

Dasburg Family Papers

New Mexico Museum of Art Library and Archives

Processed in 2000 by Arnold Stream

Extent : 0.833 linear feet (2 document boxes)

Dates: 1908-1999

Language: English

Introduction

Andrew Michael Dasburg [herein called AD], is mentioned, not too frequently, simply as a 20th Century Southwest Artist. He was born in Paris in 1887 and came to America at age five with his single mother. They resided with his aunt in the Hell's Kitchen section of New York City.

A hip injury in his young years restricted his activities and led him to focus his interest on drawing. One of the decisive events in his career was a meeting in Paris with Leo Stein, an art collector and brother of Gertrude, but his artistic bent was strongly influenced by the work of Paul Cezanne.

At the age of 22 years, he married Grace Mott Johnson, divorcing her in 1922. Next, he began living with Ida Rauh, but they separated some time before 1933, when at age 46 years, he married Marina Wister. In 1945 she left him and returned East. There is no indication that they were divorced.

Upon his demise in 1979, he was survived by his son Alfred, his daughter-in-law Anna, and other children.

A biography is mentioned in Section I, infra, which analyzes his life and works. A copy of the book, *Andrew Dasburg : His Life and Art*, by Sheldon Reich, published in 1989, may be found in the Museum Library [759.13 DAS/REI 1989]. 2cc. See also *Andrew Dasburg*, by Van Deren Coke. UNM Press, Albuquerque. 1979. In Museum Library [759.13 DAS 1979.] The book has a detailed biographic chronology.

Related Materials

The museum library has artist biographical files for both Andrew Dasburg and Grace Mott Johnson. The museum exhibition files and catalogs mention Andrew Dasburg frequently, particularly in retrospectives held in 1959 and in 1981 at the Armory for the Arts.

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SECTION I : BIOGRAPHIC MATERIAL

Box 134

- 1-2.** Biography. Andrew Dasburg. His Life and Art. By Sheldon Reich. 1989. Preface. Describes his artistic and literary associations with Mabel Dodge Lujan, Max Eastman, Margaret Sanger, Jack Reed, and Louise Bryant, among others. Page proofs. 144 pp. Illustrated. Notes, chronology, bibliography, index.
- 3.** JAMA. Journal of the American Medical Association. Vol. 274, No. 9. September 6, 1995.
Cover: painting of Loren Mozley. Oil, 1928. By AD.
Tear sheets: The Cover. Page 679. Biographic Sketch of AD.
- 4.** Essay by Christine Taylor Patten. Critican biographic sketch. 10 pp. Typewritten. N.d.

5. Letter with transcript of interview. 4-10-78: Van Deren Coke [Director, UNM] to Alfred Dasburg [son of AD].
Enclosing: preliminary typescript of transcript of oral interview by Coke of Alexander Brook. 10pp.
6. List of AD achievements. 1pp. Source unknown; n.d.
Lists provenance of *Poppies*, oil on canvas; exhibitions; references.
With: photocopy of picture of above works.
[Both stained at right sides.]
7. Photograph, photocopy, of AD. 1932.
8. Newspaper clipping. N.M. Daily Lobo. 12-7-79. Pg. A-10. Book reviews by Robert Conine. Of Andres Dasburg by Van Deren Coke. UNM Press. 141 pp. Photocopy.
9. Guest signature book.
Attached to inside cover and fly leaf:
 - Invitation on occasion of AD's 90th birthday, on May 1, 1977 at Mission Gallery in Taos.
 - Invitation to celebrate 90th birthday on May 4, 1977 at Saint James Church Hall in Taos.
 - Invitation to opening reception of exhibition of AD works at Blair Gallery, Santa Fe. May 8 to June 3, 1977. Sponsored by Gerald P. Peters.
Inside cover: two letters from AD to Grace Mott Johnson. 1918.
Seven pages of signatures.
10. Certificate of Death (2), originals, certified. August 13, 1979.
Attached: Probate papers. Taos, Photocopies.
Notice of probate, etc. [See additional probate records in Folders 10-A and 10-B, infra.]
Also: copy of Last Will and Testament.
January 20, 1971 and authorization to cremate [original].
- 10-A. Papers for Final Accounting and Estate Tax Returns.
- 10-B. Land records: deeds, etc.

