

The archives of the Slade School of Fine Art, University College London

Information for Researchers

OVERVIEW OF THE SLADE ARCHIVE

The Slade School of Fine Art is a department in University College London. The archives of the Slade School are housed in three repositories across UCL:

- [UCL Library Special Collections, Archives & Records department](#)
- [UCL Art Museum](#)
- [Slade School of Fine Art](#)

A brief overview of the type and range of material held in each collection is found below. To learn more about a specific area of the archive collection, or to make an appointment to view items please contact each department separately. **Please note:** In all instances, access to the archive material is by appointment only.

UCL LIBRARY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, ARCHIVES & RECORDS DEPARTMENT

The Slade archive collection (UCLCA/4/1) centres on the papers created by the school office since the 1940s, but there are records dating back to 1868. The papers consist of early staff and student records, building, curriculum, teaching and research records. The core series are the past 'Office papers' of the School, the bulk of which dates from after 1949. There is only a little material from the World War II period. **The pre-1949** series includes Frederick Brown (Slade Professor 1892-1917) papers and Henry Tonks' (Slade Professor 1918-1930) correspondence. **The post-1949 material** includes lists of students, committee minutes and papers, correspondence with UCL and other bodies, William Coldstream papers (Slade Professor 1949-1975), and papers of Lawrence Gowing (Slade Professor, 1975-1985). There are Slade School committee minutes from 1939 to 1995. The papers cover, in the main, issues relating to the running of the School, e.g. committee minutes, degree shows, prospecti, and some staffing issues. There are also papers relating to the setting up of the Film School. There is also a collection of artists' catalogues and ephemera, personal papers and memoirs. The series of photographs are mostly of staff and students, studios and works by students.

Student and staff records are also held by the UCL Records Office, access to which may be restricted. Additional material related to the institutional and administrative operation of the school, including College Annual Reports and calendars that provide useful information concerning staffing appointments, courses, and lists of students, are also in the care of UCL Records Office.

Please note access to material from the last 100 years may be restricted in line with Data Protection legislation.

Useful additional materials

- Slade Archive Reader

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UCL Special Collections catalogue ref. MS ADD 400

The Slade Archive Reader, compiled by the former Slade Archivist Stephen Chaplin, is a 4-volume unpublished work, covering the years 1868 to 1975. It includes a detailed index and is useful introductory resource for researchers seeking a general understanding of the School's history and archival holdings. The Slade Archive Reader cannot be copied, so researchers must make an appointment with Special Collections to consult it.

- Michael Reynolds, 'The Story of an Art School 1871–1971', 1974

Catalogue ref: MS ADD 250

Unpublished manuscript, presented to the Library in 1975

- William Townsend journals

UCL Special Collections, catalogue ref: TOWNSEND/A

William Townsend's diaries (1909-1973) covering, in part, his time as tutor and professor at Slade.

- A-Z "Name" Resources in the Slade archives in the Library

A series of files relating to specific artists who were the subject of enquiries received by former archivist Stephen Chaplin between 1992-1997. It contains a mixture of letters and ephemera, but many files are restricted due to the confidential nature of the correspondence. However, UCL Library staff can do a limited amount of checking for information about individuals on whom there is already a file.

- Digitized UCL Academic Calendars – 1853- 1992

<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/library/digital-collections/collections/records>

- Slade student signing-in ledgers & record cards

A collection of student signing-in books ledgers dating from 1878 to the present day.

Inquiries and making an appointment

Please contact the RO directly with your inquiry: records.office@ucl.ac.uk. You may also wish to consult the [UCL Special Collections online catalogue](#) and quote existing reference numbers wherever possible.

Please note that although [the reading rooms](#) are based on the main UCL site in Gower Street, much of the collection is currently stored off site. You are advised to contact UCL Library Records Office with your inquiry and appointment requests before making any travel plans: records.office@ucl.ac.uk. Access to the reading rooms is by appointment only.

UCL ART MUSEUM

UCL Art Museum has a collection of more than 10,000 prints, drawings, sculptures, paintings, and media works dating from the 1490s to the present day. Since the museum has its origins as a teaching and research collection tied to the history of the

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UCL Slade School of Fine Art, the collections present a unique archive of art education. An online catalogue and further information about the collection can be found by visiting UCL Art Museum's [website](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/culture/ucl-art-museum): <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/culture/ucl-art-museum>

UCL Art Museum Publications:

UCL Art Collection: An Introduction and Collections Guide, 2008

Oil Paintings in Public Ownership in London: The Slade and UCL, 2005

Contact: college.art@ucl.ac.uk

THE SLADE SCHOOL OF FINE ART

Very few records remain in the care of the Slade as most of the Slade archive materials were transferred to the UCL Special Collections and UCL Records Office in 1997. There is no public reading room on site.

