THE PORTERS-PARSONS COLLECTION

New Mexico Museum of Art Library and Archives

Extent: 2.2 linear feet [5 document boxes]
Dates: 1920-1985
Language: English

Related Materials:
The museum library has artist biographical files for Aline Porter, Eliot Porter, Fairfield Porter and Betty Parsons.
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Prologue

The material in this Collection concerns members of the Porter family, and Betty Parsons as well. There were four Porters, each of whom at first blush seemed quite independent of the others in terms of their art. In reality all four had a common denominator. They were votaries of art in all its forms.

— Fairfield Porter [FP] was a painter.

— Eliot Porter [EP], his brother, became a preëminent nature photographer.

— Aline Porter, née Kilham [AP], Eliot’s wife, was also a painter, but in addition, made boxes containing art objects made or assembled by her.

— Stephen Porter was the son of Aline and Eliot Porter, and became a sculptor and artist.

All four were deeply attracted — and attached — to nature. It became the common thread of their personal and artistic lives. Eliot’s and Fairfield’s father, Philip Porter, in 1911, purchased what became known in the family as “the island”: Great Spruce Head Island off the coast of Maine in Penobscot Bay. Throughout their lives the four Porters returned to it: indeed Fairfield spent his summers there throughout his life, Aline and Eliot built a house there; and Stephen had his own house on the island. He contracted a short marriage to Katherine Pavlis.

Detailed sketches of the Porters and their art are to be found in a brochure entitled THE PORTER FAMILY, by Philip Ferrato, The Parrish Art Museum, Southampton, NY. 1980, and in a newspaper article by Karen Evans, Special to The Boston Globe, December 12, 1984.

Betty Pierson - Parsons [BP] was the second daughter of three born to Suzanne Miles and J. Fred Pierson Jr., and was born in New York City on January 31, 1900. She was a renowned art dealer, artist, and owner of the Betty Parsons Gallery which opened at 15 East Fifty-Seventh Street in New York City in September 1946. She was an intimate friend of the Porters, and exhibited their works quite frequently in her gallery. Her only marriage to Schuyler Livingston Parsons ended in divorce. Betty Parsons suffered a massive stroke and died at the age of 82 in the year 1982. She had no immediate survivors.

These collections were organized into the following Parts:

Section I. Eliot Porter
Section II. Aline Porter
Section III. Fairfield Porter
Section IV. Betty Pierson-Parsons
Section V Miscellaneous
Section VI Correspondence from Aline to Eliot Porter

Section VI was given to the New Mexico Museum of Art in 2003 by Patrick Porter.
SECTION I : ELIOT PORTER

Box 53  A. Biographical Studies, the Four Porters and Betty Parsons


3. Photographs of EP.

* Additional EP photos, found in FP papers, now in Section III, Part B, Folders 8 – 9, infra.

B. Announcements, Catalogs, Clippings: EP


   Dual exhibit:
   - Paintings by AP (15). Titles and prices.
   - Photographs by EP (36). Titles from Greece and Asia Minor.
   - Personal Statements by AP and EP.
   - Photographs on cover of AP and EP.

   Biographical sketch of EP books and career. Definitive lists of books and photographs by area.


    Also announces first publication of EP: Intimate Landscapes, a portfolio (limited to 250 sets) of ten signed dye-transfer prints from Metropolitan Museum current exhibition. Price of portfolio. $1,750.


    To raise funds for Tom Udall for Congress.
    Attached: color photo, 4 x 5.
    Black and white copy reproduced in Announcement.


    Photograph of skeletal head of animal, by EP reproduced on card.
   Various artists, including EP. Cover: reproduction of EP photo of Church entrance.

17. No dates.
      Cover: EP photo of woods [vide Folder 7, supra].
      Inside left: photo of EP, informal.
      Inside right: Biography, done categorically.


18. Newspaper Clippings.

C. Bibliography by EP

This material is from a loose-leaf binder in the order listed below as kept by EP. In reality it is a diary rather than a bibliography, as he called it, which records his artistic achievements in the field of photography in meticulous detail. All the pages are typewritten. The material falls into — and is presented in — the following categories.

- Folder 30: Books and articles by EP.
- Folder 32: Books and articles about EP.
- Folder 33: EP awards and honors.

Each category contains too many items to allow for enumeration in these pages. They span over 40 years. But to read the entries thus made by EP is to relive the days of his years. Supplemental material (viz. books and brochures) is to be found in the Photography Section of the museum library.

* * *


These 129 sheets run in chronological order (as prepared by EP) from 1936 to 1979. Each page lists the show; the gallery or other place of exhibition (e.g. The Boston Symphony Hall); the period of the show; the kind of material displayed; and a synopsis of additional pertinent facts.
These 62 sheets, all in chronological order from 1939 to 1978, describe the publication; the topic; the photographs used; and a synopsis of additional pertinent facts.

