



Guide to the Eulabee Dix Papers 1900-1987

Archives and Special Collections
Library and Research Center
National Museum of Women in the Arts

Re-processed by Patrick Brown
August 2006
5.5 linear feet; 6 containers

Biography

Eulabee Dix (1878-1961) was born in Greenfield, Illinois. In 1899, Dix moved to New York City to study and begin her professional career as a miniature painter. Wealthy patrons commissioned portraits by Dix of themselves and their children. Dix's portraits were part of a growing interest in miniature painting – a continuation of the nostalgia and romanticism of the Arts and Crafts Movement.

Dix had solo exhibitions of both commissioned works and portraits of her children. She also painted larger works of flowers. While living in Los Angeles, she had an exhibit of paintings of Hollywood celebrities' doorways. Dix lived and worked throughout the United States and Europe, finally settling in Lisbon, Portugal. She died in 1961 while visiting her son in Connecticut.

Dix's work is in several institutions including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Museu Nacional de Arte Antiga, Lisbon; the National Museum of American Art, Washington DC; and the National Portrait Gallery, Washington DC. The National Museum of Women in the Arts houses over 86 paintings by Dix in its permanent collection.

Chronology

- 1878** Eulabee Dix is born in Greenfield, IL .
- c.1898** Studies at the St. Louis School of Fine Arts.
- 1899** Paints Self-Portrait. Moves to New York..
- 1900-1902** Studies miniature painting at the Art Students League with William Whittimore.
- 1902-1909** Lives and works at Carnegie Hall.
- 1904** Travels to Europe in the Spring. Paints miniature of Mrs. Paget.
- 1905** Paints miniature of Countess Frances Warwick.

Gertrude Kasebier photographs Dix several times in her studio.
- 1906** Exhibits miniature of Lady Minnie Paget in the "Eleventh Exhibition of the Royal Society of Miniature Painters," the Modern Gallery, London.

First solo show, "Exhibition of Portrait Miniature by Miss Eulabee Dix," is held at the Fine Art Society, London.
- 1907** Solo exhibition in New York, at the Bauer Folsom Galleries.

- 1908** Exhibition, "Miniature by Miss Eulabee Dix," at the A.R. Kohlman Galleries, Indianapolis.
- Solo exhibition, "A Special Collection of Miniature Paintings by Miss Eulabee Dix," at the St. Louis Museum of Fine Arts.
- During the summer, Dix travels to England, France and Scotland. Studies drama with Rosina Philippi in London.
- 1909** Paints Samuel Longhorne Clemens (Mark Twain- in collection of National Portrait Gallery).
- 1910** Exhibition at Thurber Art Galleries, Chicago.
- June 22.* John Sloan notes in his diary that Dix posed for a pencil sketch by Yeats at Sloan's studio.
- Moves to Sherwood Studios.
- Dix marries New York lawyer Alfred LeRoy Becker.
- Robert Henri paints a portrait of Dix in her wedding gown, now in the permanent collection of the Museum of Nebraska Art.
- 1911** Robert Henri paints a portrait of Dix, Lady in Black Velvet that is exhibited at the MacDowell Club in New York, and is now in the permanent collection of the High Museum of Art in Atlanta, GA.
- 1916** Alfred Becker is appointed Deputy Attorney General of New York. The couple moves to Albany.
- Dix exhibits in the Art Association of Indianapolis's 31st Annual Exhibition of Painting at the John Herron Art Institute, Indianapolis.
- 1917** The Beckers travel to Argentina.
- 1919** The Becker family moves to New York.
- 1920** Dix exhibits work at the Second Spring Exhibition by members of the Pennsylvania Society of Miniature Painters, the Art Alliance Gallery, Philadelphia.
- 1923** Dix gives an "Illustrated Talk on Miniature" to the Civic Art Center, New York, in conjunction with her exhibition at the Center.
- 1924** Shows work at the "Loan and Invitational Exhibition of Miniatures, Antique and Modern, from the Collection of Mrs. Daniel J. McCarthy and exhibiting artists," the Society of the Four Arts, Palm Beach, FL.
- 1925** Dix lives in Europe for three years with her two children, Philip Dix and Joan.
- 1927** Dix wins a silver medal at the Salon des Artistes Francais, Paris.
- 1928** Dix returns to New York.
- Solo exhibition, "Table Portraits," at Milch Galleries, New York.

