

DONALD BEAUREGARD
COLLECTION

New Mexico Museum of Art Library and Archives

Extent: .416 linear feet

Dates: 1909-1979

Language: English

Related Materials: Exhibitions that included art made by
Beauregard are filed separately in the archives.

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Biography

In the small town of Fillmore, Utah, where he had been born on August 17, 1884, Donald Beaugard (herein DB) completed the cycle of his life, tortured with cancer, in his thirtieth year, on May 2, 1914.

His painting career, already full of achievement and promise of a brilliant future, produced highly acclaimed oils, watercolors, murals, and sketches. At the age of 16 years he enrolled in Brigham Young University where he studied art. By the year 1906 he had earned enough money to travel to Paris and enter the Julien Academy and study with Jean Paul Larens.

In the year 1909, led by an unremitting interest in archaeology, he joined an expedition headed by Professor Byron Cummings, and met Dr. Edgar L. Hewett, then the Director of the School of American Research. Later, fatefully he met Frank Springer (herein FS), who, taking an immediate interest in DB, financed the ensuing activities of the young artist until his demise in 1914.

One of his last challenges was a commission to produce a series of murals of the life of St. Francis of Assisi, which were to be installed in the auditorium to be built – it was – in the Museum of Fine Arts planned for Santa Fe. His death, however, cut short his work. Kenneth Chapman and Carlos Vierra finished the murals from his sketches. They are still to be seen on the walls of the museum's auditorium. He finished only one panel, The Renunciation of Santa Clara; the remaining six were done by Chapman and Vierra.

SECTION I

BIOGRAPHIC MATERIAL

1. Biographic sketch. Rough draft. 2 pp. Heavily edited. Unsigned.
2. Biographic sketch. 2 pp. Unsigned but intended as an introduction to an exhibition of DB paintings at the MFA from November 10 through January 12 [No years but probably c. 1920].
3. Biographic sketch. 1 pg. Unsigned. N.d.
4. Biographic sketch. 1 pg. By Donald O. Strel, Curator in charge at MFA.
5. Extracts (2). From El Palacio. April/May, 1914. 6 pgs. Biographic sketches.
6. (folder deleted)
7. Print-out of DB Art in MFA Collections.

SECTION II GALLERIES

1. Gallery notes about DB exhibit in the "old Palace [of the Governors] in February 1915. Taken from El Palacio, Vol. 2, Nos. 4-5. January-February 1915. 2 pp.
Notes that some of the art depicts Judge A.J. Abbott; K.M. Chapman; Abe Spiegelberg.
2. Catalog. The New Museum of Santa Fe 6 pgs. September 1 – October 1, 1920. Photocopy.
List of artists, including DB, and of works exhibited by each.
List of murals in Auditorium.
3. Catalog. Museum of New Mexico, School of American Research Incomplete. 1932. DB Collection. 2 pgs.
Cover: Picture of State Art Museum
Essay. The Paintings of Donald Beauregard.
By Alice Klauber. Photo of one mural.
List of DB paintings, watercolors exhibited.
4. Catalog. Fine Arts Building. Exhibition of DB Paintings. November 10, 1963 through January 12, 1964.
65 pieces exhibited.
Cover: portrait of DB by the artist.
5. Catalog. Salt Lake City Art Center. Utah. Paintings and Drawings by [DB], 1884-1914. May 26 to June 16, 1968.
With invitation card.
Cover: self-portrait.
6. Catalog. Fillmore Bicentennial Art Exhibit. DB. June 27 – July 11, 1976.
With invitation card.
Cover has self-portrait.

SECTION III NEWSPAPERS/MAGAZINES

Only a few fragmentary articles have been found, and are digested in this Section III.

1. Arizona Desert Semi – Weekly News. August 30, 1909. Newspaper. Article: Important Archaeological Discoveries by Utah Explorers. By DB. Page 6. Illustrated. Photocopy. [Reduced in size pictures partly illegible.]

Photos taken by Stuart M. Young, official photographer, Utah Archaeological Expedition show ruins of prehistoric inhabitants of America.

Article explains the six pictures of Sega Canyon, Arizona.

