

Thomas Buechner collection
RC.2011.19

Finding aid prepared by Venus Van Ness



Norman Rockwell Museum Archives - Reference Center Collection
2011

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Summary Information

Repository	Norman Rockwell Museum Archives - Reference Center Collection
Creator	Buechner, Thomas S., 1926-2010
Title	Thomas Buechner collection
Date	1969-1990
Extent	2.0 Linear feet
Contact	Norman Rockwell Museum Archival Collections, The Norman Rockwell Museum, 9 Glendale Road, Route 183 Stockbridge, MA 01262, 413-931-2251 Venus@nrm.org
Language	English
Abstract	This small collection contains various types of items, including draft manuscripts, news clippings, photos, and correspondence between Buechner and fellow artist Norman Rockwell.

Preferred Citation

Thomas Buechner Collection, Norman Rockwell Archives, Norman Rockwell Museum, Stockbridge, Massachusetts.

Biographical note

Born in 1926, Thomas Scharman Buechner was an established portrait, landscape, and still-life painter. He was a graduate of the Lawrenceville School, and attended Princeton University, the Art Students League in New York, as well as the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris. He later studied Old Master painting techniques in Amsterdam with M.M. van Dantzig, a pupil of Max Doerner.

Buechner had a long and varied career and was the first Director of The Corning Museum of Glass from 1950 to 1960. He later served as director of the Brooklyn Museum from 1960 to 1971. Buechner simultaneously worked as an illustrator for the Chicago Tribune's and the Washington Post's "Book World" and did cassette jackets for operas. He was subsequently employed as a designer and graphic artist on the Governor's staff in Puerto Rico, specializing in exhibition design.

In 1972, he became President of Steuben Glass, Chairman of the Corning Glass Works Foundation, and President of The Corning Museum of Glass. He helped to establish the Rockwell Museum in 1976, serving as its President for ten years.

Buechner wrote the glass section for the Encyclopedia Britannica and founded both the Journal of Glass Studies and the New Glass Review. He was well known to glass scholars, artists, and collectors as a prolific author and expert in his field. One of his best known books is "Norman Rockwell: Artist and Illustrator," published in 1971. His most recent book, "How I Paint," was published in June 2000.

Buechner died in June 2010 in Corning, New York at age 83.

Scope and Contents

In 1971 Buechner published the book "Norman Rockwell: Artist and illustrator." Contained in the collection are materials related to the writing of that book, including handwritten draft manuscripts, as well as correspondence between Buechner, Rockwell, and Abrams publishing.

Also included are several black and white photos of Rockwell in his studio, along with some of the Old Corner Houses in Stockbridge, sent to Buechner by Rockwell photographer Louie Lamone. There are several examples of Brown and Bigelow Four Seasons greeting cards, as well as news clippings and tearsheets pertaining to caricature artist David Levine.

Lastly, there are photocopies of the manuscript for "The Norman Rockwell Storybook" by Jan Wahl.

Arrangement

The collection has been maintained in the same order as when it was donated. Certain items are segregated into folders, but overall, there is no specific arrangement.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

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Access

This collection is open to researchers by appointment.

Copyright

Norman Rockwell Museum abides by US copyright law. Even though Norman Rockwell personally contributed his paintings and archival materials to the Museum, a not-for-profit 501(c)(3), publicity/personality rights to his name and likeness belong to the Rockwell family, managed by the Norman Rockwell Licensing Company. Some materials in both collections created prior to 1923 are considered to be in the public domain.

The collections are in the legal care and custody of the Museum and its staff, and are governed by an independent Board of Trustees. There is no legal affiliation between the Museum and various intellectual property rights holders of materials kept by the Museum or with Rockwell's family.

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Provenance

Materials donated in 1991 by Thomas Buechner.

Controlled Access Headings

Genre(s)

- Art

Personal Name(s)

- Levine, David, 1926-2009
- Louis 'Louie' J. Lamone, 1918-2007
- Norman Rockwell, 1894-1978

Subject(s)

- Illustrators--United States.