

WORCESTER HISTORICAL MUSEUM

30 Elm Street
Worcester, Massachusetts

ARCHIVES

Emily Burling Waite Collection
2014.57

Processed by Caleigh Ross
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>Series</u>	<u>Subseries</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Box</u>
	Collection Information	4	
	Historical/Biographical Notes	5	
	Scope and Content	6	
	Series Description	6	
1	Correspondence		
	1 New York Letters	7	1
	2 Somewhere at Sea	7	1
	3 England	7	1
	4 France: August-November 4, 1918	8	1
	5 After the Armistice	8	1
	6 On Leave in Nice, Monte Carlo, Paris	8	1
	7 Neufchateau, February-May	9	1
	8 On Leave in Paris	9	1
	9 Neufchateau, May-June	9	1
	10 Brest, June-July	10	1
	11 On Leave in Scotland and Ireland	10	1
	12 Brest, July-August	10	1

	13	Miscellany	11	1
2		Photo Album		
	1	Photo Album	11	1
3		Ephemera		
	1	Scrapbook	12	BV
	2	Loose Ephemera From Scrapbook	12-13	1
	3	Loose Ephemera	13-14	1
4		Memento Book		
	1	Memento Book	15	1
5		Signal Corp Roster		
	1	Signal Corp Roster	15	1
6		Autograph Book		
	1	Autograph Book	15	1

Collection Information

Abstract : The collection contains documents pertaining to Worcester native and local artist Emily Burling Waite. The collection contains correspondence, photographs, a scrapbook, and ephemera related to Waite's paintings and etchings, as well as her experience studying art in Europe.

Finding Aid : Finding Aid in print form is available in the Repository.

Preferred Citation : Worcester Historical Museum, Worcester, Massachusetts.

Provenance : Donated by*****

MARC Access :

Historical/Biographical Notes

“Emily Burling Waite, best known for her oil portraits, etchings and still lifes, was born in Worcester in 1887...From 1905 to 1906 she was enrolled at the School of the Worcester Art Museum where she studied drawing and painting...From 1908 to 1910 Waite studied at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts School under Philip Leslie Hale and Francis Luis Mora. In 1910 she was awarded a Paige Traveling Scholarship which allowed her to travel for two years in France, the Netherlands, Italy and Spain, studying the paintings, drawings and etchings of the European masters... a portrait done during her stay in Paris, entitled *La Robe Mauve*, was exhibited at the Salon des Beaux Arts... she signed many of her early portraits “E.B. Waite,” leaving the gender of the artist in doubt. Her early work did receive recognition when she was awarded a silver medal at the 1915 Panama Pacific Exposition in San Francisco. After a brief stay in Boston she worked in New York City, Washington D.C., and Newport, Rhode Island. While in Washington she painted the portraits of Chief Justice William Howard Taft and Vice President Charles Curtis. Waite married Arthur William Manchester of Newport in 1924 and lived there until 1931 when she divorced and returned to Worcester with her son Lemuel. She lives in the family house on Franklin Street, working in the front parlor until she converted the barn behind the house to a studio.

In the 1950s she began to employ the technique of soft-ground etching which was to become her most popular print medium...she etched many portraits of Worcester residents, including children in the Franklin Street neighborhood, and numerous Worcester buildings and local scenes... Examples of her work are included in the collections of the Worcester Art Museum, the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, the Fogg Art Museum, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Library of Congress and the Smithsonian Institution.

The 1950s brought her wider recognition; in 1955 she had one-woman exhibitions at the Guild of Boston Artists, the Society of American Graphic Artists and the National Association of Women Artists...In 1959, Waite returned to Europe, primarily to study frescos in northern Italy...She remained active throughout the 1960s and 1970s, etching and painting oil portraits of many local residents, many of which were done from photographs... Waite continued to work until shortly before her death in January 1980.”

-From a Press Release of the Worcester Museum, 1981

Scope and Content

This collection includes correspondence, photographs, exhibition catalogs, a scrapbook, personal papers, and ephemera belonging to Worcester artist Emily Burling Waite.

Series Descriptions

Series 1: Ephemera

Series description: This series contains newspaper clippings, press releases, and catalogs all related to Waite's artwork. The ephemeral items range from 1910 to 1979.

