

# **Finding Aid to the Pauline Kruetefeldt Papers, 1907-1976 Archives of Women Artists**

Finding Aid Prepared by and Collection Processed by:  
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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  
Email: [lrc@nmwa.org](mailto:lrc@nmwa.org)  
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### Title:

Pauline Kruetefeldt Papers

### Provenance:

Donated to the Library and Research Center in 2017 by Karen Jamison, Head of Special Collections and College Archives, Gladys Marcus Library, Fashion Institute of Technology - SUNY. Previously, the materials were donated to Yaddo by Pauline Kruetefeldt's granddaughter, Mary Kruetefeldt Wilson.

### Collection Dates:

Inclusive Dates: 1907-1976  
Bulk Dates: 1925-1958

### Physical Description:

Approx. 2.7 linear feet (5 boxes)

### Summary:

The papers of New York-based freelance illustrator and painter Pauline Woelf (Wulf) Kruetefeldt span her life from the turn of the century until her death in 1960. Materials include personal and professional correspondence, biographical material and memorabilia, exhibition catalogues, clippings, scrapbook, artwork, sketchbook, and writings.

### Finding Aid URL:

<https://nmwa.org/learn/library-research/archives/finding-aids/kruetefeldt-finding-aid>

## **Administrative Information**

### **Access Information:**

Unrestricted.

### **Preferred Citation:**

Item, Date, Series, Pauline Kruetzfeldt Papers, 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.

### **Related Materials Note:**

Smithsonian Institution Archives of American Art houses correspondence by Kruetzfeldt in the Macbeth Gallery records, Series 1: Correspondence Files, Box 51, Folder 40.

<https://sirismm.si.edu/EADpdfs/AAA.macbgall.pdf>

### **Processed by:**

Processed by Jennifer Page, 2018.

### **Processing Note:**

It is unknown whether the original order was created by Pauline Kruetzfeldt. The series and subseries were created based on the original organization scheme. Personal correspondence, except for Albert and Betty Brenton, was originally all in one folder, loosely organized by date; Albert and Betty Brenton's correspondence was included in its own folder titled "Albert Brenton, Met. Life". For preservation and accessibility purposes, the archivist created folders for each personal correspondent, and arranged folders alphabetically by last name of correspondent. Professional correspondence by Albert Brenton was interfiled chronologically in the professional correspondence subseries. World War II materials were originally in a folder titled "Proposal Card WWII", but was renamed to WWII War Effort, 1943-1945, as the files include correspondence about the mural in addition to greeting cards. Folder titles were created by the archivist. Documents to Kruetzfeldt's son William regarding posthumous matters were originally arranged together in a folder titled "Hosp., funeral, etc.". However, for preservation and access purposes,

individual folders were created to reflect the subject (life insurance, social security, hospital bill, etc.), with these folders arranged together under the initial folder title "William's Papers", in the Biographical/Memorabilia series (arranged alphabetically by subject). Duplicates were weeded.

An additional box of materials was discovered in the spring of 2021, consisting solely of works of art (see accession record in control file). The materials are currently unprocessed and, as such, unavailable to researchers. They are currently in OVR box 6 and after undergoing processing, they should be added to this finding aid.

## Biographical Note

Pauline Woelf [Wulf] Kruetefeldt, freelance painter and illustrator, was born on January 12, 1890 in Holstein, Germany to Christian and Johanna Woelf. Her family came to New York City in 1897, where she was raised. She studied at the Art Students League of New York under George Bridgman, Edward Dufner and Ben Foster. She married William Kruetefeldt of Germany with whom she bore a son, William H. Kruetefeldt. Kruetefeldt moved to rural New York where she resided for the rest of her life.

