Clara Katherine Nelson  
(1890 - 1984)

Born 1890, March 29, Wilmington, Massachusetts  

EDUCATION
1910-1914  Rhode Island School of Design
1911-1913  Summer Art Colony at Booth Bay Harbor, Maine
1932      Chouinard Art School, California
1933-1934  Student of Hans Hofmann at Gloucester, MA
1935      Provincetown, MA

WORK/TEACHING
1913-1916  Rhode Island School of Design, Children’s Saturday Morning Classes
1914-1916  Public Schools, Pawtucket, RI
1916-1920  Carnegie-Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA (Carnegie Institute of Technology)
1920-1923  New York State College of Ceramics
1923-1924  Toledo Museum School
1924-1956  New York State College of Ceramics
1930-1931  Summer Classes, Saylesville, RI
1937-1956  Alfred University Summer School

HONORS
1955      Binns Medal
1978      Honorary Doctorate of Arts and Letters, Alfred University

MEMBERSHIPS

SHOWS
1939 – 2nd Rochester-Finger Lakes
1940 – Wakefield Gallery, New York
1941, December – Art Alliance, Philadelphia, PA
1944 – Mortimer Brandt Gallery, New York
1945 – Mortimer Brandt Gallery, New York
1951, November – Currier Gallery of Art, Manchester, NH
1952, February – Society of Artists and Craftsmen, Providence, RI

From
SERIES DESCRIPTION

Material collected by and about Clara Katherine Nelson, Associate Professor of Painting, Emerita.

Note: Additional material: Correspondence in MC-1 (Binns):

1921, July 5  MC1 Series I Box 26 - theatre-playhouse bills
1924, June 26  MC1 Series I Box 35 - drawing - York and Nassau Folding Drawing Tables equipment info.
1924, July 7  MC1 Series I Box 35 - equipment list - Hewitt’s metal working studio questions est. of studio-noise and toxicity
1924, July 9, 29, 31  MC1 Series I Box 35 - scheduling of design and drawing classes caution about special students, catalogue revisions
1927, Jul 19, 29 MC1 Series I Box 42 - top floor studio workrooms

Unknown source for pencil or ink notes on some correspondence.
Box 1

Miscellaneous:
Letter to Dean Holmes, accepting job offer (1937)
“Dealing with the aim and concept of the drawing and painting course – Particularly concerning the Freshman Class but related to all classes.” Note by Prof. Bernstein indicating that it was written just before retirement.
Charles M. Harder on Nelson’s retirement, asking for letters from former students. Prof. Bernstein’ notes on the back with list of names (1955)
Robert Turner’s presentation at Honorary Degree conferment (1978)
Obituary notices
“An Appreciation” by Evelyn Tennyson Openhym. (undated)
M. Ellis Drake, AU President, letter conferring emeritus status (1956). Includes resume and staff citation.

Clippings.
Including photographs of Archives Week exhibit with CKN sketches and paper dolls.

Correspondence from CKN to Evelyn Tennyson Openhym. 1921-1982.
Evelyn T. Openhym (1902-1992) graduated from the New York State College of Ceramics in 1924, with a degree in Ceramic Art and Design.

Sketches by CKN for the Centennial Pageant, Alfred University, written by Elsie Binns. June 9, 1936.
Donated by Mary Rogers McFall (Mrs. Samuel)
Ceramic Group: Clay, Fire, and Firmness
Agricultural Group: Earth, Sun, Verdure, and Fruit
Library Group: Learning, Men, Youth, and Children
Science Group: The Universe, Pure Science, Social Science, Fusion of Sciences

Paper dolls (clothing, hats) made by CKN, c 1900-1910.
Donated in 1994 to the Archives by Elizabeth Lange (‘44), Anne Archibald and Helen Haynes. Their mother, Elizabeth Sutherland Day, was a close friend of the Nelsons in Providence, RI.