

TABLE OF CONTENTS

[Summary Information](#)
[Biographical Note](#)
[Scope and Content Note](#)
[Arrangement](#)
[Administrative Information](#)
[Related Materials](#)
[Controlled Access Headings](#)
[Collection Inventory](#)

Finding Aid to the Raymond Perry Rodgers Neilson Papers, circa 1930-1950s

SUMMARY INFORMATION

Repository

The Frick Collection/Frick Art Reference Library Archives
 10 East 71st Street
 New York, NY, 10021
 archives@frick.org
 © 2010 The Frick Collection. All rights reserved.

Creator

Neilson, Raymond Perry Rodgers, 1881-1964.

Title

Raymond P. R. Neilson Papers

ID

MS.06

Date

circa 1930-1950s

Extent

0.5 Linear feet (1 box)

Abstract

Diaries, notebooks, and other notes regarding the work of New York City portraitist, still life painter, and art instructor, Raymond P. R. Neilson. Collection also includes some correspondence regarding portrait commissions.

Preferred Citation

Raymond P. R. Neilson Papers. The Frick Collection/Frick Art Reference Library Archives.

[Return to Top »](#)

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Raymond Perry Rodgers Neilson, a New York City portraitist, still life painter, and art instructor, was born in 1881 in New York and grew up in Far Rockaway, Long Island. He graduated from the Naval Academy in 1905 and three years later resigned to pursue his art career; however, he was reinstated as a lieutenant during World War I and served overseas. Neilson married Mary Park (daughter of Pittsburgh steel manufacturer, William Gray Park) in 1906 and they had two children, Raymond Jr. and Elizabeth. Neilson was remarried in 1940 to Inglis Griswold.

Neilson studied with William Merritt Chase and at the Art Students League with George Bridgman and George Bellows. He continued his art education in Paris, studying at the Académie Julian, Ecole des Beaux-Arts, Académie Colarossi, and the Academie Grande Chaumière.

Neilson was a well-known portraitist who painted many prominent figures, including Admiral William Halsey, Robert P. Patterson, and Dr. Francis Blake. Many civic organizations and corporations commissioned portraits to be presented at ceremonies honoring the subjects.

Neilson was widely exhibited and won many awards for his paintings, including those from the Paris Salon, National Academy of Design, Currier Gallery of Art, and Academic Artists Association. His works are in the collections of the Luxembourg Museum, the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, and Yale and Princeton Universities, among other institutions.

Neilson was also an art instructor at the Art Students League from 1926-1927 and at the National Academy of Design from 1928-1938. He served as the recording secretary of the National Academy of Design council from 1937-1946 and as a council member for Allied Artists of America. Neilson died March 1st, 1964 in New York City at the age of 82.

[Return to Top »](#)

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This small collection consists mainly of various notebooks, diaries, and loose notes that record Neilson's career as a portrait painter. These "notes on paintings" are chronological entries that provide physical descriptions of Neilson's paintings and the sitters he painted. Some entries include anecdotal comments and exhibition and prize information. The collection also includes a small amount of correspondence regarding portrait commissions, an exhibition catalog, an index to his portraits, and some personal notes.

[Return to Top »](#)

ARRANGEMENT

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material.

[Return to Top »](#)

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Access Restrictions

These records are open for research under the conditions of The Frick Collection/Frick Art Reference Library Archives access policy. Contact the Archives Department for further information at archives@frick.org.

Provenance

Gift of Mrs. Carl A. Lewis (daughter), 1964.

Processing Information

Arranged and described by Shannon Yule, 2008.

[Return to Top »](#)

RELATED MATERIALS

Related Materials

Photographs and reproductions removed to Photoarchive.

[Return to Top »](#)

CONTROLLED ACCESS HEADINGS

Genre(s)

- Journals (accounts)
- Notes.
- Correspondence.

Personal Name(s)

- Neilson, Raymond Perry Rodgers, 1881-1964.

Subject(s)

- Art, American.
- Portrait painters.

[Return to Top »](#)

COLLECTION INVENTORY

1	1	Biographical Material Contains Who's Who questionnaire, and notes about his activities from 1907 through the 1940s.	1956, undated
---	---	---	------------------

[Return to Top »](#)

1	2	Clippings - miscellaneous	1939, 1955, 1965
---	---	----------------------------------	------------------------

[Return to Top »](#)

1	3	Correspondence - Grand Central Art Galleries (Claude Barber, Ruth Raile) Regarding commissioned portraits for American Bureau of Shipping and City Service Company.	1957
---	---	---	------

[Return to Top »](#)

1	4	Correspondence - Strassburger, Ralph Beaver Naval Academy classmate of Neilson. Contains photographs and other materials regarding racehorse, Worden.	1953- 1954
---	---	---	---------------

[Return to Top »](#)

1	5	Correspondence regarding portrait commissions Correspondents include: Fair Department Store re: Thelma Thorkelson Mathey, Dean re: General T. Coleman DuPont Munsun Gallery (Emerson L. Munsun) re: Charles Costello	1948- 1960
---	---	---	---------------

Myers, Clarence J.

National War College re: Mr. Stimson (includes photographs)

Schaefer, Rudolph

Spaugh, R. Arthur re: Arthur Spaugh

Steinhilber, Fred G. (Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons) re: H. Lloyd Jones

[Return to Top »](#)

1	6	Exhibition catalog – <i>American Valiant and Glorious: The Flying Tigers</i> Exhibition of portraits of the Flying Tigers by Neilson.	1945
---	---	---	------

[Return to Top »](#)

1	7	Index to photographs of portraits Titled "Index to photographs of portraits painted by Raymond P. R. Neilson N.A. with # of film on file and # of book of photographs"	undated
---	---	--	---------

[Return to Top »](#)

1	8	Notes on paintings - 1915-1940 Loose notes of chronological entries providing physical descriptions of Neilson's paintings.	undated
---	---	---	---------

[Return to Top »](#)

1	9	Notes on paintings - 1940-1948 Chronologically ordered entries regarding Neilson's painting career, including physical descriptions of his paintings, anecdotal information, and exhibition and prize information. Diary was removed from a binder and was written by someone other than Neilson, likely his wife.	undated
---	---	--	---------

[Return to Top »](#)

1	10	Notes on paintings - circa 1940s Draft notes for diary above.	undated
---	----	---	---------

[Return to Top »](#)

1	11	Notes on paintings - 1949-1953 Small notebook and loose pages containing information about commissioned portraits such as the portrait size and physical descriptions of the subjects.	undated
---	----	--	---------

[Return to Top »](#)

1	12	Notes on paintings - circa 1950s Titled "Data on portraits to be painted." Contains information such as portrait size, physical description of subjects, and shipping addresses for commissioned portraits. Notebook contains many similar enclosures and an index in the back.	circa 1950s
---	----	---	-------------

[Return to Top »](#)