These 53 sheets, all in chronological order from 1937 to 1979, list each publication containing EP Photographs; a description of the photographs; the book or article by title and author; and a synopsis of additional pertinent facts.

24. Books and articles about EP.
These 22 sheets, running from 1946 to 1978, list titles and authors of books and other publications devoted to the work of EP, and contain additional pertinent information.

25. EP awards and honors.
These 23 sheets ranging from 1941 to 1977 list all awards given to EP for his achievements during his career as a photographer.

D. EP scrapbook

26-27. These pages, as in the case of EP’s Bibliography, supra, have been removed from a loose leaf binder, but kept in the chronological order found. They span the period 1936–1944.
The scrapbook is not in traditional form, which is to say clippings from newspapers and magazines. It contains photocopies of letters, announcements, articles, and some new clippings, totaling approximately 130 sheets.
Of special interest are a group of letters written by Alfred Stieglitz to EP. They are to be found near the beginning of the “scrapbook.” The cover sheet, typewritten, contains a caveat:

(For Research Only: No to be used of reproduced without written permission from Eliot Porter.) 4–83

SECTION II : ALINE KILHAM PORTER

A. Announcements and Catalogs

   Lists Aline Kilham, two works: Femina and Hen and Chickens Edward Hopper in same show. Card from the Whitney: Catalog sent with Museum’s compliments. Newspaper clippings folded into booklet.

2. Leaflet. August 1959 .... At the Art Gallery [of the Museum of New Mexico]
Lists various shows. Alcove Shows, July 22 – August 13. Includes AP.

   Exhibition of paintings by AP.


   EP – Color photos.
   AP – Oils
   Stephen Porter – Sculpture.

   Dual show:
   AP paintings, titles and prices (15).
   EP photographs, titles (36).
   Photos of EP and AP, each with a Personal Statement of artistic objectives.


   Various shows and exhibitions. Includes EP and AP.

   Cover: color reproduction of AP watercolor [?] entitled, *Sweet William*.
   Inside: Betty Parsons quotation: “These flowers so radiant with the passion of the spirit, rise from the canvas like the secrets of Eros.”

10. Announcement card. [Same format as card in Folder 7.] N.d. CP Recent Paintings. August 5 – 19, 19— . La Galeria Escondida, Taos, New Mexico.

   [Probably pre-1950.]
   Also: Reduced card, 3½ x 4½. Same show.

12. Announcement. On thin silver – coated sheet. 4 x 5. Aline Kilhan Invites you to an

[Probably pre-1950.]

Also: on same paper. 4 x 5¼ as folded. N.d. Aline Kilham Pastels. December 14–25, —. Gallery Zero, Boston.


          Casual sketch on cover. By AP [?].


B. Photographs

With a few exceptions, the photographs in these Folders, all black and white glossies, were taken by an unknown party. All of them, with three exceptions, depict artistic work of AP. It is not unreasonable to ascribe the photography work to either AP or EP. But that can only be a hypothesis. Descriptive comments on a few come from the backs of the pictures. All are 8 x 10 unless otherwise indicated.

15. Winter Bulbs. 1976. 7 cc.

          Original work described as 32 x 22.

15A. Blue Morning. 1977. 8 cc.

          Original work described as 30 x 24.

Box 54


          Original work described as 23 x 25.

17. Shelved objects assembled in boxes by AP. Two photographs, each different, 5½ x 7, mounted on cardboard, 8 x 10.

18. Shelved objects assembled in boxes by AP. Two photographs, each different. Unmounted.

          One has reverse side comments:
          Robert Nugent/Photography.
          The Betty Parsons Gallery.
          Title: Architecture and Bottles.

18A. Shelved balls titled Homage to Mao Tse-Tung in boxes by AP. Descriptions on reverse sides. Robert Nugent photographer. 7 cc.
19. Interior scenes (3). Credit for photography at foot of the three photographs [5½ x 7, mounted on cardboard, 8 x 10] by handwritten name: Janet Russek. [May have taken other unidentified pictures.]

20. Photograph of AP.
   Reverse side:
   Brittany – 1940s
   Photo by Etienne Ret.

   Reverse side of each print:
   Tincher Photography Santa Fe.

C. Newspaper Clippings

These clippings already yellowing with age, report on exhibitions and artistic achievements of AP and, in many instances, of other members of the Porter family. They are assembled in separate decades. No attempt has been made to describe the contents of the various articles, except for unusual items.

22. 1920 – 1929.

   Only one clipping for this decade, but a most remarkable one:
   A New Hampshire paper, Carroll County Independent, Sept. 17, 1926, Vol. XLIII, No. 5, reports on a house party given by Mr. and Mrs. Walter H. Kilham II, a Boston architect. It reviews the family history, mentioning their children, including AP (née Kilham), many of whom had begun artistic careers.


