

**Finding Aid to  
The Friends of Alice Pike Barney Studio  
House, Inc. Collection,  
1992-2001  
Archives of Women Artists**

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## **Overview**

### **Repository Information:**

National Museum of Women in the Arts,  
Betty Boyd Dettre Library & Research Center  
1250 New York Ave NW  
Washington, D.C. 20005  
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### **Title:**

Friends of Alice Pike Barney Studio House, Inc.

### **Provenance:**

Theresa Grana, former member of the Friends, generously donated to the Betty Boyd Dettre Library and Research Center (LRC) at the National Museum of Women in the Arts (NMWA) all correspondence and documentation of the organization's involvement with Alice Pike Barney Studio House in May, 2004.

### **Collection Dates:**

Inclusive Dates: 1900s-2001  
Bulk Dates: 1990s-2001

### **Physical Description:**

6 boxes, approx. 2.5 linear feet

### **Summary:**

The collection consists primarily of material generated by the organization known as the Friends of Alice Pike Barney Studio House, Inc. from 1992 to 2001. The collection also includes press clippings and photographs of Alice Pike Barney, and papers of her daughters, Laura Dreyfus-Barney and Natalie Barney.

## **Administrative Information**

### **Access Information:**

Unrestricted

**Preferred Citation:**

Item, Date, Series, Friends of Alice Pike Barney Studio House, Inc., Archives of Women Artists, National Museum of Women in the Arts, Betty Boyd Dettre Library & Research Center.

**Publication and Photocopies Note:**

Permission from the National Museum of Women in the Arts required for publication and reproduction of original materials. Photocopies of original materials can be made for a fee and at the discretion of the library director.

**Processed by:**

Lizzie Duerr, Summer, 2004

**Processing Note:**

In summer 2004, publications intern Lizzie Duerr both processed the collection and wrote sections of the original finding aid under the guidance of LRC archivist Stacey Flatt. LRC volunteer Christy Ammerman wrote the box list and Scope & Content Notes. The original finding aid was updated to a new format in January 2020 by archival assistant Emily Moore.

**Biographical Note**

**Friends of Alice Pike Barney Studio House, Inc.**

Designed in 1902 by Washingtonian architect Waddy B. Wood, Studio House was Alice Pike Barney's showplace for the arts. After her death in 1931, daughters Laura and Natalie donated it to the Smithsonian Institution, where it became part of the National Museum of American Art in 1976. In the early 1990s, however, Studio House was forced to close due to structural damage, and eventually, renovation costs of more than 2 million dollars compelled the Smithsonian to seek potential buyers of Studio House and its interior furnishings.

In 1993, the Friends of Alice Pike Barney Studio House incorporated, with the mission of raising money and educating the public about the plight of Studio House. Though unable to cover the astronomical renovation costs or to purchase the home themselves, the Friends devoted their efforts to securing owners who would maintain Barney's legacy. Ultimately, the Smithsonian sold the house to a private owner, who

after having issues with zoning, sold to the government of Latvia. After extensive renovations which are still under way, the Latvian government will use the house as their American Embassy and to be used for various public events in keeping with the home's history, according to the Ambassador. Through their efforts, the Friends educated Washington on Barney's legacy. Their advocacy is a reminder of the historical, architectural, and cultural significance of buildings like Studio House, and the need to preserve these landmarks for future generations.

CHRONOLOGY of Friends of Alice Pike Barney Studio House, Inc.