SECTION II : ARTICLES, APPRAISALS

1. Magazine. The Tamarind Papers. Vol. IV, Number 1. Winter 1980-1981. Tamarind Institute, Albuquerque. Illustrated. Article: The Prints of [AD]. A Complete Catalog. By Clinton Adams. Pgs. 18-25.
Photo of AD at work. Pg. 19. Biographic study of artist followed catalog with detailed explication of 17 of his works.
2. Magazine. Exploration 1978. School of American Research. David Grant Noble, Editor. Illustrated.
Photo of AD with others. Page 22.
3. News magazine. Pasatiempo. November 12-18, 1999. Article: Retrospective Offers Range of [AD's] Works. By Paul Weidman. Pgs. 20, 22. Illustrated.
Reviews his artistic background and anticipates exhibition at Gerald Peters Gallery, November 12 through December 13, 1999.
4. Postcard. Tamarind Institute. Front: reproduction in color of *Houses and Mesas – Winter*, a five-color lithograph.
5. Catalog. Eighty Years of Woodstock Art. Woodstock Artists Association. Gallery exhibition, 8-26 May 1982.
Description of works of 85 artists, various media, including AD.
6. Appraisal. [AD] Evaluations. Sixteen Works. February 1997. Appraiser not named. One page.
Attached: Ann Dasburg's Personal Inventory with description of each work. 3pp.
7. Report (Appraisal). Art Net. February 14, 1997. [Presumably the predicate for foregoing appraisal.] 8pp.
Definitive analysis of each work appraised in columnar format. Pencil comments on some works. Source unknown.

SECTION III : PHOTOGRAPHS

1. Photographs of AD's studio (2). Black and white. 4x5.
2. Photographs (15) of AD's work. Black and white. Polaroid. 4x5.
3. 35mm. slides, color (8).
 - (a) AD adobe house, color (1). 1947.
 - (b) AD, Color (3). 1977.

- (c) AD. Color (4). 1978 [?]. With other persons.
Names in margins of slide frames.
4. 35mm. slides, color (15). Five in each of three sealed frames.
- Two marked Fine Art Series, Museum of N.M.
- One marked Santos Series, Museum of N.M.
All are pictures of works by named artists, with titles.
[Some duplicates]. Marked Museum of N.M.
5. Snapshots (3).
= AD house in Woodstock, N.Y. $3\frac{3}{4} \times 4\frac{3}{4}$. Sepia.

= AD and Grace Mott Johnson in Europe. 1909. $3\frac{7}{8} \times 4\frac{7}{8}$. Black and white.

= AD's mother Matilda McKillar Dasburg. $3\frac{1}{2} \times 5\frac{1}{4}$. Color.
6. Photograph of sculpture by Marina Wister Dasburg. 6x8. Olive tint.
7. Cards. (4), color.

= $5\frac{1}{4} \times 7\frac{1}{4}$. *Chantet Lane*. 1926. By AD.

= $4\frac{3}{4} \times 6\frac{1}{2}$. *Trees in Ranchitos*. By AD.

= $4\frac{3}{4} \times 6\frac{1}{2}$. *Houses and Mesa – Winter*. By AD.

= $4\frac{3}{4} \times 5\frac{3}{4}$. Fold-over card. Gerald Peters. *Still Life With Mandolin*. By AD.

= $4\frac{3}{4} \times 5\frac{3}{4}$. Fold-over card, black and white picture on cover. Untitled. By AD.

Section IV : Letters, Related Writings

[The letters in this Section were found in the groupings indicated. Only those that are of special interest are summarized.]

A. Alfred Dasburg

Box 135

1. 1936-1953. Eight letters.

2. News clipping. [Probably Albuquerque Tribune.] N.d.
Announces marriage of Katherine Ken, daughter of Alfred [and Ann]
Dasburg to Joy Shelton.

3. Handwritten notes. No ascriptions. Genealogic data on Dasburg family.

B. Grace Mott Johnson Dasburg (GMJD). [First wife of AD]

4. Manuscript, partial. Two weeks in New Mexico, (Letter to Ray Rosenbaum.) By GMJD. October 1921. Pgs. 1-53. Longhand. Ink and pencil. Incomplete.