   An unidentified clipping reports on “the first New Mexican exhibit” by Tesuque painter AP at MNM Art Gallery. Discloses previous shows at the Grace Horne Gallery in Boston and the Whitney Museum in New York. Dated: June 21, 1953.


   Some articles have pictures of AP. N.d.


   Article entitled Paintings that “Sing” at Munson Gallery. Santa Fe.
   Show: May 23 – June 3.
   Photo of AP work, Blue Morning. [See B. 15A, supra.]
26A. Undated.

One article has letter of AP to The New Mexican on the “New movement” in the arts. Dated: Dec. 15, — [probably 1950s]. Another shows a pastel by Aline Kilham of Elizabeth Berenson, cousin of Bernard Berenson. N.d.

D. Dolls’ Houses

One of AP’s favorite pursuits was purchasing, constructing dolls’ houses and furnishing each room with authentic period items. Some of those furnishings were purchased; some were made by her. Almost all the pieces of furniture in her specially made doll’s house, donated to the Museum of International Folk Art in Santa Fe, became collectors’ items.

   (a) Living room (2). Front scene
   (b) Dining room (?) Front scene.
   (c) Bedroom. Note slippers.
   (d) Kitchen. Note floor tiles.
   (e) Bathroom.
   (f) Entrance hall. Note wall telephone.
   (g) Reduced photos of some of above rooms; three to a sheet, 8 x 10; two sheets cropped.

28. 6-7-82: Letter. Jeanie Pulestin Fleming to AP.
    Returning photos (4) of doll’s house rooms. Photos by Robert Nugent. Photos enclosed.

29. 1-10-81: Letter. Leslie Travis to AP.
    Returning color photos (3) of doll’s house rooms. Photos enclosed.

30. Miscellaneous photos (2).


33. Postcards (5).
Depicting various houses. Four in color photographs; one a black and white picture. All from different countries and areas.

34. Miscellaneous.
Pamphlets depicting various dolls’ houses in galleries and museums.
Also: rough notes for designs, costs, etc. By AP.

35. Correspondence.

Refers to her paintings, presumably at the Gallery.

7-22-59: TWX. Eleanor Bedell Gallery to AP.
Wishing her good luck at Gallery show.

4-30-61: TWX. [Same parties.]
[Same message.]

5-7-72: Letter. Int’l Folk Art Foundation, Santa Fe, to Mr./Mrs. EP.
Acknowledges gift of NM style doll house.

7-18-72: Letter. MNM to AP.
Encloses publicity on her doll house.

c. 1972: Letter. [Sender’s name unclear] to AP.
Invitation to visit at Pojoaque, NM. Hand-drawn scene on cover: The Little Theatre, by Gaines.

10-17-85: Dewey Galleries, Ltd. to AP.
Discusses appraisal of her doll house.

Also: Appraisal with detailed description of house and contents, including two original paintings by AP. Value: $6,500.

36. Advertisements.
For dolls’ houses and furnishings, and for books. Prices listed.

SECTION III: FAIRFIELD PORTER

A. Gallery Notices

   Cover: picture of FP painting of young girl standing at table.
2. Catalog. Hirschl and Adler Galleries, Inc., NYC. Recent work by FP. April 11 – 29, 1972. Illustrated. Includes foreword by Peter Schjeldahl and (last page) biographical sketch.


5. Notice by card. Tibor de Nagy Gallery, NYC. Works from Personal Collection. February 6 – March 21, 1980. FP is included. Face of card has picture of Portrait of Tibor de Nagy by FP.


B. Photographs

8. Photographs (2), color. 5 x 6½. Floral groups. FP.

9. Photographs. Color [except 1], various sizes. All of EP; some with son [not identified.]
   (a) Four of EP and son.
   (b) Two of EP.
   (c) One, black and white, of EP. Head study, profile.
C. Letters and Notes

10. 12-8-72: Letter. FP to Steve – [son?].
    Advice and suggestions.

5-26-74: Letter. FP to Marcy –.
    Discusses his efforts to secure signatures for a petition seeking a
    moratorium on nuclear energy plants.

12-16-83: Letter (note). Arthur M. Bullowa to FP.
    Christmas greetings.

N.d.: Letter. Anna — to AP.
    Talks about AP’s show.

N.d.: Letter (on card). AP to EP.
    Draws attention to painting reproduced on cover of card: Spring
    Bouquet by Morris Graves.

N.d.: Note. FP.
    Discusses Jacques Marozer’s The Secret Methods of the Old
    Masters. Points out that Marozer was head of the technical
    laboratory of the Louvre. Deals with Marozer’s paint media,
    used by Raoul Dufy, others.

