

January 2014

Guide to the Robert C. Koepnick papers

Jennifer Brancato

University of Dayton, jbrancato1@udayton.edu

Margaret Zakri

Follow this and additional works at: http://ecommons.udayton.edu/finding_aid

eCommons Citation

Brancato, Jennifer and Zakri, Margaret, "Guide to the Robert C. Koepnick papers" (2014). *Guides to Archival and Special Collections*. Paper 14.

http://ecommons.udayton.edu/finding_aid/14

This Finding Aid is brought to you for free and open access by the University Libraries at eCommons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Guides to Archival and Special Collections by an authorized administrator of eCommons. For more information, please contact frice1@udayton.edu.

**Guide to the Robert C. Koepnick
papers, 1879-1995, bulk 1930s-1980s
UASC.021**

Finding aid prepared by Margaret Zakri & Jennifer Brancato

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

May 17, 2013

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

University Archives and Special Collections

University of Dayton

300 College Park

Dayton, Ohio, 45469-1360

937-229-4256

archives@udayton.edu

Table of Contents

<u>Summary Information</u>	3
<u>Biography of Robert C. Koepnick (1907-1995)</u>	4
<u>Scope and Contents</u>	5
<u>Arrangement note</u>	5
<u>Administrative Information</u>	5
<u>Search Terms</u>	6
<u>Other Finding Aid</u>	7
<u>Collection Inventory</u>	8
<u>Professional and personal papers</u>	8
<u>Photographs and scrapbooks</u>	13
<u>Videos and realia</u>	14

Summary Information

Repository	University Archives and Special Collections
Creator	Koepnick, Robert C., 1907-1995
Title	Robert C. Koepnick papers
Date [bulk]	Bulk, 1930-1989
Date [inclusive]	1879-1995
Extent	5.0 Linear feet (9 boxes)
Language	English
Abstract	Papers of Robert C. Koepnick (1907-1995), Dayton sculptor and long-time art instructor at the Dayton Art Institute. Koepnick is well known for his modern perspective on ecclesiastical art, and many of his works appear as architectural elements on churches and professional buildings throughout southwestern Ohio as well as around the United States. This collection includes photographs and sketches of many of his pieces, as well as correspondence related to commissioned work, scrapbooks of related articles, and memorabilia from European travel.

Preferred Citation

[Item title.] Robert C. Koepnick papers, 1879-1995. University Archives and Special Collections, University of Dayton Libraries, Dayton, Ohio.

Biography of Robert C. Koepnick (1907-1995)

Robert C. Koepnick was born in Dayton, Ohio on July 8, 1907. As a young man he worked for several years as an architectural modeler for firms such as the George E. Heidenreich Company and A. K. Musselman and Sons; he was also a designer and modeler at the Springfield Metallic Casket Company.

Koepnick studied sculpture at the School of the Dayton Art Institute (DAI) and under renowned Swedish sculptor Carl Milles at Cranbrook Academy of Art in Michigan. He then taught sculpture at DAI from 1934-1974, except during World War II, when he used his sculpting abilities to design personal equipment for the Army Air Corps at Wright Field in Dayton. He was the well-respected head of the Sculpture and Ceramic Department at DAI from 1936-1941 and 1946-1974.

From 1933-1938, Koepnick worked under DAI director Siegfried R. Weng to produce terra cotta pioneer figures for Dayton schools as part of the Works Progress Administration's (WPA) Federal Art Project (FAP). In 1938, Weng, Koepnick, and the DAI staff organized the Dayton Society of Painters and Sculptors. That year Koepnick also traveled to Europe in order to visit the studio of Yugoslavian sculptor Ivan Mestrovic and study significant art and architecture. He traveled with the Robert Metcalf family as they photographed stained glass windows throughout Europe.

Koepnick is well known for his ecclesiastical pieces, including architectural reliefs and free-standing statues. His work can be seen throughout southwest Ohio at sites such as Woodland Cemetery, Bethany Lutheran Village, Dayton's St. Anthony, St. Rita, and St. Stephen churches, and Cincinnati's St. Peter in Chains Cathedral and St. Gregory Seminary.

Koepnick frequently worked with prominent architects from firms such as Edward J. Schulte, Associated Architects, and Welty and Kielawa to provide sculptural elements for buildings they designed, including Blessed Sacrament Church in Sioux City, Iowa; Corpus Christi Church in Cincinnati, Ohio; and Concord Methodist Church in Englewood, Ohio. Koepnick's work is also displayed at several Dayton-area schools and at the entrances to the Montgomery County Fairgrounds and the Dayton Metro Library's downtown branch.

For both his sculptures and architectural pieces, Koepnick worked with a variety of media, including terra cotta, ceramics, bronze, aluminum, and marble. He frequently participated in art shows and sculptural competitions, winning awards for his works "Christ, Light of the World," "Woman," and "My Mother."

