



MC 08

Charles M. Harder

Chairman of the Design Department

Box 1-2:

Acquisition: Gift from Gay Harder, December 1983

Processed: Susan Strong, March 1984

Box 3

Acquisition: ?

Processed: Susan Strong & Elizabeth Gulacsy

Box 4

Acquisition: Val Cushing, 1993

Processed: Elizabeth Gulacsy, 1994

Updated: Laura Habecker, 2020

The New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University, Scholes Library

Charles Mabry Harder

(1899-1959)

Born: November 23, 1899, Greene County, Alabama

Died: September 23, 1959

Married: Lucy Gray (Gay) Berly, December 24, 1925

Children: One son, Gayle Lockhart, born June 26, 1928

Parents: Edward Julian Harder and Patty Mae Mabry Harder.

Eldest of nine children. Family moved to Louisiana in 1901 where father worked for lumber companies and in sawmills. In 1909 they moved to Beaumont, Texas, where the father worked as mold-maker and welder in a foundry.

Education:

1917 Beaumont High School

1918 Texas A&M College, Student Army Training Corps

1921-1925 Art Institute of Chicago, Professional degree in Fine Arts/Teacher Training

1935 New York State College of Ceramics, 1935 B.S. in Applied Arts

1935-1936 Art Institute of Chicago, Post graduate courses

Work/Teaching:

1925-1927 Taught ceramics at a high school in Pittsburgh, PA

1927-1931 New York State College of Ceramics, Instructor of Art (Drawing, Design, Art Education and Supervised Practice-Teaching)

1931 Promoted to Assistant Professor

1935 Left Alfred, spent year surveying curricula, courses and administration of other art schools; worked with practicing designers and in the ceramic industry.

1938-1944 Acting Chairman of the Department of Design (Departmental Administration and teaching the following subjects: Industrial Design and Production History of Ceramics)

1944-1958 Professor and Chairman of the Design Department. Taught Summer School of Pottery, Alfred University. (Summer school employs about five instructors. Enrollment is composed of students of varying ages and backgrounds. Professional and non-professional objectives; 35 to 50

students. Six hour course. Duties: Administration of program and personnel; lecture and teaching)

?? Consulting designer and ceramist, Empire Crafts Corporation, Newark, NY (two years)

Consulting designer and ceramist, Ralph Adams Cram, Architect, Boston, MA (three months approx.)

Consulting ceramist, Russel Wright, Designer, New York, NY

Consulting designer, Southern Potteries and R.H. Macy Company, New York, NY (joint project, approximately 1 year

Honors/Societies:

Work exhibited in New York City (Metropolitan Museum), Canada, Denmark, Sweden, France. Received numerous awards for works exhibited in the United States, Canada and Europe.

Honors in Exhibitions include:

First Award - Cleveland

First Prize - Syracuse

Honorable Mention - Syracuse

Third Prize - Syracuse

Gold Medal Award, Paris International Exposition, Paris, France.

Served on art juries of exhibitions, including:

Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh

Syracuse Museum, Syracuse

Columbus Museum, Columbus

Butler, Museum, Youngstown,

Contributed articles to professional journals (see bibliography).

Member of the Far Eastern Ceramics Society

Fellow of the American Ceramics Society.

Chairman of the Division of Art and Design, the American Ceramics Society.

Holder of the Binns Medal.

Series Descriptions

Collection

Box 1

Biography

Biographical summary prepared by Harder and his wife, Gay Harder; Memorial Service; Newspaper and periodical clippings, copies of citations.

Publications

"Low Fire Glazes Using Rutile," by Myrtle M. French and Charles M. Harder, Journal of the American Ceramic Society, v.10, no.4 (April, 1927)

"A Primer of Ceramic Processes," Design, v.36, no.10 (April, 1935)

"Functional Design," Bulletin of the American Ceramic Society, v.21, no.8 (August 15, 1942), with marginal comments on handcraft, Dean Holmes' ideas, and Alfred's role in education that were added by Harder in 1958. Also typescript for talk as delivered in Baltimore, 1941, and newspaper clipping.

"Practical Production of One-Fire Luster Glazed Pottery," by Forrest Burnham and Charles M. Harder, Journal of the American Ceramic Society, v.27, no.2 (Feb. 1, 1944). Also typescript.

"Changing Styles in Design and Manufacture-- Ceramic and Otherwise." Published in Ceramic Education: Past, Present and Future, Alfred, NY: New York State College of Ceramics, 1951. Typescript.

"Note on 'Spotted Temmoku'" by James Marshall Plumer, Far Eastern Ceramic Bulletin, v.VII, no.1 (March 1955); "Letter About the Temmoku Glaze" by Charles Harder appended. Typescript of letter also.

Lectures

Talk on the history of Ceramics, October 1940. Typescript.

Talk on decoration and design of tableware, Buffalo, NY, April 30, 1947. Typescript.

"The Meaning of Style in Art"--Civ. lecture (Western Civilization Class at AU) 11/25/52. Typescript.

"Roman Art" -- Civ. Lecture. 11/12/52. Typescript.

"Contemporary American Art" -- lecture for Dr. Warren's sociology class. 4/23/53. Typescript.

"Contemporary Trends in Art" -- Civ. lecture. Typescript.