2. The Tribune. Newspaper Art. January 1, 1911. [Page 1 missing.] Headline. Painting Awards Causing Trouble. Unfairness Charged. Photocopy of follow-up pages. First prize awarded to DB for *Over the Mesa*.

- 2A. El Palacio Magazine. April and May, 1914. Photocopy. Article. Answers the Call. [DB], Artist, Dies Where He Was Born. Cropped at bottom. Picture of artist. Traces his life and achievements.

3. New Mexican. November 10, 1963. Headline describes opening of exhibition of art of DB.

Describes works of DB presented to the Museum by Frank Springer in a Memorial Exhibition.

Includes sketches for murals in the Museum Auditorium completed by Carlos Vierra and Kenneth Chapman.

Photo of DB self-portrait.

4. The Progress. [Not otherwise identified. Photocopy incomplete.] June 4, 1976. Reports that Gwen Hunter and Edith Callister are flying to Santa Fe to choose paintings for DB Bicentennial art show.

Photo of DB self-portrait [q.v. Folder 3, supra].

5. [No indent.] c. 1963. Bicentennial Art Show of DB works at Territorial State House Legislature Room. Utah.

Photos (2) of DB works:

Hazel. Uncompleted.

Girl in the Mirror.

SECTION IV

CORRESPONDENCE

The letters in this Section IV, running from 1910 to 1979 (DB died on May 2, 1914) are all photocopies made from originals in an earlier archive. Some of them [A.] are grouped in series with typewritten explanatory cover sheets digested under the heading, Earmarked Letters. They will be digested and filed intact – even though a few of them are also found in [B.] General Correspondence.

Viewed as a whole, the letters exchanged by DB and FS and Edgar L. Hewett are digested in chronological order; the earliest, while DB was still alive, dealing mostly with his financial needs, his travels, and his art work, until the year 1913 when he learned of his serious illness. From that point until his death the letters reflect the concerns of all the letter-writers and the courage of DB as he approached the end of his life.

Letters dating from late 1914 on relate to his work and to efforts on the part of his surviving sister and other relatives to seize a great number of his paintings, which the correspondence will show were meant to go to FS in gratitude for his financial assistance during the last decade of DB's life. They eventually went to FS who in turn donated them to the MFA.

A . Earmarked Letters.

1. Cover Sheet marked, "Copy of Letters of [DB] Oct. 29, 1912 to April 19, 1914." [Letters attached do not coincide with these dates.]
2. 4-19-14: DB to FS.
Announces he is at last home from the hospital.
3. 5-2-14: Archaeological Society of New Mexico [Paul AF. Walter, Sec'y] to Hon. [FS]. [Date of DB's death.]
Announces receipt of check for \$131.41 to cover bills of St. Luke's Hospital.
Sending a list of DB paintings.
4. 5-9-[14]: Edgar L. Hewett to FS.
Discloses "no hope" for DB.
5. 7-14-25: FS to Edgar Hewett. 3 pp.
Sending file of DB letters to Hewett.

Shows in "great detail" what occurred between them during 18 months preceding DB's death, including DB letter dated April 13, 1914 showing transfer of his paintings etc. at Santa Fe to FS "as my property."

Also sending "formal transfer" by FS of title to DB paintings to MFA
6. 7-14-25: FS Memorandum. 1 pg. Holographic.
Effects transfer to [MFA] of works of DB upon condition that they "remain permanently on exhibition *** where they are now installed ***."
7. Cover Sheet marked, "Letter (s) from Dr. Hewett to [FS] etc."
8. 4-2-14: Hewitt to FS. 4 pp. Serialized, 28 to 31, incl.
Traces medical history of DB.

4-1-14: I.B. Perkins, M.D. to F.C. 1 pg. Serialized 32.
Same topic.

4-7-14: Hewett to FS. 4 pp. Serialized 33 to 36.
Mostly about DB work.