- 1929** The Pennsylvania Society of Miniature Painters awards Dix a bronze medal of honor.
- Awarded silver medal, the Levantia White Boardman Memorial Prize, for Portrait of Mrs. Henry Strater at the American Society of Miniature Painters 30th Annual Exhibition, Grand Central Art Galleries, New York.
- Gives lecture on "The Masters of Miniature Painting" at Contemporary Arts, New York. In conjunction with exhibition of "Table Portraits and Miniatures."
- 1931** Travels to Paris for further study in painting.
- 1932** Returns to New York.
- Exhibits drawings of Vassar College Daisy Chain students at Taylor Hall, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY
- 1933** Lecture at Brooklyn Museum, "The Art and History of Miniature Painting."
- "Exhibition of Portrait Miniatures by Eulabee Dix," Corcoran Gallery of Art.
- 1934** Exhibits two paintings as part of group flower paintings exhibition at the Grand Central Galleries, New York.
- "Exhibition of Portrait Miniatures and Flower Paintings by Eulabee Dix," M. Knoedler & Co., London.
- 1935** "Flowers and Miniature Portraits by Eulabee Dix," Grand Central Art Galleries, New York.
- Exhibits Mrs. Marshall at the Royal Academy, London.
- 1936** Exhibits flower paintings at Garden Club of London.
- "Roses of England, Roses of France," solo exhibition of paintings at Marie Sterner Gallery, New York.
- 1938** Exhibits miniatures and flower paintings at Arts Club, Washington; Telfair Gallery, Savannah; and at the Mint Museum of Art, Charlotte.
- 1939** "Exhibition of Miniatures and Roses by Eulabee Dix," Delphic Studios, New York. In conjunction with the exhibition, Dix lectures on miniatures.
- Awarded Howell Tracy Fisher Memorial Prize for My Children (1927), at the 37th annual Waterclub and Print Exhibition and the 38th Annual Exhibition of Miniatures, Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts.
- 1940** "Miniatures and Fleurs de Toiles," Loudonville Exchange.
- Dix moves to Los Angeles for approximately four years.
- 1941** Exhibition of miniatures and flowers at the Nicholson Gallery, Pasadena.
- Exhibition at Ebell Club's Art Salon, Los Angeles.
- 1942** Exhibit "Doorways of Famous Homes," Allotria Club, Los Angeles.

- 1943** Awarded first prize in miniature division, California Art Club, Los Angeles
- 1945** Moves back to New York.
Holds exhibition "Doorways of Famous Homes," at new studio at 1690 3rd Avenue.
- 1946** "Flower Paintings and Custom-designed Gingham Dresses," 1690 3rd Avenue.
- 1948** Exhibits flower paintings at "Roses Through the Centuries," Wanamaker's, Philadelphia.
"Exhibition and Sale of Miniatures, Fleurs de Toile Pictures and Original and Artistic Bags," 1690 3rd Ave.
- 1950** "Special Exhibition of Portrait Miniatures," 1690 3rd Ave.
Presents studio show celebrating fifty years in New York.
Included in "Flower and Still Life Paintings by an International Group of Artists Throughout the Centuries," French & Co., Inc., New York.
- 1952** Dix presents lectures, "The History of the Art of Miniature Painting," National Arts Club Gallery.
"Pictures of Roses in Oils, Watercolors," 1690 3rd Ave.
- 1953** Exhibits work in "Open Exhibition of Oil Paintings by Contemporary Artists." National Arts Club, New York.
- 1954** Dix spends the majority of the last seven years of her life at York House in Lisbon, Portugal.
- 1958** Retrospective of miniatures and paintings, "Pinturas E Miniaturas de Eulabee Dix," at the Museu Nacional de Arte Antiga, in Lisbon.
Solo exhibition, Milch Galleries, New York.
- 1959** "Eulabee Dix: Desenhos, Retratos, Pinturas," at the Livraria a Bibliofila, Lisbon.
- 1961** Dix dies in Waterbury, CT.

