

Introduction

I

The League of NH Craftsmen Papers described in this inventory cover the years 1931 to 1998, occasionally extending from 1924 to 2002, and total 31.8 feet. Additional early records from 1931 to 1941 were processed and deposited in the New Hampshire State Library in 2002. A finding aid for this smaller collection is available, and a microfilm of it is in the Archives of American Art at the Smithsonian Institution.

The work on these League papers has been part of a project funded by a Cultural Conservation Grant from the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts. Other components of this project include the collection of over 4000 photographs, slides, a collection of League newsletters, clippings about the League and its members, and other League publications such as brochures and postcards. The papers described in this finding aid and most likely all of these materials will become part of the collections at the New Hampshire State Library Artists Archives.

Files of individual juried members of the League, binders containing the backbone of materials produced in running the annual craftsmen's fairs, and confidential jury deliberations will remain in the possession of the League.

The papers are open for research with no restrictions placed upon them by the League other than a proper citation in both unpublished and published works. A suggested citation to these records would be "League of NH Craftsmen Papers, NH State Library, series and folder title." Copying of the materials for research use and reproductions for publication will be made according to State Library policies. Researchers are responsible for determining copyright status and obtaining copyright permission to use material not produced by League staff or officers.

II

The papers comprise the archives of the League of NH Craftsmen. They were stored in boxes and file cabinets in the barn and warehouse and in closets and files in the offices of League headquarters at 205 North Main Street in Concord. Although there appears not to have been any formal policy on records retention, a significant amount of the working files have been saved.

As stated above much of the League's older papers (about 7 feet) already had been processed before this project began, and only three additional boxes of early materials were found at League headquarters. Two boxes that were together included a box of materials now found in the series *Sandwich Home Industries* and a box of clippings that will be incorporated into the clipping collection. The third box found on its own contained the material that is now in the series *Mary Coolidge Papers*. Her handwriting was on some of the folders containing the papers and it appeared that perhaps she was identifying the materials for the record before she passed them on to the League.

The series named according to individual officers of the League were found more or less in tact, and most were foldered by subject. Sometimes the folders were filed alphabetically and

sometimes filed in no discernable order. Those series that were alphabetized during processing are noted in the series descriptions. *Inevitable Change* and *Post Jubilee* are compilations of papers that were found in scattered boxes, often overlapping in both subject and years.

Most of the minutes and other materials in the three *Meetings* series were found in a locked file cabinet in the office area. Betty Steele, former staff member and volunteer of the League since 1948, and author of the 50-year history of the League gathered and organized these as well as a series of early newsletters.