D. Clippings, tearsheets, etc.


15. 57th Street Review. December 1975.
    Article on FP. Pages 8b to 8f.

    Tearsheets pp. 102 – 105.
    Illustrations of FP work, color.

    Obituary column; describes FP as an “international painter.”
SECTION IV : BETTY PARSONS

Introductory Comments

Betty Pierson Parsons [BP] died at the age of 82 years, leaving behind clouds of glory from her career as an artist, art dealer, and — foremost — as an adventurous New York gallery owner whose shop on 57th Street in New York City played a major role in spotlighting the New York School of painting in the late 40s and early 50s. She was indisputably one of the pioneers in American art. The Betty Parsons Gallery, which opened in 1946, showed the works of Jackson Pollock, Mark Rothko, Ad Reinhart, Barnett Newman, Saul Steinberg, Eliot and Aline Porter, and many others.

Her papers came from the Porter family and are included in the Porter Collection. They are deserving, however, of recognition as an independent collection. For, as noted above, Betty Parsons was not only a dealer, she was an artist of renown whose works in wood and on canvas were exhibited not only in America, but in England and France as well.

Here are only some of the records of her life.

Box 55

A. Gallery Notices


   Opposite pg.: list of exhibitors, past and present.
   Cover: Jackson Pollock: #2, 1951. Black and white.

   Attached: Hand – drawn watercolor on smaller card of abstract objects.
   Inscribed “Love Betty.”

   Front: BP oil on wood, in color. One card addressed to Mr. & Mrs. Eliot Porter.

    On single sheet of yellow paper.

    Reverse side of blue card: photograph of BP in favorite pose.

    Quotations from BP.
    Photo of BP [vide Folder 11, supra].

    Wood piece.

    Cover: photograph of BP [vide Folder 11, supra].

    Includes entry, “September 18 – October 6.
    Betty Parsons Memorial Show.”
    Also: “Summer or Fall: Betty Parsons and her Artists: Works On Paper.”

    Foreword, “ARTBETTY,” by Edward Albee.
    Cover: Print of BP gouache on paper, 5¼ x 7.
Back: Poem, by Betty Pierson Parsons.

B. Articles on Betty Pierson Parsons

   A definitive article on BP and her imprint on the art field. With a caricature of BP on the opening page by Saul Steinberg dated 1958.


   Picture of BP caricature by Saul Steinberg. 1958; and photo of BP.

   Color illustration of “wood doodles by Parsons.”


   Steinberg caricature of “his favorite art dealer.” Photo of BP at age 78; inset: childhood picture. Article incomplete.


C. Photographs

The photographs of BP in this Part C are odd – lot, most of them undated and some without identifying the photographers. They recapture BP at various stages of her life.

25. Circa 1930s.
   (a) Black and White. 4½ x 6½. Endorsed by BP: “This is all I can find right now –.”

   (b) Magazine [unident.], French; tear sheet. Photo of BP, subtitled, “Betty Parsons dans sa galerie.”

   (c) Color print. 3½ x 3½. Casual snapshot in garden.
26. **Circa 1940.** Black and white. 8 x 10. Posed seated.

27. **1956.** Black and white. 8 x 10. Street scene.  


### D. Postcards

31. **Postcards from BP to Aline Porter.**

   - 7-17-68: Picture of wood fragment from Nationalmuseet, Denmark.
   - 6-30-69: Picture of Art Association building, Newport, RI. Sent from New York.
   - 72: Picture of tapestry. Sent from Italy.

   [Date unclear]: Picture of *Les coque licots* by Claude Mond. Louvre. Sent from Paris.

   [Date unclear]: Picture of Lady Caroline Scott by Sir Joshua Reynolds. Sent from England.

E. Newspaper Clippings

32. Articles from various newspapers with photographs of BP. Latest one from Albuquerque Journal, May 20, 1979 describes her as “Abstract Expressionist Champion.”

33. Additional articles sans pictures of BP.

F. Odds and Ends

34. Obituaries. [BP died July 23, 1982.]

   – Letter. 7-27-82: Rosalind Constable to Aline Porter.
   – Letter. 8-1-82: Aline Porter to Rosalind Constable.

35. December 1984. Card. Friends of Betty Parsons to others. [This one to Mr. & Mrs. Eliot Porter.]
   Back: Poem [printed] by BP.
   Also announcement of remembrance meeting on January 12, 1983 at BP Gallery.

   8-2-82: Rhode Island School of Design to Gallery Artists of BP Gallery.
   1-20-83: Bill – to Aline Porter.
   Plans continuance of BP Gallery.

37. Questions and answers. 2 pp. [First page missing.] Typewritten, carbon copy source unknown; probably BP. [One Answer (6.) refers to “my painters.”]
   Relates to Gallery and artists.