<b>1902</b>	Alice Pike Barney begins construction on Studio House, her Spanish Mission-style home located on Sheridan Circle, designed by Washington architect Waddy B. Wood.
<b>1931</b>	<b>October 12.</b> Alice Pike Barney dies at the age of 74. Her estate is given to daughters Laura Dreyfus-Barney and Natalie Barney.
<b>1961</b>	The daughters bequeath the Alice Pike Barney Studio House to the Smithsonian Institution, with the stipulation that it would be maintained as a house museum, open to the public. The house becomes part of what is now called The Smithsonian American Art Museum.
<b>1976</b>	Studio House opens its doors to the public as a museum, celebrating the life of artist Alice Pike Barney and her legacy as one of Washington's foremost patrons of the arts.
<b>1993</b>	<p>Studio House is forced to close due to structural damage. The Smithsonian estimates renovation costs of more than two million dollars and begins discussions on the potential sale of Studio House.</p> <p><b>December 22.</b> The Friends of Alice Pike Barney Studio House incorporates as a nonprofit to fight the de-accession of the home and its contents.</p>
<b>1994</b>	<p><b>September 27.</b> The Friends host a book party in celebration of the publication of the biography on the artist, <u>Alice Pike Barney: Her Life and Art</u> by Jean L. Kling, Curator of Studio House.</p> <p><b>September 29.</b> The Friends submit a proposal to the Smithsonian Institution discussing the future of the Studio House and the need for communication between both parties, titled "A Proposal for a</p>

	Working Relationship Between the Friends of Alice Pike Barney, Inc. and the Smithsonian Institution.”
<b>1995</b>	<b>May 1.</b> The Smithsonian Board of Regents releases a statement in which they announce their decision to de-accession the interior furnishings of Studio House.
<b>1999</b>	<b>September 27.</b> The Smithsonian releases a statement announcing their decision to sell Studio House.
<b>2000</b>	<b>March 1.</b> The Friends attend the zone hearing over the future of Studio House, in support of a proposal by prospective buyers to purchase the home and use it as a School of the Arts.
<b>2001 - present</b>	The owners transfer ownership of Studio House to the government of Latvia, for use as their American Embassy.

### Alice Pike Barney (1857-1931)

Born in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1857, Alice Pike Barney rose to become one of the most influential women in Washington, D.C. through her support and development of artistic culture. Building her Spanish-Mission-style home on Sheridan Circle in 1902, architect Waddy B. Wood (who also designed the National Museum of Women in the Arts building) helped Barney achieve her vision of an American Salon in the French style, as influenced by her daughter Natalie.

Artist, playwright, and on occasion, ballet choreographer, Mrs. Barney enhanced the artistic and cultural life of Washington, D.C. with her many lectures, discussions and tableaux performed at her Sheridan Circle home. Among her many admirers and friends, artists James Abbott McNeill Whistler and John Singer Sargent had the greatest influence on her career. Frequent guests to Studio House included dancer Ruth St. Denis, actress Sarah Bernhardt, President Teddy Roosevelt, and Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes.

Upon Barney's death in 1931, daughters Laura Dreyfus-Barney, a noted follower of the Bahá'í religion and Natalie Barney, a well-known writer, inherited her entire estate, then donated Studio House and its contents to the Smithsonian Institute.

