

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

ARCHIVES AND MANUSCRIPTS

March 1990

Processed by:
Historical
Administration
Class--1989-90

Sargent Collection

Boxes 1 and 2

Linear feet of shelf space occupied: 2

Approximate number of items: 650

Completed in partial fulfillment
of the requirements for

HIS 5030

Dr. Wendy Hamand-Venet, Instructor

EASTMAN LABORATORY UNIVERSITY

ARCHIVED AND MANUSCRIPTS

Processed by
H. J. Cal
Am. Library
Class. 1288.804

March 1950

Manuscript Collection

Approximate number of pages: 850
Approximate number of illustrations: 2

Completed in partial fulfillment

of the requirements for

M.S. degree

Dr. Wendy Hamand Venter, Supervisor

Scope and Content

This collection of papers pertains to the life of Paul Sargent, artist, from Coles County, Illinois. They are of personal and public nature covering letters, class lecture notes, newspaper articles and exhibit guides. There are also various photographs that deal with family and professional subjects. Of special interest are biographies of Paul Sargent, some hand written by his brother. The time period of these papers is from 1889 to the 1970's.

Arrangement of the series is by topic, and within each folder by chronological order. Most papers had no apparent order with relation to any other group of papers. It was felt, therefore, that arrangement by topics would prove to be the most useful for the researcher without compromising the context of the materials.

Appraisal

Because Paul Sargent was an important figure in the Art world as well as in Coles County, these papers are of considerable value to the researcher. They document a personal side of the man as well as various aspects of his life. His class notes give insight to his teaching abilities and his painting methods. Newspaper articles and gallery guides note public opinion of his works. Some papers provide examples of Mr. Sargent's reasoning and his personal feelings about his paintings, creating a useful research tool both on the man and

his paintings.

In this collection, personal letters to other members of Paul's family (besides his brother, Sam) are lacking. It is possible that they were not saved by family members or are still in the hands of family members. It is possible that these are the only available papers because the donor apparently gave his complete collection of all the Sargent items in his possession to the University, including several paintings. The donor of the paintings was Paul's brother, Sam. Further research into family members still living in the Coles County area might be beneficial, however, the available papers should prove to be a valuable research tool to scholars.

Consider for Possible Discard

Box/File

- 1- A--Duplicate newspaper clippings--1946-1959
- B--Duplicate gallery guides--1946-1972
- Duplicate special events programs--1910, 1972
- 13-22--Newspaper clippings--1913-1972

(Duplicate gallery guides may be offered to the Eastern Illinois University Art Department for their files.)

PAUL TURNER SARGENT

Paul Turner Sargent was born on July 23, 1880, in Hutton, Illinois to John and Anne Marie Sargent. In 1889, he attended Westfield College, Westfield, Illinois, for a year. From 1900 to 1906, he was a student at Eastern Illinois State Normal School and was a member of its first football team. While there, he assisted in illustrating a botany text book written by faculty member, Otis Caldwell. These illustrations were pen and ink drawing of flowers and plants in wildlife. Caldwell helped Sargent get similar work and the University of Chicago to help finance his studies at the Art Institute of Chicago.

Sargent attended the Art Institute for six years, until 1912. He studied under John Henry Vanderpoel, Henry Wood Stevens and Charles Frances Browne. While at the Art Institute, Sargent won three mural competitions, the completed projects which were to be displayed in public buildings. These murals included, "John [sic] Rogers Clark Crossing Illinois to Capture Vincennes," in the John Smythe School, "Robin Hood Shooting Before the King and Queen," in the Crippled Children's Home, and "John Smith Landing at Jamestown," at the Sherman Park Field House. Throughout his career, Sargent's paintings received many honorable mentions by the Art Institute.

After he finished at the Art Institute, Sargent and other artists formed a free-lance art business in Chicago. Sargent disliked this work and returned to the family farm in Hutton to pursue a career as a professional artist. He continued to

contribute to exhibitions at the Art Institute, and in 1913, to the second annual exhibition of the Art Association of Charleston. In 1920, he made his first visit to Brown County, Indiana, and joined an established colony of artists. There he helped to form the Brown County Art Association.