SECTION V : MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

   Includes essay [and illustrations of art] by Wayne Anderson.
   [Katherine Porter was married to Stephen Porter, son of EP and AP.]

   Short commentary on art form of Katherine Porter. Illustration of Grey Square, 1975, oil on canvas, 85¼ x 64.

4. Photographs (prints) of the works of world – famous artists.

SECTION VI : CORRESPONDENCE, ALINE PORTER TO ELIOT PORTER

The dates listed below have been taken from the letters themselves where possible, not from envelopes. That is, they agree with the date of writing, where given, not that of mailing.


01-27-54 Aline Porter to Eliot Porter in Homestead Florida.
General news plus information from Lyda Taylor about Florida
(postmarked 01-27-54; letter dated 01-30-54)

02-07-54 Aline Porter to Eliot in Homestead Florida

02-12-54 Aline Porter to Eliot in Homestead, Florida
General news plus enclosure of letter to Aline from Jonathan at the Hill School.

02-16-54 Aline to Eliot in Homestead, Fla.

02-20-54 Aline to Eliot in Homestead, Fla.

02-20-54 Aline to Eliot. Second letter on same day.
Reference to check received.


02-22-54 Aline to Eliot in Homestead, Florida
Much about Steve and broken tooth. Aline planning trip to Washington and New York. Asks about lost pictures.

02-23-54 Aline to Eliot in Florida.
“Folk Art business gets hotter and hotter.” Comments about R.B. I. [Inverarity] and museum.

02-27-54  Aline to Eliot in Florida.
Mentions museum mess; also some papers to sign. Will stay with Nancy while visiting Jon in March. Mentions Adlers and Von Helms. Mention of house in Tesuque.

03-01-54  Aline to Eliot in Florida.
Family news but comment on museum crookedness.

03-04-54  Aline to Eliot in Florida.
Much about children and trip East. Trying to decide about house in Santa Fe and the (new?) one in Tesuque. Comments about not having been able to paint.


03-07-54  Aline to Eliot in Florida
General news. Story about Randall Davey and sheriff. [Dated March 7 but postmarked March 6]

03-08-54  Aline to Eliot in Florida
“Here is the last installment on the Folk-Art”. Includes 6 clippings on the controversy of dismissal of Iverarity, one a letter to the New Mexican by Eliot Porter defending Inverarity and a telegram of thanks from Inverarity to Porter

03-11-54  Aline to Eliot in Florida

03-16-54  Aline to Eliot in Florida
Family news. Written on Santa Fe Super Chief. On way to Washington.

03-24-54  Aline to Eliot in Florida
Letter about her visit to Washington. Mentions letter that Eliot wrote to newspaper. Aline feeling ill during visit.

03-27-54  Aline (in New York) to Eliot in Florida
Aline’s activities in New York and friends met there.

04-04-54  Aline (in New York) to Eliot in Florida [Letters beginning to be forwarded to other Florida cities]. Meeting friends in New York which she loves

04-06-54 Aline (in New York) to Eliot in Florida

04-09-54 Aline (in New York) to Eliot in Florida
Seeing friends—mentions Steichen and Dorothea Lange.

04-11-54 Aline (in New York) to Eliot in Florida
Aline’s activities in New York. Visited Dorothea Lange (very ill) in hospital. Suggests summer in Maine. [Enclosed in envelope is a short undated letter to Eliot that seems to have been written in Santa Fe. Question of renting Tesuque house. Not able to paint.]

04-12-54 Aline (in New York) to Eliot in Florida
Aline’s friends and activities in New York. Mentions moving from Delgado Street house at end of May [apparently renting].

04-18-54 Aline to Eliot in Florida
Waiting for train in Chicago. End of letter announces arrival home in Santa Fe.


05-05-54 Aline to Eliot in Florida
General family letter. Moving from Delgado Street back to house in Tesuque.

05-08-54 Aline to Eliot in Florida. Problems with pump etc. causing Aline to feel depressed. Wants Eliot to come home as soon as he can. Horrified by [Joseph] McCarthy. Not trying to paint now.

05-08-54 Aline to Eliot in Florida. General family letter. Not as happy in Santa Fe as in East and anxious to get to Maine.

05-08-54 Aline to Eliot in Florida. Family letter. Aline unhappy that people don’t seem to
appreciate her. Wanting Eliot to come home for move to Tesuque house.

05-14-54  Aline to Eliot in St. Marks. [Letter forwarded back to Santa Fe] General family activities.

09-23-54  Aline in New York to Eliot in Santa Fe. About her accommodations. [Perhaps recovering from something?]


09-25-54  Aline in New York to Eliot in Santa Fe. Reports on having had analysis for her depression. Staying on in New York for a bit.