Series 2: Biographical Papers

Series description: This series contains several biographical sketches of Waite's life and background as an artist.

Series 3: Art-Related Correspondence

Series description: This series contains correspondence ranging from #####-##### related to Waite's art.

Series 4: Personal Correspondence

Series description: This series contains personal correspondence ranging from #####-##### and includes a subseries containing carbon copies of letters sent by Waite personally.

Series 5: Sketches and Sketchbooks

Series description: This series contains several of Waite's sketchbooks, as well as a few loose sketches and photographs used as inspiration for artwork.

Series 6: Early Life

Series description: This series contains ephemera from Waite's early life, including composition notebooks, schoolwork, a music book, and a manual on knitting.

Series 7: Scrapbook

Series description: This series contains a scrapbook of photographs of Waite's work.

Series 8: Photographs

Series description: This series contains photographs and *****

Series 9: European Travel

Series description: This series contains

Series 10: Personal Papers

Series description: This series contains

Series 11: Financial Records and Receipts

Series description: This series contains

Series 12: Lemuel Series

Series description: This series contains correspondence and documents belonging to Waite's son Lemuel regarding the handling of her estate following her death in 1980.

Series 13: Calendars and Planners

Series description: This series contains

Series 14: Catalogs & Rosters

Series description: This series contains

Series 15: OVS Photographs

Series description: This series contains

Emily Burling Waite Collection
Series 1: Ephemera
2014.57

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1	2014.57.1.1-5	1909-1918—1918 Newspaper clipping and four exhibition pamphlets.
1	2	2014.57.1.6-15	1920-1929—Exhibition pamphlet and newspaper clippings.
1	3	2014.57.1.16-26	1930-1939— Exhibition pamphlets, newspaper clippings, documents and photograph related to “Gothic,” painting from early 1930s.
1	4	2014.57.1.27-54	1940-1949— Exhibition pamphlets, newspaper clippings, and postcards related to exhibit entries.
1	5	2014.57.1.55-100	1950-1955— Exhibition pamphlets, newspaper clippings, and postcards related to exhibit entries.
1	6	2014.57.1.101-124	1956-1959— Exhibition pamphlets, newspaper clippings, and postcards related to exhibit entries.

1	7	2014.57.1.125-188	1960-1969— Exhibition catalogs, newspaper clippings, and postcards related to exhibit entries.
1	8	2014.57.1.189-227	1970-1979— Exhibition catalogs, newspaper clippings, and postcards related to exhibit entries.
1	9	2014.57.1.228-265	Undated—Newspaper clippings, ephemera, and postcards related to exhibit entries.
1	10	2014.57.1.266-280	Undated—Additional folder of newspaper clippings, ephemera, and postcards related to exhibit entries.

Emily Burling Waite Collection
Series 2: Biographical Papers
2014.57

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	11	2014.57.2.1-17	19159-2005— newspaper articles and biographical sketches of Waite’s life and background as an artist. Items include artist biographies from The Worcester Historical Museum’s 1981 exhibit.
1	12	2014.57.2.18-29	19159-2005— newspaper articles and biographical sketches of Waite’s life and background as an artist. Items include artist biographies from The Worcester Historical Museum’s 1981 exhibit.

Emily Burling Waite Collection
Series 3: Art-related Correspondence
2014.57

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
2	1	2014.57.3.1-12	1918-1929— Art-related correspondence. Items include letters and a pin from then-Chief Justice William Howard Taft.
2	2	2014.57.3.13-21B	1930-1939— Art-related correspondence.

2	3	2014.57.3.22-42	1940-1949— Art-related correspondence.
2	4	2014.57.3.43-111	1950-1955— Art-related correspondence.
2	5	2014.57.3.112-152	1956-1959— Art-related correspondence.
2	6	2014.57.3.153-229B	1960-1969— Art-related correspondence. Items include a letter from Eleanor Roosevelt.
2	7	2014.57.3.230-298	1970-1975— Art-related correspondence.
2	8	2014.57.3.299-350	1976-1979— Art-related correspondence.
2	9	2014.57.3.351-352	1976-1979— Art-related correspondence.
2	10	2014.57.3.353-406	Undated— Art-related correspondence.
2	11	2014.57.3.407-421	1940-1979— Additional folder of art-related correspondence. Items include a letter from Albert Einstein and Janet Felton, secretary to Jacqueline Kennedy in 1961.

