

# **The Metropolitan Museum of Art Archives**

## **Richard F. Bach Records, 1913-1953**

**Processed by Kelsi Evans, Archives Intern  
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**The Metropolitan Museum of Art Archives  
Office of the Senior Vice President, Secretary and General Counsel  
1000 Fifth Avenue  
New York, NY 10028-0198  
212-650-2573  
[archives@metmuseum.org](mailto:archives@metmuseum.org)**

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## Collection Summary

**Title:** Richard F. Bach Records

**Creator:** Bach, Richard F., 1888-1968

**Dates:** 1913-1953 (bulk 1939-1953)

**Extent:** 2.5 linear feet (6 boxes)

**Abstract:** During his tenure at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Richard F. Bach served as Associate in Industrial Arts (1918-1929), Director of Industrial Relations (1929-1941), Dean of Education and Extension (1941-1949), and Consultant in Industrial Arts (1949-1952). Bach championed the collaboration of museums and the industrial arts, working extensively with manufacturers, industrial designers, and educational institutions. In addition to his work at the Museum, Bach was a member and leader of a number of arts and education organizations as well as a prolific writer and lecturer. The Richard F. Bach Records primarily contain correspondence, meeting minutes, and pamphlets related to Bach's activities as Director of Industrial Relations, Dean of Education and Extension, and Consultant in Industrial Arts. The majority of the correspondence is professional in nature and concerns Bach's role as liaison between The Metropolitan Museum of Art and industrial designers, manufacturers, educators, and arts organizations.

## **Administrative Information**

**Provenance:** Transfer to Museum Archives; date of transfer unknown.

**Form of citation:** [Title of item], [date of item], Box [number], Folder [number], Richard F. Bach Records, The Metropolitan Museum of Art Archives.

## **Restrictions**

**Access:** Collection is open for research.

**Use restrictions:** Consult Archives staff regarding permission to quote or reproduce.

## Biographical Note

During his tenure at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Richard F. Bach served as Associate in Industrial Arts (1918-1929), Director of Industrial Relations (1929-1941), Dean of Education and Extension (1941-1949), and Consultant in Industrial Arts (1949-1952). Bach championed the collaboration of museums and the industrial arts, working extensively with manufacturers, industrial designers, and educational institutions across the United States. In addition to his work at the Museum, Bach was a member and leader of a number of arts and education organizations including the American Federation of Arts, the Architectural League of New York, and the Advisory Board on Vocational Education of the New York Board of Education. Bach was also a prolific writer and lecturer. He published several articles concerning American industrial art and a book entitled *Museums and the Industrial World* (1926).

Richard F. Bach was born in 1888. He graduated from Columbia University in 1908 and during 1909-1919 was an instructor and curator at Columbia's School of Architecture. In 1918, Bach was appointed Associate in Industrial Arts at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. In this position, Bach's main role was to facilitate use of the Museum's collections as practical resources for manufacturers, designers, artisans, and craftsmen. Bach was also primarily responsible for organizing a series of popular exhibitions devoted to American industrial art.

In 1929, Bach became the Director of Industrial Relations, heading a department created by the Museum's Secretary, Henry W. Kent. Bach maintained the Museum's relationships with a variety of arts, education, and industrial manufacturers' organizations, and also supervised the Museum's Neighborhood Exhibitions, a series of thematic shows of Museum objects that traveled to various parts of New York City during 1933-1941. In 1941, the Department of Industrial Relations merged with the Department of Educational Work, creating the Department of Education and Extension. Bach became Dean of the newly created department, managing educational loans, extension museums, industrial art exhibitions, and contacts with industrial designers and manufacturers. After World War II, Bach tried unsuccessfully to provide services at the Museum for veterans, attempting to coordinate the efforts of rehabilitation and occupational therapists with the Museum's Education Department. Bach also fostered a working relationship with the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization during this period.

Bach resigned as Dean of Education and Extension in 1949, but continued his relationship with the Museum through 1952 as Consultant in Industrial Arts. During the later 1950s the Museum dramatically curtailed its work in the field of industrial relations. Bach continued to serve as an educational adviser to the American Institute of Interior Decorators between 1952 and 1961. Bach died in his home in the Bronx in 1968. He was survived by his widow, Maude Bransford Bach, and his two daughters, Winifred and Eleanor.