09-29-54  Aline in New York to Eliot in Santa Fe. Enjoying New York but lonely at times.


10-04-54  Aline in Pottstown, Pa to Eliot in SF. About visiting Jon and Steve at Hill school.

10-06-54  Aline in NY to Eliot in SF. General letter.

10-11-54  Aline in NY to Eliot SF. General letter about friends she is seeing and artists she has met.


10-14-54  Aline in NY to Eliot in SF. Sorry for Eliot. Much analysis of their two personalities.


10-18-54  Aline in NY to Eliot in SF. General letter. Returning to Santa Fe.


01-24-55  Aline in New York to Eliot in Santa Fe.
General letter. Aline hoping to begin painting again.

01-25-55  Aline in New York to Eliot in Santa Fe
General letter—Aline happy with picture done with new type black paint—and sold.

01-27-55  Aline in New York to Eliot in Santa Fe
General letter enclosing one from Henwar Rodakiewicz.


01-28-55  Aline in New York to Eliot in Santa Fe
General letter. Enclosure from Jonathan.

02-03-55  Aline in New York to Eliot in Santa Fe

02-05-55  Aline in New York to Eliot in Santa Fe
Difficulties of finding place to live in NY; plans for summer. Aline not liking to live in Santa Fe.

02-07-55  Aline in New York to Eliot in Santa Fe
General letter. Strathmore paper being sent to Eliot.

02-10-55  Aline in New York to Eliot in Santa Fe
Mostly about Aline’s hemorrhoid troubles.

02-20-55  Aline not wanting to live in Santa Fe, especially in winter. Wants Pat to live with her. Not sure about their marriage. Hopes to start painting


02-23-55  Aline in New York to Eliot in Santa Fe
General letter.

02-26-55  Aline in NY to Eliot in SF.
General letter; meeting friends, etc.

03-07-55  Aline in NY to Eliot in SF
Mentions ailment. Mentions painter Ossorio; Aline getting education in modern art.

03-10-55  Aline in NY to Eliot in SF
General letter.
03-15-55  Aline in NY to Eliot in SF
General letter; boys are with her in NY; about her ailment


03-26-55  Aline in NY to Eliot in SF
General letter.

03-30-55  Aline in NY to Eliot in SF
General letter; problems with boys; mentions Fairfield

03-30-55  Aline in NY to Eliot in SF
General letter; mostly about children

04-04-55  Aline in NY to Eliot in SF
General letter; dog problem; depressed; not sure should be in New York but doesn’t want to be in Santa Fe. Planning to be in New York next winter.

05-05-55  Aline in NY to Eliot in SF
Family letter.

04-15-55  Aline in NY to Eliot in SF
General (unhappy) letter.


04-20-55  Aline in NY to Eliot in SF
Aline very dpressed ; seeing Marynia for counseling.

04-27-55  Aline in NY to Eliot in Tucson
General letter.

04-29-55  Aline in New York to Eliot in Tucson
General letter about plans.

04-30-55  Aline in NY to Eliot in Tucson
Regarding sending Pat to Dalton [school]

05-02-55  Aline in NY to Eliot in Tucson
Attended Gina Knee show; mentions possibility of divorce. Still not able to paint. Discusses why Eliot not able to read and his mother’s relation to him

05-05-55  General but apologizes for previous letter [see next letter]

05-06-55 Aline in NY to Eliot in Tucson. Letter discusses their relationship. Apologies and criticisms Recommends that Eliot see psychiatrist. [Postmarked May 5, dated May 6; actually written. morning of May 5]

05-09-55 Aline in NY to Eliot in Tucson. Planning trip back to Santa Fe. [Letter apparently returned undelivered]

05-10-55 Aline in NY to Eliot in Tucson. Long letter on their marital problems. She an artist;; thinks Eliot not. [Pages oddly numbered]

05-11-55 Aline in NY to Eliot in Tucson General letter about arranging for Dalton school.

10-21-55 Aline in NY to Eliot in SF General letter, mostly about Pat

10-26-55 Aline in NY to Eliot in SF General letter. Starting to paint.


12-15-55 Aline to Eliot in Mexico. General letter about Christmas and the Aline in NY to Eliot in children

12-19-55 Aline to Eliot in Mexico General letter about Christmas and children. Encloses letters from the three boys.

01-05-56 Aline in New York to Eliot in Mexico General letter.

01-10-56 Aline in New York to Eliot in Mexico Crisis with Pat. Aline recognizes that it was mistake to have Pat in New York. Needs Eliot’s help. Mention of Ellen.

01-19-56 Aline in New York to Eliot in Mexico. [Written 01-10-56]. Now feels she can handle situation but probably return to Santa Fe. NY a mistake with Pat. Not painting.

