

Title: Sterling Strauser Papers
Creator: Sterling Strauser
Dates: 1917-2001
Collection Number: SG.2016.01
Extent: 1 linear foot (one box)
Language of Materials: English

Repository:
Sterling Strauser Gallery Collection
Kemp Library
East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania
200 Prospect Street
East Stroudsburg, PA 18301
570-422-3465
<http://quantum.esu.edu/library/>

Date Published: February 2017

Author: Finding aid written by Kelly J. Smith, CA

Abstract

Sterling Boyd Strauser (1907–1995) was born in Bloomsburg, Pa. to Boyd and Emma Strauser. He began painting at 15 and took a few art classes while attending Bloomsburg State Teachers College from which he graduated in 1928. After teaching elementary school in Mount Pocono, Pa. from 1928 to 1929, Strauser took a job as a shipping clerk at International Boiler Works. He exhibited his work during his lifetime while mentoring other self-taught artists, such as Jack Savitsky, Victor Gatto, and Justin McCarthy.

The Sterling Strauser Papers and Photographs include correspondence, photographs, news clippings, exhibit catalogs and lists, and art publications.

Historical/Biographical Sketch

Sterling Boyd Strauser (1907–1995) was born in Bloomsburg, Pa. to Boyd and Emma Strauser. He began painting at 15 and took a few art classes while attending Bloomsburg State Teachers College from which he graduated in 1928. After graduation, he married Dorothy Ferry and moved to East Stroudsburg, Pa. where he lived for the rest of his life.

After teaching elementary school in Mount Pocono, Pa. from 1928 to 1929, Strauser took a job as a shipping clerk at International Boiler Works. He retired from the company as the company secretary in 1962. Strauser continued painting while he worked his day job. His first show in New York City was in 1939 at the Zimbalist Gallery. He continued to exhibit his work during his lifetime while mentoring other self-taught artists, such as Jack Savitsky, Victor Gatto, and Justin McCarthy.

In 1989, Strauser received the Delaware Water Gap Celebration of the Arts award, which is now named after he and Dorothy Strauser, also an artist.

Sterling and Dorothy Strauser had one child, a daughter named Jill. Strauser died on September 16, 1995 in East Stroudsburg, Pa.

Scope and Content Note

The Sterling Strauser Papers and Photographs include correspondence, photographs, news clippings, exhibit catalogs and lists, and art publications. Business correspondence is separate from personal correspondence, although many correspondents were both friends and business associates so their letters could fall into either category. Most of the letters are to Sterling, or to both Sterling and Dorothy. Letters to Dorothy, or to their granddaughter, Kathryn Zervos, are included in the appropriate series.

In addition to the business correspondence, Strauser's professional life is represented mostly by receipts, exhibit catalogs, exhibit, flyers, and exhibit lists. His interests as an artist are represented by the publications and by the news clippings about art that he chose to keep.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in five series: Series I is Kathryn Zervos, Series II is Dorothy Strauser, Series III is Sterling Strauser, Series IV is Photographs, and Series V is Oversized Materials. The folders within each series are arranged alphabetically by topic.

Access and Use

Restrictions: None

Preferred Citation

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Related Collections

Sterling Strauser Gallery Collection, a collection of paintings by Sterling Strauser and other outsider artists on permanent exhibit at East Stroudsburg University's Innovation Center

Container List

Box 1	Dorothy Strauser
Folder 1	Artist registration card, undated
Folder 2	Correspondence, 1958, 1997-c2000
Folder 3	Medical, 1933
	Kathryn Zervos
Folder 4	Correspondence, 1993, 2001
Folder 5	Loan agreement, 1999
	Sterling Strauser
Folder 6	Artist identification card, undated
Folder 7	Art publications, The American Art Journal – Art News
Folder 8	Art publications, Art News - Portfolio
Folder 9	Blank postcard and notecards depicting art work, undated
Folder 10	Cancelled checks, 1956, 1962, 1971
Folder 11	Catalogs, 1917, 1989-1999 Correspondence
Folder 12	Business, 1956-1995
Folder 13	Personal, 1965-1984
Folder 14	Exhibit flyers, 1940-1983
Folder 15	Exhibit lists, 1970-1980
Folder 16	The Fire School certificate of attainment, 1952
Folder 17	Handwritten lists and notes, undated
Folder 18	Loan agreement, 1966
Folder 19	Medical, 1918 News Clippings
Folder 20	Art, 1952-180
Folder 21	Articles about Sterling Strauser, 1966-1992
Folder 22	General interest, 1973-1976
Folder 23	Receipts and bill, 1966-1979
Folder 24	Sketch, undated
Folder 25	Travel, 1981, 1990
	Photographs
Folder 26	Art work, undated
Folder 27	Postcard to Kathy, undated
Folder 28	Sterling and Dorothy, undated
Folder 29	Unidentified, undated
	Oversized Materials
Folder 30	Aloha Oe sheet music, undated
Folder 31	Art Publications, 1960
Folder 32	Newspaper Clippings, 1969, 190, undated