Koepnick married Betty Borland in Wheeling, West Virginia in 1941, and they later had two sons, Richard and John. An accomplished artist herself, Betty provided professional and personal support throughout their 54 years of marriage. She also worked as a finished artist at Elder-Beerman. Richard worked as a petroleum geologist for many years and is now retired and lives in Athens, Georgia. John lives with his wife Patricia in Ridgeville, Ohio and works in his father's barn studio creating his own abstract sculptures. He also owns and operates a painting contracting company.

In 1974 Koepnick was awarded the title "Emeritus" at Dayton Art Institute, and in 1995 he received the honorary degree Doctor of Humanities at the University of Dayton. When he passed away on July 20,

1995, family, friends, colleagues, and students all praised him for his "gentle" spirit, exceptional teaching abilities, and extraordinary artistic talents.

Scope and Contents

The Robert C. Koepnick papers comprise nine boxes of files and photographs related to Koepnick's career as a sculptor and art instructor. Materials include correspondence, freelance ledgers, commission files, personal and professional photographs, scrapbooks, memorabilia, and interviews on VHS tapes. The collection spans 1879-1995, with the bulk of the materials falling between the 1930s and 1980s.

Arrangement note

The Robert C. Koepnick Papers is arranged into three series:

Series

- I. Professional and personal papers
 - II. Photographs and scrapbooks
 - III. Videos and realia
-

Administrative Information

Publication Information

University Archives and Special Collections, 2011

Revision Description

In April 2013, the Koepnick Finding Aid was revised by Jennifer Brancato to reflect additional donation. April 2013

Access to Materials

This collection is open and available to the public for research in the University Archives and Special Collections reading room. The materials are non-circulating.

Copyright Notice

The materials in this collection may be protected by copyright law (Title 17, U.S. Code). Literary rights and copyrights possessed by the donors were transferred to the University of Dayton. The materials are available for personal, educational, and scholarly use. For permission to reproduce or publish any materials, please contact the University Archives and Special Collections.

Acquisition Information

The Robert C. Koepnick papers were donated to the University of Dayton Archives and Special Collections in June 2011 by John and Patricia Koepnick (accession 2011-040). The Koepnicks donated additional materials in September 2011 (accession 2011-052), February 23, 2012 (accession 2012-013), and October 2012 (accession 2012-049).

Processing Information

This collection was processed by Margaret Zakri in November 2011. An addition to the collection was donated in 2012 which was processed by Jennifer Brancato in April 2013.

Search Terms

Corporate Name(s)

- Associated Architects
- Dayton Art Institute
- Liturgical Arts Society
- Montgomery County Fairgrounds (Dayton, Ohio)
- Welty and Kielawa

Geographic Name(s)

- Cincinnati (Ohio)
- Dayton (Ohio)
- Europe

Personal Name(s)

- Arduser, Robert C.
- Koepnick, Robert C., 1907-1995
- Milles, Carl, 1875-1955
- Schulte, Edward J., 1890-1975

Subject(s)

- Architecture
- Art, Modern--20th century
- Europe--Description and travel
- Europe--Maps
- Religious Architecture--20th century
- Sculpture
- Sculpture--Ohio--20th century

Other Finding Aid

A detailed index of names, institutions, and works appearing in this collection is located in the University Archives and Special Collections.

Collection Inventory

Series 1: Professional and personal papers, 1879-1995

Scope and Contents

Papers are arranged alphabetically within chronological subseries, based on Koepnick's personal filing system. This series includes five boxes of professional correspondence, commission files, freelance ledgers, supply invoices, notices of awards and art shows, and personal papers. There are also many sketches for proposals and completed work. The series provides a look into the entire art commission process, as the detailed files related to Koepnick's work at St. Gregory Seminary, St. Michael Church, and the Montgomery County Fairgrounds include sketches, photographs, invoices, and correspondence that illustrate the work throughout the whole project.

Arrangement note

Subseries

1. Professional Papers, 1879-1960
2. Professional papers, 1960-1970
3. Professional papers, 1970-1979
4. Professional papers, 1980-1989
5. Professional papers, 1990-1992
6. Personal papers, 1907-1995

Subseries 1: Professional papers, 1879-1960

Box	Folder	
1	1	Biographical and exhibit information, 1945-1956, undated
1	2	"A" file, 1930-1956
1	3	"B and C" file, 1931-1956
1	4	"D" file, 1931-1956
1	5	"E and F" file, 1948-1956
1	6	"G" file, 1948-1956
1	7	"H, I, and J" file, 1951-1956
1	8	"K and L" file, 1940-1956
1	9	"M" file, 1938-1956
1	10	"N and O" file, 1941-1956
1	11	"P and Q" file, 1940-1956
1	12	"R" file, 1947-1956