#### CHRONOLOGY of Alice Pike Barney

<b>1857</b>	<b>January 14.</b> Born Alice Pike, she is the youngest of the four children. Father Samuel Pike is a multimillionaire, making his money by distilling Magnolia brand whiskey. He is also well-known for constructing two opera houses: one in Cincinnati and one in New York City.
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<b>1874</b>	Alice sets sail for France with mother Ellen and her two sisters, where Alice would make the acquaintance of Charles Émile Auguste Carolus-Duran.
<b>1876</b>	<b>January 11.</b> Alice marries Albert Clifford Barney, son of Barney-Smith Car Works Owner E. E. Barney, three days before her nineteenth birthday.  <b>October 31.</b> Daughter Natalie Clifford is born in New York.
<b>1879</b>	<b>November 30.</b> Daughter Laura Alice is born in Cincinnati.
<b>1889</b>	The Barney family moves to Washington, D.C. when Albert tires of Cincinnati society, believing his family will gain acceptance into the top social echelon of Washington based on their financial station.
<b>1898</b>	Alice travels to Paris where she begins studying with American artist James Abbott McNeill Whistler, forming a life-long friendship.
<b>1901</b>	<b>November 2.</b> Alice's first one-woman show opens at the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. Fifty-five works are on display, all but two are portraits.
<b>1902</b>	Construction begins on Studio House, Barney's Spanish-Mission style home, designed by architect Waddy B. Wood.  <b>December 5.</b> Albert Clifford Barney, weakened by a stroke suffered the previous year while vacationing in Bar Harbor, dies in Monte Carlo. Only Natalie travels to claim the body.
<b>1905</b>	Barney purchases one of Washington's oldest residences, the home of former Judge, to be used as a settlement house called the Neighborhood House.  <b>December 18.</b> Holds her first "Evening at Studio House", which includes dinner and the entertainment of actress and guest Eva Palmer, a plan she developed to show Washingtonians "how to live a cultured life."
<b>1909</b>	Alice falls in love with Christian Dominique Hemmick, a twenty-two-year-old who had taken a role in her play <i>Man in the Moon</i> . Alice is fifty-two years old at the time.



<b>1911</b>	<b>April 15.</b> In a double wedding ceremony in Paris, mother and daughter are married. Alice to Christian and Laura to Hippolyte Dreyfus, a widely published scholar and leader in the Parisian Bahá'í community.
<b>1920</b>	<b>August 28.</b> A Chicago judge grants Christian Hemmick's petition of divorce on grounds of desertion. Living apart for some time, the couple agrees to divorce, and Christian is given \$10,000 as settlement.
<b>1924</b>	Barney leaves Washington, D.C. for Hollywood, CA after her play <i>Driven</i> is received poorly.
<b>1931</b>	<b>October 12.</b> Alice Pike Barney dies at the age of 74. She is survived by daughters Laura Dreyfus-Barney and Natalie Barney

## Scope and Content Note

The collection is separated into three sections: Friends of Alice Pike Barney Studio House, Inc., Alice Pike Barney Studio House, and Alice Pike Barney Biographical Material.

The files in the first record group relate to the Friends and material they produced during the time they were active. This includes a history of the house, meeting records from 1991 to 2000, membership material, financial files and correspondence. The most significant section is material related to the Friends main focus, which was producing the *Proposal for a Working Relationship Between the Smithsonian Institute and The Friends of the Alice Pike Barney Studio House, Inc.* which eventually was presented to SI, but did not prevent SI from selling the house.

Material related solely on the house itself before and after it was a museum is found in the next record group. This section contains museum-related material such as the sign-in book from the house, programs from events held there, proposals for renovation, as well as building and structural plans. The sale of the house as well as the de-accessioning of the contents is also included in this section. A collection of news clippings and interior/exterior photographs of the house date from 1980s to 2001.

Alice Pike Barney had an active life in Washington, D.C., organizing theatrical events, art shows and other cultural and fund raising events. The last record group contains biographical information, programs from her theatrical productions, and news clippings starting from the 1900s. Information on the Barney Neighborhood House, founded by Alice Pike Barney to bring the arts to poorer neighborhoods is also within this collection. Files accumulated by Jean L. Kling, author of the Biography, *Alice Pike Barney: her life and art*, detail her life in the arts and her efforts to bring the fine arts to

Washington, D.C. Clippings from the 1900s and photographs of Barney are included in this section. Both daughters of Alice Pike Barney led active lives in the arts and social causes. The correspondence of Laura Barney Dreyfuss documents her involvement in The International Women's Council and the Peace and Disarmament Committee. Natalie Barney lived in Paris for many years where she had a relationship with Romaine Brooks and held salons, in which she interacted with many well-known artists. Information on artist Romaine Brooks is included in the files.

