

Artists' League of Great Britain: records, ca.1910-1983

Introduction and summary description

Creator: Artists' League of Great Britain
Reference: AAD/1995/19
Extent: 0.292 cubic metres

Context

The Imperial Arts League was founded in 1909 as a protection society run by artists for artists. It set up committees to deal with issues of copyright, insurance of artworks, exhibitions and to encourage the production of art literature. The League also gave advice to members on issues such as agents, displays or sale of work, copyright and insurance of works of art for exhibitions. Membership was open to practitioners of the fine and applied arts and individuals interested in the arts. Members included Ivor Hitchens, Blair Hughes-Stanton, Bernard Leach, Eduardo Paolozzi, Michael Rothenstein and E.H. Shephard. In 1971 the League changed its name to The Artists' League of Great Britain.

Scope and content

Administrative documents (1911 - 1983); reports and minutes (1936 - 1982); financial records including annual accounts, receipts, tax returns, and bequests (1924 - 1983); correspondence with members on subjects including membership, copyright, insurance, and disputes with clients (1911 - 1983); correspondence with other organisations, local, national and international (1911 - 1983); correspondence and documentation regarding insurance services for members (1914 - 1981); correspondence, press cuttings and other material collected on subjects of concern to artists (1913 - 1974); material published by the league (ca.1911 - 1961); printed material and ephemera (ca.1950-1979).

Access

This archive is available for consultation in the V&A Archive and Library Study Room, which is located at Blythe House, 23 Blythe Road, Olympia, London, W14 0QX. The Study Room is open Tuesday to Friday between 10.00 am and 4.30 pm, by appointment only. To request an appointment please email archive@vam.ac.uk or telephone 020 7603 7493. Access to some files may be restricted; these are identified individually with the catalogue.

Restrictions on use

For conservation reasons the photocopying of archival material is not permitted. Archives may be photographed for study purposes only, at the discretion of the archivist.

The material is arranged into nine series, broadly following the original filing system as follows: Administrative documents, meetings and reports, finance, correspondence with members, correspondence with other organisations, insurance services, subject folders, publications of the league and printed material/ephemera.

Related Material

Further records of the Artists League of Great Britain are held at the London Metropolitan Archives. Request call number LMA/4054.

Detailed catalogue

Administrative Documents, 30 Mar 1911 - 8 Mar 1983

Reference: AAD/1995/19/1

Extent: 3 files

Documents relating to the status of the Artists' League of Great Britain as a limited company.

Reference	Description	Dates
AAD/1995/19/1/1	Memorandum and articles of association 1 folder	30 Mar 1911
AAD/1995/19/1/2	Correspondence regarding change of name 1 folder	30 Jul 1971-22 May 1972
AAD/1995/19/1/3	Letter regarding the winding up the league 1 folder	8 Mar 1983

Meetings and reports , 1936-1982

Reference: AAD/1995/19/2

Extent: 8 files

Records of the league's annual general meetings and monthly meetings of the council. Files include notices, agendas, minutes, reports and correspondence regarding attendance and council nominations. One file comprises the records of a special museums and copyright committee.

Reference	Description	Dates
AAD/1995/19/2/1	Council meetings and AGMs 1936-1940 1 folder	12 Nov 1936 – 11 May 1950
AAD/1995/19/2/2	Council meetings and AGMs 1951-1955 1 folder	13 Dec 1951 – 11 Jun 1954
AAD/1995/19/2/3	Council meetings and AGMs 1956-1960 1 folder	7 Apr 1956 – 20 Oct 1960
AAD/1995/19/2/4	Council meetings and AGMs 1961-1965 1 folder	19 Jan 1961 - 14 Oct 1965
AAD/1995/19/2/5	Council meetings and AGMs 1966-1970 1 folder	22 Mar 1966 - 24 Sep 1970
AAD/1995/19/2/6	Council meetings and AGMs 1971-1975 1 folder	29 July 1971 - 18 Dec 1985
AAD/1995/19/2/7	Council meetings and AGMs 1976-1982 1 folder	27 May 1976 - 14 Dec 1982

Finance, 1924-1983

Reference: AAD/1995/19/3

Extent: 13 files

Records of annual accounts, taxation, purchases, bequests and transactions. Correspondence with banks, solicitors and accountants are also included.

