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Walkowitz, Abraham, collection, 1925-2002

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Abraham Walkowitz

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Special Collections, Leonard H. Axe Library and Walkowitz, Abraham, "Walkowitz, Abraham, collection, 1925-2002" (2019). *Finding Aids*. 199.

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Walkowitz, Abraham, Collection, MS 159

Abraham Walkowitz Collection

Collection Number	MS 159
Title	The Abraham Walkowitz Collection
Name and Location of Repository	Pittsburg State University, Special Collections & University Archives, Pittsburg, Kansas
Dates	1925 – 2002
Collection Size	.4 linear foot
Creator	Unknown
Scope and Content	A collection of research materials, newspaper clippings, photographs, publications, and correspondence of American Modernist artist, Abraham Walkowitz.
Access Restrictions	This collection is open for access
Languages	English

Biographical Note Abraham Walkowitz was born March 28, 1878, in Tyumen, Russia and died January 27, 1965, in New York City. In 1889, at the age 11, Walkowitz emigrated to America with his widowed mother and three sisters. By 1894 he began attending art classes at the Cooper Union and the Educational Alliance, both in New York City. It was not until 1898 that Walkowitz decided to pursue art as a profession, enrolling at the National Academy of Design and the Art Students League, also in New York City. Walkowitz continued his education by going to Académie Julian in Paris in 1906. In 1916, he started to gain the attention of the public with the numerous drawings that he had done on the American dancer Isadora Duncan. The number of drawings he did of Duncan led him to eventually be regarded as her portraitist. Due to his failing eyesight, his career came to a halt in the 1930s. Not wanting to give up art entirely, Walkowitz had to change his style and use more simplified shapes and designs in his images. By 1944, Walkowitz had become commissioned as one of the nation's leading artists, with an exhibition at the Brooklyn Museum of ninety portraits and eleven sculptures of himself. In the summer of 1945, Walkowitz came to Kansas for a three-month stay with the Little Blue Book publisher, Emanuel Haldeman-Julius. During his stay in Kansas, he completed 270 pen and ink drawings of barns and coal mines of the region, and several watercolors and oil paintings covering the same topic. In the years that followed, Walkowitz did several illustrations for Haldeman-Julius publications.

Series This collection contains primary and secondary resources and is divided into the following series:

1. Research

Walkowitz, Abraham, Collection, MS 159

2. Newspaper Clippings
3. Photographs
4. Publications
5. Correspondence

Folder List

Series 1: Research

- F. 1 Photocopies of microfilm documents from the Archives of American Art concerning the American Modernist artist, Abraham Walkowitz. Images are from the Archives of American Art Roll D303, frame 1691-1718 and the Archives of American Art Reel D303, frame 1689-1690.
- F. 2 Indexes of reproductions of Walkowitz's paintings, bibliography of Haldeman-Julius publications, and catalogues of where to find Walkowitz's art.
- F. 3 Articles and publications by other authors that concern Walkowitz.

Series 2: Newspaper Clippings

- F. 4 Newspaper clippings from 1945 to 1980 concerning Walkowitz.

Series 3: Photographs

- F. 5 Photographs of paintings by Walkowitz. Paintings are "Nude Dancer" (1909), "At the Beach" (1910), and "Harbour."

Series 4: Publications

- F. 6 *A Hundred Painting and Drawings from the Objective to Abstract* by Abraham Walkowitz.
- F. 7 *Barns and Coal Mines Around Girard, KS* by Walkowitz and Haldeman-Julius and copies of poems.

Series 4: Correspondence

- F. 8 Correspondence from 1972 and 2002 concerning Walkowitz.