

Archives Alive! Art in the Archives

An Introduction to Archives and Interpreting Art

In today's program we will...

Learn about what Archives are

Use art objects from the Archives
to learn about reading and interpreting Art

Handle original archival materials safely

What does the word Archive mean?



Archive ar·chive | \ 'är-,kīv \ *noun*

Definition

- 1:** The records created by people and organizations as they lived and worked. An archival collection is a unique body of information, created at a particular time by a particular organization or individual as the result of a particular activity
- 2:** a place in which public records or historical materials (such as documents) are preserved
- 3:** The organization responsible for preserving or making available archival materials

Types of Archives



Historical Societies



Government Archives



Community Archives



Corporate Archives



Religious Archives

Digital Collections



COLLECTION
10th-16th Century
Liturgical Chants

The acquisition of medieval liturgical chant manuscripts that trace the history of music notation as it evolved over



COLLECTION
Aaron Copland
Collection

The first release of the online collection contains approximately 1,000 items that yield a total of about 5,000 images

Digital Archives

...and so many more!

Introduction to the Archives

The City of Savannah Municipal Archives:

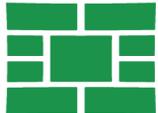
- Collects, manages, preserves, and makes accessible records documenting the City of Savannah's history
- Administers the records management program and the City Records Center to increase the efficiency of City agencies
- Shares the City's history with City employees, citizens and visitors through outreach activities

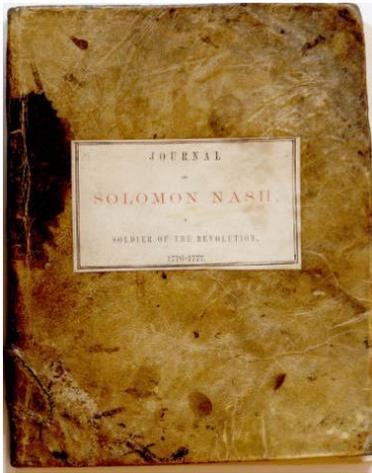


Introduction to the City of Savannah Collections

Overall Collections reflect:

- City of Savannah incorporation date of 1789
 - Colonial-era records are not held here.
- City of Savannah corporate limits
 - Think corporate limits for the time period being researched, not modern limits.
- City of Savannah government functions
 - Very few personal papers are held here, with the largest exception being the W. W. Law Collection.

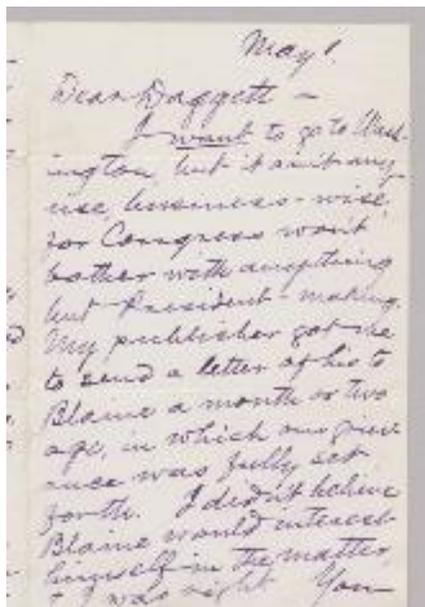




Archival collections can contain just about anything that was created or saved by a person or organization



WayBack Machine





Primary Sources

Materials that provide **direct** evidence, **first-hand** testimony, or an **eyewitness** account of a topic or event.

They can be published or unpublished items in any format, including handwritten letters, images, sound, or objects.

Art is about...

- ☐ *Looking closely and paying attention to details*
- *Understanding life*
- *Connecting to other people and other cultures*
- ❖ *Connecting and learning about the past*
- ✓ *Feeling and expressing those feelings*



Elements of Art

The elements of art are the building blocks used by artists to create a work of art.



Line is a mark with greater length than width. Lines can be horizontal, vertical, or diagonal; straight or curved; thick or thin.



Shape is a closed line. Shapes can be geometric, like squares and circles; or organic, like free-form or natural shapes. Shapes are flat and can express length and width.



Forms are three-dimensional shapes expressing length, width, and depth. Balls, cylinders, boxes, and pyramids are forms.



Space is the area between and around objects. The space around objects is often called negative space; negative space has shape. Space can also refer to the feeling of depth. Real space is three-dimensional; in visual art, when we create the feeling or illusion of depth, we call it space.



Color is light reflected off of objects. Color has three main characteristics: *hue* (the name of the color, such as red, green, blue, etc.), *value* (how light or dark it is), and *intensity* (how bright or dull it is).

- White is pure light; black is the absence of light.
- Primary colors are the only true colors (red, blue, and yellow). All other colors are mixes of primary colors.
- Secondary colors are two primary colors mixed together (green, orange, violet).
- Intermediate colors, sometimes called tertiary colors, are made by mixing a primary and secondary color together. Some examples of intermediate colors are yellow green, blue green, and blue violet.
- Complementary colors are located directly across from each other on the *color wheel* (an arrangement of colors along a circular diagram to show how they are related to one another). Complementary pairs contrast because they share no common colors. For example, red and green are complements, because green is made of blue and yellow. When complementary colors are mixed together, they neutralize each other to make brown.



Texture is the surface quality that can be seen and felt. Textures can be rough or smooth, soft or hard. Textures do not always feel the way they look; for example, a drawing of a porcupine may look prickly, but if you touch the drawing, the paper is still smooth.

Handling Records



Handling Records:

- Pencils only
- Be very careful when turning pages
- Do not pick up original archival materials
- Do not lean or write on archival materials
- Keep papers and pencils far away from original documents

Mistreatment of original documents will result in being removed from the exercise

Do I need to wear gloves in the archives?