## **Organization and Arrangement Information**

### **Arrangement Note:**

This collection is divided into three record groups:

#### **Record Group 1: Friends of Alice Pike Barney Studio House, Inc.**

- Series 1: Histories
- Series 2: Printed Material
- Series 3: Membership
- Series 4: Meetings
- Series 5: Events
- Series 6: Financial Files
- Series 7: Correspondence
- Series 8: Smithsonian Proposals

#### **Record Group 2: Alice Pike Barney Studio House**

- Series 1: Museum-Related Material
- Series 2: Proposals
- Series 3: Building Plans/Structural Reports
- Series 4: House/Furniture Sale Files
- Series 5: Clippings
- Series 6: Photographs

#### **Record Group 3: Alice Pike Barney Biographical Material**

- Series 1: Biographical Files
- Series 2: Clippings
- Series 3: Photographs
- Series 4: Kling Book
- Series 5: Barney Neighborhood House Files
- Series 6: Laura Barney Dreyfuss

## Names and Subject Terms

Barney, Alice Pike, 1857-1931.

Brooks, Romaine.

Wood, Waddy B. (Waddy Butler), 1869-1944.

## Container Inventory

Record Group #1: Friends of Alice Pike Barney Studio House, Inc.

### Series 1: Histories

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
1	1-1	Background Information

### Series 2: Printed Materials

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
1	2-1	Fundraising Pamphlets
1	2-2	Letterhead and Envelopes
1	2-3	Press Releases (1994-95)
1	2-4	No date

### Series 3: Membership

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
1	3-1	Membership Lists
1	3-2	Advisory Committee
1	3-3	Supporters
1	3-4	Correspondence (1993-2001)
1	3-5	By-laws (1993)

### Series 4: Meetings

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
1	4-1	Meeting Notes 1991
1	4-2	Meeting Notes 1992
1	4-3	Meeting Notes 1993
1	4-4	Meeting Notes 1994
1	4-5	Meeting Notes 1995
1	4-6	Meeting Notes 1997
1	4-7	Meeting Notes 1998
1	4-8	Meeting Notes 1999
1	4-9	Meeting Notes 2000
1	4-10	Meeting Notes (No Date)

**Series 5: Events**

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
1	5-1	Events 1994
1	5-2	Lecture at Woodrow Wilson House (4/12/95)
1	5-3	Party at Cosmos Club (4/20/98)
1	5-4	Guestbook from Cosmos Club Meeting (4/20/98)
1	5-5	Slide Lecture Presentation (2/23/99)
1	5-6	National Trust Conference (1999)
1	5-7	Party (11/3/00)

**Series 6: Financials**

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
1	6-1	Incorporation
1	6-2	Tax Exempt Status
1	6-3	Donation Lists
1	6-4	Application for Funding Resources
1	6-5	Banking Statements & Financial Information

**Series 7: Correspondence**

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
2	7-1	Correspondence 1993
2	7-2	Letters to Charles Cassell (DC State Historical Review Board, 1994)
2	7-3	Correspondence 1994
2	7-4	Correspondence 1995
2	7-5	Correspondence (Attorney Nettler's Letters) 1995
2	7-6	Correspondence 1996
2	7-7	Correspondence 1997
2	7-8	Correspondence 1998
2	7-9	Correspondence 1999
2	7-10	Correspondence 2000
2	7-11	Correspondence 2001
2	7-12	Correspondence (No date)

**Series 8: Proposals**

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
2	8-1	Proposal for "Working Relationship" Drafts and Correspondence
2	8-2	Proposal for a Working Relationship Between FOAPBSH and SI – Final
2	8-3	Draft – Prospectus for Nonprofit Owners on Barry Studio House
2	8-4	Draft Outline of SI Proposal
2	8-5	Proposal for Future Use of Home

## Record Group #2: Alice Pike Barney (APB) Studio House

### Series 1: Museum-related Materials

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
3	1-1	Building History
3	1-2	Docent Material on APB & House
3	1-3	“Alice Doesn’t Live Here Anymore” – paper by Wanda Corn
3	1-4	APB House Guest Book (1981-1990)
3	1-5	Historic Tours of House
3	1-6	Evenings at Barney Studio House (1983-1986)
3	1-7	Smithsonian 1996 Annual Report
3	1-8	DC Historic Preservation Reivew Board, re: Landmark Nomination

