Acquisition Information
Acquired through the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, 1994

Extent
4 linear feet

Processed
Sarena Deglin, 2003

Abstract
The collection represents the research of Arthur Lewis and contains correspondence, legal documents, interviews, and research notes.

Access Restrictions
Unrestricted

Contact Information
Helen Farr Sloan Library & Archives
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Preferred Citation
George Benjamin Luks Papers, 1920-1994, Helen Farr Sloan Library & Archives, Delaware Art Museum
Biography of George Benjamin Luks

George Benjamin Luks was born August 13, 1866 in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. He attended the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. He traveled to Europe in 1885 where he studied at the Dusseldorf Academy in Germany and later painted in Paris and London. After his ten year sojourn to Europe, Luks returned to Pennsylvania and started his career as a newspaper artist/illustrator for the Philadelphia Press. In 1896 the Evening Bulletin sent Luks to Cuba as a war correspondent for the Spanish American War. From 1896-1897 he worked for the New York World where he continued to illustrate news stories and draw caricatures. He left the World to work for the Journal where he continued the weekly comic page known at various times as Hogan’s Alley, The Yellow Kid, and McFadden’s Flats.

Once his paintings began to sell, Luks stopped working as a newspaper illustrator to devote his attention to painting. He exhibited as a member of “The Eight” at the Macbeth Gallery in 1908, and participated in the famous Armory show in 1913. He taught at the Art Students League of New York and later started a school of his own. Luks died October 29, 1933.

Scope and Contents Note

The George Benjamin Luks Papers represent the research of Arthur Lewis. Much of the primary material was acquired through Samuel Ross Ballin, a friend, art collector and lawyer of Milban, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy. The primary material includes original correspondence between Luks and C.W. Kraushaar, Root, Clark, Buckner & Howland, Samuel R. Ballin, and various members of the Luks family. The collection includes legal documentation of the divorce agreement between Luks and both his first and second wives, Anabelle Luks and Emma L. Luks (Frankenburg), and primary material from Luks’ brother, Wilhelm (Will), the executor of the George B. Luks Estate, regarding the availability of information and works of art for exhibition and research purposes.

The secondary material, originating from Arthur Lewis, includes correspondence, interviews, and research notes. Interviews are recorded on audiocassettes.

Organization of the Papers

Series I. Correspondence
Series II. Legal Documents
Series III. Wilhelm Luks
Series IV. Arthur Lewis Material
Series V. Note Cards
Series VI. Audiocassette Interviews, 1979-1981
Description of the Papers

Series I. Correspondence

Box 1

Folder
1 Received from Samuel Ross Ballin, December 26, 1979 – George and Wilhelm (Will) material
2 George and Will Luks
3 George and Will Luks, photocopies, 1920-1971
4 George and Will Luks, photocopies, no date

Series II. Legal Documents

Folder
5 George and Emma L. Luks
6 December 24, 1930

Series III. Wilhelm Luks

Folder
7 Sonnets to Ilor, carbon copy
8 We Went to the Zoo, carbon copy

Series IV: Arthur Lewis Material

Folder
9 Correspondence, 1980s
10 Correspondence and interviews – Arthur Lewis – 1980s
11 Copy of research material – Arthur Lewis
12 The Case of Dr. T

Box 2

Folder
13-17 Research notes
18 Attempts at Luks chronology
19 Brief sketch of George Benjamin Luks
20 “People I Interviewed”
21 Institutions, libraries, galleries, etc. researched
22 List of people that should be interviewed
23 “My own involvement with Luks”
24 George B. Luks a/k/a “Chicago Whitey”, Chapter One
25 Chapter Two
26 Chapter ?
27 The American Magazine, 1890-1940, Delaware Art Museum, 1979
28 Catalogs
29 Reviews of Luks’ works and bibliography

Series V. Note Cards

Box 3

Note cards

Series VI. Audiocassette Interviews, 1979-1981

Box 4

Samuel Ross Ballin, various dates, 1979-1981
Daniel W. Luks and H. Andrea Luks, January 20, 1980
Margaret (Peggy) Luks Malczynski, January 1980
Elizabeth Luks Malczynski
Mrs. Kraemer N. (Gertrude) Luks, January 17, 1980
George B. Luks (Young George), January 1980
Mercedes Diaz Luks, December 1979, July 1980
B.A. Bergman
Antoinette Kraushaar, February 13, 1980
John Clancy
Helen Sloan, March 10, 1980
Edgar P. Richardson
Ira Glackens, April 2, 1980
Bennard Perlman, March 19, 1980
Andrew King Grugan, September 24, 1980
Steward Klonis
Lawrence Campbell
Robert B. Koslosky
Barbara Tweed, January 14, 1980
William B. Hennessey, March 1980
Ray Walsh
Mrs. Mrs. Robert Impink
Estelle Powers
Louis Mozdy, November 27, 1974
Bill O’Brien
Sam Smith
Ed Conrad
Dr. Naysh Brennan
Mrs. Sarah Cooper
Edwin G. Fox
Charles W. Delp
Martin L. Cuff
Joseph M. Hanney
Margaret Crane, Fall 1980
Albert S. Callan, Jr., September 15-16, 1980
Elizabeth Olds, October 1980
Frank Eliscu, October 1980
Harry Burley, October 1980
Mike Hanson, Fall 1980
Joe Young, Fall 1980
Mrs. John Williams
Philip C. Jessup, January 6, 1981
Elsie K. Belmont, January 13, 1981
Elsie Driggs, January 14, 1981
Iona Luks
Joan Luks Fay
Mrs. Spencer (widow of Dr. Spencer)