

Cecil Beaton, illustrator, photographer and stage designer: scrapbooks, 1922 - 1980

Introduction and summary description

Cecil Beaton

Reference: AAD/1986/13

Extent: 47 files

Context

Cecil Walter Hardy Beaton (1904 - 1980) was born in London on 14 January 1904. He was educated at Heath Mount School in London, Harrow School in Middlesex and St Cyprian's School in Eastbourne. From 1922 to 1925 he read history and architecture at St John's College, Cambridge but did not graduate. In 1925 he worked as a clerk for a cement company, Schmiegelow and Company, London. However, he had been experimenting with photographic techniques and in 1926 he left the company to work freelance as a fashion and portrait photographer. In 1930 he obtained a contract with Conde Nast Publications as a caricaturist, illustrator and photographer, mainly undertaking commissions for Vogue magazine, New York and London. During the Second World War, Beaton served as a photographer with the Ministry of Information. After the war, he continued as a freelance photographer until his death in 1980. In parallel with his career as a freelance photographer he had a long-standing interest in costume and set design. From 1925 to 1970 he designed costumes and sets for stage and from 1941 to 1970 costumes and sets for films, most notably Gigi (film) and My fair lady (stage and film). He was the recipient of the Neiman Marcus Award in 1956, the Antoinette Perry Award for costume in 1957, Academy Awards from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for film sets and costumes in 1957 and 1965, and the Honor Award from the American Society for Magazine Photographers in 1963. He became an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Photographic Society in 1964 and the Chevalier Legion d'Honneur in 1960. He was knighted in 1972. He died in Broadchalke, near Salisbury, Wiltshire on 18 January 1980.

Scope and content

Scrapbooks compiled by Cecil Beaton and his staff, containing articles and press cuttings recording Beaton's work as an illustrator, photographer and stage designer. There are chronological and subject indexes relating to the scrapbooks.

Provenance

Bequeathed by Cecil Beaton, 1986

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.

Catalogues and indexes

Full list available at AAD and NAL.

Restrictions on access

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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.

Related Material

Selected publications

Mellor, David ed. 'Cecil Beaton', London : Barbican Art Gallery in association with Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 1986.

Detailed catalogue

Reference	Description	Dates
AAD/1986/13/1	Volume I 1 file This includes a collection of newspaper and magazine cuttings referring to Cecil Beaton's family and his time at the University of Cambridge.	1922 - 1927
AAD/1986/13/2	Volume II 1 file This includes a collection of newspaper and magazine cuttings referring to Cecil Beaton, his sisters Nancy and Baba, and society at the time.	1927 - 1928
AAD/1986/13/3	Volume III 1 file This includes a collection of newspaper and magazine cuttings referring to Cecil Beaton's early costume designs and social gatherings attended by him and his sisters.	1927 - 1928
AAD/1986/13/4	Volume IV 1 file This includes a collection of newspaper and magazine cuttings referring to Cecil Beaton's early costume and set designs and his early photographs, as well as social gatherings and scandals to do with him and his sisters.	1928
AAD/1986/13/5	Volume V 1 file This includes a collection of newspaper and magazine cuttings about Cecil Beaton's photography, designs and social life while living in America and Britain, as well as his own articles on fashion and beauty.	1928 - 1929
AAD/1986/13/6	Volume VI 1 file This includes a selection of Cecil Beaton's own photography and sketches of American and Britain society from the time, his own articles on fashion and beauty and newspaper cuttings referring to parties and gatherings he attended.	1929
AAD/1986/13/7	Volume VII 1 file This includes a selection of sketches, illustrations and photographs by Cecil Beaton, and newspaper cuttings referring to him and his sisters and society at the time from America and Britain.	1929 - 1930
AAD/1986/13/8	Volume VIII 1 file This includes newspaper and magazine cuttings referring to Cecil Beaton and his sisters and society at the time, and sketches, illustrations, photography and articles by him from London and Hollywood.	1930
AAD/1986/13/9	Volume IX 1 file This includes newspaper and magazine cuttings referring to Cecil Beaton and his sisters and society at the time, and sketches, illustrations, photography and articles by him from London and Hollywood.	1930 - 1932

AAD/1986/13/10	Volume X 1 file	This includes newspaper and magazine cuttings referring to Cecil Beaton and his sisters and society at the time, and sketches, illustrations, photography and articles by him on fashion and beauty.	1931 - 1932
AAD/1986/13/11	Volume XI 1 file	This includes newspaper and magazine cuttings referring to Cecil Beaton and his work and his sisters and society at the time.	1931 - 1933
AAD/1986/13/12	Volume XII 1 file	This includes photographs, sketches and caricatures by Cecil Beaton of celebrities at the time and articles written by him on travel, fashion and beauty.	1930 - 1931
AAD/1986/13/13	Volume XIII 1 file	This includes newspaper and magazine cuttings referring to the marriages and family lives of Cecil Beaton's two sisters.	1932 - 1934
AAD/1986/13/14	Volume XV 1 file	This includes photographs and sketches by Cecil Beaton of celebrities at the time and articles written by him on travel, fashion and beauty.	1932 - 1933
AAD/1986/13/15	Volume XVI 1 file	This includes newspaper and magazine cuttings referring to Cecil Beaton, his family and society at the time, as well as photographs and illustrations by him.	1933 - 1936
AAD/1986/13/16	Volume XVIII 1 file	This includes fashion illustrations, photographs and sketches by Cecil Beaton.	1934
AAD/1986/13/17	Volume XIX 1 file	This includes fashion illustrations, photographs and sketches by Cecil Beaton.	1934 - 1935
AAD/1986/13/18	Volume XX 1 file	This includes fashion illustrations, photographs and sketches by Cecil Beaton.	1936 - 1937
AAD/1986/13/19	Volume XXI 1 file	This includes articles written by Cecil Beaton and photographs, illustrations and sketches by him, as well as magazine and newspaper cuttings referring to him and society at the time.	1935 - 1936
AAD/1986/13/20	Volume XXII 1 file	This includes newspaper and magazine cuttings referring to Cecil Beaton, his family and society at the time and photographs, illustrations and sketches by him.	1935 - 1936