1	13	"S" file, 1943-1956
1	14	"T, U, and V" file, 1951-1956
1	15	"W" file, 1951-1956
1	16	"A, B, and C" file, 1959-1960
1	17	"E and F" file, 1959-1960
1	24	Exhibitions to Enter, 1957-1960, undated
1	18	Freelance accounting ledger, 1957-1959
1	19	"G" file, 1959-1960
1	20	"H, I, and J" file, 1959-1960
1	21	Invoices and receipts, 1959-1960
1	22	"K and L" file, 1959-1960
1	23	"M" file, 1959-1960
2	1	Montgomery County Fairgrounds, 1959
2	2	"N and O" file, 1959-1960
2	3	Our Sunday Visitor Publishing Plant, 1960
2	4	"R-S" file, 1959-1960
2	5	Sorrowful Mother Shrine, 1959
2	6	St. Joseph Cathedral, 1960
2	7	St. Pius X Seminary, 1958-1959
2	8	St. Pius X Seminary, 1960
2	9	"T, U, and V" file, 1959-1960

Subseries 2: Professional papers, 1960-1970

Box	Folder	
2	10	"A" file, 1960-1961
2	11	"B" file, 1960-1970
2	12	"C" file, 1960-1961
2	13	"D" file, 1960-1961
2	14	"E and F" file, 1960-1961
2	15	"H, I, and J" file, 1960-1961
2	16	Household Expenses, 1960-1961
2	17	"K and L" file, 1960-1961
2	18	"M and N" file, 1960-1968
2	19	"O, P, R, and S" file, 1960-1970
2	20	St. Gregory Seminary, 1960-1961
2	21	"T, U, and V" file, 1960-1967
2	22	"W, X, Y, and Z" file, 1960-1970

2	23	Beardshear, Trinity, and Vandalia Evangelical United Brethren (E.U.B.) Churches, 1963-1964
2	24	"C" file, 1962-1970
2	25	"D" file, 1968-1970
2	26	"E" file, 1969
2	27	"F" file, 1970
2	28	"G" file, 1962-1970
2	29	"H" file, 1962-1971
2	30	"I" file, 1961-1967
2	31	"R" file, 1959-1969
2	32	Receipts of Bill paid, 1966-1970
3	1	Ceramic glazes (Clyde Burt), 1962
3	2	Grace Episcopal Church, 1961-1962
3	3	"H and J" file, 1961-1970
3	5	Invoices and receipts, 1961-1962
3	6	"K and L" file, 1960-1962
3	7	Notre Dame Academy, 1963
3	8	"P" file, 1962
3	9	Saints Faith, Hope, and Charity Church, 1960-1962
3	10	St. Anne Church, 1962-1963
3	11	St. Anne Hospice, 1961-1962
3	12	St. Anthony Church, 1963
3	13	St. Joseph Church, 1962
3	14	Accounting ledgers, 1965
3	15	Christ the King, 1966-1967
3	17	Invoices and receipts, 1965-1967
3	18	Mt. Olive United Church of Christ, 1966
3	19	Mt. St. John, Bro. Paul Sibbing S.M., 1962-1968
3	20	Mt. St. Joseph's College, 1961-1968
3	21	St. Joseph's College, 1964-1965
3	22	St. Michael Catholic Church, 1965-1966
3	23	St. Rita Church, 1966-1967
3	24	Business Expenses and Receipts, 1966
3	25	Business Expenditures and Freelance Income, 1967
3	26	Father Naber, 1967
3	27	Studio Receipts and Delivery Tickets, 1967
3	28	Canada Project, 1967-1968
3	29	St. John the Evangelist, 1967-1968

3	30	Sculpture-Chapel of Holy Spirit; Schrand, 1968
3	31	Colonel Deeds, 1968
3	32	Record of Business, 1969
3	33	Homestead Federal Savings & Loan Association Eagle, 1969-1970
3	34	Sculpture Sketches, 1960s-1970s