01-19-56 Aline in New York to Eliot in Mexico.
General letter about gifts for boys. Encloses letter from Abel Greigo and one from Aline to Eliot written January 22 about friend thinking Aline was homosexual and number of homosexuals in group.

01-24-56 Aline in New York to Eliot in Mexico
[Part of letter written on 01-31. Both parts found in envelope postmarked in March and containing letter dated 03-13.]
The 01-24 letter is general. 01-31 part concerning problem with Pat. 03-13 letter about going to Pottstown. Pat still a problem.

04-03-56 Aline in Santa Fe to Eliot in Mexico City
Depressed about relation to children, especially to Pat.

04-11-56 Aline in Santa Fe to Eliot in Mexico City

10-01-56 Aline in Santa Fe to Eliot in New Hampshire
General letter about Aline’s life in Santa Fe.

11-18-56 Aline in New York to Eliot in Santa Fe
General letter about Aline’s flight to NY and getting settled there.


11-25-56 Aline in NY to Eliot in SF
Primarily about problem with the boys in New York.

11-29-56 Aline in NY to Eliot in SF
Returning to Santa Fe. Mentions Ellen and various doings. Party with man.

01-18-57 Aline in NY to Eliot in SF
Reports train trip to NY. Ellen showed her some of Eliot’s photographs.

01-22-57 Aline in NY to Eliot in SF
General letter.

01-28-57 Aline in NY to Eliot in SF.
General letter.
01-31-57  Aline in NY to Eliot in SF
General letter.

02-05-57  Aline in NY to Eliot in SF
General letter about family matters

02-11-57  Aline in NY to Eliot in SF
General letter—questions about boys. Aline had lunch with the
Alexander Calders

02-16-57  Aline in NY to Eliot in SF
Mostly general letter. Aline encouraged about her painting—Betty
Parsons (gallery owner) likes latest ones.

02-17-57  Aline in NY to Eliot in SF
General letter—Aline reports on great concert by Segovia

05-07-57  Aline in SF to Eliot in NY
Aline announces she has bought a television. Happy that she got
in Museum of Fine Arts show (Agnes Martin didn’t) Aline
pleased that she has now been given anti-depressant.

17.  May 8, 1957 -
05-08-57  Aline in SF to Eliot  in NY
Raises question of whether everyone would be happier if she and
Eliot divorced. Mentions Ellen whom she likes and mentions
possibility of Eliot marrying Ellen in she and Eliot were divorced.
Discusses her relation with Betty Parsons.

05-13-57  Aline in Santa Fe to Eliot in NY
General letter. Aline had dinner. With Louis Ribak. She invited to
join “Ruins” gallery in Ranchos de Taos

06-04-57  Aline to Eliot. [No envelope. Guessing at year but letter was with
1957 group]
Primarily about difficulty of keeping Pat happy. Going up to see
O’Keeffe. Can’t seem to concentrate on painting.

09-15-57  Aline in NY to Eliot in SF
Problems on trip to NY.

09-18-57  Aline in NY to Eliot in SF
About getting Pat off to North Country School (Lake Placid)
09-23-57  Pat in Lake Placid to Aline in New York (in care of Parsons)
        Likes school.

09-27-57  Aline in NY to Eliot in Santa Fe
        Aline missing Pat; having trouble concentrating on painting.


09-27-57  Walter Clark (Director, North Country School) to Aline in NY
        Pat doing well. [In same envelope] Pat in Lake Placid to Aline in N

09-28-57  Aline in NY (Parson’s address) to Eliot in Santa Fe
        Wants to keep family together now. About fixing up kitchen.

10-02-57  Aline in NY to Eliot in Santa Fe
        General letter about returning soon to SF.

10-07-57  Aline in NY to Eliot in SF
        General letter.

10-07-57  Aline in NY to Eliot in SF
        About possibility of divorce—perhaps better to try one more time.


11-07-57  Aline in Cambridge, Mass. To Eliot In Santa Fe
        Aline’s plans for settling in Boston area.

11-14-57  Aline in NY to Eliot in SF
        Feeling very tired and disoriented without Eliot’s support.

11-21-57  Aline in NY to Eliot in SF
        Aline’s depression and confusion. Feels adrift. Encloses letters
        from Pat and from Pat’s school about effect of news of divorce on
        Pat.

03-11-58  Aline in Cambridge to Eliot in SF
        Plans for children; feeling deprived of a home.

03-29-58  [In envelope postmarked Mar 9 but letter dated Mar 29] Aline in
        Boston to Eliot in SF.
        Aline trying to decide where to live, how to furnish wherever she
        lives. Thinks if Eliot does not want to give up house [in Tesuque]
he shouldn’t pursue divorce. Wants to get agreements worked out before lawyers are involved.

