

FINDING AID FOR THE
DOROTHY NORMAN COLLECTION
AG 164

Center for Creative Photography
University of Arizona
Tucson, AZ 85721-0103

For further information about the archives at the Center for Creative Photography, please contact the Archivist: phone 520-621-6273; fax 520-621-9444

Description

Papers, 1875-1969, and photographic materials, 1930s-1960s, of Dorothy Norman (1905-1997), writer, photographer and social activist. Includes extensive research materials and manuscripts related to Norman's books on Alfred Stieglitz, especially *Alfred Stieglitz: Introduction to an American Seer* (1960) and *Alfred Stieglitz: An American Seer* (1973). The photographic materials consist of negatives, contact prints, and proof prints from throughout Norman's career including her large files of portraits, her early work in New York City and Cape Cod, and her later work in India and Japan.
12 linear feet

Provenance

Manuscripts in this collection were purchased from Dorothy Norman in 1976. These consist of copies and duplicates of documents in the Norman Collection at the Beinecke Library, Yale University.

Photographic materials were a gift of the Norman Estate in June 1997.

Rights and restrictions

Copyright to Norman's writings and photographs is held by the Norman Estate. For further information, contact the archivist.

Processing history

Preliminary processing in July 1984 by Roger Myers. Updated in June 1997 by Amy Rule.

Organization of the collection

Materials in the Norman Collection arrived at the Center in a relatively unorganized state. They were arranged by record types according to the following outline:

- Documents, 1875-1952
- Manuscripts, ca. 1947-1969
- Notes, ca. 1940-1960
- Photographic materials: negatives and contact prints

[Note: information about fine prints by Dorothy Norman in the Center's collection can be found on the Center's Web page under "Collections."]

Biographical outline

Dorothy Norman was born in Philadelphia on March 25, 1905. She was educated at Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts (1922-23), and at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia (1923-25). In June of 1925, she married Edward A. Norman, an heir to the Sears, Roebuck fortune. They had two children, Andrew and Nancy, but the marriage ended in divorce in 1951.

In 1927, Norman visited The Intimate Gallery on Park Avenue in New York City. Soon thereafter, she met Alfred Stieglitz. As their friendship deepened to love, Stieglitz photographed Norman and encouraged her to make her own photographs. He trained her in development and printing techniques, often writing his comments on the verso of her photographs. Norman documented activities and installations in *An American Place*, Stieglitz's next gallery. This gave her the opportunity to make portraits of the many artists and writers who were drawn to the gallery. During this period she also photographed extensively in New York City and Cape Cod and created a large body of photographs of her mentor, Stieglitz.

Norman was the publisher and editor of *Twice a Year*, an arts journal which appeared from 1938-1948. She wrote a column in *The New York Post* between 1942-1949. After

Stieglitz's death, she published several books devoted to Stieglitz -- *Stieglitz Memorial Portfolio* (1947) and *Alfred Stieglitz: An American Seer* (1973).

Norman was throughout her life an advocate for social change and a variety of liberal causes including Americans for Democratic Action, the New York Urban League, the American Emergency Food Committee for India, the American Citizens' Committee for Economic Aid Abroad, the Group Theatre, the American Civil Liberties Union, and the early Planned Parenthood Association. Her friendship with Indira Gandhi and several visits to India resulted in a large body of photographs and several books documenting the great social changes in India in the 1950s.

In 1968, Norman donated a large collection of photographs by herself and Stieglitz to the Philadelphia Museum of Art. A selection of these were exhibited there that year. A larger number of Norman's photographs were shown at the International Center of Photography in New York City in 1993 accompanied by a book, *Intimate Visions: The Photographs of Dorothy Norman*.

Norman died on April 12, 1997. Her personal papers and photographic works are preserved in the Beinecke Library at Yale University, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and the Center for Creative Photography.

Inventory of the collection

Series: Documents

Arrangement: Chronological

Quantity: .25 linear feet

AG164:1/1	1875-1879
2	1880-1889
3	1890-1899
4	1900-1909
5	1910-1919
6	1920-1929
7	1930-1939
8	1940-1949
9	1952

Series: Manuscripts

Arrangement: Alphabetical, by title of published manuscript

Quantity: .25 linear feet

AG164:1/10 Alfred Stieglitz Album (1952)
11-16 Alfred Stieglitz: An American Seer (1969)

AG164:2/1-12 Alfred Stieglitz: An American Seer (1969)
13 Alfred Stieglitz and the Living Artist, ca. 1950
14 Death of Stieglitz, 1947
15 Encounter with Stieglitz, ca. 1950
16 The Meeting, ca. 1950
17 Self Portrait of a Seer, 1947
18 Stieglitz [poem], ca. 1947

Series: Notes

Arrangement: By earliest page number on the page, or by other organizing alpha-numeric signifiers. A large number of pages lacked any sort of ordering information and, thus, were filed together in miscellaneous fashion.

Quantity: 1.25 linear feet

AG164:2/19-23 Notes

AG164:3/1-26 Notes

AG164:4/1-18 Notes

Series: Photographic Materials

Arrangement: These materials have not been fully organized or indexed. After being received at the Center, they were housed in archival containers and given a preliminary sorting. Further arrangement and description will take place later.

Quantity: 9 linear feet

AG164:5 India: Loose prints

AG164:6 India: Loose contact prints

AG164:7 India: Negatives and contact prints

AG164:8 India: Contact prints on pages; miscellaneous manuscript materials

AG164:9 Negatives, 4x5 inch, in pages

AG164:10 Contact sheets and negatives

- AG164:11 Contact sheets and negatives
- AG164:12 Mounted contact prints of portraits of Alfred Stieglitz
- AG164:13 Negatives (archivally resleeved), portraits, alphabetically arranged
- AG164:14 Negatives (archivally resleeved), miscellaneous
- AG164:15 Negatives (archivally resleeved), miscellaneous
- AG164:16 Negatives, 4x5 inch (archivally resleeved)
- AG164:17 India: small negatives (unsorted)
- AG164:18 Badly deteriorated nitrate and diacetate negatives
- AG164:19 Unsorted negatives; empty vintage photographic paper boxes
- AG164:20 Negatives and prints, unsorted: USA
- AG164:21 Negatives and prints, unsorted: foreign travel
- AG164:22 Proof print files, alphabetical by name or location

(end of finding aid)