

# Archives

The Provincetown Art Association and Museum maintains extensive archival files on artists who have worked in the area, and we regularly are called on to make these files available to scholars and re-searchers all over the county and internationally.

On most days we get a telephone call from a gallery owner or a collector wanting to know about an artist whose work has come to their attention. We often open our library and archives to a curator or researcher preparing an essay or organizing an exhibition that includes some of "our" artists. Many people visit our world wide web site listing of catalogs and seek information about the artists listed there; e-mail inquiries are increasing. The listing of all artists in our collection recently added to our site promises to increase the number of inquiries, and therefore the dissemination of information about the artist who have made Provincetown such an important center of the visual arts.

Our archives include letters, biographic information, catalogs, reviews, announcements and photographs. We are always adding to the files — both by clipping items in current newspapers and magazines

and with recently published catalogs. We are also very interested in receiving (originals or copies) papers of or about artists who have worked here. We often have visits from the children or grandchildren of artists and we are always eager to obtain information from them, and to provide them with information they may lack.

One of the saddest things that happened here was when a 90-year-old Hawthorne student visiting here for the first time in 40 years explained that when she finally moved from her house into an apartment she did not know what to do with the boxes of papers in the attic and so burned them. To us these boxes of old papers contain treasures and we are always eager to obtain them. It was from one such box that we retrieved checklists for the 1941 and 1942 exhibitions — those very lean years when regular exhibitions (and summer publications) had almost, but not quite, ceased. We had almost given up on obtaining information of who was exhibiting here during those years, but now have the information to add to our exhibition record. This year, the offer of a 1947 summer checklist (over dinner in St. Petersburg during our Russia Tour) filled a gap in our archives.