Reference	Description	Dates
AAD/1995/19/3/1	Balance sheets 1924 -1939 1 folder	1924 -1939
AAD/1995/19/3/2	Balance sheets 1940 - 1948 1 folder Lacks records for 1944, 1945 and 1949	1940 - 1948
AAD/1995/19/3/3	Balance sheets 1950 - 1955 1 folder	1950 - 1955
AAD/1995/19/3/4	Balance sheets 1956 - 1959 1 folder	1956 - 1959
AAD/1995/19/3/5	Balance sheets 1960 - 1965 1 folder	1960 - 1965
AAD/1995/19/3/6	Balance sheets 1966 - 1969 1 folder	1966 - 1969
AAD/1995/19/3/7	Balance sheets 1970 - 1978 1 folder Lacks records for 1976 and 1977	1970 - 1978
AAD/1995/19/3/8	Financial correspondence and transactions 1952 – 1960 1 folder Correspondence regarding annual accounts, tax and auditing	28 Nov 1952 - 21 Jun 1960
AAD/1995/19/3/9	Financial correspondence and transactions 1952 - 1983 1 folder Correspondence regarding bank accounts, annual accounts, tax, bequests and stocks This file is closed until 01 Jan 2065	25 Mar 1952 - 26 Jan 1983
AAD/1995/19/3/10	Expenditure 3 folders Receipts, invoices and cheque book stubs Part of this file is closed until 01 Jan 2060	31 Dec 1961 - 14 June 1978
AAD/1995/19/3/11	Correspondence with Sutton, Ommanney and Oliver, solicitors 1 folder This file is closed until 01 Jan 2033	2 Nov 1938 - 5 Nov 1951
AAD/1995/19/3/12	Correspondence with Dun and Bradstreet Ltd, credit reporting services 1 folder This file is closed until 01 Jan 2054	9 Nov 1951 - 30 Oct 1972

AAD/1995/19/3/13 List of members' insurances
1 folder
This file is closed until 01 Jan 2060

Mar 1977 - Dec
1978

Correspondence with members , 1911-1983

Reference: AAD/1995/19/4

Extent: 26 files

Correspondence between individual artists and the Artists' League of Great Britain on subjects including membership, copyright, insurance, and disputes with clients. Also includes correspondence with insurers and solicitors.

Correspondence is grouped by the first letter of members' surnames

Reference	Description	Dates
AAD/1995/19/4/1	Surnames A 1 folder This file is closed until 01 Jan 2064	1947-1982
AAD/1995/19/4/2	Surnames B 3 folders This file is closed until 01 Jan 2065	1927-1983
AAD/1995/19/4/3	Surnames C 3 folders This file is closed until 01 Jan 2064	1931-1982
AAD/1995/19/4/4	Surnames D 3 folders This file is closed until 01 Jan 2065	ca.1925-1983
AAD/1995/19/4/5	Surnames E 1 folder This file is closed until 01 Jan 2064	1946-1982
AAD/1995/19/4/6	Surnames F 1 folder This file is closed until 01 Jan 2063	1937-1981
AAD/1995/19/4/7	Surnames G 2 folders This file is closed until 01 Jan 2062	1936-1980
AAD/1995/19/4/8	Surnames H 2 folders This file is closed until 01 Jan 2065	1931-1983
AAD/1995/19/4/9	Surnames I 1 folder This file is closed until 01 Jan 2063	1938-1981
AAD/1995/19/4/10	Surnames J 1 folder This file is closed until 01 Jan 2065	1936-1983
AAD/1995/19/4/11	Surnames K 1 folder	1957-1982

