

Frederick F. Lennep Papers, 1946-1980



Artist Fred Lennep displaying one of his papier mache sculptures to Y.W.C.A. Women's Club member, Mrs. Frazer Holzlohner, The Courier-News, September 19, 1963.

Overview of the Collection

Title:	Frederick F. Lennep Papers, 1946-1980
Creator:	Frederick F. Lennep (1909-1990)
Accession:	PPL-2010-021
Size:	2.5 linear feet of records, comprised of: One (1) legal-size half document box (horizontal on shelf) One (1) oversize box
Repository:	Plainfield Public Library, Local History Department, 800 Park Avenue, Plainfield, NJ 07060
Abstract:	The Frederick F. Lennep Papers document a portion of the artist's life from 1946 to 1980. Record types include: letters, ephemera, newspaper clippings, sketches, notes, and photographs.
Language:	The records are in English.

Biographical Information

Frederick F. Lennep was born in New York City in 1909, and lived in the Plainfields for 60 years. He was a local artist who worked mostly in oils, watercolor, drawing, and papier mache. He taught art for many decades from his home studio in Plainfield. He was also an inventor of helpful devices, such a simple contraption to make shoveling snow less strenuous, as well as the process of hair stripping. Frederick served in the Army Air Corps during World War II. His wife, Gertrude Gray Lennep, passed away in 1980; they had no children.

Mr. Lennep was a display artist for many years in Tepper's department store, as well as designing windows for other local businesses. Most notably for Tepper's, he designed the large totem pole for their children's department. He created the red lobster that was on the top of the Somerset Fish Market in North Plainfield; the lobster is now on top of the Plainfield Elk's building. He designed the stork for the Watchung Rescue Squad, and his larger-than-life-size Easter bunny

bought smiles to the faces of many children who were recuperating at Muhlenberg Hospital during the 1950s, 60s and 70s.

He was a generous and kind man, who donated his time, money, and artwork to many local organizations. He was admired and well-loved by his students, neighbors, and the community at large. He passed away on January 10, 1990 at the Margaret McCutchen Nursing Home in North Plainfield; he was 79 years old.

Scope and Contents

The personal papers of Frederick Lennep include a variety of material dating from 1946 to 1980, with bulk dates of 1952 to 1967. The collection documents his teaching and artistic work while he resided in the Plainfield area.

Record types include: letters, ephemera, newspaper clippings, sketches, notes, photographs, and negatives. Most of the black and white photographs are of Mr. Lennep's artwork, both finished pieces and works-in-progress. There is an unframed, circa 1940s portrait photograph of Mr. Lennep in his Army Air Corps uniform. In addition, there is a negative of a plant sculpture, likely given to Mr. Lennep by a Plainfield club member, such as the Garden Club.

Arrangement

The material that makes up the Frederick F. Lennep Papers was originally kept in a scrapbook. Items were attached to the pages by metal paper clips, which were removed. All items were rehoused in archival folders.

The collection is arranged into two series; Series 1 is further divided into three subseries:

Series 1: Papers

Subseries A: Correspondence

Subseries B: Ephemera

Subseries C: Newspaper Clippings

Series 2: Artwork

Index Terms

People:

Lennep, Frederick F. (1909-1990)

Organizations:

American Red Cross, Plainfield Chapter, Plainfield, NJ

Catholic Daughters of America, Plainfield, NJ

The Community Chest, Inc, Plainfield, NJ

The Community Service Council, Inc, Plainfield, NJ

First Presbyterian Church of Plainfield, Plainfield, NJ

The Hartridge School, Plainfield, NJ

Junior Chamber of Commerce of the Plainfields, Plainfield, NJ

The King's Daughters, Inc., Plainfield, NJ

Monday Afternoon Club, Plainfield, NJ

Muhlenberg Hospital, Plainfield, NJ
Plainfield Art Association, Plainfield, NJ
Plainfield Garden Club, Plainfield, NJ
St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, North Plainfield, NJ
Scotch Plains Women's Club, Scotch Plains, NJ
Y.M.C.A. Women's Club, Plainfield, NJ

Places:

Plainfield (N.J.)

Subjects:

North Plainfield (N.J.)--Local Artists
Plainfield (N.J.)--History

Related Items

Holdings from many of the local organizations listed above are available through the Local History Department at [Plainfield Public Library](http://www.plainfieldlibrary.info) (www.plainfieldlibrary.info). A full list with descriptions and links to finding aids can be found [here](#).

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements

This collection consists of paper documents that do not require any additional technology for access.

Series Description

Series 1: Papers [1946-1980]

Series Description

Series 1 contains three subseries. It is composed of paper documents. Subseries include:

Subseries A: Correspondence (including letters and notecards), 1949-1980, undated.

Subseries B: Ephemera (including award certificates, event programs, membership cards, one b&w negative, and a portrait of Mr. Lenneper in uniform), circa 1940s, 1957-1972, undated.

Subseries C: Newspaper clippings documenting classes, lectures, and artistic work by Mr. Lenneper, 1946-1974, undated.

Arrangement

Series 1 is arranged by subseries; chronologically within each folder. This series fills three file folders.

Series 2: Artwork [1964-1972, undated]

Series Description

Series 2 contains photographs, negatives, and sketches of Mr. Lenneper's artwork, both finished sculptural pieces and works in progress. This material was removed from the scrapbook pages, kept in order by page, and rehoused in 30 archival folders that fill one oversize box.

Administrative Information

Access & Restrictions

The Frederick F. Lenneper Papers are available for research.

Access is restricted to materials prepared by the Local History department staff. All materials must be viewed in the Plainfield Room and may not be removed to another area of the library without permission of the Library Director or designee. Materials must be handled carefully and kept in order. Materials must not be leaned upon, altered, folded, ripped, or traced upon. Marks may not be added or erased from materials. Materials must be returned directly to Local History department staff and inspected before the researcher leaves the Plainfield Room.

One photocopy may be made (by Plainfield Public Library staff) of each document for the purpose of research; official Local History departmental reproduction fees may apply. Permission to publish must be obtained by the Plainfield Public Library Board of Trustees as delegated to the Library Director. Permission to publish does not constitute a copyright clearance. The researcher is responsible for further copyright restrictions. The Plainfield Public Library is not responsible for the misuse of copyrighted material.

Preferred Citation

Identification of item; Date (if noted); "Frederick F. Lenneper Papers", Box and Folder Number, Local History Department, Plainfield Public Library, Plainfield, New Jersey.

Acquisition Information

The collection was donated in 2010 by Margaret Poltorack, a former art student of Mr. Lenneper in the 1960s. The papers were given to Ms. Poltorak at the estate sale of Lenneper's former home on Sandford Avenue in Plainfield.

Processing Information

This collection was processed by Sarah Hull in June 2010. The finding aid was written and encoded by Sarah Hull in 2010 and updated by Sally Weiner in September 2024. Finding aid content follows the guidelines suggested by *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*.

The processing of this collection was made possible through a grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission.

Collection Inventory

Series 1: Papers [circa 1940s, 1946-1980]

Box	Folder	Title/Description	Date(s)
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Plainfield Public Library NJ
1949-1980, undated
1957-1972, undated
1946-1974
1940s

1	1	Letters
	2	Ephemera
	3	Newspaper Clippings
2		Portrait photograph of Frederick Lennep in uniform

Series 2: Artwork [1964-1972, undated]

Box	Folders	Title/Description	Date(s)
2	1-30	Photographs, Negatives, Sketches	1964-1972, undated