- 4-9-14: Hewett to FS. 1 pg. Serialized, 37.
[Still no knowledge.]
- 5-2-14: Archaeological Society [Paul A. F. Walter, Sec'y] to FS. 1 pg. Serialized, 38.
Acknowledges receipt of check for \$131.41
9. Cover Sheet marked, "Letters etc. April & May 1914."
10. 4-1-14: I.B. Perkins, M.D. to FS.
Reports on DB's condition.
- 4-2-14: Hewett to FS. 4 pp.
[Same contents, different version of letter in Folder 8, dated 4-7-14.]
11. Cover Sheet marked, "Letters of [DB]. Oct. 29, 1912–April 19, 1914." Serialized 1-27 [26 missing].
Note at bottom: \$250 a quarter = 18 mo. – about 1500."
"Final hospital acct. 131."
12. 10-29-12: DB to FS. [This and all others in series are typewritten.] 2 pp. 1-2. From France.
Discussing financial arrangements.
- 12-20-12: DB to FS. 2 pp. 3-4. From Paris.
Discussing his career.
- 1-8-13: DB to FS. 1 pg. 5. From Leysin, Tuisse.
Discussing work and money problems.
- 5-20-13: DB to FS. 2 pp. Two letters. 6-7. From Leysin.
Discussing his work in both letters.
Notes he feels in "tip-top condition."
- 7-26-13: DB to FS. 2 pp. 8-9. From Munich.
Discussing work and money problems.
- 9-12-13: DB to FS. 2 pp. 10-11. from Munchen.
Discussing plans to return to U.S.
- 10-13-13: DB to FS. 1 pg. 12. From Paris.
- 10-23-13: DB to FS. 1 pg. 13. From Paris.
Has purchased ticket to N.Y.

13. 1-29-14: DB to FS. 2 pp. 14-15. From Santa Fe.
Writes about his plans for walls of MFA auditorium.
- 2-10-14: DB to FS. 2 pp. 16-17.
Discusses work on first panel.
- N.d.: Canticle of the Sun. [No attribution.] 1 pg. 18.
- 3-6-14: DB to FS. 1 pg. 19.
Is having bad time again with his stomach, and swelling on his neck. [Shows much uneasiness.]
- N.d.: DB to FS. 1 pg. 20.
Same topic.
- 3-13-14: DB to FS. 1 pg. 21. From St. Luke's Hospital.
Same topic.
- 3-18-14: DB to FS. 1 pg. 22. From hospital.
Reports on operation.
- 3-27-14: DB to FS. 2 pp. 23-24. from hospital.
Discussing his condition; cannot continue work.
Talks about his bravery.
- *4-7-14: DB to FS. 1 pg. 25. From hospital.
Hopes to go home soon.
Hewett has written about advisability of Chapman and Parsons finishing his work.
States that "whatever I do I shall turn over to you."
- 4-19-14: DB to FS. 1pg. 27.
Reports he is "back home."

B. Other Letters.

1910 to 1913.

14. 3-7-10: DB to E.L. Hewett. From Bd. of Education, Ogden, Utah. 2 pp.
Describes himself as a "tall red headed artist, and as "still enthusiastic toward archaeological studies *** a strenuous chap. ***."

- 4-26-10: DB to Hewett. From Ogden, Utah. 2 pp.
Questioning publicity work he is asked to do: will he be remunerated?
- 5-5-10: [Hewett] to DB. 2 pp.
Responds to DB letter, 4-26. Explains nature of publicist works.
- 5-9-10: DB to Hewett.
Responds to Hewett letter, 5-5.
- 5-13-10: [Hewett] to DB.
Responds to DB letter, 5-9.
- 9-2-10: DB to Hewett.
- 10-17-10: DB to Hewett. 2 pp.
Taking up pottery(!).
- 11-30-10: DB to Hewett. 2 pp.
15. 1-11 (11?): DB to Hewett. 2 pp.
Discloses he is in Leysin, Switzerland, feels perfectly strong.
Feels a need to take courses in anatomy at the Beaux Arts, and in Decoration(!).
- 11-1-11: DB to Hewett. 2 pp.
Heading to Europe rather than to Santa Fe.
- 12-18-11: [Hewett] to DB. 2 pp.
Encloses "letter of presentation" that may be helpful.
Enclosed: Letter dated 12-18 to the directors of Museums and Art Galleries.
16. 3-17-12: DB to "My Dear Neil." 4 pp. From Paris.
Chit-chat; discloses plans.
- N.d. [mid-1912]: DB to FS. Letterhead of School of American Archaeology. [From Paris?]
First mention of his illness.
- 16-A. 5-10-12: DB to Hewett. 5 pp. From Paris.
- 9-29-12: DB to Hewett. 3 pp. From Bretagne, France.
- 10-8-12: Hewett to DB.
Implies that FS will "see him through" financially.
Enclosed: Letter to FS, same date.