In 1922, Sargent's painting, "The Water Boy," was purchased by the Marshall Field Company for reproduction in calendars. The original painting hangs in Chicago at the Butler School. During the 1930's, Sargent taught painting at Eastern. In 1934, Sargent received another honor. He received the Frederick Nelson Vance prize given by the Brown County Galleries Association for the best picture of the year, "Harvest Scene." He began to appear in the publication, Who's Who in Art, in 1939. Although he had problems selling paintings during the Depression, he finally had success after World War II.

Sargent never married, but his family consisted of two brothers, John and Sam. Sargent believed in the Kereshan faith which had headquarters in Esto, Florida. Those who believed in this religion saw good in every living thing and sought to protect it. Sargent died on February 7, 1946, at the age of sixty-five, due to a heart attack at his family home in Hutton.

Paul Sargent was known for his landscape paintings. He painted many familiar scenes of Hutton and Coles County. He traveled throughout Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Missouri, Wisconsin, Kentucky, Tennessee, Florida and California. Traveling helped to provide many landscapes for Sargent to paint.

His paintings were on exhibit in such places as the University of Illinois; Indiana University; Liebers Art Gallery in Indianapolis; the Sheldon Swope Gallery in Terre Haute, Indiana; Hollywood Park Library, Hollywood, California; Tuesday Afternoon Club, Los Angeles, California; and art centers in the Everglades, Florida. During his career, he was a member of Kappa Phi, honorary art fraternity, the Hoosier Salon in Chicago and Indianapolis, and the College of Fine and Applied Arts at the University of Illinois. His paintings can currently be found in the collections of the Art Institute of Chicago, Indiana University, University of Illinois, the Sheldon Swope Gallery, Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington, Illinois, Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, Illinois, and the Henry Ford Museum in Greenfield Village, Dearborn, Michigan.

Description of Collection

Box/File/Description

- 1- 1--Commemorative items from Westfield College and Eastern Illinois State Normal School--1889-1906

Business card, graduation announcement and other college memorabilia.
- 2--Sargent biographies--1933-1972

Various biographies of Paul Sargent, one autobiography.
- 3--Exhibit guides for the Paul Sargent Gallery, Eastern Illinois University--1950-1973

Exhibition schedules for gallery.
- 4--Critiques on Paul Sargent paintings--1924-1946

Reviews of his one-man shows and guest list for one show.
- 5--Exhibits of Paul Sargent paintings--1946, 1972

Brochures and press releases.
- 6--Inventory and gift of Sargent paintings to Eastern Illinois University--1972

Location of paintings at the University.
- 7--General correspondence--1900's

Letters on art supplies and contracts for giving painting instruction--1937-1944
- 8--General correspondence--1900's

Teaching contract--1941

Articles on paintings.
- 9--Notes taken from lectures--1910

Notes taken from lectures attended. Notes on artistic techniques.
- 10-12--Class notes--1941

Note cards on lectures given at Eastern Illinois University.

13-22--Newspaper clippings--1913-1972

Articles on exhibitions given by Sargent, concerning Sargent and his home, and a study of one of his subjects.

23--General correspondence of Paul Sargent--1906-1945

Letters concerning various topics relating to his paintings.

24-29--Correspondence from Paul to Sam Sargent--1932-1941

Letters of family matters and painting advice. Some mention of current events and exhibitions. Sketches included.

2-1,16--Photographs and negatives--1890

Boyhood pictures, several duplicates, some negatives.

2-4--Photographs.

Friends; Sargent alone and snow scenes.

5--Photographs.

Photos of subjects of paintings.

6-7--Photographs and negatives.

Photos of paintings.

8--Photographs.

Photos of Sargent painting in California.

9--Photographs.

Photos of a building.

10-11--Photographs and negatives.

14--California trip and Sargent painting indoors.

12,15--Photographs and negatives.

Exhibition of Sargent paintings--October 24, 1946

13,17--Photographs and negatives.