Her paintings and drawings consisted of flowers, trees, landscapes, and animals. Her first pen and ink drawing accepted for publication appeared in a issue of the *Ladies' Home Journal*. Her paintings have appeared on covers of *American Home* magazine and included in *Woman's Home Companion*, *Country Gentleman*, *Hygeia*, *Better Homes and Gardens*, *American Girl*, *Camp Fire Girls* and a *Wanamaker's* catalogue. She had worked as an illustrator for the Crowell Publishing Co. and Hearst publications, and her illustrations were used by the State Conservation Department and greeting card manufacturers; her work was also featured in school textbooks. During World War II, Kruetefeldt contributed to the war effort by creating a decorative three-panel screen used as a back drop for the armed service's religious services.

She was included in exhibitions at the National Arts Club, Syracuse Museum of Fine Arts, Grand Central Art Gallery, American Water Color Society, Institute of History and Art, Albany, and the Ogonquit Art Gallery, among others.

Kruetefeldt passed away on October 29, 1960 in the Benedict Memorial Hospital, Ballston Spa, New York.

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of New York based freelance illustrator and painter Pauline Woelf (Wulf) Kruetefeldt measure approximately 2.7 linear feet and date from 1907-1976. The collection includes personal and professional correspondence; 15 folders of biographical material and memorabilia which includes: an award for artistic merit, her bookplate, obituary, notebook of earnings, 2 purchase receipts, portrait photograph, personality questionnaire, church program, and soldier's

art exhibition catalog; 19 group exhibition catalogues, 3 clippings about Kruetzfeldt and her work; a scrapbook of her published illustrations including loose-leaf clippings in addition to pasted material; original artwork on paper; a sketchbook from her early years; poetry and greeting card verses; and short stories. Nearly one linear foot of correspondence provides insight into her personal and professional life, in particular her activities as a self-supporting freelance commercial artist. Of note are letters from an English family that express hardship during WWII and gratitude for Kruetzfeldt's packages of supplies, and several letters from WWII service men. The collection also includes 5 folders of materials from Kruetzfeldt's son William regarding his mother's posthumous matters.

## Arrangement Information

### Arrangement Note:

The collection is arranged into 5 series, four of which have been further arranged in subseries. Folders within each series and subseries are arranged alphabetically and then chronologically within each folder, with the exception of Series 1, Subseries 2 and Series 3, Subseries 2, in which the folders and items are arranged chronologically. Series 1, Subseries 1 are arranged by the correspondants's last name and then chronologically; unknown correspondants are filed at the end of the subseries. Undated folders in chronologically arranged subseries are filed at the end of the subseries.

- Series 1: Correspondence, 1912-1960
  - Subseries 1: Personal, 1912-1960
  - Subseries 2: Professional, 1920-1960
- Series 2: Biographical/Memorabilia, 1920-1976
- Series 3: Printed Matter, 1924-1959 (Box 3; OVR 5)
  - Subseries 1: Clippings,
  - Subseries 2: Exhibition Catalogs, 1931-1954
  - Subseries 3: Scrapbook, 1924-1959
- Series 4: Artwork, undated
  - Subseries 1: Individual Pieces
  - Subseries 2: Sketchbook
- Series 5: Writings, undated
  - Subseries 1: Poetry/Verse
  - Subseries 2: Prose

## Names and Subject Terms

### Names:

Kruetzfeldt, Pauline, 1890-1960

**Subjects:**

Women illustrators – United States – 20<sup>th</sup> century  
Women illustrators – New York (State) – 20<sup>th</sup> century  
Women illustrators – Germany – 20<sup>th</sup> century  
Women artists – United States – 20<sup>th</sup> century  
Women artists – New York (State) – 20<sup>th</sup> century  
Women artists – Germany – 20<sup>th</sup> century  
Painting, American – 20<sup>th</sup> century  
Drawing, American – 20<sup>th</sup> century  
Flowers in art  
Landscape painting – 20<sup>th</sup> century