## **Scope and Content**

The Richard F. Bach Records primarily contain correspondence, meeting minutes, and pamphlets related to Bach's activities as Director of Industrial Relations, Dean of Education and Extension, and Consultant in Industrial Arts. The material spans the period of 1913-1953, but the bulk of dates from 1939-1953 when Bach served as Dean and Consultant. Additional items in the collection include printed material, newspaper articles, radio broadcast transcripts, and photographs. The majority of the correspondence concerns Bach's role as liaison between The Metropolitan Museum of Art and industrial designers, manufacturers, educators, and arts organizations. There is a significant amount of material related to Bach's involvement in rehabilitation and occupational therapy, the National Council on Design Protection, the American Federation of Arts, the Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art, and various exhibitions concerning American industrial art. While there is some correspondence related to personal matters, most of the material is professional in nature. Included in the collection is correspondence between Bach and various Metropolitan Museum of Art secretaries, directors, and presidents, including Henry W. Kent, Francis Henry Taylor, Herbert E. Winlock, William M. Ivins, and William Church Osborn.

## **Arrangement**

The Richard F. Bach Records consist of a single series arranged alphabetically by corporate name, personal name or subject.

## **Related Materials**

Richard F. Bach Correspondence Files, Office of the Secretary Records, The Metropolitan Museum of Art Archives.

# Subject Headings

## Corporate Names

American Federation of Arts.  
Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York, N.Y.).  
Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York, N.Y.). American Wing.  
Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art.

## Personal Names

Ivins, William Mills, 1881-1961  
Kent, Henry Watson, 1866-1948  
Taylor, Francis Henry, 1903-1957  
Winlock, Herbert Eustis, 1884-1950

## Subjects

Industrial arts -- United States  
Industrial design -- 20th century  
Industrial design -- United States -- History -- 20th century  
Industrial design exhibitions  
Museums -- Educational aspects -- United States

## Container List

Box	Folder	Title
1	1	Akron Art Institute. 1945-1953 [See Also: Box 2, Folder 8 - Clear, Charles "Val". 1950-1952]
	2	Alb-Art. 1941-1953
	3	American Ceramic Society Inc. 1949-1953
	4	American Council of Style and Design Inc. 1940, 1946-1952
	5	American Federation of Arts. Art reference books. 1950-1952
	6	American Federation of Arts. Correspondence and misc. related material. 1924, 1940-1951
	7	American Federation of Arts. Correspondence and misc. related material. 1951-1953 [See Also: Box 2, Folder 5 – Carnegie Corporation Grant. 1943]
	8	American Federation of Arts. Minutes. 1952-1953
	9	American Federation of Arts. Traveling exhibitions. 1949-1952
	10	American Federation of Arts. Traveling lectures. 1938-1943
	11	American Furniture and Industrial Art. Misc. photographs. [1925-1927], [1953]
	12	American Furniture and Industrial Art. Misc. photographs. [1925-1927], [1953]
	13	American Furniture and Industrial Art. Misc. photographs. [1925-1927], [1953]
	14	American Institute of Architects. 1943, 1951-1953
	15	American Institute of Steel Construction Inc. 1952
	16	American Library Association. 1944-1945
	17	American Museum of Natural History. 1939, 1947-1952
	18	Architectural League of New York. 1952-1953
	19	Architectural Record. 1920-1921
	20	Art Alliance of America. 1931-1932 [Note: Contains correspondence and reports related to Art Center, Inc.]
	21	Art Commission Associates. 1948-1950-
	22	Association of Arts and Industries. 1929, 1935-1936
	23	Baltimore Department of Education. 1947-1948
	24	Baltimore Museum of Art. 1943
	25	Bel-But. 1935-1940, 1947-1952
	26	Breck, Joseph. 1923-1931
	27	British Council. 1940-1942
2	1	Brooklyn Botanic Garden. 1945-1947
	2	Cal-Cra. 1933-1952
	3	Callisen, Sterling A. 1952-1953
	4	Carl Schurz Memorial Foundation Inc. 1943
	5	Carnegie Corporation Grant. 1943 [See Also: Box 1, Folder 7 – American Federation of Arts. Correspondence and misc. related material. 1951-1953]
	6	<i>Century of Progress International Exposition</i> , Chicago 1933. 1931-1932



