



Inventory of the Booth Tarkington Collection (Collection #47)

The Brick Store Museum
Kennebunk, Maine

Compiled by J. Butler, Manuscript Curator
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Physical Description:

This small but significant collection was acquired in July 1985 when the home of the Kennebunkport writer, Booth Tarkington, was slated for sale. Its contents, which included much furniture and miscellaneous memorabilia of the Tarkingtons, were sold at a tag sale. Prior to that sale, the Brick Store Museum was offered the opportunity to specify some items it wished to have for its collection. A modest cache was set aside for the Museum and later given by the Cox family, which was selling the property.

The items selected make up this Tarkington collection. Tarkington's notebook describing the history and acquisition of the so-called "Jacobean Room," was deemed of particular interest. Selected also were miscellaneous items of a documentary nature – letters, photographs, receipts, papers concerning paintings owned by Tarkington, etc. The rather haphazard (rather than systematic) selection, made under pressure, explains the eclectic nature of this collection.

The collection is stored in one and a half boxes with oversize and specialized items stored elsewhere as indicated. The collection's acquisition number is 85.15.1-33.

Box and Folder Breakdown:

Box 1:

- Folder 1: Research information and correspondence concerning the work of the artist, Frank Brangwyn, 1967 - ?, Booth Tarkington owned a painting (or paintings) by this artist.
- Folder 2: Articles concerning the sculptor Clara Bratt.
- Folder 3: Research information and correspondence concerning work of the artist, George Cruikshank, 1792 – 1878. Booth Tarkington owned a painting (or paintings) by this artist.
- Folder 4: Research information, correspondence, and photographs concerning the work of Arthur B. Davies, 1862 – 1929. Booth Tarkington owned a painting (or paintings) by this artist.
- Folder 5: Correspondence and notes concerning “The Blue Mandarin Coat” by Joseph DeCamp, which was owned by Booth Tarkington. Includes photograph of the painting.
- Folder 6: Research information and correspondence concerning the work of Childe Hassam, 1859 – 1935. Both Tarkington owned a painting by this artist.
- Folder 7: Research notes and correspondence concerning the artist Alexander Iacouloff, 1887 – 1938. Booth Tarkington owned a painting by this artist.
- Folder 8: Photographs of the painting “Sir William Blackstone” by Thomas Gainsborough, which was owned by Booth Tarkington.
- Folder 9: Photographs of the painting “Edward Norris, Esq.,” by Sir Thomas Lawrence, which was owned by Booth Tarkington.
- Folder 10: Research materials concerning the artist Willard Metcalf.
- Folder 11: Research materials, correspondence, and photographs concerning the work of Adolphe Monticelli, 1824 – 1886. Booth Tarkington owned a painting by this artist.
- Folder 12: Photograph and information concerning portrait “Portrait of a Gentleman” by Jan Mytens, Booth Tarkington collection.
- Folder 13: Research materials and correspondence concerning work of Pene DuBois, particularly concerning painting (or paintings) by him owned by Booth Tarkington.
- Folder 14: Notes and letter concerning work of John Singer Sargent. Watercolor by him owned by Booth Tarkington.
- Folder 15: Photograph and notes concerning painting by Sorolla Y Bastida, which was owned by Booth Tarkington.
- Folder 16: Notes, correspondence, and photographs concerning portraits in the book, *Some Old Portraits*, by Booth Tarkington.
- Folder 17: Photographs of portraits, identified.
- Folder 18: Photographs of portraits, unidentified.

- Folder 19: Photographs of Italian Renaissance paintings, some owned by Booth Tarkington.
- Folder 20: "Preface" written by Booth Tarkington for unknown book. These are signatures from the book.
- Folder 21: Newspaper and magazine articles about Booth Tarkington, "Seawood," and his paintings.
- Folder 22: Photocopies of letters, etc., concerning paintings owned by Booth Tarkington (those not filed in folders under artists' names).
- Folder 23: Miscellaneous articles about artists, exhibitions, art trends.
- Folder 24: Booth Tarkington book plates; calling card; program for the Garrick Players, 8th season, 1938, Kennebunkport; first day envelopes National Air Mail Week, May 15-21, 1938, featuring Booth Tarkington's Regina, plus covering letter from Kennebunkport postmaster, W. Goodwin. Design for envelope by Louis Norton.
- Folder 25: Correspondence concerning Booth Tarkington writing cover line for book *Twilight of Painting* by Ives Gammell, 1946, and Mr. Tarkington's first efforts at same.
- Folder 26: Miscellaneous research notes, correspondence, floor plans, etc. concerning Booth Tarkington's "Jacobean Room" at "Seawood."
- Folder 27: Photographs of "Seawood" and interiors of "The Floats."
- Folder 28: Correspondence, 1935, concerning the "Jacobean Room."
- Folder 29: Photographs of the "Jacobean Room."
- Folder 30: Correspondence, 1935 – 1946, with dealers, artists, etc. concerning paintings owned by Booth Tarkington. (These letters have been copied and placed in folders pertaining to particular artists.)
- Folder 31: Receipts, bills, etc. from local (Kennebunkport) businessmen, 1933 -1948.
- Folder 32: Miscellaneous correspondence to Booth Tarkington including information on model and painting of the vessel Governor Langdon.
- Folder 33: Miscellaneous notes, appraisals, etc. concerning the Brick Store Museum's acquisition of this collection.

Box 2:

Longshore Lyrics, by Silas H. Perkins, Kennebunkport, Privately Printed, 1931. Autographed to Booth Tarkington by the author.

Bridge tallies and "Booth's Owage Book," Seawood, with leather cover. Tallies are printed and tilted, "Mrs. Booth Tarkington."

"Seawood" guest book, ca. 1917 – 1938. Wooden painted cover.

The collection also includes the following stored as indicated:

D-3: Framed menu “Diner to Booth Tarkington, By the Lotus Club, New York, November 25, 1916.” Autographed by Booth Tarkington.

Folio box 3, Folder #2: Posters for dances, Kennebunk River Club, one dated 1947.

Folio Box 2, Folder 2: Poster advertising Booth Tarkington “Author of Penrod, Gentle Julia, etc.” No date.

People photo file – Roberts: Photograph of Kenneth Roberts, autographed to Booth Tarkington.

Folio Box 3, Folder 12 Plans and detailed drawings for the “Jacobean Room” at Seawood, with covering correspondence from Westing, Evans and Egmore Inc., Philadelphia, from whom Booth Tarkington bought room in 1935.

Oversize photo box by number: Two photos of the “Jacobean Room” before removed from Grove House, England.

Metal case, Drawer 2: Film made at Seawood

Microfilm Draw: Microfilm “Works of Booth Tarkington at the Library of Congress.”

Maine Authors/Histories shelf: Copies of *The Landing* by Thomas Murphy, Jr., and *Out of the Past* by Kenneth Joy. Note: These were owned by the Coxes, not the Tarkingtons.

Folio Box 3, Folder 2: Fire signals card, Kennebunkport, 1972.

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