

B. J. O. Nordfeldt Collection

New Mexico Museum of Art Library and Archives

Extent: .833 linear feet [2 document boxes]

Dates: 1949-1972

Language: English

Related Materials: The museum's exhibition files, catalogs and other institutional archives mention BJO Nordfeldt. The museum library also holds a biographical file on Nordfeldt.

Biography

Bror Julius Olson Nordfeldt [BJON] was born in Sweden on April 13, 1878. He became a naturalized citizen of this country.

In 1909 he married Doctor Margaret Doolittle but divorced her in the 1920s.

He established himself in Santa Fe in 1918, and lived there for the next two decades, spending part of his time, however, in Wichita, Kansas. He became proficient in painting and lithographs.

In 1944 he married Emily Abbott who had been a student of his in Minneapolis where he had taught.

He died on April 22, 1955 at the age of 77 years.

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SECTION I : Biographic Material

1. Biographic sketch of BJON. N.d. Carbon copy. Chronologic presentation. 2 pp. Typewritten.
2. Biographic sketch of BJON. N.d. Carbon copy. Partly chronologic presentation. 3pp. Typewritten.
3. Biographic sketch of BJON. N.d. Photocopy. Chronologic presentation. 1 pg. Typewritten with longhand additions to many of the items.
4. Table of Contents, draft, for book by F. Van Deren Coke [?] on BJON. Also: Index to same book [?]. 4 pp. Typewritten. Original.
5. Interview. Typewritten transcript. Fragmentary. Of "D" by "C." Analyzes background, style, and artist friends of BJON.

SECTION II : Photographs

A. Artist's Works, untitled. 8x10.

- 1-7. All Photographs in these Folders are black and white glossies and semi-glossies of BJON's works. Some are duplicates. While they are not identified by titles, many can be correlated to the titles in the lists digested in Section III, infra. Each Folder contains ten photographs except Folder 7 which contains only five. Thus, these Folders contain a total of 65 photographs.

B. Artist's Works, titled. 8x10.

- 8-10. All photographs in these Folders have the same characteristics as those in Folders 1-7 except these are titled. Each folder contains ten photographs, or a total of 30 photographs. Some of them also contain comments. There is no indication of their attributions

C. Miscellaneous Prints, Negatives

11. - Artist's works (6), untitled. 8x9 $\frac{3}{4}$. Black and white, semi-glossies.
- Composite (1) of photos in San Francisco Chronicle Sunday Magazine. August 8, 1915. Black and white.
12. (a) Of artist's work (1), untitled. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 7 $\frac{1}{2}$. Black and white.
(b) Of young male (2), unident. 5x7. Black and white.
(c) Of artist's work (1), titled. 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ x 9 $\frac{1}{4}$. Tinted paper.

- (d) Of artist's work (1), titled. 7 ¾ x 8 ¾. Tinted paper.
 - (e) Of artist's work (1), titled. 7 ½ x 9 ½.
 - (f) Snapshots (3) of artist in front of home. 3 ½ x 4 ¾. Mounted.
 - (g) Of artist's work (1), titled. 8 ½ x 11. Mounted, cardboard.
 - (h) Of sketches by artist (4), untitled. 6 x 6 ¾. Medical scene.
 - (i) Of artist's works (8), in color with descriptive comments. 2 ¾ x 3 ¾. Negatives.
 - (j) Of artist's work (1). Black and white. 8x10. With descriptive comments on reverse side.
 - (k) Of artist's work (1). Color. 3 ½ x 3 ½. Descriptive comments on reverse side.
13. (a) Of artist's works (4). Color. 4 x 5. Encased. Untitled.
- (b) Of artist's work (8). Black and white. 4 x 4 ¾. Of artist (1). Black and white. 4 x 4 ¾.
- (c) Of artist's work (3). Color. 3 ¾ x 4 ¾.

SECTION III : Exhibition Information

1. Catalog. N.d. Items 1 to 425. 42pp. Titles, media, dates done.
2. Catalog, draft. N.d. Items 1 to 425 duplicating catalog above. Much markings, deletions, etc. 61 pp.
3. Catalog, draft. N.d. 62pp. Items out of order.
Page 72 has pencil additions, items 75-138.
4. Fragmentary list, 2pp. Longhand in pencil. Pgs. 73-74.
Titles, media, names of owners.
5. Bibliography. N.d. Draft, 6pp. Heavily edited.
6. Catalog. University Gallery, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis. Exhibition dates: April 27 through May 25, 1970.
Lists 46 works. Brief biographic sketch.

7. "Catalogues of Exhibits." Typewritten list, 2pp. By BJON. Original.
8. Flyer, mailed. Oversize, folded.
9. List. BJON works to be included in Retrospective Exhibition – Oil Paintings. N.d., no attribution. [Probably BJON.] 2 pp. Original; red ink notes.
10. List. BJON works to be included in Exhibition. May 3, 1971. 3pp. Original. Heavily edited. Marginal notes in red ink.
11. Letter. 5-13-71: F. Van Deren Coke [Dept. of Art, UNM] to MFA. 2 pp. Lists 50 works he believes should be in the BJON show.
12. List. N.d., no attribution. Carbon copy, 2pp. Lists BJON titles under various museums, etc.
13. Receipt. California Palace of the Legion of Honor. 2pp. May 15, 1956. Carbon copy. Acknowledges receipt of 41 BJON works from Mrs. B.J.O. Nordfeldt as a gift to Achenbach Foundation.
14. List of works numbered 139 to 166. Typewritten. 5 pp. With details on titles, dates done, names of collectors. All oils on canvas.
15. List of paintings on loan to UNM; of paintings "not going on show." 2 pp. Many longhand notes, changes.
16. List of paintings exhibited at indicated sites. With dates. 1 sheet.
17. Announcement. Paintings by B.J.O. Nordfeldt. Harriet Hanley Gallery, Minneapolis. January 9 to 28, 1949.
18. Catalog. University of Minnesota. B.J.O. Nordfeldt: Seascape, Landscape and Still Life Paintings. Sketch of artist's life. Checklist of 22 works.

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SECTION IV : Correspondence

The correspondence found in the material comprising this collection was in complete disarray. Evidently no attempt had been made to keep multi-paged letters intact or to maintain them in chronological order. Some letters incomplete. This rendered archival assembling difficult in many cases. To the extent possible, the correspondence has been placed in chronological order, year by year. It traces dealings between Emily (B.J.O.) Nordfeldt, the artist's second, surviving wife, and Van Deren Coke, Chairman of the Department of Art at the UNM, during the years the latter devoted to writing a definitive biography of the artist. B.J.O. Nordfeldt died in 1955. Almost all the

correspondence reflects a joint effort to render the biography – and the artist’s works – as complete a presentation as possible. The correspondence spans the years of Coke’s literary efforts: 1953-1972.

Most of the letters are from Emily to Van Deren Coke or vice versa.

1. 1953-1956.

1. - From Margaret Nordfeldt to EN (1).
- From EN (1).

1964

2. 13 letters.

1965

3. 10 letters.

1966

4. 25 letters.

1967

5. 48 letters.

1968

6. 15 letters.

1969

7. 16 letters

1970

8. 20 letters

9. 14 letters.

1972

10. 5 letters.