Nina Hamnett Papers, 1914-1953

Overview of the Collection

Creator  Hamnett, Nina, 1890-1956
Title  Nina Hamnett Papers
Dates  1914-1953 (inclusive)
Quantity  .25 Linear feet of shelf space, (1 Box + Oversize)
Collection Number  Cage 534
Summary  Incoming correspondence to artist Nina Hamnett, along with some of her drawings. Correspondents include Clive Bell, Sacheverell Sitwell, Nancy Cunard, Alan Odle, and others.
Repository  Washington State University Libraries, Manuscripts, Archives, and Special Collections.
  Manuscripts, Archives, and Special Collections
  Terrell Library Suite 12
  Pullman WA
  99164-5610
  Telephone: 509-335-6691
  mascref@wsu.edu
Access Restrictions  This collection is open and available for research use.
Languages  English

Biographical Note

Nina Hamnett was born February 14, 1890 in Tenby, South Wales. She attended the Royal School in Bath, and then studied at the Dublin School of Art, the Pelham Art School and the London School of Art. Primarily a portrait and landscape painter, Hamnett exhibited at the New English Art Club, the Royal Academy and the London Group in England, and at the Salon d'Automne in Paris. She taught at the Westminster Technical Institute from 1917 to 1918.

A distinguished artist for nearly forty years, Hamnett derived her greatest acclaim from her association with Bloomsbury artist Roger Fry during the first three decades of the twentieth century. One of the first artists to get paid for work at Fry's Omega Workshops in Fitzroy Square, Hamnett assisted in the avant-garde productions of fabrics, clothes, murals, furniture, rugs, etc. Shortly after she joined the workshop in 1913, her paintings were featured in several group exhibits of contributing Omega artists, which included Vanessa Bell, Henri Gaudier-Brzeska and Duncan Grant, among others. She also illustrated The People's Album of London Statues (1928) by Osbert Sitwell and The Silent Queen (1927) by Seymour Leslie.

In 1932 she published Laughing Torso, reminiscences of her bohemian life, which become a bestseller in England and America. She published Is She a Lady?, a sequential autobiographical account, in 1955.

Hamnett lived in London and Paris most of her life. She was briefly married in 1914 to Roald Kristian, also known as Count Edgar de Bergen. She died December 16, 1956.
Content Description

The papers of Nina Hamnett consist of correspondence (incoming) and drawings. The correspondence consists of letters and postcards written to Hamnett by various friends and associates. Correspondents include: Nancy Cunard, Clive Bell, Sacheverell Sitwell, Alan Odle (whose letters are signed with pseudonyms), Elsie Rieti, Vittorio Rieti, Marcel Herrand, Charles Duff, Laura Knight, Tommy Earp, and others. Also included is a typed transcript of Nancy Cunard's poem Saturday Night in Golden Lion (For Nina Hamnett), signed by the author. The drawings are inscribed and signed by Hamnett.

Use of the Collection

Restrictions on Use
Copyright restrictions apply.

Preferred Citation
[Item Description]
Nina Hamnett Papers, 1914-1953 (Cage 534)
Manuscripts, Archives, and Special Collections, Washington State University Libraries, Pullman, WA.

Administrative Information

Arrangement
The correspondence is arranged chronologically.

Location of Collection
(MASC STAFF USE) Folder 3: map case.

Acquisition Information

Related Materials
Additional Sitwell manuscript materials are available in MASC in several different collections, including:

Thomas Balston Papers of the Sitwells, 1924-1960 (Cage 9)
Siegfried Sassoon Papers of the Sitwells, 1918-1957 (Cage 165)
Edith, Osbert, and Sacheverell Sitwell Papers, 1917-1972 (Cage 531)
Stephen Tennant Papers, 1929-1977 (Cage 643)

Nina Hamnett Papers, 1914-1953
http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv37621
Ada Leverson Letters from the Sitwells, circa 1920-1935 (Cage 4669)

Stephen Tennant Papers, 1945-1953 (Cage 4722)

Edith Sitwell Correspondence, 1922-1964 (Cage 4793)

## Detailed Description of the Collection

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<tr>
<th>Container(s)</th>
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<td>Folder</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Correspondence 1914-1953</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Correspondence undated</td>
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<td>O.S.</td>
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<td>Correspondence (oversized items) undated</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Drawings undated</td>
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## Names and Subjects

**Subject Terms:**
- Artists -- England -- Correspondence
- Authors, English -- 20th century -- Correspondence
- Bloomsbury group

**Personal Names:**
- Hamnett, Nina, 1890-1956 -- Archives (creator)

**Other Creators:**

**Personal Names:**
- Bell, Clive, 1881-1964 (creator)
- Cunard, Nancy, 1896-1965 (creator)
- Sitwell, Sacheverell, 1897-1988 (creator)

Finding aid prepared by Jennifer Brathovde
2012

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