"Art Training for Colleges" -- outline for talk, 10:45, Friday, October 23, 1953, Memorial Art Gallery, Rochester, NY. Typescript.

"The Carpenter's Last Fling," Faculty Talk, 10/19/53, keyed to slide presentation. Typescript.

Talk on design in ceramics. Typescript. Two copies with light variations.
Slide talk on pottery. Typescript.

Talk on clays, kiln, glazes, potter's wheel, and design. Typescript.

"Six Modern Potters" Hamada, Leach, Murry, Bouvrie, Braden, Cardew.
about 1949. Typescript with many penciled revisions.

Notes on Education at Alfred

Notes on curricular development in the Department of Design, NYS
College of Ceramics, 1900-1954. On index cards.

Description of Alfred University. Typescript.

"Study of the History of the Art Department, Particularly with Reference to
the Curriculum and Objectives." Includes a resume of curriculum changes-- art
vs. art training. 1934-1935. Typescript.

Proposal for changes in the Industrial Design program: "Changes in our
present curriculum, course content, hours of instruction, and an increase in the
teaching staff for drawing and design subjects." February 6, 1946. Typescript.

Harder's "Job description" as division head. Includes nine tasks. Typescript.

Notes on Education

Some notes on Drawing and the Teaching of Drawing. Written at Art Institute of
Chicago. 1935. Includes reflections on the ideals education "derived partly from
our experience with Hans Hoffman which came to color the entire philosophy of
the school at Alfred from the mid 30's to 1957." Alex Giampietro, one of the first
graduate students, brought more Bauhaus ideas to Alfred. Typescript and
manuscript.

Notebooks: SUMMER SCHOOL, ALFRED, 1925; BINNS' CLASS; GLAZE AND BODY
RECIPES; COLOR STUDY; HANDICRAFT.

Class notes from summer session at Alfred in 1925. Includes notes on clays,
processes, glaze and body recipes, and design.

Ceramics 1-- Binns. Charles Harder's notes taken in Binns' Ceramic 1 class
and later typed, but not revised by Binns (although Binns' handwriting does
appear on the pages).

Box 2

Notebooks

Glaze and body recipes, with class notes and "Prof. Binns on glazes" in back
pages of black notebooks. A list of pottery with prices is also included. 6
notebooks.

Study in Ceramic Pigments and Colors-- January 1944-May 1944.

Notes on the handcraft system." Manuscript. [xerox copy also; original is
badly yellowed.]

Classroom Notes

Notebook from Summer School 1956 (includes student notes).

Notes from summer school '56-- Lab sheets.

Box 3

Copies of Magazine Articles & Exhibition Catalogs

"Clay in the Potters Hand" by Charles Binns, given to Harder by Binns.

Contemporary American Ceramics, 1937. Two copies.

Craft Horizons, May 1946. Includes editorial (with marginal comments by Harder) on the move of the school for American Craftsmen from Dartmouth to Alfred University and a description of Alfred University on page 37.

Craft Horizons, May 1948. Includes article by Elizabeth Green, Dean of Women at Alfred University on the school for American Craftsmen with marginal comments by Harder.

"English and American Ceramic Design Problems" by Thomas S. Haile. Harder notes on a cover sheet that "This paper by Sam Haile, who was the first graduate-assistant in Design, followed the one I read in Baltimore the previous year {1941}. We hoped that the Dean would read both papers! To some extent I think this was successful because we were able to modify the program & teaching methods considerably during the war years, without much interference from the administration."

Correspondence and Miscellany

Includes letter from Harder to Arvilla Leach, Alfred, after his move to Texas, January 6, 1959.

Harder Miscellany

Publications:

"Functional Design," Bulletin of the American Ceramic Society, v.21 no.8 (August 15, 1942).

"A Message to Ceramic Designers," Ceramic Industry. June, 1945

"A Letter About the Temmoku Glaze," Far Eastern Ceramic Bulletin, v.7, no.1 (March 1955)

Miscellany

Correspondence Re: Swindle with J. Edgar Hoover

Bibliography prepared in the 1950's on "American design and American 'taste', Industrialism and the equalitarian ideal, and the roots of the contemporary American style"

Biographical miscellany

Bibliography

"Charles Mabry Harder, 1899-1959: A Chronological Bibliography."
Prepared by Susan Strong, January, 1980.

"My Religious Faith" by Bernard Leach. Diary of his visit to America with Yangi and Hamada, 1952-1953, followed by visit to pottery centers in Japan.

Box 4

American Library

Applications for Positions 1949-1950

Artbook Imports

Beauchamps (Smith)

Book Slips

Boston Book and Art Shop

Brentano's- Chicago

Brentano's- New York

Budget

Calendar (school) 1948-1949/1949-1950

Chemistry Course

Clay and Ceramic Supply

Correspondence on 1947-1948 Positions

Design Fund 170-77

Detroit Trips

Equipment

E. Weyhe

Exhibition

Films

Freshmen 307

Heiman and Co.

Hume

Jobs 1949

Kyllikki Salmenhaara; Finnish Student (Jan 1956-May 1956)

Leach, Bernard 1950-1954

Library

Low Grades

Merlander

Methods Course

Pending, Andrew

Projector

Summer School 1948

Summer School 1949

Supply Fund 170-11

Theobald

Willcress