- 10-16-12: DB to Hewett. 3 pp. From Douarnenez, France.
Discloses he is at end of his resources.
- 10-28-12: [Hewett] to DB.
Refers to DB letter, 10-16; discloses that FS will send him funds.
- 10-29-12: DB to FS. 2 pp. From France.
Thanks him for his support. Relates his past life in a detailed biographic sketch.
- 12-11-12: DB to Hewett (?). 3 pp. [Slightly cropped. From Switzerland.]
Discusses his plans:
- 12-20-12: DB to FS. Longhand, 5 pp; typewritten copy. 2 pp. From Paris.
Losing "touch" with Southwest feeling. Discusses his physical problems, but sets forth his plans for next summer.
17. 1-8-13: DB to FS. [Fragmentary.] Typewritten copy, so marked. From Switzerland.
Details on his illness.
- 2-4-13: [Hewett] to DB. 2 pp. From Switzerland.
Sets forth new plan for artwork at "this exposition."
- 2-17-13: DB to FS. Postcard.
- 3-31-13: DB to Hewett. 3 pp. From Switzerland.
- 4-3-13: DB to Neil. 5 pp. From Switzerland.
- 4-8-13: DB to FS. 3 pp. From Switzerland. With typewritten copy, so marked.
Self-analysis of his art.
- 4-18-13: [Hewett] to DB. 2 pp.
Discussing mural project.
- 5-20-13: DB to FS. 2 pp. From Switzerland. With typewritten copy, so marked.
Discloses that he is working out sketches "in a primitive manner as possible" for the proposed San Diego exhibition building
- 6-12-13: DB to Hewett. 2 pp. Switzerland.
Is sending him sketches.
- 7-26-13: DB to FS. 4 pp. From Munich. With typewritten copy, so marked.
- 9-12-13: DB to FS. 5 pp. From Munich. With typewritten copy, so marked.
His stomach is bad again. Planning to return to U.S.
- 9-13-13: DB to FS. From Paris [?] on French letterhead.
Hasn't arranged return passage yet.

- 9-26-13: DB to Hewett. 3 pp. From Paris.
Arranging passage to U.S., leaving in two weeks.
- 10-15-13: DB to FS. From Paris.
Feeling better: staying on.
- 10-23-13: DB to FS. With typewritten copy so called.
Has purchased ticket home; sailing on November 8.

1914

[DB died on May 2.]

Jan. - Feb.

- 18.** 1-2: Paul A. F. Walter [School of American Archaeology] to FS. Typewritten.
Preparing for arrival of DB.
- 1-15: DB to Dear Neil. 6 pp. On letterhead of the Montezuma Hotel, San Francisco.
- 1-29: DB to FS. 4 pp.
Seeks photos for sketches. With copy so-marked.
- 2-10: [Same parties.] 5 pp. Typewritten.
Setting forth expenses for stretchers, canvas, etc.
- 19.** 3-6: DB to FS. With typewritten copy, so-marked.
"Disagreeable bit of news." Stomach and growth on neck. Told doctors to delay surgery
Seeks FS advice on whether to hold off the surgery.
- 3-13: DB to FS. With copy, so marked. On letterhead of St. Luke's Hospital.
With typewritten copy, so-marked.
Regrets his work will "be broken into."
- March-April: Extracts from letters of FS to KM. Chapman.
All lamenting DB's impending demise as announced by DB.
- 3-16: Walter to FS.
- 3-18: DB to FS. With typewritten copy, so-marked.
Post surgical. Confident as to recovery.
- 3-26: Philip Hillkowitz, M.D. to I.B. Torkins, M.D.
Reports on tissue removed from DB.