	This file is closed until 01 Jan 2064	
AAD/1995/19/4/12	Surnames L 1 folder	1956-1979
	This file is closed until 01 Jan 2061	
AAD/1995/19/4/13	Surnames M 1 folder	1935-1982
	This file is closed until 01 Jan 2064	
AAD/1995/19/4/14	Surnames N 1 folder	1954-1979
	This closed until 01 Jan 2061	
AAD/1995/19/4/15	Surnames O 1 folder	1954-1982
	This closed 01 Jan 2064	
AAD/1995/19/4/16	Surnames P 2 folders	1948-1982
	This file is closed until 01 Jan 2064	
AAD/1995/19/4/17	Surnames R 1 folder	1940-1982
	This file is closed until 01 Jan 2064	
AAD/1995/19/4/18	Surnames S 2 folders	1911-1982
	This file is closed until 01 Jan 2064	
AAD/1995/19/4/19	Surnames T 1 folder	1940-1981
	This file is closed until 01 Jan 2063	
AAD/1995/19/4/20	Surnames U 1 folder	1951-1978
	This file closed until 01 Jan 2060	
AAD/1995/19/4/21	Surnames V 1 folder	1953-1982
	This file is closed until 01 Jan 2064	
AAD/1995/19/4/22	Surnames W 2 folders	1939-1983
	This file 01 Jan 2065	
AAD/1995/19/4/23	Surnames Y 1 folder	1970-1973
	This file is closed until 01 Jan 2055	
AAD/1995/19/4/24	Surnames Z 1 folder	1946-1969
	This file is closed until 01 Jan 2051	
AAD/1995/19/4/25	No surname 1 folder	1980-1982
	This file is closed until 01 Jan 2064	

AAD/1995/19/4/26 Standard letter proformas
1 folder

ca.1911-
1983

Includes invitation to join the league, confirmation of election to the league, notice of increase in subscription fees, overdue subscription fee notice, and instruction to bank for amendment to standing order.

Correspondence with other organisations , 1899-1983

Reference: AAD/1995/19/5

Extent: 51 files

Correspondence between the Artists' League of Great Britain and various organisations including artists' associations (local, national and international), galleries, the London County Council, the British Joint Copyright Council and the Board of Trade.

Subjects include insurance for exhibitions, copyright legislation, export duty on works of art, and exemptions for exhibitions from early closing under the Shops Act. Press cuttings, information leaflets and reports are often included as enclosures.

Reference	Description	Dates
AAD/1995/19/5/1	Abbey Gallery 1 folder	1 Mar 1927
AAD/1995/19/5/2	Association des Artistes Professionnels de Belgique 1 folder	Nov 1952
AAD/1995/19/5/3	American Artists' Professional League 1 folder	18 Nov 1930 - 20 Apr 1931
AAD/1995/19/5/4	Armed Forced Art Society 1 folder	25 Nov 1981
AAD/1995/19/5/5	Artlaw Services Ltd 1 folder	2 June 1980 - 26 June 1981
AAD/1995/19/5/6	Artists Association 1 folder	undated
AAD/1995/19/5/7	Arts and Crafts Exhibition Society 1 folder	27 Sept 1952 - 31 July 1957
AAD/1995/19/5/8	Art Exhibitions Bureau 1 folder This file is closed until 01 Jan 2037	7 July 1938 - 1 Apr 1955
AAD/1995/19/5/9	Artists International Association 1 folder This file is closed until 01 Jan 2035	28 Mar 1950 - 26 Feb 1953
AAD/1995/19/5/10	Board of Trade 1 folder	5 Aug 1947 - 7 July 1958
AAD/1995/19/5/11	British Joint Copyright Council 1 folder	18 Aug 1952 - 18 Jan 1965
AAD/1995/19/5/12	Council for the Care of Churches 1 folder	8 Oct 1982
AAD/1995/19/5/13	Coventry and Warwickshire Society of Artists 1 folder	13 Oct 1941
AAD/1995/19/5/14	Crafts Centre of Great Britain 1 folder	24 May 1945 - 1 Oct 1948

