

Inventory

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ACCESSION SHEET

Accession # 69M33; 84M46 (addition of 1 poem) Location 4-h-1(1)

Title FICKE, ARTHUR DAVISON. PAPERS

Approximate inclusive dates 1924-1957; bulk, 1935-1942

Date of receipt unknown Received from unknown

Volume on arrival unknown

Number of boxes (after reboxing) 2 AB (.8 l.f.)

Condition Fair to good

Restrictions none

Description

Arthur Davison Ficke (1883-1945) was a poet, author, and collector of Japanese and Chinese art.

His papers span the years 1924 to 1957 and consist of handwritten and typewritten documents, printed matter - including halftone and photographic illustrations - and negatives. Most of the papers are notes for lectures he gave on Far Eastern art during the 1930s and 1940s. There is also some correspondence regarding these lectures, in particular, on the use of lantern slides. Correspondents include photographer Arnold Genthe and Japanese print collectors Louis V. Ledoux and Judson D. Metzgar. Other papers pertain to Ficke's collections of Japanese and Chinese art. Those papers post-dating his death are of his widow, Gladys Brown Ficke, and pertain to a revision of his Chats on Japanese Prints, originally published in 1915.

A detailed container list follows.

Special Formats ☒ Photographs ☐ Maps ☐ Audio Tapes ☐ Films ☐ Graphics
☐ Artifacts ☐ Machine-readable records
☒ Other (list) negatives

Temporary catalog card added entries

Ficke, Arthur Davison, 1883-1945*
x Ficke, Gladys Brown, [?]-1973
Genthe, Arnold, 1869-1942
Ledoux, Louis V. (Louis Vernon), 1880-1948
x Metzgar, Judson D.
Art - Collectors and collecting
Art - Slides

Art, Far Eastern
Prints, Japanese
Slides (Photography)

Accessioned by CF

Date January 5, 1988

x = not found in RLIN NAF
* RLIN incorrectly lists Ficke's DOD as 1946

FICKE, Arthur Davison, 1883-1945 American poet and author

Born in Davenport, Iowa, s. of Charles and Frances (Davison) Ficke

1904 - A.B. Harvard

1907 - married Evelyn Bethune Blunt. One son, Stanhope Blunt
" 2nd. time Gladys Brown, 1923

1906-07 - taught English at State University of Iowa

W.W. I - officer in A.E.F.

Author: From the Isles, 1907
The Happy Princess, 1907
The Earth Passion, 1908
The Breaking of Bonds, 1910
Twelve Japanese Painters, 1913
Mr. Faust, 1913
Sonnets of a Portrait Painter, 1914
The Man on the Hilltop, 1915
Chats on Japanese Prints, 1915
An April Elegy, 1917
Spectra [with Witter Bynner], 1917
Sonnets of a Portrait Painter, 1922
Out of Silence, 1924
Selected Poems, 1926
Mountain Against Mountain, 1929
The Secret and Other Poems, 1936
Mrs. Morton of Mexico, 1939
The Blue Jade Sceptre, 1941
Tumultuous Shore and Other Poems, 1942

[Source: Who's Who in America, vol. 21
The New Century Cyclopedia of
Names]

Ms. Div, NYPL
July, '69 pmr

Arthur Davison Ficke

Century Collection:

- A.L.S., 1904 May 16, A.D.Ficke, at Cambridge, to the editor of "The Century",
at [New York]. 1p.
A.L.S., 1904 May 28, Arthur Davison Ficke, at Cambridge, to the editor of "The
Century", at [N.Y.] 1p.
A.L.S., 1904 Aug. 12, Arthur D. Ficke, at Davenport, Iowa, to R.U.Johnson,
at [N.Y.]. 2p.
A.L.S., 1908 Oct. 27, Arthur Davison Ficke, at Davenport, Iowa, to Richard
Watson Gilder, at New York. 2p.
A.N.S., 1913 May 5, A.D.Ficke, at Davenport, Iowa, to Mr. Johnson, at [N.Y.]. 1p.
T.L.S., 1913 May 21, A.D.Ficke, at Davenport, Iowa, to Mr. Johnson, at [N.Y.]. 1p.
A.N.S., 1913 Oct. 21, A.D.Ficke, at Davenport, Iowa, to Mr. Yard, at [N.Y.]. 1p.
A.L.S., 1914 Nov. 19, A.D.Ficke, at Davenport, Iowa, to Mr. Benet, at [N.Y.] 1p.

(Ltrs. about)

- T.L.S., 1904 Nov. 25, Ficke & Ficke, at New York, to the editor of The Century
Magazine, at New York. 1p.

(Ltrs. to)

- T.L., 1914 Dec. 3, [the editor of the Century Magazine], to A.D.Ficke, at
Davenport, Iowa. 1p. [Carbon]

Poetry Society of America Collection:

- A.N.S., [1945?], A.D.Ficke, at ---?, to Gustav Davidson, at New York. 1p.
[With original letter from Davidson to Ficke]
T.L.S., n.d., A.D.Ficke, at [New York], to "Vinal", at ---? 1p.