- 7 Chicago Museum of Science and Industry. 1953
- 8 Clear, Charles "Val". 1950-1952 [See Also: Box 1, Folder 1 - Akron Art  
Institute. 1945-1953; Box 2, Folder 27 - Fab-Ful. 1941-1953]
- 9 Commerce and Industry Association of New York Inc. 1946
- 10 Committee for a New York State Art Program. 1946
- 11 *Contemporary American Industrial Art: 1940*. Correspondence.  
1939-1942
- 12 *Contemporary American Industrial Art: 1940*. Form  
letters. 1939-1941
- 13 *Contemporary American Industrial Art: 1940*. General  
records. 1939-1942
- 14 *Contemporary American Industrial Art: 1940*. Participating  
designers, craftsmen, and manufacturers. 1940
- 15 *Contemporary American Industrial Art: 1940*. Printed  
matter. 1937-1940
- 16 Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art. 1947-1953
- 17 Creese, Walter. 1946 [See Also: Box 3, Folder 18 - J. B. Speed Museum.  
1951]
- 18 Daniels, Stuart J. 1950-1951
- 19 Dec-Dra. 1949-1952
- 20 DeSager, W. A. 1944 [See Also: Box 3, Folder 25 - Lees-McRae  
College. 1941-1942]
- 21 Deutscher Werkbund. 1952 [See Also: Box 3, Folder 6 - Industrial  
Designers' Institute. 1953]
- 22 Dowling, Henry G. 1952-1953
- 23 Easby, Dudley T., Jr. 1945-1953
- 24 Easby/Loughry Report. 1946-1952
- 25 Eck-Edw. 1945-1947
- 26 Edinger, Dora. 1951-1952
- 27 Fab-Ful. 1941-1953 [See Also: Box 2, Folder 8 - Clear, Charles "Val".  
1950-1952]
- 28 Falkner, Etta. 1952
- 29 Faulkner, Ray. 1945-1946
- 30 Federated Council on Art Education. 1934-1936
- 31 Frank, Lawrence K. 1947
- 32 Frary, I. T. 1952
- 33 Gar-Gug. [1913], 1947-1953
- 34 General Education Board. [1937]
- 35 Grumbacher Co. 1947
- 36 Gullberg, Elsa. 1946-1949
- 37 Halloran General Hospital of the U.S. Army. 1943 [See Also:  
Box 5, Folder 3 - Rehabilitation and Occupational Therapy.  
Correspondence and related material. 1942-1944, 1952; Box 2,  
Folder 16 - Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art.  
1947-1953]
- 3 1 Har-Hom. 1950-1953

- 2 Hercules Powder Company. 1952-1953
- 3 Higgins, John W. 1946-1947
- 4 Huntington Museum. 1942-1943
- 5 Ind-Int. 1926-1928, 1940-1945, 1951-1953
- 6 Industrial Designers' Institute. 1953 [See Also: Box 2, Folder 21 -  
Deutscher  
Werkbund. 1952]
- 7 Inter-American relations. Correspondence related to inter-American  
relations. 1940-1945
- 8 Inter-Society Color Council. 1951-1952
- 9 International Council of Museums. 1946-1952
- 1 International Council of Religious Education. 1943
- 11 *International Exhibition of Modern Decorative and Industrial Arts*,  
Paris. 1924-1925
- 12 International Federation for Art Education. 1928, 1937, 1949-1952
- 13 International Federation of Business and Professional Women. 1936-  
1937
- 14 *International Textile Exhibition*. 1947
- 15 Institute of Contemporary Art. 1952
- 16 Ivins, William M. 1934-1940
- 17 Jar-Jut. 1950-1953
- 18 J.B. Speed Museum. 1951 [See Also: Box 2, Folder 17 - Creese, Walter.  
1946]
- 19 Joel, David. 1951
- 20 Kea-Kno. 1946, 1952
- 21 Kent, Henry W. 1921-1928
- 22 La France Industries. 1945-1947
- 23 Laymen's Art League of America. 1939
- 24 Lea-Luk. 1941-1947
- 25 Lees-McRae College. 1941-1942 [See Also: Box 2, Folder 20 - DeSager,  
W.A.  
1944]
- 26 Leland, Ernest Stevens. 1946-1947, 1953
- 27 Lenygon, Francis. Collection. 1943-1945
- 28 Levy, Florence. 1943-1944
- 29 Mac-Mus. 1937-1952
- 30 Mahogany Association Inc. 1951-1953
- 31 Martin, Keith. [1933], 1946-1947
- 32 Metropolitan Museum of Art. The Costume Institute. 1945-1950
- 33 Metropolitan Museum of Art. Department of Industrial  
Relations. [1937]-1941
- 34 Metropolitan Museum of Art. Department of Prints. 1942
- 35 Metropolitan Museum of Art. Employees' Association. 1944-[1948?]
- 4 1 Metropolitan Museum of Art. Postwar Building Plans. 1927-1944
- 2 Metropolitan Museum of Art. Retirement Plan. 1941-1946
- 3 Modern Lamps and Accessories. 1951-1952