- 3-27: DB to FS. 6 pp. With typewritten copy, so-marked.
Discloses he is terminally ill.
- N.d. [c. 3-28]: DB to FS. [Copy of original missing; copy, so-marked.]
Upset over delay in his work(!)
Sends last bill.
- 3-30: DB to Mrs. Harry L. Wilson. [Copy of original missing; copy, so-marked.]
Instructions for post death.
20. 4-1: I.B. Perkins, M.D. to FS. [Copy of original missing; copy, so-marked.]
Describes surgical procedures on DB.
- 4-2: Hewett to FS. 4 pp. [Copy of original missing; copy, so-marked.]
Describes DB condition.
- 4-7: Hewett to FS. 4 pp. [Copy of original missing; copy, so-marked. Second copy, slightly different.
Considering alternatives for finishing murals.
- 4-7: DB to FS. From St. Luke's. 3 pp. With copy, so-marked.
Reports that Hewett advises that Chapman and Parsons could finish the panels.
- 4-8: DB to Hewett. 2 pp. [Last pages missing.]
Talking about disposition of DB art.
- 4-9: Hewett to FS.
Announces no hope for DB.
- *4-13: DB to FS. 3 pp. With copy, so-marked.
States that all his sketches, paintings, etc. at Santa Fe are for FS.
Also his photos and colored prints and books, etc. [Q.v. letter that follows; letter of 5-5-14 below; and letters in Subsection C, infra.]
- 4-16: FS to Walter [Paul A.F.].
Announces that DB has left St. Luke's for his home. Asks that DB works be preserved, intended for permanent collection [at MFA].
- 4-19: DB to FS. [Copy of original missing; copy, so-marked.]
Home. Expects "to pick up right along."
- 4-21: I.B. Perkins, M.D. to Hewett.
Case hopeless.
- 4-23: Walter to FS.

(May; Oct.)

21. 5-2: Walter [Paul A.F.] to FS. [No copy of original.]
Copy, so-marked.
- 5-5: [Lillian Beauregard] to FS. 5 pp.
Claims late brother's works.
[But vide Subsection C)nfra.]
- 5-27: [Same parties.]
- 5-30: Hewett to FS. [No copy of original.] Copy, so-marked. 4 pp.
Describes his disposition of DB's works.
Suggests that St. Francis Plan is his as well: Chapman and
Vierra acceptable.

C. The 1925 Family Dispute

The orderly digest of all letters in this Section IV in chronologic order is interrupted by those in this Subsection C to cover separately the brouhaha that arose in 1925 when DB's relatives made a claim 11 years after his demise to all the paintings he left to FS. This belated attack is the subject of the letters digested below.

22. 10-15-14: Lillian Beauregard [herein LB] to FS. The beginning of a claim that didn't come to full flower until 11 years later.]
- No date, but c. 1914: [First name not clear] C. Wilson to FS. [But see letter, 5-9-25, Chapman to FS, infra.] Enclosing complete Catalogue of canvases and paintings of DB, which are held at School of American Archaeology (the letterhead of the letter).
- Attached: Catalogue (2 pp.) of Oil Paintings with sizes (34);
photographs; postcards; prints; sketch books; water colors;
etc.

23. 3-31-25: William King (U.S. Senator) to Frank Springer. 2 pp. With typewritten copy, so-marked.
Announces his receipt of communication from his brother Samuel L. King, attorney for Mr. & Mrs. Nelson Beauregard [parents of DB], concerning DB paintings, which should have been turned over to them as personal representatives of his estate. Included murals done at FS' commission representing the life of St. Francis. [There follows an elaboration of the parents' claim to "nearly 100" of these paintings.] Understands they have been given to the Museum by Springer.
24. 4-2-25: [FS] to William King.
Acknowledges receipt of letter dated 3-31.
Suffering from heart problem, needs more time to reply.
- 4-6-25: FS to Kenneth M. Chapman. 4 pp.
Declares to be "up against a most despicable annoyance ***."
Describes family claims in detail.
- 4-7-25: William King to FS. 5 pp. With two typewritten copy, stamped received April 17, 1915 at office of Senator.
Takes issue with all claims of Beauregard family.
- 4-14-25: FS to Senator Jones. Draft.
- 4-22-25: [FS]. Note at outset: "In letter to Ada." Then: To Eva Springer.
Explication (abbreviated) of circumstances.
- 4-28-25: Paul AF. Walter [V.P., First National Bank of Santa Fe.]
Disturbed over "preposterous claim" made by Senator Willaim King.
[Arthur] Seligman [President] "will post" Senator Jones [as to true facts.
- 4-30-25: FS to William King.
Attached: draft of letter, 4-30-25, FS to Senator Jones.
- 4-22-25: Kenneth M. Chapman to FS. 4 pp.
Sets forth his version of facts; consistent with FS version.
- 4-28-25: Statement. Chapman. 2 cc. with letter of transmittal
25. 5-4-25: Chapman to FS. 4 pp.
- 5-6-25: Paul AF. Walter to FS.
Doubts whether anything further will be heard from Utah.
- 5-9-25: Chapman to FS.
- 5-15-25: A.A. Jones [Senator, N.M.] to FS.
Fully supports FS.