Also: typescript of above.

5. Manuscript, partial. San Geronimo. By GMJD. N.d. Pgs. 1-16. Longhand. Pencil. Incomplete.

Also: typescript of above. Marked pgs. 25-33.

6. Single sheet marked "Continued copy. Second pg. 2. Initials at bottom: "G.M.J." Original.

First lines: "From his own notes about himself, Mr. Dasburg provides insights: 'I was born in Paris, May 4, 1887, etc.'" [AD notes not found.]

7. Letter. 4-12-18: "Mother" to Alfred [Dasburg]. 6 pp. Photocopy. [Poor reproduction.]

Letter. 4-12-18: GMJD to "Aunt Fannie." 6pp. Photocopy. [Very faint reproduction; partly illegible.]

Reference to "Indian girl, Paulita, *** posing, etc."

8. Diary. Pages 26 (1913); 30, 32-33; 58-59, 68-69; 72-73 (1914). [Probably GMJD] Photocopies, some pages faint.

9. Letter. 7-12-19: Maurice Sterne, Elizabeth Duncan School, Tarrytown, N.Y. to "My Dear Julian." 1 pg., two sides. Original. Introduces GMJD to Julian.

Letter. 7-12-19: Maurice Sterne to [GMJ]. Two pgs., two sides. Original.

10. Letter. 8-19-08: M. Russell [letterhead of American Art Association of Paris] to "Dear sister." 4 pp. Photocopies.

11. Letter. 10-4-09: GMJ [letterhead of Hotel Des Voyageurs, Concarneau, F.] to Miss Mary Johnson. One page., two sides. Original.
12. Letter. 5-22-14: - Lucius [Paris] to GMJ, Naples, I.
4 pp. fold-over. Original.
13. Letter. 6-2-14: Mrs. M. Rosenbaum to GMJ, Corsica, I.
8 pp., two-fold-overs. Original.
14. Letter. 7-9-70: Holt, Rinchart and Winston, NYC to Alfred Dasburg.
Original.
Seeks photo of sculpture *Portrait of Mary Moore* by AD for
inclusion in book by Shirley Glubok.

C. Marina Dasburg Née Wister (MWD)

[Poet and composer, she became the second wife of AD.]

15. Letters. 1939.
 - = 6-11: Victor F. White, Taos to MWD. 3 pp. Typewritten. Original.
 - = 9-9: M. [Max] de Schauensee, L.A. to MWD, Taos, 3 pp.
Typewritten. Original. Handwritten postscript.
 - = 9-28: In form of musical composition and letter. MSD. 1 pg.
 - = 10-17: Agnes Weil to MWD. 1 pg.
 - = 12-8: Randall [The Curtis Institute of Music, Philadelphia, PA] to MWD.
 - = 12-14: Postcard. Max to MWD.
Thanking her for sending “lovely songs.”
 - = 12-16: Frank – to MWD. 1 pg.
16. Letters. 1941.
 - = 7-17: Postcard. “Sam” to MWD.
 - = 8-27: [?] to MWD.
 - = 10-15: Sophie [Mrs. Henry S.] Drinker, Jr. to MWD.
2 pp. 2 sides.
Discusses women’s voices.

- = 11-10: Victor [F. White] to MWD. 1 pg.
 - = 12-13: Thomas Hale Jr. M.D. to MWD.
Musical scrap with longhand note inquiring about words for it.
17. Letters. 1942.
- = 2-23: "Kit" [Mrs. Syndey L.] Wright Jr. to [MWD].
1 pg., 2 sides.
 - = 3-23: Randall to MWD. 2 pp. 1 side each.
 - = 4-12: Robert Hunt to MWD. 4 pgs. Typewritten.
Discusses her idea for trading phonograph records.
Elaborate references to composers.
 - = 4-18: Robert Hunt to MWD. 6 pgs. Typewritten. 1 side each.
Discusses same subject.
 - = 7-30: Reginald Fisher [Association Director, MNM.] to MWD.
Reminds her of "very fine recital" of her compositions and inquires whether she will give another.
 - = 9-28: [Same parties.]
Regrets she cannot give another recital. Refers to "new" field for her talents: "Anglican (Episcopal) Liturgical music."
18. Letters. 1943, 1946-1947, 1979.
- = 7-7-43: MWD to AD. 7 pgs. both sides. Pencil longhand.
Lengthy discussion of art and music. Affectionate comments..

