

Luigi Lucioni (1900-1988)
Collection, 1875-2006
MSA 666

Introduction

The collection consists of several documents, articles, books and miscellaneous papers. The materials were found in Luigi Lucioni's residence, which had been sold after his death. The collection was given to the Vermont Historical Society by Sharron and Frank Kropa of Manchester Center, Vermont in 2012. It is stored in one archival flip top box and consumes .25 linear feet of shelf space.

Biography

Luigi Lucioni was born in the little village of Malnate in Northern Italy in 1900, among the foothills of the Alps. By the age of nine he was attending night classes with the stone-cutters of the village in order to study ornamental drawing. At the age of ten, Lucioni and his family came to America. He studied painting at Cooper Union and the National Academy of Design.

In 1929, Electra Havemeyer Webb, a board member of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, invited Lucioni to spend his summers painting at the Webb's Shelburne Farms. A few years later he bought a farm near Manchester and divided his year between his Greenwich Village studio and his farm. He took short trips around Vermont and captured through his etchings, the soul of the state, the strength of the granite hills and the trees, and the rambling houses and streams.

Lucioni earned several prizes during the 1930s and 1940s, and at age thirty-two was the youngest painter ever to have his work purchased by the Metropolitan Museum of Art. *Life* magazine called him "Vermont's painter laureate." The Shelburne Museum has a large collection of his prints.

Scope and Content

The eight folders in this collection contain several items owned by Lucioni as well as several articles about him. Included is a small book entitled, *How to Paint*, that was found on the easel at his house, an Italian cookbook, and a listing of Manchester, Vermont, appraisals. Also included is a poster for an exhibit of his work at Shelburne Museum, an exhibit catalog from Associated American Artists, a list of etchings being sought by a collector and an oral history interview with Lucioni.

Related Collections

The VHS museum holds several items that came in with this donation. They are cataloged under accession number 2011.38. The museum also has artwork by Lucioni.

The VHS's Leahy Library includes books and articles about Lucioni. See the online catalog for the library's holdings.

Inventory

- MSA 666:1 Exhibits
Small poster, Shelburne Museum, no date.
"28 signed etchings by Luigi Lucioni being sought by Andrew Lark, 1997.
"The Associated American Artists present a rare collection of signed, original etchings by Luigi Lucioni," New York, New York, no date.
- 2 Manchester Property Appraisal, 1967
 - 3 Oral history interview, 1971
 - 4 Articles, (copies) circa. 1937, 2000, 2006
 - 5 *How to Paint: A Complete Compendium of the Art*, 1875 (Book was in the tray of his big easel along with paints, brushes, etc.)
 - 6 *Specialita Culinarie Italiane 137 Tested Recipes of Famous Italian Foods, Sold for the Benefit of North Bennet's Industrial Training & Social Service Work in the North End of Boston*, 1936 (Includes a letter written in Italian)
 - 7 *Painting in the USA 1721 to 1953*, (includes a painting by Lucioni on page 38)
 - 8 *Robert Frost Country*, Betsy and Tom Melvin, 1977 (inscribed to Lucioni by author)

Judy Safford and Paul Carnahan
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