Acquisition Information
Gift of Marjorie and Frank Virdin, 1973-1974; some material collected by the Library

Extent
7 linear feet

Scope and Contents Note
Series I through IV contain biographical information, correspondence, exhibition catalogs, photographs, and tear sheets. This material was collected by the Library. Series V through VII consist of fifteen scrapbooks of illustrations compiled by Stanley Arthurs, as well as a separate gift of scrapbooks, sketchbooks, photographs, clippings, memorabilia by Arthurs' niece and nephew.

Access Restrictions
Unrestricted

Contact Information
Helen Farr Sloan Library & Archives
Delaware Art Museum
2301 Kentmere Parkway
Wilmington, DE 19806
(302) 571-9590
hfslibrary@delart.org

Preferred Citation
Stanley Massey Arthurs Manuscript Collection, Helen Farr Sloan Library & Archives, Delaware Art Museum

Related Materials
Howard Pyle Manuscript Collection
**Biography of Stanley Arthurs**

American painter and illustrator, 1877-1950

Stanley Massey Arthurs was born November 27, 1877 to Nancy and Joshua Arthurs, in Kenton, Delaware, where Joshua Arthurs owned a general store. Arthurs was interested in art as a boy, and, after leaving school, he studied in Wilmington with Clawson Hammitt, who urged him to study with Howard Pyle. Convinced of his talent, Pyle enthusiastically accepted him as a student. In 1897 Arthurs joined the classes Pyle was teaching at Drexel Institute, and in 1898 he was invited to attend the summer scholarship classes at Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania. His first illustration was published in the December 2, 1899 issue of *Harper's Weekly*. When Pyle left Drexel to open his own school in Wilmington, Arthurs went with him and worked in one of the studios Pyle had built for the school. When Pyle died in 1911, Arthurs purchased his studio and, until he died, led a quiet, solitary life there, dedicated to his work. He lectured occasionally at the Wilmington Academy and did some teaching in his studio.

Although Arthurs illustrated a great deal of popular literature, his real specialty was illustrating historical texts. His pictures were as historically accurate as he could make them. He did several murals of historical subjects for the State House in Dover, Delaware, and for the Minnesota State capitol building and produced a long series of historical paintings for DuPont Company calendars and the *DuPont Magazine*. Many of these were published in book form in the *American Historical Scene* in 1935. The historical illustrations occupied most of Arthurs' attention after 1920, but he also painted landscapes, not only of local scenes but also in Florida, the Western states, and Europe.


**Organization of the Collection**

Series I: Biographical Information  
Series II: Correspondence  
Series III: Exhibitions and Murals  
Series IV: Illustrations  
Series V: Scrapbooks  
Series VI: Miscellaneous  
Series VII: Photographs
Description of the Collection

Series I: Biographical Information

Box 1
Folder
1   Biographical material
2   Newspaper clippings, 1899-1949
3   Newspaper clippings, 1950-present
4   Newspaper clippings, no date
5   Material regarding auction of Arthurs’ library, 1951 – Rare and Valuable Books at Public Auction from the Libraries of the Late Stanley M. Arthurs . . . (catalog; 4 copies)
Series II: Correspondence

Box 2
Folder
1  Howard Pyle to Arthurs, 1896, 1897; Pyle to Mrs. Arthurs, 1897 (photocopies)

2  Arthurs to Joseph Bancroft, 1922; Arthurs to Willard Morse, 1923; Paul Strayer to Arthurs, 1936 (photocopy); Arthurs to Strayer, 1936 (photocopy)

3  Arthurs and Richard Wayne Lykes, 1945-1948 (photocopies)

4  Helen L. Card and Marshall W. Hall regarding auction of Arthurs’ library, 1951

5  Miscellaneous
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Exhibition catalogs, 1913, 1917, and unknown year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Exhibition catalogs, 1935, 1945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Exhibition catalog and clippings – <em>Stanley Arthurs</em>, Delaware Art Museum, 1974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td><em>The Minnesota Capital: Official Guide and History</em>, 1912</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Series IV: Illustrations

Box 3
Folder

1 Advertisements

2 American History Magazine, 1966

3 American Magazine, 1908, 1911, 1912

4 Architectural League Year Book, 1916, 1918

5 Art and Progress, 1912

6 Book illustrations

7 Calendars

8 Century Magazine, 1905, 1907, 1913, 1914

9 Collier’s Weekly, 1900, 1902, 1904, 1913, 1915, 1918, 1919

10 Delaware Tercentenary, 1938: Official Program of the Celebration; brochure/order form for Delaware Tercentenary Almanack & Historical Repository

11 Delineator, 1908, 1915

12 Everybody’s Magazine, 1902, 1919, 1912, 1921

13 The Explosives Engineer, 1934

14 Far West Illustrated, 1928
Box 4
Folder

1  Good Housekeeping, 1902, 1910

2  Harper’s Bazar, 1909

3  Harper’s Magazine, 1905, 1906

4  Harper’s Magazine, 1907, 1908

5  Harper’s Magazine, 1910-1923

6  Harper’s Weekly, 1899-1910

7  Ladies’ Home Journal, 1902, 1918, 1919

8  McClure’s, 1904, 1907

9  The Mentor, 1927

10 Miscellaneous

11 Outing, 1906

12 Outing, 1907, 1910
Box 5
Folder


2. Postage stamp, 1938


4. *St. Nicholas*, December 1900

5. *Saturday Evening Post*, 1902, 1905, 1908, 1909, 1911


7. *Scribner’s*, 1903-1906

8. *Scribner’s*, 1908

9. *Scribner’s*, 1909, 1912

10. Souvenir of the Pilgrimage of the Swedish-American Societies to Wilmington, Delaware, June 7, 1926 (from Frank E. Schoonover Collection)

11. *Success Magazine*, 1901

12. Unidentified

13. Wilmington Trust publication

14. *Western Story Magazine*, 1921, 1928

15. *Youth’s Companion*, 1896, 1900, 1926
Series V: Scrapbooks

*Series V: Scrapbooks* contain clippings of magazine illustrations by Arthurs, including large-scale reproductions of paintings and Ketterlinus Calendars.

- Box 6  Five (5) scrapbooks
- Box 7  Three (3) scrapbooks: 1902-1906, 1907-1909, 1910-March 1912
- Box 8  Six (6) scrapbooks: 1912-1913, #7, three (3) miscellaneous
- Box 9  Three (3) scrapbooks: 1914-1925
- Box 10 Two (2) scrapbooks
- Box 11 Two (2) scrapbooks
- Box 12 One (1) scrapbook; Photographs of pictures done in France
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 13</th>
<th>Glass plate negatives: Arthurs’ pictures (7); Scenes around Delaware (7); Scenes of Kenton, Delaware (4); Pictures of his own work (4); Family members (6); Pictures used for posing (12)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 14</td>
<td>Calendars: Ketterlinus Calendars – 1922, 1923, 1924-1927 complete, 1924 November and December; Puzzle; DAM catalog index</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 15</td>
<td>Oversize materials (see also cabinet 1, drawer 5 in Rare Books Room)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Series VI: Miscellaneous
Series VII: Photographs

Box 16
Folder
  1  Stanley Arthurs
  2  Arthurs family
  3  Group with Arthurs
  4  Models
  5  Artwork
  6  Studios, houses, architecture
  7  Scrapbook pages