AAD/1995/19/5/15	Crafts Council 1 folder	6 Oct 1981
AAD/1995/19/5/16	Ealing College of Higher Education 1 folder	20 July 1982
AAD/1995/19/5/17	Essex County Council 1 folder	10 Sept 1980
AAD/1995/19/5/18	Faculty of Arts ltd 1 folder	21 Dec 1921 - Aug 1951
AAD/1995/19/5/19	International Association of Plastic Arts 3 folders This file is closed until 01 Jan 2051	1953-1969
AAD/1995/19/5/20	Industry Design Centre 1 folder	1940s
AAD/1995/19/5/21	International Association of Art 1 folder	14 July 1976 - 15 Feb 1982
AAD/1995/19/5/22	Incorporated Society of Authors, Playwrights and Composers 1 folder	24 Oct 1919 - 21 Sept 1938
AAD/1995/19/5/23	Institute of Contemporary Arts 1 folder	2 Dec 1952 - 5 Dec 1952
AAD/1995/19/5/24	Libyan Embassy 1 folder	12 Aug 1981
AAD/1995/19/5/25	Milldon Art Society 1 folder This file is closed until 01 Jan 2059	7 May 1951 - 22 May 1977
AAD/1995/19/5/26	National Museum of Wales 1 folder	25 June 1980
AAD/1995/19/5/27	National Society 1 folder	24 Jan 1953 - 1 Feb 1957
AAD/1995/19/5/28	National Gallery 1 folder This file is closed until 01 Jan 2063	18 May 1981 - 1 June 1981
AAD/1995/19/5/29	New English Art Club 1 folder This file is closed until 01 Jan 2061	27 July 1932 - 7 Sept 1979
AAD/1995/19/5/30	Pastel Society 1 folder	30 Dec 1953
AAD/1995/19/5/31	Publishers Association 1 folder	22 Dec 1947 - 9 Mar 1948
AAD/1995/19/5/32	Reading Ornithological Club 1 folder	4 June 1970
AAD/1995/19/5/33	Royal British Colonial Society of Artists 1 folder	13 Oct 1941
AAD/1995/19/5/34	Royal Institute Galleries 1 folder	14 Apr 1952 - 10 Aug 1956
AAD/1995/19/5/35	Royal Institute of Oil Painters 1 folder	15 Oct 1952 - 12 Sept 1955

AAD/1995/19/5/36	Royal Institute of Painters in Watercolours 1 folder	16 Feb 1953 - 19 February 1957
AAD/1995/19/5/37	Royal Society of British Sculptors 1 folder This file is closed until 01 Jan 2039	4 Nov 1952 - 23 Mar 1957
AAD/1995/19/5/38	Royal Society of Portrait Painters 1 folder	7 Oct 1953 - 6 Nov 1954
AAD/1995/19/5/39	Royal Society of British Artists 1 folder	5 Nov 1952-19 Feb 1957
AAD/1995/19/5/40	Royal Birmingham Society of Artists 1 folder	6 Dec 1948 - 4 Nov 1953
AAD/1995/19/5/41	Royal British Colonial Society of Artists 1 folder	26 May 1933 – 10 May 1937
AAD/1995/19/5/42	Society of Lithographic Artists, Designers and Process Workers 1 folder	15 Feb 1977 - 24 Feb 1977
AAD/1995/19/5/43	Society of Industrial Artists 1 folder	21 Apr 1954-27 Apr 1955
AAD/1995/19/5/44	Society of Scribes and Illuminators 1 folder	Sept 1945 – 2 Mar 1956
AAD/1995/19/5/45	Society of Portrait Sculptors 1 folder	22 Oct 1953
AAD/1995/19/5/46	Society of Graphic Artists 1 folder	3 July 1953 – 9 July 1957
AAD/1995/19/5/47	Society of Women Artists 1 folder	18 May 1953 – 11 June 1957
AAD/1995/19/5/48	Surrey County Council 1 folder	13 July 1982– 17 Mar 1983
AAD/1995/19/5/49	United Society of Artists 1 folder	20 Feb 1953
AAD/1995/19/5/50	Women’s international Art Club 1 folder This file is closed until 01 Jan 2037	2 Feb 1953 - 13 Apr 1955
AAD/1995/19/5/51	Young Contemporaries 1 folder	22 Jan 1953 – 1 Feb 1957

Insurance services , 11 May 1914 - 10 Aug 1981

Reference: AAD/1995/19/6

Extent: 8 files

The Artists' League of Great Britain arranged insurance cover for its members at a special rate. This series includes correspondence with insurance companies and members regarding general cover for artists' work and exhibitions, quotes, receipts, lists of subscribed members and policy documents.

