

## Ernest Roth Papers

### COLLECTION, M-75

#### DATE

1911 – 1963

#### CONTRIBUTOR

Mattatuck Museum

#### ADMINISTRATIVE/BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY ELEMENT

Ernest David Roth was born in Stuttgart, Germany in 1879. He immigrated to the United States with his family in 1884 at the age of five and lived in New York City. As a child in New York, Roth worked in a print shop, which sparked his interest in printmaking. In New York City he studied at the National Academy of Design under Edgar Ward and George Maynard and at The New School of Art under F. Luis Mora. He also studied etching techniques with James David Smillie. Roth tried to start a career as a printmaker in New York but was unsuccessful. He was also a part of the Chicago Society of Etchers. He often traveled to Europe in order to produce printworks. Some of his most famous works are of the cityscape of Italy and New York City. After gaining success in the printmaking field Roth moved with his wife, Elizabeth, to Redding, CT. He died in 1964 while visiting his friends in Cambridge, New York.

Roth was a member of the Salmagundi Club; American Watercolor Society; New York Watercolor Club; Brooklyn Society of Etchers; Chicago Society of Etchers; Print Makers Society of California; Life Member of the National Arts Club; elected Associate of the National Academy of Design in 1920, and a National Academician in 1928. His work garnered numerous prizes during his career including but not limited to a Silver Medal in etching and a Bronze Medal in painting at the Panama Pacific International Exposition; the Samuel T. Shaw Prizes for etching at the Salmagundi Club in 1911, 1912, and 1916; the Saltus Landscape Prize for painting at the Salmagundi Club in 1915; 1st Honorable Mention for painting at the Art Institute of Chicago, 1916; 1st Prize at the Chicago Society of Etchers, 1915; Logan Medals, Chicago Society of Etchers in 1917 and 1918; Bryan Prize for Best American Print at the annual exhibition of the Print Makers Society of California in 1922; and the Isador Prize in drawing from Salmagundi Club in 1923.

J. Andre Smith was born in Hong Kong during 1880. He was a famous etcher. Smith was born in Hong Kong after the death of his father he and his mother moved to German, later making their way to New York City. New York City is where Smith began his etching career. Smith holds a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Architecture from Cornell University. After college Smith was selected by the U.S. government as one of eight artists to go to France and record sketches of the military activity. After this trip, Smith moved to Stony Creek, Connecticut. Toward the end of his life Smith built a compound to be used as an artist's retreat. Some of the artists that stayed on the compound were Ernest Roth, Milton Avery, Arnold Blanch, Doris Lee, and Harold McIntosh. After his death in 1959 the compound was transformed into a historic landmark known as the Maitland Art Center.

Elizabeth Mackenzie Roth born 1879 in Newark, New Jersey. She was a textile artist. Her artform was textile, needle point and other crafts. She was a contributor to the Woman's Home Companion, later becoming the Entertainment Editor for the magazine. Some of her contributions include needlepoint patterns, Thanksgiving meal recipes, and some showcases of her artwork. A sketch of her's that is interesting to note is "The Country House in Autumn." She often showed her work with the National Association of Women's Artist's. Later she moved from New York City to Redding, CT with her husband Ernest Roth. It is unclear when she died.

#### SCOPE & CONTENT

The Ernest Roth Collection contains documents from 1911-1963. The collection is arranged alphabetically by type of document, and contains 3 series. All 3 series were collected by the Roths, but focus on 3 separate artists: Ernest Roth, J. Andre Smith, and Elizabeth Roth.

The Ernest Roth Papers contains correspondence written by Ernest Roth, etchings made by Roth, as well as etching that he collected. J. Andre Smith was a friend of Ernest Roth. The J. Andre Smith papers contains correspondence from Smith to Elizabeth Roth, yearly Christmas cards, and publications. The collection also contains a sketchbook worked on by both Ernest Roth and J. Andre Smith.

One interesting item to note is an original advertisement for an embroidery made by Elizabeth Roth. Elizabeth, like her husband Ernest, was also an artist. She contributed her embroidery work to the magazine "Woman's Home Companion" circa 1920. She frequently created projects for readers of this magazine as both gift giving and home life. The archivists have collected other articles that she wrote for Women's Home Companion and hope to expand this series with future donations/acquisitions.

#### ARRANGEMENT

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#### RELATED PEOPLE/INSTITUTIONS

Ernest David Roth (created by)