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Finding aid for the
Beaumont Newhall miscellaneous acquisitions collection, 1930-
1945
AG 125

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AG 125

Creator

Newhall, Beaumont (1908-1993)

Abstract

Miscellaneous materials documenting the life and career of Beaumont Newhall (1908-1993), photohistorian, photographer, writer, and curator.

Quantity/ Extent

Fraction of a linear foot

Language of Materials

English

Biographical/ Historical Note

Beaumont Newhall was born in Lynn, Massachusetts on June 22, 1908. Degrees in art history from Harvard (A.B. in 1930, M.A. in 1931) led to a brief stint as a lecturer at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, then a position in the Department of Decorative Arts at the Metropolitan Museum of Modern Art. After further studies at the Institut d'Art et d'Archéologie, University of Paris and the Courtauld Institute of Art, University of London, Newhall was hired as the librarian at MOMA in 1935. In 1937, Newhall presented "Photography 1839-1937," an exhibition surveying the history of the medium that he had prepared at the invitation of Alfred H. Barr, the museum's director. An expanded version of Mr. Newhall's catalogue essay was published by the museum the following year as "Photography: A Short Critical History." A Guggenheim Foundation fellowship in 1947 enabled Newhall to enlarge this essay into a book, now titled "The History of Photography, 1839 to the Present." Revised by Newhall several times over the AG 48: Beaumont and Nancy Newhall collection - page 3 next 35 years, this book has become a standard general history of photography. Newhall was appointed the first curator of photography at MOMA in 1940, a position he held until 1945. From 1948 to 1958 Newhall was curator of the International Museum of Photography at George Eastman House. He was its director from 1958 to 1971, during part of which time (1968-1971) he also professor of Art at State University of New York at Buffalo. In 1971, he moved to Albuquerque, where he became professor of Art at UNM until 1984. He was appointed professor emeritus upon his retirement. He died at his home in Santa Fe, from complications from a stroke, February 26, 1993.

Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of two subgroups, each collected from a separate source. Items consist of correspondence and a notebook of course materials.

Subgroup one consists of two photocopied letters, one from Newhall to Elliott Arnold, August 28, 1945 and one from Arnold to Newhall September 8, 1945. Both letters discuss *Tomorrow Will Sing* written by Arnold. Correspondence originals are housed in the Elliott Arnold Papers, Special Collections, University of Arizona Library.

Subgroup two contains one notebook (242 p.) of photocopied typed class notes used by Newhall for the Harvard course "Museum Work and Museum Problems," taught by Paul Sachs in 1930.

Arrangement

[Subgroup 1, 1945, unknown donor](#)

[Subgroup 2, 1930, gift of Eugenia Parry in 1998](#)

Names and Subject Terms

Newhall, Beaumont [<http://vocab.getty.edu/ulan/500037130>]

Newhall, Nancy [<http://vocab.getty.edu/ulan/500087029>]

Restrictions

Conditions Governing 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

Subgroup one, unknown donor.

Subgroup two, gift of Eugenia Parry, 1998.

Related Materials

AG 48 Beaumont and Nancy Newhall collection

Preferred Citation

Beaumont Newhall miscellaneous acquisitions collection, 1930-1945. AG 125. Center for Creative Photography, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ.

Processing Information

Finding aid was updated by Tai Huesgen in 2019.

Container List

Subgroup 1, 1945

Extent: 1 folder

Box Folder

1 1 Correspondence, two letters between Newhall and Elliott Arnold

Subgroup 2, 1930

Extent: 1 folder

Box Folder

1 2 Notebook of Newhall's class notes for museum course, 1930