### Series 2: Proposals (Smithsonian), Building Plans/Structural Reports

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
3	2-1	Smithsonian Proposal by Jean Kling (1992)

### Series 3: Building Plans/Structural Reports

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
3	3-1	APB House Plans
3	3-2	Structural Reports on House

### Series 4: House/Furniture Sale Files

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
3	4-1	Smithsonian Decision to Sell
3	4-2	House Sale Brochure
3	4-3	Draft for Sale Pamphlet by Friends
3	4-4	Wayne James’ Proposal to Buy Barney House and Renovate
3	4-5	Correspondence Concerning Latvian Embassy and Zoning
3	4-6	James M. and Julie P. Edwards – Prospective Buyers
3	4-7	Zoning Hearing Material & Correspondence
4	4-8	De-accessioning of Furnishings
4	4-9	Furnishings from the Barney Studio House (2000)

4	4-10	English & Continental Furniture and Decorations (2000)
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**Series 5: Clippings**

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
4	5-1	Clippings (1970s)
4	5-2	Clippings (1980s)
4	5-3	Clippings (1990-1996)
4	5-4	Clippings (1997-2001)
4	5-5	Undated Clippings
4	5-6	DC Preservation League Ad
4	5-7	Washington History Magazine of The Historic Society of Washington, D.C. (Spring, 1990)
4	5-8	Lexus-Nexus

**Series 6: Photographs**

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
4	6-1	Photos – House
4	6-2	Photos – House
4	6-3	New Owners (Music People)

**Record Group #3: Alice Pike Barney Material**

**Series 1: Biographical Files**

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
5	1-1	Programs for Shows/Plays
5	1-2	“Alice Pike Barney: Paintings in Oil and Pastel” (1957)
5	1-3	Alice Pike Barney Memorial Collection
5	1-4	“Where Shadows Live: Alice Pike Barney & Her Friends” (1978)
5	1-5	Archive Guide to APB at Archives of American Art
5	1-6	Material on Romaine Brooks (long-time partner of Natalie Barney, one of APB’s daughters)

**Series 2: Clippings**

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
5	2-1	Articles on Family of APB
5	2-2	Clippings (early 1900s)
5	2-3	Early Articles

**Series 3: Photographs**

<b>Box #</b>	<b>Folder #</b>	<b>Folder Title</b>
5	3-1	Photos APB
5	3-2	Photos of Headstones and Graves of APB and Husband

**Series 4: Kling Book**

<b>Box #</b>	<b>Folder #</b>	<b>Folder Title</b>
5	4-1	Chapters from APB Book
5	4-2	Pages from APB Biography
5	4-3	Jean L. Kling Book – Party
5	4-4	Photos – Contact Sheets for Book Party (9/27/94)
5	4-5	Smithsonian Press Book Release

**Series 5: Barney Neighborhood House Files**

<b>Box #</b>	<b>Folder #</b>	<b>Folder Title</b>
5	5-1	Settlement House Information
5	5-2	Neighborhood House 96 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party (4/4/98)
5	5-3	Pamphlet – The Barney Neighborhood House & Social & Industrial Development

**Series 6: Laura Barney-Dreyfus**

<b>Box #</b>	<b>Folder #</b>	<b>Folder Title</b>
6	6-1	Copies – Letters, Poems & Newsletters
6	6-2	International Women’s Council
<b>Pamphlets/Brochures</b>		
6	6-3	Correspondence re: Rosa Manus
6	6-4	Correspondence (Undated)
6	6-5	Correspondence (1951-53)
6	6-6	Correspondence (1940-41)
6	6-7	Peace and Disarmament Committee (1938-42)
6	6-8	International Women’s Council