**Types of Materials:**

Drawings  
Works of art  
Correspondence  
Clippings

**Container Inventory**

**Series 1: Correspondence**

**Subseries 1: Personal**

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
1	1	Bois, H.A. Jules, 6/4/1942 (1 letter)
1	2	Branson, Paul and Grace, 1926 (1 greeting card)
1	3	Brenton, Albert, 5/23/1932 (1 letter)
1	4	Brenton, Anna, 1934 (4 letters)
1	5	Brenton, Anna, 1935 (5 letters)
1	6	Buchana, Bill, 1945 (1 letter)
1	7	Burns, John E., 1944 (1 letter)
1	8	Cain Family, 1944 (4 letters)
1	9	Cain Family, 2/1945-4/1945 (5 letters)
1	10	Cain Family, 6/1945-12/1945 (6 letters)
1	11	Cain Family, 1/1946-3/1946 (6 letters)
1	12	Cain Family, 6/1946-12/1946 (5 letters)
1	13	Conrow, Wilford and Lyra, 1953 (1 postcard)
1	14	Constantine, Mildred, 1944, 1946 (4 letters)
1	15	District Chaplain, Commandant Third Naval District 8/28/1944 (1 letter)
1	16	Fayant, Frank, undated (1 letter)

1	17	Fox, Water C., M.D., 1944-1945 (3 letters)
1	18	Frishmuth, Harriet W., undated (1 letter)
1	19	Herbertson, Elizabeth, undated (1 letter)
1	20	Jameson, Gladys J., 1958 (2 letters)
1	21	Jurka, Steve, 1943 (3 letters)
1	22	Jurka, Steve, 1944 (12 letters)
1	23	Jurka, Steve, 1945 (6 letters)
1	24	Kimball, Roy, 1942-1945 (4 letters)
1	25	Kreutzfeldt, Adolf, 1935 (1 letter)
1	26	Kruetzfeldt, William, undated (2 greeting cards)
1	27	MacGregor, B.N., 1934, re: Albert Brenton's passing (1 letter)
1	28	Miller, Joseph G., 1957-1958 (2 letters)
1	29	Moorman, F. Lauder, 1940 (1 letter)
1	30	More, Alice, undated (1 letter)
1	31	Ofner, Louise, 1938, 1940, undated (4 letters)
1	32	O'neil, John, 10/27/[no year] (1 letter)
1	33	Pass, Bea, 1959 (1 postcard)
1	34	Paw, Charles, 1944 (1 letter)
1	35	Phelps, Jennie, 1958 (1 letter)
1	36	Quinn, Rufus, 1941, 1943 (3 letters)
1	37	Quinn, Vernon, 1943 (1 letter)
1	38	Spence, Fay, 11/23/[no year] (1 letter)
1	39	Spranger, Alfred, 1944 (1 letter)
1	40	Stacey, Joel P. and Vivian, 1956, undated (3 letters)
1	41	Sylvanie, Hilda, 1951 (1 letter)
1	42	Vocke, C.F. (Bud), 1943-1944 (3 letters, 1 lost-claim form)
1	43	Watrous, Harry, 1938 (2 letters)
1	44	Unidentified, 1912, 1940 (2 notecards, 1 letter)
1	45	Unidentified, 1944-1945, 1948 (5 letters)
1	46	Unidentified, 1946-1947, 1949, 1950, 1953 (4 letters, 1 program)
1	47	Unidentified, 1954-1955, 1957-1958, 1960 (4 letters, 1 postcard)
1	48	Unidentified, undated (6 letters)

**Subseries 2: Professional**

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
2	1	1920s (12 letters)
2	2	1931-1933 (13 letters)
2	3	1934-1935, 1937 (10 letters)
2	4	1938-1939 (9 letters)
2	5	1940 (12 letters)
2	6	1941 (11 letters)



2	7	1942, January-May (14 letters)
2	8	1942, June-December (11 letters)
2	9	1943 (14 letters)
2	10	1944, January-June (10 letters)
2	11	1944, July-December (14 letters)
2	12	1945 (10 letters)
2	13	WWII War Effort, 1943-1945 (26 letters)
2	14	1946, January-April (13 letters)
2	15	1946, May (12 letters)
2	16	1946, June-July (11 letters)
2	17	1946, August-October (10 letters)
2	18	1946: November-December, 1947: January-May (12 letters)
2	19	1947, June-December (10 letters)
2	20	1948, January-April (12 letters)
2	21	1948, June-November, 1949 (7 letters)
2	22	1950-1951 (11 letters)
2	23	1952-1953 (10 letters)
2	24	1954-1955 (6 letters)
2	25	1956 (15 letters)
2	26	1957 (10 letters)
2	27	1958 (12 letters)
2	28	1959 (9 letters)
2	29	1960, undated (4 letters)