- 5-15-25: William H. King [Senator, Utah] to FS.
Withdrawing as counsel to Beauregards.
- 6-3-25: Hewett to FS.
States his version of facts, same as FS statement.
- 7-14-25: Statement. FS. Copy.
7-21-25: Hewett. Receipt for letters and papers.
- 10-15-25: Museum of New Mexico to El Palacio Extracts. Records transfer of
DB works to MNM.

D. Other Letters, continued.

- 26.** 6-5-26: Texas State College For Women to Frank Springer.
- 2-26-16: Lillian Beauregard to Hewett. 4 pp.
Abusive of Frank Springer.

Attached: short note by Hewett: "I answer no letters written in the
spirit of this one."
- 11-25-58: Memorandum. Wayne L. Mauzy to MFA.
Sets forth what he did to provide a home at MFA for DB art.
- 3-5-68: Robert R. Benson, Loveland, Colorado to Edna C. Robertson, Curator,
MFA.
3-21-68: Edna C. Robertson to Robert R. Benson. With copy.
Mentions Ada Springer Davis, daughter of Senator Frank Springer.
- 12-13-73: Benson to Robertson.
12-27-73: Robertson to Benson.

3-21-74: Florence Brown (Mrs. A. C.) Penberthy to Robertson.
 6-18-74: [Same parties.]

- 3-13-74: Benson to Robertson. With color photos (4). Mrs. A.C.
 3-21-74: Penberthy, Arcadia, CA to MFA
- 6-6-74: Benson to Ken Schar, Photographer. Note at bottom from Schar to Benson.
 6-18-74: [Same sender] to Edna C. Robertson [MFA].
- 7-2-74: Benson to Louise Durston, MFA.
- 8-8-74: Benson to Robertson.
- 11-25-74: Benson to Robertson.
- 3-27-75: Benson to MNM Press.
- 4-15-75: Robertson to Benson.
- 2-7-76: Benson to Brigham Young University. With note attached to Robertson.
- 1-6-79: Stan Jones, Page, Arizona to Robertson.
 Has photo of DB self-portrait. Available to her for copying.
- 1-15-79: Robertson to Jones.
 Asks to see photo.
- 2-25-79: Jones to Robertson. 2 pp.
 Sending DB material. Asks for return of photo.
- 3-12-79: Jones to Robertson. 2 pp.
 Acknowledges return of photo. Reports DB art in museum at Fillmore, Utah; includes pen-and-ink sketches, five oils, etc.
- 4-18-79: Jones to Robertson [?]. Enclosing color negatives (2) of DB and works taken at Fillmore Museum.
- 5-3-79: Robertson to Jones.
 Robertson to Edward A. Warner III, Seattle, Washington.

SECTION V

MISCELLANEOUS

1. Obituaries of DB.

Deseret Evening News. May 16, 1914. By J. Frank Day. With Photo of DB.

Millard County Progress-Review. Utah. May 8, 1914.

2. Articles.

[Source unknown.] The Saint Francis Murals in the New Museum at Santa Fe. 6 pp.

Extracts from El Palacio Magazine. 5 pp.

3. Schematic of Auditorium at MFA. [Source unknown.]

Plan of hall.

Placements of murals.

Descriptions together with artists, etc.

4. Sketches of murals by DB. 4 sheets. Photocopies.

5. Canticle of the Sun. Original and transcription. [Author unknown.]

6. Book, paper. Les Maitres Humoristes. By Jean Louis Forain. French. Illustrated. Pgs. not numbered. Librairie Felix Juven. Paris. [Ribald.]