Reference	Description	Dates
AAD/1995/19/6/1	Correspondence: The Fine Art and General Insurance Company Ltd 1 folder	11 May 1914
AAD/1995/19/6/2	Correspondence: Saunders Gilson and Co. / H G Poland 1 folder This file is closed until 01 Jan 2054	10 Apr 1952 - 20 Jan 1972
AAD/1995/19/6/3	Correspondence: Stroover and Co. Ltd 1 folder	18 Mar 1975 - 6 Mar 1980
AAD/1995/19/6/4	Correspondence: Eagle Star Group 1 folder	13 Feb 1980 – 11 Mar 1980
AAD/1995/19/6/5	Correspondence: Star Assurance Society Ltd 1 folder	21 July 1980 - 10 Aug 1981
AAD/1995/19/6/6	Correspondence regarding war damage insurance 1 folder	9 Sept 1937 – 21 Mar 1942
AAD/1995/19/6/7	Correspondence: John Lewis regarding office curtains 1 folder	20 Sept 1937 – 14 Oct 1937
AAD/1995/19/6/8	Standard letters to members regarding special insurance rates	undated

Subject Folders , 1913-1974

Reference: AAD/1995/19/7

Extent: 16 files

Correspondence, press cuttings, contact lists and published material collected on subjects of concern to artists.

Reference	Description	Dates
AAD/1995/19/7/1	Art Registration Committee 1 folder	16 May 1968 - 20 May 1974
AAD/1995/19/7/2	Artists' materials 1 folder	10 Oct 1946 - 18 Nov 1954
AAD/1995/19/7/3	Artists' models 1 folder	10 Nov 1946 - 26 May 1950
AAD/1995/19/7/4	Artists' trade unions 1 folder This file is closed until 01 Jan 2031	11 Oct 1946 - 14 Nov 1949

AAD/1995/19/7/5	Board of trade licences 1 folder	20 Feb 1947 - 22 Sept 1948
AAD/1995/19/7/6	British Standards Institution: Artists' materials 2 folders	22 Dec 1953 - 28 Feb 1968
AAD/1995/19/7/7	Corporation duty 1 folder	20 Mar 1930 - 6 Mar 1959
AAD/1995/19/7/8	Customs and Excise: ivory etc 1 folder	19 Mar 1947 - 2 Jun 1957
AAD/1995/19/7/9	Honorary members 1 folder This file is closed until 01 Jan 2024	28 Sept 1938 - 2 Dec 1942
AAD/1995/19/7/10	Ministry of Fine Arts 1 folder	4 July 1913 - 14 Oct 1914
AAD/1995/19/7/11	National Register for War Work 1 folder	16 Oct 1938 - 18 Dec 1939
AAD/1995/19/7/12	Rating assessments for artists' studios 1 folder	11 Mar 1956 - 26 Feb 1957
AAD/1995/19/7/13	Purchase tax on picture frames 1 folder	30 Mar 1970 - 22 July 1971
AAD/1995/19/7/15	Specialist craftsmen: employment during WWII 1 folder This file is closed until 01 Jan 2029	26 Feb 1947 - 17 Sept 1947
AAD/1995/19/7/16	War damage insurance 1 folder	30 Aug 1939 - 23 Apr 1943

Publications of the League , ca.1911-1961

Reference: AAD/1995/19/8

Extent: 2 files

Material written about the league and a copy of its journal.

Reference	Description	Dates
AAD/1995/19/8/1	Copy of The Journal of the Imperial Arts League 1 folder	14 Nov 1913
AAD/1995/19/8/2	History 1 folder Contains manuscript of A Short History of the Imperial Arts League and extracts from the league's journal.	May 1910 - ca. 1951

Printed material / ephemera, ca.1950-1979

Reference: AAD/1995/19/9

Extent: 3 files

Contains a small number of unfiled press cuttings, two journals and an unidentified index book.

Reference	Description	Dates
AAD/1995/19/9/1	Index cross reference book 1 volume	undated
AAD/1995/19/9/2	Arts council and Crafts council newsletters 1 folder	Oct 1979 - Nov 1979
AAD/1995/19/9/3	Unfiled press cuttings 1 folder Concerning art students' privilege to copy paintings in galleries and artists' studios.	18 Aug 1950 - 24 Aug 1962