- 4 Mosseller, Lillian Mills. 1950
- 5 Municipal Art Society. 1939, 1945-1952
- 6 Museum Council of New York. 1938-1953 [See Also: Box 5, Folder 3 –  
Rehabilitation and Occupational Therapy. Correspondence and  
related material. 1942-1944, 1952]
- 7-10 *Museum Relations to Industry*. Study by Bach. 1952
- 11 Museum of Science and Industry. Newspaper clippings. 1925-1926
- 12 Nat-New. 1945-1953
- 13 National Association of Manufacturers. [1950]
- 14 National Conference of Christians and Jews Inc. 1952
- 15 National Council on Design Protection of the American Arbitration  
Association. Correspondence and misc. related materials. 1931-1935,  
1948 [See Also: Box 5, Folder 5 - Robert W. Irwin Company. 1936-  
1938]
- 5 1 National Council on Design Protection of the American Arbitration  
Association. U.S. National Industrial Recovery Act Codes. 1933-  
1934
- 2 National Education-Recreation Council. 1943-1950
- 3 National Society of Mural Painters Inc. 1936
- 4 New York Adult Education Council. 1943-1949
- 5 New York (N.Y.) Board of Education. Advisory Board on Vocational  
Education. 1944-1952
- 6 New York Phoenix School of Design. 1945-1950
- 7 New York World's Fair. 1938-1940
- 8 O'Co-Off. 1945-1949
- 9 O'Meara, Dennis. 1944
- 10 Osborn, William Church. 1943-1952
- 11 *Paris International Exposition*. 1937
- 12 Patrick Dolan and Associates Inc. 1950
- 13 Paul MacAlister and Associate. 1951
- 14 Perry, Henrietta. 1947-1948
- 15 Progressive Education Association. 1933
- 16 Rai-Rod. 1934, 1941-1953
- 17 Rehabilitation and Occupational Therapy - Correspondence and Related  
Material. 1942-1944, 1952 [See Also: Box 2, Folder 38 – Halloran  
General Hospital of the U.S. Army. 1943; Box 4, Folder 6 - Museum  
Council of New York City. 1938-1953]
- 18 Related Arts Service. 1944-1947
- 19 Robert W. Irwin Company. 1936-1938 [Note: Contains correspondence  
related to the Grand Rapids Furniture Museum. See Also: Box 4,  
Folder 11 - National Council on Design Protection of the American  
Arbitration Association. Correspondence and misc. related  
materials. 1931-1935, 1948]
- 20 Rogers, Cleveland. 1950-1952
- 21 Sam-Str. 1938-1953
- 22 Sanborn, Herbert. 1945-1946

- 23 Saxe, John Godfrey. 1942
- 24 School Art League. 1945-1953
- 25 Shipway, Verna. 1951-1953
- 26 Society of Industrial Designers. 1950-1953
- 27 Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities. 1940, 1950-1951 [Note: Contains correspondence with the Bucks County Historical Society]
- 28 Stavenow, Ake. 1953
- 29 Stout, George. *Conservation of Paintings*. 1943
- 30 Sutherland, Beth Benton. 1946-1947
- 31 Svenska, Sloydforeningen. 1936-1938, 1948
- 32 Syracuse Museum of Fine Arts. 1935-1936, 1952
- 33 Tat-Tra. 1940, 1950-1952
- 34 Taggart, Edwin L.M. 1948-1951, 1953
- 6 1 Taylor, Francis Henry. 1940-1953
- 2 Tennessee Valley Authority. 1934-1935 [Note: Contains correspondence and misc. related material concerning the United States Department of Labor, Women's Bureau]
- 3 Thomas, Steven. 1952
- 4 Toledo Museum of Art. 1946-1952
- 5 Transcripts of radio announcements and related material. 1934-1936
- 6 University of C-University of M. 1946-1953
- 7 United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). 1947-1953
- 8 United States. Department of Commerce. 1931-1936
- 9 United States. Department of State. 1938-1944
- 10 United States. Executive Office of the President- Dwight D. Eisenhower. 1945
- 11 United States. Federal Public Housing Authority. 1942
- 12 United States- Misc. Governmental Departments. 1945-1951
- 13 United States. Office of War Information. 1942
- 14 United States. Resettlement Administration. 1936
- 15 United States. Veterans Administration. 1946-1952
- 16 United States. Works Progress Administration. 1938-1942, 1950
- 17 University of the State of New York. 1948
- 18 Virginia Murphy Memorial Scholarship. 1950
- 19 Wadsworth Atheneum. 1947-1950
- 20 Wal-Woo. 1931, 1943-1953
- 21 Wallpaper Museum. Correspondence related to a planned museum. 1948-1949
- 22 Winebrenner, Kenneth D. 1950
- 23 Winlock, Herbert E. 1932-1938