

George S. Koyl, 1885-1975

A Finding Aid for
Architectural Drawings and Papers, 1908-1955,
in
The Architectural Archives, University of Pennsylvania

Archival Description

Descriptive Summary

Title: Architectural Drawings and Papers, 1908-1955.

Coll. ID: 046

Origin: George S. Koyl, 1885-1975, Architect.

Extent: Architectural drawings 7 items;
Additional materials 4 items

Repository: The Architectural Archives, University of Pennsylvania
102 Meyerson Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104-6311
(215) 898-8323

Abstract: This collection is notable for Koyl's fine watercolor renderings and travel drawings executed during his period of study at the American Academy in Rome. It also contains a small amount of memorabilia. It contains no correspondence and no materials related to Koyl's built architectural projects.

Indexes: This collection is included in the Philadelphia Architects and Buildings Project, a searchable database of architectural research materials related to architects and architecture in Philadelphia and surrounding regions:
<http://www.philadelphiabuildings.org>

Cataloging: Collection-level records for materials in the Architectural Archives may be found in RLIN Eureka, the union catalogue of members of the Research Libraries Group. The record number for this collection is PAUP01-A18.

Publications: "Oratorio di San Bernardino, Perugia" is published in Strong, Ann L. and Thomas, George E. *The Book of the School*. Philadelphia, PA: The Graduate School, 1990.
"Hall of Fame, Washington D.C." is published in O'Gorman, James F., *et al. Drawing Toward Building* Philadelphia, PA : Published for the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts by the University of Pennsylvania Press, 1986
"Restoration of City Hall Park" is published in *Year book of the Architectural League of New York, and catalogue of the ... annual exhibition*. [New York : Secretary of the Architectural league of New York], 192**

Biographical/Historical Sketch

George S. Koyl was born in Wyoming in 1885. He was trained in architecture in Philadelphia at the University of Pennsylvania and studied at the American Academy in Rome 1911-1914. After returning to the United States, he taught at the Carnegie Institute in Pittsburgh, worked in the offices of Cass Gilbert and McKim, Mead & White and later began an independent practice. Koyl returned to Philadelphia as Dean of the School of Fine Arts of the University of Pennsylvania in 1932. After his retirement as Dean in 1950 he continued as Professor of Architecture until 1955.

Scope and Content Note

This collection is notable for Koyl's fine watercolor renderings and travel drawings executed during his period of study at the American Academy in Rome. Their beauty and attention to detail reflect the Beaux-Arts style of architectural rendering Koyl learned as a student of Paul Cret at the University of Pennsylvania. The most remarkable is a 46 3/4" x 37 1/2" rendering of the Oratorio di San Bernardino, Perugia. Another notable rendering, Hall of Fame, Washington D.C., is a collaboration with Ezra Winter, painter (Ezra Winter, 1886-1949), and H. D. Thrasher, sculptor (Harry Dickinson Thrasher, 1883-1918).

The latest drawing in the collection is dated 1923, a rendering of a proposed restoration of City Hall Park, New York City, done in collaboration with J. A. Thompson (John Ambrose Thompson, 1876-1968) and Victor Farrar. The collection also contains a small amount of memorabilia. It contains no correspondence and no materials related to Koyl's built architectural projects. The only materials related to Koyl's teaching are a certificate on his retirement and an original 1942 caricature of Koyl by Alfred Bendiner.

The collection is arranged in two series:

- I. Architectural Drawings.
- II. Memorabilia.

Access Points for Indexing (Controlled Vocabulary)

Koyl, George S. (George Simpson), 1885-1975.
University of Pennsylvania. Dept. of Architecture -- History -- Sources.
University of Pennsylvania. Graduate School of Fine Arts -- History -- Sources.
American Academy in Rome -- History -- Sources.
Architects -- Archives.
Architectural design -- History -- 20th century -- Sources.
Architectural drawing -- United States.
Architecture, Modern -- 20th century -- United States -- Designs and plans.
Architectural design -- Study and teaching -- History -- Sources.
Architectural drawings American.
Student drawings.
Travel sketches.
Bendiner, Alfred.
Winter, Ezra, 1886-1949.
Thrasher, Harry Dickinson.
Thompson, John Ambrose, 1876-1968.
Farrar, Victor.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on access: This collection is available for research by appointment only.

Preferred citation: George S. Koyl Collection, The Architectural Archives, University of Pennsylvania.

Acquisition: Gift of George S. Koyl.

Processing: The collection was processed and the finding aid prepared by William Whitaker, Emily Cooperman, Laura Stroffolino and Nancy Thorne, with the research assistance of Jennifer Webb. Work was substantially completed in 2001, with additions and corrections in 2003.

Container list

Series I. Architectural Drawings.

Call#	Descriptive Title
046.1	Musicians, Watercolor, 38 1/2" x 16 3/4" (approx), n.d.
046.2	Oratorio di San Bernardino, Perugia, 46 3/4" x 37 1/2", 1911
046.3	Hall of Fame, Washington D.C., Competition, American Academy in Rome, 55 3/4" x 26 1/2", 1912 (Ezra Winter painter, H. D. Thrasher sculptor, George S. Koyl architect)
046.4	Restoration of City Hall Park as proposed by the New York Chapter of the Public Information Committee. Elevation of entrance to Brooklyn Bridge, New York, NY, 25 3/4"x34 1/4", 1923 (J. A. Thompson, Victor Farrar, George S. Koyl)
046.5	Erechtheum, Athens, 21" x 13 3/4", 1914
046.6	Acropolis, Athens, 20" x 14", 1914
046.7	Watercolor, 8 1/4" x 3", 1908

Series II. Memorabilia.

046.8	"Teecher Kamooflaged", caricature of Koyl by A. Bendiner, 1942 Matted clipping of a watercolor by Paul Cret (published in Pencil Points)
046.9	American Academy in Rome, certificate, 1914 Certificate honoring Koyl on his retirement, 1955
046.10	Diploma (Doctoris Artium Elegantium) University of Pennsylvania, 1944