Emily Burling Waite Collection
Series 4: Personal Correspondence
2014.57

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
3	1	2014.57.4.1-45B	1924-1948— Personal correspondence related to the wedding, marriage, and subsequent divorce between Waite and her husband Arthur Manchester.
3	2	2014.57.4.46-54	1942-1979— Personal correspondence between Waite, her son Lemuel, and her nephew John.
3	3	2014.57.4.55-81	1953-1957— Personal correspondence between Waite and B.F. Morrow.

3	4	2014.57.4.82-161	1950-1967— Personal correspondence between Waite and Adra T. Newell.
3	5	2014.57.4.162-166	1924-1929— Personal correspondence.
3	6	2014.57.4.167-170	1930-1939— Personal correspondence.
3	7	2014.57.4.171-178	1940-1949— Personal correspondence.
3	8	2014.57.4.179-204	1951-1959— Personal correspondence.
3	9	2014.57.4.205-219	1960-1969— Personal correspondence.
3	10	2014.57.4.220-236	1970-1979— Personal correspondence.
3	11	2014.57.4.237-265	Undated.— Personal correspondence.
3	12	2014.57.4.266	Undated.— Personal Letterhead.
3	13	2014.57.4.267-275	Undated.— Personal correspondence, postcards.
3	14	2014.57.4.276-303	1926-1969 — Additional folder of personal correspondence, including 1926 wedding invitation.

Emily Burling Waite Collection
Series 4: Personal Correspondence
Subseries 1: Outgoing Copies
2014.57

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
3	15	2014.57.4.1.1-4	1917-1949— Copies of outgoing personal correspondence.
3	16	2014.57.4.1.5-75	1950-1959— Copies of outgoing personal correspondence.
3	17	2014.57.4.1.76-160	1960-1965— Copies of outgoing personal correspondence.
3	18	2014.57.4.1.161-202	1966-1969— Copies of outgoing personal

			correspondence.
3	19	2014.57.4.1.1-203-239	1970-1979— Copies of outgoing personal correspondence.
3	20	2014.57.4.1.240-244	Undated.— Copies of outgoing personal correspondence.

Emily Burling Waite Collection
Series 5: Sketches and Sketchbooks
2014.57

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
4	1	2014.57.5.1-11	Undated—Sketchbooks.
4	2	2014.57.5.12	Undated—Bound volume of sketches.
4	3	2014.57.5.13-20	Undated— Loose sketches, including one photograph.
4	4	2014.57.5.21-38	Undated—Miscellaneous photographs of art subjects, including horses, dogs, and docked ships.
4	5	2014.57.5.39-41	Undated—Additional folder of sketchbooks.
4	6	2014.57.5.42-59	Undated—Additional folder of sketches.

Emily Burling Waite Collection
Series 6: Early Life
2014.57

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
5	1	2014.57.6.1-2	1901—Middle school diploma and commencement invitation.
5	2	2014.57.6.3-6	Undated—Bound volumes of composition books, and an essay with illustrations.
5	3	2014.57.6.7	Undated—Musical composition booklet.

5	4	2014.57.6.8-18	Undated—Fourteen loose pages of typed notes and essay drafts.
5	5	2014.57.6.19-21	Undated—Two bound address books and a memo pad.
5	6	2014.57.6.22	1934—Knitting pattern booklet.

Emily Burling Waite Collection
Series 7: Scrapbook
2014.57

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
5	7	2014.57.7.1	Undated—Scrapbook containing photographs of Waite's artwork.
5	8	2014.57.7.2-32	1912-1919—Loose pages from a scrapbook containing newspaper clippings related to Waite's artwork.

Emily Burling Waite Collection
Series 8: Photographs
2014.57

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
6	1	2014.57.8.1-48	Undated—Official portraits of Emily Burling Waite, including proofs.
6	2	2014.57.8.49-55	Undated—Miscellaneous photos of Emily Burling Waite.
6	3	2014.57.8.56-67	Undated—Miscellaneous photos of Emily Burling Waite and son Lemuel.
6	4	2014.57.8.68-77	July, 27, 1953—Ten photos of Emily Burling Waite, son Lemuel, and garden in springtime.

