William Gehron, 1887-1958
Papers, 1917-2000 (bulk, 1929-1949)
.5 linear ft.

Acquisition Number: 2003-08

Acquisition: Donated to the Archives by Gilbert Seltzer in September 2003; additional material donated by Gilbert Seltzer in February 2012

Access: Access to the collection is unrestricted.

Copyright: Copyright to this collection is held by the Cranbrook Educational Community.

Preferred Citation: William Gehron Papers, Cranbrook Archives, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.

Photographs: In oversize box.

Index: See end of finding aid.

Processing: Jill Griffiths, July 2004; Cheri Gay February 2012
History

New York architect William Gehron (1887-1958)

In 1929, Gehron visited Stockholm to view Carl Milles’ sculpture and modern Swedish architecture. During his visit he wrote to Milles and asked permission to write an article about him, which was ultimately published in the journal *Architecture*. This began a lifelong friendship between the two men.

Gehron was instrumental in securing the 1938 commission for Milles of the bronze doors for the Finance Building at Capitol Park, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, a building designed by Gehron. A second commission, for a fountain at Harrisburg, was never realized. [Elisabeth Liden’s “Between Water and Heaven: Carl Milles Search for American Commissions” devotes a chapter to the Harrisburg Fountain sculptures]

Scope and Content of Collection

The William Gehron Papers consist primarily of correspondence between Gehron and Carl Milles from 1929-1949. The bulk of the correspondence relates to the Harrisburg projects and includes letters among Pennsylvania state officials, Gehron and Milles. Milles provides the artist’s view while Gehron’s letters are more practical – providing insight into the construction and mechanical processes of building a fountain. Milles’ correspondence also reveals the thought processes behind his work, his philosophical and spiritual views, and notes about life at Cranbrook and key figures on campus at the time.

Also included is a set of photographs, many of which relate to the Harrisburg fountains. These are housed in an oversize box with the collection. In addition, there are four architectural drawings of the fountains by Milles and one of the Finance Building bronze doors. These have been cataloged on Horizon and removed to the drawings collection.

Related Collections

- Carl Milles Papers (1989-13)
- George Gough Booth Papers (1981-01)
- Kate Thompson Bromley Papers (1981-04)
- Cranbrook Academy of Art Records of the Administration (1981-09)
- Cranbrook Foundation Records, RGI: Office Files (1981-05)
- Hillis Arnold Papers (2005-09)
- Marguerite Kimball Papers (1991-03)
- Nancy Leitch Papers (2007-04)
- Microfilm, Carl and Olga Milles Papers, Archives of American Art-The Detroit Society of Arts and Crafts
Box Number--Description

Box 1

CORRESPONDENCE
1. Incoming Correspondence, 1929-1930, 1937
2. Incoming Correspondence, 1938-1939
3. Incoming Correspondence, 1945
4. Incoming Correspondence, 1946
5. Incoming Correspondence, 1947
6. Incoming Correspondence, 1948-1949
7. Outgoing Correspondence, 1938-1939
8. Outgoing Correspondence, 1945
9. Outgoing Correspondence, 1946
10. Outgoing Correspondence, 1947
11. Outgoing Correspondence, 1948-1949

Box 2

OVERSIZE
Index

“Angel on the Horse” 1:4
Architectural League 1:7

Behrens, William 1:6, 1:11
Booth, Ellen 1:6
Booth, George 1:4

Cunningham Fountain, Chicago 1:7

De Geer Monument 1:4

Ferris, Hugh 1:3, 1:8
Flour City Ornamental Iron Co. 1:2
“Fountain of Faith” 1:3-4
Fredericks, Marshall 1:7

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, 1:1-10
Finance Building doors 1:2
Heaven 1:4

Kent, Donald 1:5-6, 1:10-11
Kimball-Hall & Co.
Kline, Svea 1:3-4

Lindbergh, Charles 1:3
Lindstrom, Verner 1:1, 1:4-6

“Meeting of the Waters” 1:3-4
Milles, Olga (health) 1:4
Millesgarden 1:5-6

National Memorial Park, Falls Church, VA 2:2

“Pegasus” (Des Moines, IA) 1:5

Rockefeller Center 1:2

Saarinen, Eliel 1:3-4
Saarinen Jefferson Medal 1:7
Schiwetz, Peter “Tex” 1:5-6
Sepeshy, Zoltan 1:4
Warlow, A. Judson 1:9-10
Washington, D.C. 1:3-5
Woolworth, C.W. 1:10