## Series 2: Biographical/Memorabilia

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
2	30	Award by Horticultural Society of New York, 1930
2	31	Bookplate, undated
2	32	Catalog of Exhibition of Soldier Art, Second Service Command April 20-May 15, 1945
2	33	Church Program with "In Memoriam" with Pauline's Name, 6/14/1964
2	34	Financial: Expenses, 1935, 1956, 1959, (2 receipts, 1 order form)
2	35	Financial: Earnings Notebook, 1931-1960 (1 notebook)
2	36	James Maratta Analysis Questionnaire, 2/26/1946 (filled-out questionnaire and results)
2	37	Obituary of Pauline, 10/29/1960
2	38	Portrait Photograph (of Pauline?), undated, untitled
2	39	William Kruetefeldt (her son), 1920-1942 (7 letters, 1 telegram, 2 invoices, 1 military induction postcard)
2	40	William Kruetefeldt Papers: Correspondence Regarding Pauline's Social Security and Life Insurance, 1955-1960

		(2 letters)
2	41	William Kruetefeldt Papers: Correspondence from Law Firm Re: Hearst and Pauline's Estate, 1960-1961, (3 letters)
2	42	William Kruetefeldt Papers: Letter from Hearst About Returning Check Made Out to Pauline, 1961 (1 letter)
2	43	William Kruetefeldt Papers: Sympathy Correspondence Regarding Pauline's Death, 1960 (4 cards, 7 letters)
2	44	William Kruetefeldt Papers: Letter from Alvin F. Stauffer, Re: Source of Pauline's Drawing, 1976 (1 letter)

### Series 3: Printed Matter

#### Subseries 1: Clippings

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
3	1	2 Articles about Pauline, undated, no source
3	2	Article about Pauline in "The Upstate Monthly", 7/1942

#### Subseries 2: Exhibition Catalogs

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
3	3	1931 (2 catalogs)
3	4	1932 (2 catalogs)
3	5	1933 (2 catalogs)
3	6	1934 (1 catalog)
3	7	1935 (2 catalogs)
3	8	1936 (3 catalogs)
3	9	1937 (2 catalogs)
3	10	1944, 1950 (2 catalogs)
3	11	1952 (1 catalog)
3	12	1953, 1954 (2 catalogs)

#### Subseries 3: Scrapbook

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
OVR 5	1	Loose-Leaf Scrapbook Clippings Featuring Pauline's Artwork, 1930-1944, 1955-1959
OVR 5	2	Loose-Leaf Scrapbook Clippings Featuring Pauline's Artwork, undated
OVR 5	3	Loose-Leaf Scrapbook Clippings Featuring Unsigned Artwork (Not known if illustrations are by Pauline), 1931, 1941-1942, 1948, 1955, undated
OVR 5	4	Loose-Leaf Scrapbook Clippings - Miscellaneous With No Artwork, 1945, 1953, undated (possible source material?)

**Series 4: Artwork****Subseries 1: Individual Pieces**

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
4	1	Animals, undated
4	2	Christmas, undated
4	3	Landscapes, undated
4	4	People, undated
4	5	Plants, Flowers, Trees, undated

**Subseries 2: Sketchbook**

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
4	6	Sketchbook, 1907

**Series 5: Writings****Subseries 1: Poetry/Verse**

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
4	7	Greeting Card Verses, Handwritten, undated
4	8	Greeting Card Verses, Typewritten, undated
4	9	Poems, undated

**Subseries 2: Prose**

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
4	10	Handwritten Prose, undated
4	11	Published Story "Oh, Happy World!", unknown publisher, 1942