6	5	2014.57.8.78-122	Undated— Photos of artwork and subjects, including a negative of the William Howard Taft painting.
6	6	2014.57.8.123-129	Undated— Photos of subjects. Includes two negatives from E.B. Luce.
6	7	2014.57.8.130-134	Undated— Negatives, including images of subjects and houses.
6	8	2014.57.8.135-149	1931— Photos and negatives of Washington D.C. Includes a letter describing instructions for negatives to a Mr. Scott.
6	9	2014.57.8.150-153	Undated— 4 pages of transparency slides, depicting artwork and subjects.
6	10	2014.57.8.154-171	1978— Photos of an event, possibly honoring Emily Burling Waite.
6	11	2014.57.8.172-183	Undated— Photos of an event involving a helicopter.
6	12	2014.57.8.184-204	Undated— Photos of portraits by Emily Burling Waite, including 2 CDs.
6	13	2014.57.8.205-268	Undated— Additional folder of photos of portraits and subjects, including 1 CD.

Emily Burling Waite Collection
Series 9: European Travel
2014.57

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
6	14	2014.57.9.1-21	1910-1913—Postcards and a diary from Waite's European travel.
6	15	2014.57.9.22-25	1910-1913—Brochures from Waite's European travel.
7	1	2014.57.9.26-28	1911—Ephemera from Waite's travels in England.

7	2	2014.57.9.29-34	1911—Ephemera from Waite’s travels in France.
7	3	2014.57.9.35	Undated—Guidebook from Waite’s travels in Belgium.
7	4	2014.57.9.36-71	1909-1912—Ephemera from Waite’s travels in Italy.
7	5	2014.57.9.72-73	1910-1911—Two guidebooks from Waite’s travels in the Netherlands.
7	6	2014.57.9.74-76	1882-1912—Ephemera from Waite’s travels in Spain.
7	7	2014.57.9.77	Undated—Puzzle, titled “Quaint Old Holland,” depicting scene in the Netherlands.

Emily Burling Waite Collection
Series 10: Personal Papers
2014.57

7	8	2014.57.10.1-33	Undated—Personal papers relating to Waite’s artistic endeavors.
7	9	2014.57.10.34-64	Undated—Poetry and prose written by Waite.
7	10	2014.57.10.65-91	1937-1969—Correspondence and papers associated with Waite’s membership in the National League of American Pen Women.
7	11	2014.57.10.92-127	1920-1979—Correspondence and papers associated with Waite’s involvement with the Christian Science Church.
7	12	2014.57.10.128-165B	Undated—Correspondence and papers associated with Waite’s community involvement and activities.
7	13	2014.57.10.166-175D	Undated—Correspondence and papers associated with Waite’s political engagement, including letters to

			Massachusetts state legislators.
8	1	2014.57.10.176-185	Undated—Correspondence and papers associated with Waite’s research into the Manchester family history.
8	2	2014.57.10.186-206B	1932-1982—ephemera, mementos, and invitations.
8	3	2014.57.10.207-221	1969-1980—Correspondence and papers associated with Waite’s museum donations and gifts.
8	4	2014.57.10.222-232	1955-1980—Awards and organizational membership certificates and cards.

Emily Burling Waite Collection
Series 11: Financial Records and Receipts
2014.57

8	5	2014.57.11.1-21	1946-1950—Copies of lists documenting sales of artwork.
8	6	2014.57.11.22-63	1919-1979—Art-related receipts from a variety of companies.
8	7	2014.57.11.64-68	1953-1959—Receipts from W.S. Budworth and Son.
8	8	2014.57.11.69-74	1963-1979— Receipts from George M. Cushing, Jr.
8	9	2014.57.11.75-81	1974-1976—Receipts from The Custom Frame Shop.
8	10	2014.57.11.82-90	1969-1979—Receipts from The Guild of Boston Artists.
8	11	2014.57.11.91-97	1939-1979—Receipts from Hatfield’s Color Shop.
8	12	2014.57.11.98-101	1957—Receipts from Wilfred C. Kimber.

8

13

2014.57.11.102-120

1972-1979—Receipts from E.B. Luce.