Scope and Content

Included in the Eulabee Dix Papers are a variety of materials from Dix's professional life. Correspondence with artist friends, patrons, and galleries are included. Many photographs, news-clippings, and other types of reproductions of Dix's work were collected by the artist. Two scrapbooks consist of many of these reproductions. Several portraits of Eulabee Dix are also part of the collection.

The collection's writings are mainly manuscripts – both handwritten and typescripts – by Dix of a memoir and a history of miniatures. A version of the memoir was privately published by Dix's family after her death. Other writings included are a few short stories by Dix and one typescript story about Dix's studio by Ruth von Phule.

Several medals won by Dix are part of the collection, as is her palette and brush. A pencil sketch by John Butler Yeats is included in the collection.

The collection is divided into seven series:

- Series 1: Correspondence, 1900-1959 (by subject)
- Series 2: Printed Matter, 1906-1987 (by subject)
- Series 3: Writings, undated (by subject)
- Series 4: Clippings, 1907-1936 (chronologically and in original order for bound material)
- Series 5: Photographs 1906-1953 (by subject and in original order for bound material)
- Series 6: Memorabilia 1927-1929 (by subject)
- Series 7: Sketch by John Butler Yeats, 1910 (single object)

Provenance

Prior to the acquisition by National Museum of Women in the Arts, the collection was kept by the artist and her family. Most of the collection was inherited by Dix's children, Joan Becker Gaines and Philip Dix Becker, and Dix's nephew, Samuel Dix.

The Eulabee Dix Papers was part of a larger gift to the National Museum of Women in the Arts by Joan Becker Gaines, the daughter of Eulabee Dix, and her extended family in 1989.

Series Descriptions

Series I: Correspondence, 1900-1959

This series consists of correspondence, arranged by subject

Series II: Printed Matter, 1906-1987

This series contains printed matter, such as exhibition pamphlets.

Series III: Writings, undated

This series mainly includes drafts of Eulabee Dix's memoirs.

Series IV: Clippings, 1907-1936

This series contains clippings, which refer to both Dix's exhibit and also to the persons Dix painted. Also including with the clippings are two scrapbooks, assembled by Dix, of clippings and reproductions of her work.

Series V: Photographs, 1906-1953

This series consists of photographs. Most of the photographs are reproductions of Dix's work.

Series VI: Memorabilia, 1927-1929

This series contains memorabilia, including awards and Dix's ivory palette.

Series VII: Sketch by John Butler Yeats, 1910

Series 7 is a single item – a sketch of Eulabee Dix by John Butler Yeats from 1910.

Processing

The collection is housed in six boxes located in the Library and Research Center. Initially the collection was processed and its finding aid was written in 1994 by Wendy Bellion. In 2006, the collection was re-housed. The collection was reprocessed into seven series (Correspondence, Printed Matter, Writings,

Clippings, Photographs, Memorabilia, and Sketch by John Butler Yeats), and placed in acid-free folders, custom sized wrappers, custom sized portfolios, and mylar containers where appropriate. Torn, cockled, and other damaged objects, generally, were not mended because most of the damaged objects are brittle. Staples and metal pins were replaced by non-reactive, plastic clips.

Related Materials

The Archives on Women Artists in the Library and Research Center maintains a vertical file on Eulabee Dix, which includes articles and other secondary research material.

Looking for Eulabee Dix by Jo Ann Ridley is the only published biography on the artist.

The Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery maintains a file on Eulabee Dix – mainly concerning her portrait of Samuel Longhorne Clemens.

Princeton University Library houses John Butler Yeats' letters to Eulabee Dix.