Joel E. Spingarn Papers:

- A.L.S., 1924 April 24, Arthur Davison Ficke, at New York, to Mr. Spingarn,
at ---? 2p.
A.L.S., 1929 May 6, Arthur Davison Ficke, at Hillsdale, N.Y., to Mr. Spingarn,
at ---? 2p.

Arthur Davison Ficke Papers

Container List

- Box 1.
- a. Letters to Ficke from friends and curators of art, Oct-Nov 1941, regarding the cost and techniques of using lantern slides for illustrating lectures on Chinese and Japanese art. 11 items.
Correspondents: Arnold Genthe, Louis V. Ledoux, Judson D. Metzgar, American Library of Color Slides, The Art Institute of Chicago, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Museum of Fine Arts (Boston), Fogg Museum of Art (Harvard)
 - b. Letters to Ficke from Tamon Mayeda (director of the Japan Institute), 1941, regarding Ficke's lecture engagements at the Institute. 9 items. Included is a mimeograph copy of a lecture utilizing lantern slides prepared for the Japan Society by George Coolidge Tuttle.
 - c. Letters to Ficke, 1943. 2 items.
 - d. Lecture by Ficke on Japanese prints read at the Rembrandt Club, Brooklyn, 10 Nov. 1924. Typescript w/ corrections, 21 p.
 - e. Lecture by Ficke entitled "Japanese Prints" prepared for the Japan Society to illustrate a group of color slides made from prints in the collections of Louis V. Ledoux and Howard Mansfield. 1935?
Mimeograph copy, 35 p. +
 - f. Lecture by Ficke on Japanese prints at Columbia University, 15 Jan. 1940. Typescript w/ corrections, 8 p. + 1 p.
 - g. Lecture by Ficke entitled "An Historical Survey - the Antecedents and Development of the Japanese Print" prepared for delivery at the Japan Society, 1941. Typescript w/ corrections, 75 p. +
 - h. Outline of a lecture on Japanese prints. Typescript, 6 p.
 - i. Lecture on Japanese prints by Ficke, undated. Typescript, 12 p. + on 6X10" sheets. Many notes in back on lantern slides required for lectures.
 - j. Notes on Chinese painting. Artists of the Yüan Dynasty
 - k. " " " " . Artists of the Ming Dynasty
 - l. " " " " . Artists of the Sung Dynasty
 - m. " " " " . Artists of the Han, Six Dynasties, T'ang, and Five Dynasties
 - n. " " " " . General Topics
 - o. " " " " . Color prints: Ten Bamboo Studio; Mustard Seed Garden
 - p. " " " " . Miscellaneous notes
 - q. Index cards on Chinese painting.
 - r. Negatives of artworks
 - s. "Pome on Cheeses"

- Box 2.
- a. "Three Poems Inscribed on a Landscape Painting of the Ming Dynasty", translated and interpreted by S.H. Han and A.D. Ficke. Typescript dtd. 7 Apr. 1940, 2 p. w/ notes and letter from Han to Ficke dtd. 12 Apr. 1940.
 - b. "The Holy Soil of China (A Note on the "Pictures of Flowing and Weaving" Published by the Emperor K'ang Hsi in 1696 A.D.)", by Ficke. Typescript, n.d., 4 p. w/ c.c. and notes.
 - c. "Foreward" by Ficke to a work entitled "Twelve Chinese Painters" [sequel to his Twelve Japanese Painters?]. Typescript w/ corrections, 3 p.
 - d. Miscellaneous papers relating to Ficke's collections of Chinese and Japanese art, 1932-56.
 - e. "List of Chinese and Japanese Paintings owned by A. D. Ficke". Holograph checklist prepared by Ficke containing rough miniature sketches, descriptive notes, and notes on provenance. A few translations of inscription found on the paintings inserted. On 6X10" sheets.
 - f. Circular note to Japanese Print Collectors prepared by Ficke to warn against fraudulent reproductions. Typescript, 4 p.
 - g. Printed and photographic illustrations of Chinese and Japanese art.
 - h. Miscellaneous papers relating to Japanese prints.
 - i. Papers relating to a proposed revision of Ficke's Chats on Japanese Prints [first published in 1915]. Correspondence, 1957, of Gladys (Mrs. Arthur Davison) Ficke w/ Chas. E. Tuttle Co., Publishers (5 items w/ draft agreement); draft of a preface by Mrs. Ficke to a revised edition (in typescript); many holograph notes made Arthur Davison Ficke for a revision of his book.
 - j. Personal miscellany
 - k. Pamphlets
1. Lectures on Chinese landscape painting delivered by Ficke at Columbia University in New York [fall term?], 1942. Original typescript w/ holograph illustrations and corrections. On 6X10" sheets formerly in 3 looseleaf notebooks.
- These lectures are divided into three main sections: "The Chinese Aesthetic Ideal", "The Chinese Artist and His Philosophy", "The Chinese Artist as Technician". The manuscript text follows the Roman numeral sequence I - XV, corresponding to the fifteen paintings used by Ficke as illustrations for the lectures. Many notes in second volume in addition to the text. Binder covers were labelled "I", "II", and "III" respectively w/ the name "Ficke" and the Chinese characters for landscape painting on each.