Photographs

The Slade holds a collection of historic photographs. Plans are underway to catalogue and digitise this collection as part of the Slade Archive Project. A selection of annual class photos (dating from 1931) have been digitised and can be consulted on request. Prints may also be ordered on request. For queries, please contact slade.enquiries@ucl.ac.uk.

Audio-visual materials

A collection of audio-visual materials are currently held by the Slade. These include recordings from lectures (dating from 1970s onwards). A small selection of which has been digitised and, subject to copyright restrictions, may be consulted on request. Other recordings have not yet been digitised and catalogued. In addition, several oral history audio recordings were conducted with former students and staff by former archivist Stephen Chaplin in the 1990s. Selected excerpts are available to listen to through SoundCloud: <https://soundcloud.com/slade-archive-project>. Complete recordings may be consulted on request, subject to access restrictions.

Contact: slade.enquiries@ucl.ac.uk. Please note our response time may be slow due to limited staff time available to support archive enquiries.

FURTHER READING & RESOURCES

- Aitken, Charles. "The Slade School of Fine Art", *Apollo*, no 13. January 1926.
- Applin, Jo, Catherine Spencer, Amy Tobin, eds. *London Art Worlds: Mobile, Contingent, and Ephemeral Networks, 1960-1980*, 2018.
- Arnold-Foster, W.E., Margaret Dalgliesh, *The Slade: a collection of drawings and some pictures / done by past and present students of the London Slade school of Art, MDCCCXCIII-MDCCCXVII*. Slade School of Fine Art. 1907 (UCL Library)

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- Brown, F. "Wander Years" *Artwork*, Autumn 1930.
- Chambers, Emma. "Redefining History Painting in the Academy: The Summer Composition Competition at the Slade School of Fine Art, 1898-1922" *Visual Culture in Britain*, vol. 6, no 1, 2005, 79-100.
- Chambers, Emma. "Slade School Influences on the Camden Town Group, 1896-1910," *The Camden Town Group in Context*, Tate Research publication <http://www.tate.org.uk/art/research-publications/camden-town-group/emma-chambers-slade-school-influences-on-the-camden-town-group-1896-1910-r1104373>
- Charlton, George. *The Slade School of Fine Art 1871-1946*. (College Collection BA 27)
- Chaplin, Stephen. *The Slade Archive Reader* (College Collection MS ADD 400)
- Clarke, Gill, ed. *The Diaries of Randolph Schwabe: British Art: 1930-1948*, 2016.
- Forge, Andrew. *The Slade*, 1960-61 (a series of articles on the history Slade) (College Collection BA 27)
- Fothergill, J. *The Slade*, University College, London, 1907.
- Harte, N., John North, and Georgina Brewis, eds. *The World of UCL*. 2018. <http://discovery.ucl.ac.uk/10048692/1/World-of-UCL.pdf>
- Llewellyn, Nigel, Beth Williamson, eds. *The London Art Schools: Reforming the Art World, 1960 to Now*. Tate Publishing. 2015.
- Postle, Martin, "The foundation of the Slade School of Fine Art: Fifty-nine letters in the record office of University College London," *The Volume of the Walpole Society*, Vol. 58 (1995/1996), pp. 127-230. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/41829527>
- Miller, Henry. "From First Principles: A Prehistory of the Slade Film Department" *Vertigo*, vol. 3, no. 4, Winter 2007.
- Miller, Henry. "The Slade School and Cinema: Part Two" *Vertigo*, vol. 3, no. 5, Spring 2007, pp. 65–67.
- Miller, Henry. "Film Studies Before Film Studies: Derek Jarman at the Slade" *Screen*, vol. 57, no. 3, Autumn 2016, Pages 371–378.
- Schwabe, Randolph. "Reminiscences of Fellow Students" *Burlington Magazine*, Jan 1943.
- Schwabe, Randolph. "Three Teachers: Brown, Tonks and Steer" *Burlington Magazine*, June 1943.
- *The Slade, 1871-1971: A Centenary Exhibition*, publication from an exhibition held at the Royal Academy of Arts, Diploma Galleries, 20 Nov. to 12 Dec. 1971. (UCL Library)
- Thornton, A. *The Diary of an Art Student of the Nineties*, Pitman, 1948.
- Tonks, Henry. "Notes from 'Wander-years'" *Artwork*, no. 20, Winter 1929
- *UCL Art Collection: An Introduction and Collections Guide*, UCL Art Museum. 2008
- *Oil Paintings in Public Ownership in London: The Slade and UCL*, UCL Art Museum. 2005
- "The Slade School", *The Athenaeum*, Mar 19, 1870, Issue 2212, pp.395-395
- Mapping the Practice and Profession of Sculpture in Britain & Ireland 1851-1951, <http://sculpture.gla.ac.uk/>

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- UCL Calendars 1853-1992, available online: <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/library/digital-collections/collections/records>

Related repositories

- National Art Library
- National Arts Education Archive
- Tate Archive
- BFI
- British Library Sound Archive oral history collection

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