Subseries 3: Professional papers, 1970-1979

Box	Folder	
4	1	"D-H" file, 1971-1972
4	2	Dayton Art Institute, 1970-1971
4	3	Faculty Organization Handbook, 1971
4	4	Hart and Hart Architects, 1972, undated
4	5	"I-M" file, 1971
4	6	Material for Studio Jobs, 1971
4	7	"N-R" file, 1970-1972
4	8	Ross Pattern and Foundry, 1970-1971
4	9	"S-Z" file, 1970-1972
4	10	Statements on Works Completed, 1970-1972
4	11	St. John the Evangelist Rectory, 1971
4	12	Studio Delivery Tickets, 1972
4	13	Summer Symbol, City of Moraine, 1971
4	14	Professional and Business Receipts, 1972
4	15	Business Book, 1972
4	16	Miami County Safety Building, Troy, Ohio, 1973
4	17	"A-F" file, 1974-1976
4	18	Dayton Art Institute school contract, 1974-1975
4	19	"I-R" file, 1974-1976
4	20	"S-Z" file, 1974-1976
4	21	Studio-Materials and Delivery Tickets, 1974
4	22	Freelance Business, 1974
4	23	Freelance Business, 1976
4	24	Studio Expenses and Welfare Donations Receipts, 1976
4	25	Freelance Sculpture Receipts of payments, 1976
4	26	Freelance Book, 1977
4	27	Statements, 1977
4	28	Materials and Supplies, Invoices and Receipts, 1977
4	29	"A-D" file, 1979
4	30	"E-I" file, 1979

4	31	"J-N" file, 1979
4	32	"O-Z" file, 1978-1979
4	33	Material and Supplies, Invoices and Receipts, 1979

Subseries 4: Professional papers, 1980-1989

Box	Folder	
4	34	"G-L" file, 1981-1983
4	35	Material and Supplies, 1983
4	36	"S-Z" file, 1983-1984
4	37	St. Stephen Church, 1982-1983
4	38	St. Teresa of Avila, Carmelites, 1982-1984
4	39	Shillito Rikes Art Gallery Show, May 1983
4	40	Freelance Book, 1983
4	41	Freelance Book, 1984
4	42	Invoices and receipts, 1983-1984
4	43	Mercy Hospital, 1984
4	44	Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, 1984
4	45	Arts, 1985
4	46	Barthelemy genealogy, 1985
4	47	Bethany Lutheran Home, 1985
4	48	Commission invoices and proposal, 1981-1985
4	49	Dayton Art Institute gift, 1985
4	50	Household expenses, 1985
4	51	Invoices and receipts for supplies, 1984-1985
4	52	Sculpture and art expenses ledger, 1985
4	53	Texas/Arkansas trip receipts, 1985
4	54	Aluminum Association, 1986
4	55	Business expenses, 1986
4	56	Freelance Book, 1986
4	57	Household expenses, 1986
4	58	Invoices and receipts, 1986
4	59	St. Peter in Chains Cathedral, 1986
4	60	Freelance Book, 1987
4	61	Appointment Book, 1987
4	62	Bicentennial Commission, 1988
4	63	Materials and Supplies, 1988
4	64	Freelance Book, 1988
4	65	Freelance Book, 1989

Subseries 5: Professional papers, 1990-1992

Box	Folder	
4	66	Freelance Book, 1990
4	67	Freelance Book, 1991
4	68	Freelance Book, 1992

Subseries 6: Personal papers, 1907-1995

Box	Folder	
9	4	Army Air Force certificates (oversized), 1945
5	1	Articles and sketches, 1988-1990, undated
5	2	"Dad" (Louis J. Koepnick), 1879-1956, bulk 1956
5	3	Ellasson Smith plan for studio house, 1941
5	4	European maps, 1938
5	5	European trip, 1938
5	6	Lower Springboro Road property, 1960-1962
5	7	Military publications, 1942-1945
5	8	Military reports, 1943
5	9	Military service records, 1942-1945
5	10	Non-Koepnick work, undated
5	11	Personal documents, 1907-1941
5	12	Photographs of military work, 1942-1945
5	13	Pontiac Street property, 1957-1965
5	14	Postcards with notes, 1936-1939
6	1	Postcards without notes, undated
6	2	Student work, undated
6	3	Tributes, 1995
6	4	University of Dayton honorary degree, 1995

Series 2: Photographs and scrapbooks, 1912-1995**Scope and Contents**

This series includes two boxes of indexed personal and professional photographs of Koepnick and his work, as well as images of his European travels. It also includes two files of photocopied and indexed scrapbooks filled with articles that mention Koepnick and his work.

Box	Folder
-----	--------

7	1	Photographs A:001-281a, 1912-1994, undated
7	2	Photographs B:201; C:100-141, 1930-1939, undated
7	3	Photographs D:100-168, 1930-1959, undated
8	1	Photographs E:001-005; F:001-019, 1966-1981
8	2	Photographs G:001-N:011, 1955-1957, undated
8	3	Photographs O:001-Q:044, 1930-1990, undated
8	4	Photographs AB:001-CD:031; AA:01-29, 1930-1988, undated
9	1	Scrapbook 1, 1929-1951
9	2	Scrapbook 2, 1940-1959
9	3	Photograph index, undated

Series 3: Videos and realia, 1990, undated

Scope and Contents

This series includes two VHS tapes featuring interviews with Koepnick as well as two miniature representations of his work in Sidney, Ohio, and three small artistic instruments.

Box	
9	VHS tapes, 1990, undated (2 tapes)
9	Realia, undated