Photo of the Sargent homestead.

18-20--Photographs and negatives.

Snapshots of Sargent as a young man.

19--Photographs and slides.

Various unidentified photos and slides.

Container List

Box/File

- 1- 1--Commemorative items from Westfield College and Eastern Illinois State Normal School--1889-1906
- 2--Sargent biographies (Sam Sargent, Wm. J. Mitchell, Paul Sargent)--1933-1972
- 3--Exhibitions in the Paul Sargent Gallery, Eastern Illinois University--1950-1973
- 4--Critiques on Paul Sargent paintings--1924-1946
- 5--Exhibitions of Sargent paintings--1946, 1972
- 6--Proposal and inventory of Sargent gift to Eastern Illinois University--1972
- 7--General correspondence--1944
- 8--General correspondence--1941
- 9--Notes from classes--1910
- 10--Notes from classes taught--1941
- 11-- " " " " --1941
- 12-- " " " " --1942
- 13--Newspaper clipping, Charleston paper--1942
- 14-- " " , Decatur and Highland Park [Illinois] papers--1939, 1941
- 15--Newspaper clipping, Decatur, Illinois--1964
- 16-- " " , Charleston, Coles County and Chicago [Illinois] papers--1972

- 17--Newspaper clippings, Los Angeles [California] and Hyde Park [Illinois] papers--1913, 1929
 - 18--Newspaper clippings, Coles County area and Eastern student papers--1938, 1946
 - 19--Index of Daily Eastern News articles--1972
Newspaper clippings, Charleston and Eastern student and Los Angeles papers--1943-1972
 - 20--Newspaper clippings, Charleston, Eastern student and Los Angeles papers--1946
 - 21--Newspaper clippings, Mattoon paper--1946
 - 22-- " " , Decatur, Shelbyville, and unidentified papers--1947-1950
 - 23--General correspondence of Paul Sargent--1906-1945
 - 24--Letters from Paul to Sam Sargent--1932-35
 - 25-- " " " " " " --1936
 - 26-- " " " " " " --1936-37
 - 27-- " " " " " " --1937-38
 - 28-- " " " " " " --1938-1941
 - 29-- " " " " " " --1941, some undated material
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- 2- 1--Photographs--Boyhood pictures--1880-1906
 - 2-- " --Friends of Paul Sargent--1897-1945
 - 3-- " --Paul Sargent alone, adult--1926-29
 - 4-- " --Snow scene, various exposures
 - 5-- " --Subjects of paintings--1928
 - 6-- " --Sargent's paintings
 - 7--Negatives--5 x 7 negatives of Sargent's paintings
 - 8--Photographs--Sargent painting in California--1935
 - 9-- " --Unidentified building, photographer identified as pastor from Chicago church--1946

- 10--Negatives--Sargent's trip to California
- 11-- " --Sargent painting indoors
- 12--Photographs--Exhibition of Sargent paintings--
October 24, 1946
- 13--Photographs--Sargent homestead--February 6 & 7, 1946
- 14-- " --Sargent painting indoors--1938
- 15--Negatives--Exhibition of Sargent paintings--
October 24, 1946
- 16--Negatives--Boyhood pictures
- 17-- " --Sargent homestead
- 18--Photographs--Snapshots of Sargent as a young man
- 19-- " --Various photos and slides--1910
- 20--Negatives--one glass negative, remainder of snapshots of
Sargent as a young man

This finding guide was produced by the Historical Administration students of 1989-90 as part of the requirements for the class in Archives and Editing with Dr. Hamand-Venet. The project was chaired by Susan Haake with much assistance from Mr. Bob Hillman, University Archivist. Assignments were as follows:

Barbara Biehl--Sargent biography and Box 1, folders 1-4.

Eve Weipert--Box 1, folders 5-12.

Marie Rieber--Box 1, folders 13-22.

Mary Beth Shaw--Box 1, folders 23-29.

Angela Whitmal--Box 2, folders 1-19.

Susan Haake--Box 1, folders A-B, Box 2, folder 20, typing finding guide.