

# Guide to the George Heard Hamilton Papers

MS 1145



compiled by Susan Brady with Amy Shine

October 1991

Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
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<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 1145

**CREATOR:** Hamilton, George Heard, 1910-2004

**TITLE:** George Heard Hamilton Papers

**DATES:** 1937-1966

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 1.25 linear feet (3 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The papers consist of correspondence, course materials, writings, and newspaper clippings relating to George Heard Hamilton's career as a professor of art history, art gallery curator and administrator, and author. Correspondents include curators of U.S. and European art museums and galleries, colleagues at Yale and at other universities, and members of the international art community.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1145>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1145>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to [http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr\\_copy\\_order.html](http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html). The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.      box  
f.      folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Transferred from the Yale University School of Art and Architecture in 1977.

## Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

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## Preferred Citation

George Heard Hamilton Papers (MS 1145). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

GEORGE HEARD HAMILTON, 1910-2004

George Heard Hamilton was born in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania on June 23, 1910, the son of Frank Arthur and Georgia Heard Hamilton. He received a B.A. (1932), M.A. (1934), and Ph.D. (1942) from Yale University. He was a research associate at the Walters Art Gallery in Baltimore from 1934 to 1936, when he began his tenure at Yale as an instructor in art history. Hamilton was an assistant professor (1943-1947), associate professor (1947-1956), and professor (1956-1966) of art history, and curator of modern art at the Yale University Art Gallery (1940-1966). He was chairman of the Department of Art from 1959 to 1962, and associate director of the Art Gallery from 1946 to 1948. From 1963 to 1964 he was the Robert Sterling Clark visiting professor of art at Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts. From 1966 to 1975 he was a professor of art at Williams, and was the director of the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute in Williamstown from 1966 to 1977. From 1966 to 1968 Hamilton was the president of the College Art Association of America.

Hamilton wrote *Manet and his Critics* (1954); *Art and Architecture of Russia* (1954); *European Painting and Sculpture 1880-1940* (1967); with W. C. Agee *Raymond Duchamp Villon* (1967); and *19th and 20th Century Art: Painting, Sculpture, Architecture* (1970). He edited the catalogue of the Collection of the Société Anonyme which was published in 1950.

Hamilton died in Williamstown, Massachusetts, on March 29, 2004.

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## Scope and Contents

The George Heard Hamilton Papers consist of correspondence, course materials, writings, and newspaper clippings relating to Hamilton's career as a professor of art history, art gallery curator and administrator, and author.

The alphabetically arranged correspondence, which forms the largest part of the collection, pertains to Hamilton's administrative and teaching activities at Yale; his involvement with educational art associations; and his writing of histories of art. Hamilton corresponded with curators of the Museum of Modern Art, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, and other art museums and galleries regarding exhibits and illustrations for his publications; with colleagues at Yale and at other universities regarding administrative and professional activities; and with members of the international art community including Katherine Dreier, Man Ray, and Marcel Duchamp, the founders of the Société Anonyme, whose collection catalogue Hamilton edited. (The papers of the Société Anonyme are in the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.)

Folders containing course materials from Hamilton's art history courses, short writings, newspaper clippings relating to the 1937 donation of the Jules S. Bache art collection to the state of New York, and a notebook containing listings of Hamilton's collection of Tennyson first editions, form the remainder of the collection.

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### Correspondence

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b. 1, f. 4	Ar-Au	
b. 1, f. 5	Bareiss, Walter	1961-1962
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b. 1, f. 9	Cleveland Museum of Art	1961-1966
b. 1, f. 10	College Art Association of America	1952-1966
b. 1, f. 11	Columbia University	1949, 1961-1962
b. 1, f. 12	C-Ca	
b. 1, f. 13	Ch-Col	
b. 1, f. 14	Con-Cu	
b. 1, f. 15	Da-Do	
b. 1, f. 16	Dr-Du	
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b. 1, f. 18	F	
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b. 2, f. 35	Me-Mr	
b. 2, f. 36	Mug-Mus	
b. 2, f. 37	Na-Newl	
b. 2, f. 38	Newy-No	
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b. 2, f. 40	Penguin Books, Ltd.	1953-1955, 1961-1966, undated
b. 2, f. 41	Pevsner, Nikolaus	1953-1955, 1960-1962
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b. 2, f. 50	Sidney Janis Gallery	1954-1956
b. 2, f. 51	Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum (New York)	1956, 1961-1963, undated
b. 2, f. 52	Sprague, Arthur	1961-1962
b. 2, f. 53	Steefel, Lawrence	1961-1962

b. 2, f. 54	Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute (Williamstown, MA)	1962-1965
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b. 3, f. 64	Wadsworth Athenium (Hartford, CT)	1954-1962, undated
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b. 3, f. 68	We-Wh	
b. 3, f. 69	Wic-Win	
b. 3, f. 70	Wo-Wu	
	Yale University	
b. 3, f. 71	Graduate School	1953-1956, 1961-1963
b. 3, f. 72	Miscellaneous	1953-1962, undated
b. 3, f. 73	Sterling Memorial Library	1953-1962
b. 3, f. 74	Yale Club of New York	1956, 1962, undated
b. 3, f. 75	Yale Russian Club	1961-1962
b. 3, f. 76	Yale University Art Gallery	1949, 1954-1956, 1962, undated
b. 3, f. 77	Yale University Press	1954, 1960-1966
b. 3, f. 78	Y - Z	
b. 3, f. 79	Unidentified, fragments, and notes	

b. 3, f. 80	Clippings: Bache art gift	1937 April
b. 3, f. 81	Course materials	1949-1954, undated
b. 3, f. 82	Notebook: record of his library as a Yale undergraduate, a collection of Tennyson first editions	1930-1932
b. 3, f. 83	Writings	1951-1954, undated



## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Subjects**

Art, Modern  
Art historians  
Educators

### **Names**

Dreier, Katherine S. (Katherine Sophie),  
1877-1952  
Duchamp, Marcel, 1887-1968  
Hamilton, George Heard, 1910-2004  
Man Ray, 1890-1976

### **Corporate Bodies**

Art Institute of Chicago  
College Art Association of America  
Museum of Modern Art (New York, N.Y.)  
Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum  
Yale University. Art Gallery  
Yale University. School of Art and Architecture.  
Dept. of Art History  
Yale University -- Faculty