AAD/1986/13/21	Volume XXIII 1 file	1937 - 1942
	This includes articles written by Cecil Beaton and photographs by him as well as newspaper and magazine cuttings referring to his work and society at the time.	
AAD/1986/13/22	Volume XXIV 1 file	1939 - 1943
	This includes newspaper and magazine cuttings referring to Cecil Beaton, his family and society at the time.	
AAD/1986/13/23	Volume XXVII 1 file	1940 - 1944
	This includes newspaper and magazine cuttings containing photographs taken by Cecil Beaton of the Royal Family.	
AAD/1986/13/24	Volume XXVIII 1 file	1940 - 1941
	This includes newspaper and magazine cuttings containing photographs taken by Cecil Beaton on the subject of war as well as articles referring to him.	
AAD/1986/13/25	Volume XXIX 1 file	1940 - 1941
	This includes newspaper and magazine cuttings on the subject of the Royal Family, as well as photographs and articles referring to Cecil Beaton and society.	
AAD/1986/13/26	Volume XXX 1 file	1941 - 1943
	This includes photographs and articles by Cecil Beaton on the subject of the Second World War.	
AAD/1986/13/27	Volume XXXI 1 file	1941 - 1947
	This includes photographs and articles by Cecil Beaton on the subject of the Second World War and society.	
AAD/1986/13/28	Volume XXXII 1 file	1943 - 1947
	This includes magazine and newspaper cuttings referring to Cecil Beaton and society, as well as dramatic productions designed by Beaton. It also contains photographs and illustrations by Beaton of actors and actresses.	
AAD/1986/13/29	Volume XXXIII 1 file	1943 - 1946
	This includes magazine and newspaper cuttings referring to dramatic productions that Cecil Beaton was involved in, as well as photographs taken by him of actors and actresses.	
AAD/1986/13/30	Volume XXXIV 1 file	1944 - 1946
	This includes photographs and articles about his travels by Cecil Beaton as well as newspaper and magazine cuttings referring to him and his work.	
AAD/1986/13/31	Volume XXXV 1 file	1942 - 1946
	This includes photographs and illustrations by Cecil Beaton, articles written by him referring to the Second World War and press cuttings about his work.	

AAD/1986/13/32	Volume XXXVI 1 file This includes photographs and illustrations by Cecil Beaton, as well as newspaper and magazine cuttings referring to him and his work.	1948 - 1952
AAD/1986/13/33	Volume XXXVII 1 file This includes magazine and newspaper cuttings referring to Cecil Beaton and his work with the Royal Family.	1948 - 1952
AAD/1986/13/34	Volume XXXVIII 1 file This includes magazine and newspaper cuttings referring to Cecil Beaton and his work in theatre.	1950 - 1952
AAD/1986/13/35	Volume XXXIX 1 file This includes magazine and newspaper cuttings referring to Cecil Beaton and his work in photography and fashion.	1949 - 1951
AAD/1986/13/36	Volume XXXX 1 file This includes magazine and newspaper cuttings referring to Cecil Beaton and his work at the time.	1951 - 1955
AAD/1986/13/37	Volume XXXXI 1 file This includes magazine and newspaper cuttings referring to Cecil Beaton and his work at the time.	1948 - 1956
AAD/1986/13/38	Volume XLII 1 file This includes magazine and newspaper cuttings referring to Cecil Beaton and his work at the time as well as articles written by him.	1956 - 1958
AAD/1986/13/39	Volume XXXXIII 1 file This includes photographs taken by Cecil Beaton and newspaper cuttings referring to his work.	1953 - 1956
AAD/1986/13/40	Volume XLIV 1 file This includes photographs taken by Cecil Beaton and newspaper cuttings referring to his work.	1957 - 1961
AAD/1986/13/41	Volume XLV 1 file This includes photographs taken by Cecil Beaton and newspaper cuttings referring to his work.	1958 - 1961
AAD/1986/13/42	Volume XLVI 1 file This includes photographs taken by Cecil Beaton and newspaper and magazine cuttings referring to his work.	1961 - 1966
AAD/1986/13/43	Volume XLVII 1 file This includes photographs taken by Cecil Beaton and newspaper and magazine cuttings referring to his work.	1965 - 1971
AAD/1986/13/44	Volume XLVIII 1 file This includes photographs taken by Cecil Beaton and newspaper and magazine cuttings referring to his work.	1969 - 1976

AAD/1986/13/45	Volume XLIX 1 file	1976 - 1980
	This includes photographs taken by Cecil Beaton and newspaper and magazine cuttings referring to his life and work, as well as his obituaries.	
AAD/1986/13/46	Subject index, alphabetical 1 file	ca. 1980
AAD/1986/13/47	Cumulative index, to Vols I-XLVIII 1 file Royal Family Index at back	ca. 1980