03-31-58 Aline in Cambridge to Eliot in Santa Fe
About where she should live. Being in East near children’s schools seems good idea but is drawn to Santa Fe.

04-13?-58 Aline in Santa Fe to Eliot in Mexico City
About Aline’s drive with the boys from New York to Santa Fe. Snow storm, etc.

20. May 26, 1959 – Nov. 4, 1959

05-26-59 Dorothy Norman (New York?) to Aline (Santa Fe?) [Not in envelope]
Reply to invitation to come to Santa Fe

05-25-59 Aline in Santa Fe to Eliot in Portal, AZ
Wedding invitations(?) sent out. General letter. Show planned for artists whose work refused by museum

06-11-59 Aline in SF to Eliot in Portal, AZ
General letter about people she has seen. Mentions Paul Horgan. Going to see Baumann puppets.

06-12-59 Aline in Santa Fe to Eliot in Portal, AZ
General letter. Steve wants to go to Colorado College.

06-16-59 Aline in Santa Fe to Eliot in Portal, AZ
General letter. Has finished 7 paintings. Arriving (somewhere) Friday.

11-04-59 Aline in Boston to Eliot in Santa Fe
Aline and Betty [Parsons] had dinner with Jon and Zoe. Includes letter started Nov. 3. Reports on many people she has seen. Mentions of Stieglitz, Steichen, Rothko, etc.


11-07-59 Aline in New York to Eliot in Santa Fe

01-16-60 Aline in SF to Eliiot in Jackson, MI
Brief note. Rushing off to her show

05-12-60 Aline in SF to Eliot in Jackson, MI
05-17-60  Aline in SF to Eliot in Jackson, MI
Dog died (Linus?). Hummingbirds. Mention of firing of Fred Black as head of Fine Arts Dept. of Museum of New Mexico. Clippings enclosed.

05-20-60  Aline in SF to Eliot in Jackson, MI

06-07-60  Aline in SF to Eliot in Jackson, MI
General letter: weather, etc.[Envelope encloses letters of June 1 and June 3. June 1 letter about camping trip, etc. June 3 letter mentions Aline taking down her show and the continuing business about Fred Black’s firing. Randall Davey supporting him, Van Soelen against both Black and Davey.


06-10-60  Aline in Santa Fe to Eliot in Jackson, MI

06-12-60  Aline in SF to Eliot in Jackson, MI
Mentions Eliot’s trying to get pictures of Cerulean warbler. Most of letter about problems with Steve. Letter from Jonathan enclosed.

06-23-60  Aline in SF to Eliot in Seney, MI
Complaints about Steve. Mentions Agnes Martin. Getting rady for show in Gallery 11.

10-08-60  Aline in NY to Eliot in SF. [Letter begun Oct. 8; finished and mailed Oct. 11.]
Planning for her Gallery 11 show.

10-15-60  Aline in New York to Eliot in Santa Fe
Mentions Agnes Martin and Fairfield Porter and Betty Parsons opening show in Utica with Nelson Rockefeller.

10-18-60  Aline in NY to Eliot in SF
General letter. Planning for opening of her show. Returning to Santa Fe. Comments again on how much better and more stimulated she feels in New York.

10-26-60(?)  Aline in Vienna to Eliot in SF
Enjoying European trip.

10-02-66 Aline in Cleveland to Eliot in Santa Fe.
Visiting the William Gateses in Ohio. They have five of her paintings.

10-04-66 Aline in NY to Eliot in SF
Mentions Time magazine to have article about 20th anniversary of Betty Parson’s gallery. Getting ready for trip to Russia. Mentions sale of Steve’s sculpture.

10-10-66 Aline in Leningrad to Eliot in Santa Fe
Reports impressions of Leningrad and the other people on the tour.

10-16-66 Aline in Moscow to Eliot in Santa Fe
Reports on impressions of Moscow. General look grim. [Envelope includes postcard from Moscow, new clippings, and 1955 postcard from Aline to Eliot commenting on show of his pictures.

10-07-67 Aline in SF to Eliot in Gattemburg(?)

05-09-68 Aline in New York to Eliot in Gatlinberg, TN
Reporting work being done on house.
Report on enjoying New York museums with Steve. Steve will be getting divorce from Kathy.

02-14-70 Aline in Kenya to Patrick Eliot Porter in Santa Fe [letter for circulation to others]
Report on adventures in Africa.

06-17-72 Aline at Great Spruce Head Island, Maine to Eliot in Reykjavik, Iceland
Report on days in house on Island mostly by herself. [Included in envelope: Letter from Betty to Eliot; letter from Raymond Ickes to Eliot (regarding letter to editor about Vietnam war); letter to mom and Pop from Pat; letter from John Van Valkenburg to Eliot.]