Note at top: "Please keep carefully!!"
 - = 4-8-46: Mary Booth, [MNM] to MWD. 1 pg.
Enclosing copy of "her piece" on "Concert Series of Recorded Music.***."
 - = 10-26-46: Denton A. Cappella Choir [Wilford C. Bein , Dean, School of Music] to MWD. 1 pg.
 - = 3-12-47: MWD to unident. addressee, Taos, N.M.

2 pp. Typewritten, signed.
Critique [negative] of music performances.

- = 4-8-47: Ella [Mrs. D.J.] Haines to MWD. 1 pg.
Acknowledges receipt of "Petition."
Hasn't played the music yet.
- = 10-12-79: State Records Center and Archives, Santa Fe to MWD.
Acknowledges receipt of MWD records for archives.
- = N.d. Marie K – to MWD. 2 pgs. 1 side each.
Acknowledges receipt of poems.

19. Miscellaneous.

- = Poem. A Birthday Salute to my Best Friends.
December 21, 1943. By MWD. Typewritten. 5 pgs.
- = Concert programs.
 - Program. Recital of Marina Wister Compositions. At St. Francis Auditorium. October 26, 1941.
Lists singers and music to be performed.
 - Program. Organ and Chamber Music Recital. November 2, 1941.
Organ and Chamber Music. Santa Fe Sinfonetta. St. Francis Auditorium.
Lists musicians, compositions.

D. Loren Mozley

- 20. Letters (4) from AD to Loren Mozley. 1957 – 1965. Longhand.
Photocopies. [One letter cropped at bottom of first page.]
- 21. Letters.
 - = 5-23-49: Whitney Museum of American Art, N.Y.C. to Loren Bazley [University of Texas]. Photocopy. 1pg.
Deals with efforts to develop lists of AD art. Refers to catalog January 1925 listing 20 work exhibited at Whitney Studio Club.
 - = 7-4-49: Mozley to Whitney. Photocopy. 2 pp. Working on inventory of AD works.

- = 10-7-56: Dallas Museum of Art to Mozley. Photocopy. 1 pg.
Announces that AD show is "in the Mill."
 - = N.d.: Jerry Bywaters to Mozley. Photocopy. 2 pp.
Discusses lists.
22. Inventories of AD works.
- = List of paintings by AD as dictated by him at Ranchos on December 21, 1947. 10 pp. Photocopy.
[No indication who prepared list.]
 - = List of paintings by AD. N.d., no ascription 6 pp. Photocopy.
23. Biographic sketch emphasizing influences on AD. 9 pp. Photocopy. No ascription, n.d. Draft.

E. George Arents Research Library

24. Rules Governing Use of Library. 1 pg. Photocopy.
Also: Table of Contents of Boxes containing Biographical Material on various artists. Photocopy. Covers three Boxes on three pages. Mentions AD 1958, 1959, 1961.
25. Letters (4).
- = 7-18-76: Cecil Wolman to Iris Jordan. 1 pg.
Photocopy.
Rejects invitation to participate in
documentary on AD.
 - = 8-20-76: Cecil Wolman to Alfred Dasburg. 2 pp. Carbon copy.
Mentions dealings with Helena Chase Drea.
 - = 8-20-79: Library [Manuscript Librarian] to Alfred Dasburg. 1 pg.
Original.
Condolence upon AD's demise.
Notes on back of letter.
 - = 10-8-79: [Same parties.] 1 pg. Original.
Acknowledges receipt of "Paris information" on AD.

F. Van Deren Coke [VDC]

[Notes and letters relating to proposed essay
on AD by Coke.]

26. 1977.

1-5: VDC to Alfred Dasburg. Original.

10-10: [Same parties.] Original.

11-30: [Same parties.] Original.

12-5: [Same parties.] Original.

27. 1978.

1-19: VDC to Alfred Dasburg. Original.

