  Ames family correspondence, 1938-1954 and undated
Box 12A
Folder 1
  Correspondence with E.E. Cummings, July – Dec 1960, undated
  • Contains 3 typed letters signed, 2 typed cards signed, 1 autograph letter signed, and handwritten notes on the back of a hotel bill.
Box 12A
Folder 2
  Correspondence with Marion Cummings, July 1960 – Feb. 1968
  • Contains 14 letters with 9 envelopes, a newspaper clipping, and 2 greeting cards. One of the cards reproduces a painting by e. e. cummings.
Box 12A
Folder 3
  Correspondence with Marianne Moore, July – Aug. 1951
Box 13
Folder 1
  Correspondence with and about Adelaide and Henry Schade, 1938-1980
Box 13
Folder 2
  Correspondence with and about Adelaide and Henry Schade, 1980-1981 and undated
Box 13
Folder 3
  Publication rejection notices, 1963-1984
Box 13
Folder 4
  Hyde Park Music Club, member lists
Box 13
Folder 5
  Journal, 1951
Box 13
Folder 6
  Journal, June - July 1960
Box 14
Folder 1
  Journal, August - September 1960
Box 14
Folder 2
  Journal, 1960
Box 14
Folder 3
  Journal, 1960-1962
Box 14
Folder 4
  Journal, 1962
Box 14
Folder 5
  Journal, 1963
Box 14
Folder 6
  Journal, 1964
Box 14
Folder 7
  Journal, 1965
Box 15
Folder 1
  Journal, 1967
Box 15
Folder 2
Box 15
Folder 3
  Journal, 1981
Box 15
Folder 4
  Journal, 1992-1993
Box 15
Folder 5
  Journal, undated
Box 15
Folder 6
  Journal, undated
Box 15
Folder 7
  Journal, undated

Series III: Oversize Materials
Box 16
Folder 1
  Article on Marsden Hartley
Box 16
Folder 2
  Press clippings and exhibition posters
Box 16
Folder 3
  Map of Maine