

Center for Creative Photography

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Finding aid for the
Ernest Bloch archive, 1897 – circa 1980

AG 11

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Creator

Bloch, Ernest, 1880-1959

Abstract

Biographical information, correspondence, memorabilia, audio- visual materials, equipment, and photographic materials, 1897 - ca. 1980, of Ernest Bloch (1880 - 1959), composer, teacher, and photographer. The bulk of the collection consists of more than 6,000 negatives and transparencies documenting Bloch's landscapes, cityscapes, and portraits from 1897 until 1951 as well as 2,000 prints.

Quantity/ Extent

13.5 linear feet

Language of Materials

English

Biographical/ Historical Note

Ernest Bloch was born July 24, 1880 in Geneva, Switzerland. He began composing music after receiving a violin at the age of 9. He studied music and composition in Brussels, Germany, and Paris before settling in the United States in 1916 and becoming an American citizen in 1924. Bloch is celebrated as one of the most renowned 20th century composers, and received many honors, including the Coolidge Prize (1919), the Musical American Prize (1928), the first Gold Medal in Music (1942), and the honor of Professor Emeritus of Music (1952) from the University of California at Berkeley. Bloch held multiple teaching positions throughout the U.S. He died in Portland, Oregon on July 15, 1959.

Bloch's photography was discovered by Eric B. Johnson in 1970. Bloch became interested in photography at the age of sixteen. Bloch worked with black and white photography and produced small-format images mounted in albums as well as stereoscopic views. Johnson edited and printed hundreds of Bloch's photographs which are now visible on his website.

Scope and Content Note

The first series contains biographical materials on Ernest Bloch, including correspondence, publications, writings by Bloch, clippings, exhibitions, photo albums and other miscellaneous information.

The second series, audiovisual materials, contains one box of video and audio tapes.

The third series, photographic materials, holds contact prints, glass plate negatives, transparencies, stereo positives and negatives, film-based negatives, and storage enclosures/ envelopes. Nitrate film has been isolated from the collection and frozen.

The fourth series, memorabilia, contains Bloch's death mask (extremely fragile and is restricted; must obtain permission from the archivist to view) as well as photographic equipment and memorabilia.

There is a detailed guide available in the Volkerding Study Center (Guide Series Number One, 1979) which provides an itemized list of the glass plate negatives, positive transparencies, small stereo positives and negatives stereo negatives, film-based negatives, and prints. Please see the archivist for access to this guide.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged according to the following series:

Series 1: Biographical materials, 2 linear feet

Series 2: Audiovisual materials, .5 linear foot

Series 3: Photographic materials, 8 linear feet

Series 4: Memorabilia, 3 linear feet

Names and Subject Terms

Adams, Ansel

Bloch, Ernest, 1880-1959 [<http://id.loc.gov/authorities/names/n79150283>]

Copland, Aaron

Ernest Bloch Society

Stieglitz, Alfred

Restrictions

Conditions Governing Access

Access to Bloch's death mask is restricted due to extreme fragility. Permission from the Archivist is necessary to view.

Nitrate negatives are isolated in cold storage and require two-week notice for access.

Access to this collection requires an appointment with the Volkerding Study Center.

Conditions Governing Use

It is the responsibility of the user to obtain permission from the copyright owner (which could be the institution, the creator of the record, the author or his/her transferees, heirs, legates or literary executors) prior to any copyright-protected uses of the collection.

The user agrees to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the Arizona Board of Regents, the University of Arizona, Center of Creative Photography, including its officers, employees, and agents, from and against all claims made relating to copyright or other intellectual property infringement.

Provenance

The bulk of this collection was acquired in 1978 from the Bloch family.

Accruals

Additional materials were added to the collection in 1979.

Related Materials

The Ansel Adams archive (AG 33) contains correspondence between Adams and the heirs of Ernest Bloch regarding the Bloch archive.

Interview with Lucienne Bloch Dimitroff (Bloch's daughter), conducted by former CCP Director James Enyeart, March 15, 1978.

Interview with Ivan Bloch (Bloch's son), conducted by former CCP Director James Enyeart, on March 31, 1978.

There are additional prints in the Fine Print Collection at the Center.

Preferred Citation

Ernest Bloch archive, 1897-circa 1980. AG 11. Center for Creative Photography, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ.

Processing Information

The collection was processed in 1985 by various archives staff. The finding aid was updated by Alexis Peregoy in December 2016.

Container List

Series 1: Biographical materials

Quantity: 3 boxes.

Box	Folder	
1	1	Biographical materials
	2	Correspondence
	3-5	Publications
	6	Exhibitions
	7	Writings by Bloch
	8	Clippings
	9	Biographical information, correspondence and music sheets
2		Photo albums, 1905-1927; notebook, 1921
3		Photo albums, 1910-1914

Series 2: Audiovisual materials

Quantity: 1 box.

Box	Folder	
4		Videotape; audiotapes; negative envelopes

Series 3: Photographic materials, 1897-1951

Quantity: 12 boxes. Contains contact prints, glass plate negatives, transparencies, stereo positives and negatives, film-based negatives, and storage enclosures/ envelopes. Nitrate film has been isolated from the collection and frozen.

Box	Folder	
5		Contact prints made by Ernest or Lucienne Bloch from Bloch's miscellaneous gelatin negatives
6		Glass plate negatives, 1897-1928 (GPN 1-112)
7		Positive transparencies, 1904-48 (PT 1-118)
8		Small stereo positives, 1912-21 (SSP 1-475)
9		Miscellaneous gelatin negative envelopes, 1897-1938 (MGN 1-1647) (These negatives, all nitrate film base, have been frozen to stabilize their

condition. Each one was contact printed by CCP staff before being moved into the freezer.)

- 10 Small stereo negatives, 1915-24 (SSN 1-763)
- 11 Large stereo negatives, 1924-28 (LSN 1-344). (285 of these negatives are on glass plates, 59 of them were on nitrate film base and have been frozen.)
- 12 Empty film containers for roll film negatives with annotations by Ernest Bloch, 1928-51 (RFN 1124). (All of the roll film was on 35mm nitrate film base. It was contact printed by CCP staff and then placed in a freezer.)
- 13 Contact prints by CCP staff from nitrate film negatives (MGN 1-450)
- 14 Contact prints by CCP staff from nitrate film negatives (MGN 451-983)
- 15 Contact prints by CCP staff from nitrate film negatives (MGN 984-1647)
- 16 Contact prints by CCP staff from nitrate film negatives (RFN 1-124; LSN 1-344)

Series 4: Memorabilia

Quantity: 3 boxes.

- | Box | Folder |
|-----|--|
| 17 | Photographic equipment including Polyscop stereo camera, darkroom equipment, and stereo viewer |
| 18 | Ernest Bloch's death mask (extremely fragile) |
| 19 | Miscellaneous photographic memorabilia: <ul style="list-style-type: none">4 wooden boxes for glass slides2 Eastman Kodak negative albums with Bloch's index1 box misc. 35mm film cans, boxes, wrappers |

INDEXES

Chronological Index

1890-1899

1900-1909

1910-1919

1920-1929

1930-1939

1940-1949

1950-1959

Exhibition Index

Charleston, S.C. Kahal Kadash Beth Elohim. "The Spiritualand Artistic Odyssey of Ernest Bloch: A Centenary Retrospective." 31 May-4 June 1980.

Eugene, Or. University of Oregon. "The Photographs of Ernest Bloch." 5-21 Nov. 1980.

Non-Manuscript Material Index

Audio tapes

Photographic Equipment

Videotape

Periodical Index

Ernest Bloch Society Bulletin, 214 (1969-82)