7-17: Original.

Informs him that Cecil Wolman has given him AD's drawing on
Ranchos de Taos Church.
Refers to "current show" of AD's lithographs.

8-24: VDC to Alfred Dasburg. Original.

Reports that NEA has approved grant application to present
retrospective on AD's works. Show to open September
1979.

28. 1979.

5-4: Peggy (Mrs. James C.) Harrison to Ann and Alfred [Dasburg].
Original.

5-9: Clea H. Downey [Association Curator, UNM] to Alfred
[Dasburg]. Original.

11-1: Virginia Masi [UNM Press] to Dear Friend. Original.
Announces that Andrew Dasburg by Van Deren Coke is now
available.

11-9: Van Deren Coke [Director, UNM] to Alfred [Dasburg]. Original.

11-27: Henry M. Reed to Van Deren Coke. 3pp. Carbon copy.
Discussing his book and the authenticity of an AD painting.

G. Edmund R. Brill [ERB]

29. 2-16-77: ERB to Alfred [Dasburg]. Original.

3-3-77: ERB to Alfred [Dasburg]. Original.

9-3-77: ERB to Alfred [Dasburg]. Original.
Mentions works by AD.

9-26-78: Mary – to Alfred and Ann [Dasburg]. Original.

30. 11-25-77: ERB to Alfred [Dasburg]. Original.
Enclosing sheet with data on GMJD work, etc.
Enclosed: yellow sheet marked “Data from [ERB], for Alfred
Dasburg.
Sections on GMJD, AD.

H. Andrew Dasburg [AD]

[Most of these letters, all originals, are addressed to, or concern, AD.]

31. 2-10-30: R.C. Walker [?] to AD. 3 pp., oversize, sketching sheets.

32. 12-19-35: R.C. Walker [?] to Loren Mozley. 2 pp., oversize.

33. 4-6-48: Owen Wister, Bryn Mawr, PA to AD. 4 sheets, both sides.
Relates physical and mental condition of Marina Dasburg
[she left him in 1945 and returned East].

34. 4-23-48: Walter Stokes to AD. 1 pg.
Seeks to locate IBN stock certificate owned by Marina.
Comments on her poor health.

35. 12-6-14: Mabel Dodge to AD. Photocopy.
Invitation to her home, 23 Fifth Ave., N.Y.C.

- 9-21-50: Mabel [Dodge] to AD. Original.
36. 10-20-76: Helena Chase J. Drea to Alfred [Dasburg]. One sheet.
Enclosing some photos of her oil paintings for AD to see.
[Missing.]
- 7-11-96: Diana D. Schwalbe to Ann [Dasburg].
One sheet, both sides.

SECTION V : NOTES

1. Miscellaneous notes. Mostly of Van Deren Coke and Edmund R. Brill.

SECTION VI: NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS [1937 – 1996] 1-13

The clippings in this Section are assembled by year. Because of their volume, no attempt has been made to extract their contents. The originals were in such poor condition and still deteriorating that photocopies have been made to replace them. (It should be kept in mind that AD died in 1979 at the age of 92 years. A vast number of additional clippings have been lost, destroyed, or overlooked.)

- 1-2. 1937, 1939.
- 3-4. 1941 –1942.
- 5-9. 1971, 1975, 1977-1979.
- 10-11. 1980-1981.
- 12-13. 1996, undated.

SECTION VII : LITIGATION TO QUIET TITLE

The papers that follow in Folders 1-6 relate to a lawsuit that attempted (unsuccessfully to deprive AD of title to lands in Santa Fe. They have not been analyzed except to single out the final judgment of the court in AD's favor, which is in Folder 1.

1. 1930 Judgment of the District Court, Reed Holloman, District Judge.
2. Correspondence – 1947.
3. Correspondence – 1948.
4. Correspondence – 1949.
5. Real estate tax bills.
6. Attorneys' bills.

SECTION VIII : ALFRED DASBURG BIOGRAPHIC DATA

1. Certificate of Identity. War Department. With photograph. May 24, 1945.
2. Alfred Dasburg c.d.
3. Alfred Dasburg Certificate of Life Membership. American Railway Engineering Association. January 1, 1978.