Box Inventory

SERIES I: CORRESPONDENCE, 1900-1959

Box 1

Alexander, Elisabeth C., 1926
Balsan, Consuelo F., 1955
Beckington, Alice, 1940
Bloom, Vera, 1945
Buffalo Fine Arts Gallery/Albright Art Gallery, 1913, signed Cornelia B Sage
Carline, Dick, n.d.
Church, Frederick S., 1903-1923
Cotelielt, Lucuetias Eddy, 1927, American Women's Club of Paris
Conner, Eli Talyor, 1937
Dix, H. P., 1954
Dix, William S., 1954
Fristott, Marie Sterner, n.d.
Hasbrouck, Helen, 1930
Henri, Robert, 1911-1917
Heywood, Florence, 192[7]
Hoyt, Esther H., 1910
Hodges, Liffie M., 1910
Hopkins, Ellen, n.d.
Karr, Louise, n.d.
Kemsley Newspapers Ltd. of London, 1954, signed Kay Murray
Kibby, John T., 1934
"La Revue Moderne," 1935, 1936
Lubec, Henry, Rector, 1900
Lyon, Isabel, 1907
McCarthy, Elizabeth, 1929
McNeil, Dudley Darr, Bishop, 1954
Monod, F, 1939
Museu Nacional de Arte Antiga, 1958-1959, Dr. Joao Couto
Myrick, Katherine S., 1929
Oxford University Press, 1947
Paget, Lady Minnie, 1904-1915

Parsons, Katherine B., 1956
Podley, 1936
Princeton University Library, 1950, signed Julian P. Boyd
Reader's Digest, n.d.
Rice, H.L.P., 1933
Ring, Clark L., 1923
Rogers, Mrs. Francis, 1954
Simon and Schuster, Inc., 1940
Skinner, Cornelia Otis, 1952
Societe de la Miniature de l'Aquarelle et des arts Precieux, n.d., signed Mll.
Debillemont Chardon
Spettal, Gladys S., n.d.
Twain, Mark, 1908
Universe Magazine, 1933, signed Alexis Droutzkoy
Warwick, Countess Frances W., 1934-1936
Weathers, Edna Cushing, 1931
Whittemon, William J., 1947
Unidentified, n.d.
Unidentified, 1958-1959
Third Party Correspondent, n.d.

SERIES II: PRINTED MATTER, 1906-1987

Box 1

Undated Material
Printed Matter, 1906-1987.

Box 3

Undated Material

SERIES III: WRITINGS

Box 2

Drafts of memoirs, n.d.
Folder Typescripts for memoirs and history of miniature painting., n.d.
"Fire Rittings," n.d.
Handwritten Material, n.d.
Typescript and related material, n.d.
Collected loose material, n.d.
"Salon Under the El" written by Ruth von Phul, n.d.

Box 3

"The Fortune Gown," n.d.
Contents of envelope titled, "Philosophy, '31-'41"

Box 4

Manuscript on the history of miniatures, 1946

Box 5

Journal, 1900

SERIES IV: CLIPPINGS, 1907-1936

Box 3

Clippings, 1907-1936
Photocopies of Loose Clippings from Scrapbook, n.d.
Undated clippings, n.d.

Box 4

Scrapbook with Tassle, n.d.
Tape bound clippings 1(12) n.d.
Oversized Clippings, n.d.

Box 5

Scrapbook with Cloth Binding, n.d.

SERIES V: PHOTOGRAPHS, 1906-1953

Box 3

Portraits of Dix, 1906-1953
Portraits of other people, n.d.
Dix's studio in Carnegie Hall
Other paintings by Dix, n.d.
Lisbon Exhibition, n.d.
Portrait paintings by Dix, (2 folders), n.d.

SERIES VI: MEMORABILIA, 1927-1929

Box 6

Award Medals, 1927-1929
Card Template for Ivory w/ Notecards, n.d.
Palette and Brush, n.d.
Original Boxes for Metals

SERIES VII: SKETCH BY JOHN BUTLER YEATS, 1910

Box 4

Sketch, 1910