

Vera Law, calligrapher and gilder, papers, 1922 - 1995

Introduction and summary description

Creator: Vera Law
Reference: AAD/1997/5 : AAD/2002/12
Extent: 58 files

Context

Vera Law (1899 - 1985) was born in Northampton. She trained at the Central School of Arts and Crafts, London from 1917 to 1922 under Graily Hewitt and H. Laurence Christie. In 1921 she was one of fourteen founder members of the Society of Scribes and Illuminators and she exhibited nine pieces of work at the Society's first exhibition in July 1922. She later became Secretary of the Society between 1937 and 1943.

Before the Second World War she had a variety of jobs in London, including gilding and undertaking gesso work at Joseph Armitage's workshop in 1922, handicraft tutor at H.M. Borstal Institution in 1924, assistant teacher of illuminating and writing at the Central School of Arts and Crafts, London from 1927 to 1930 and assistant in conservation to S. Kennedy North from 1928 to 1930. She worked with other scribes on several major commissions including the production of the Metropolitan Police Roll of Honour with Dorothy Hutton and the study of humanistic scripts with Alfred Fairbank, with whom she published several articles on Ludovico Vincentino degli Arrighi. She died on 19 July 1985.

Scope and content

Original decorative work: design sketches, collages, samples of textile design (undated); examples of, and materials used in calligraphy and gilding (undated); documents and papers, (1923-1995); reference material, various, (undated).

Provenance

Given by Audrey Freeman, 1997, AAD/1997/5.

Given by Audrey Freeman to the V&A National Art Library, 2001. Transferred Archive of Art and Design, 2002, AAD/2002/12.

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.

Detailed catalogue

Original decorative work: design sketches, collages, samples of textile design, Undated

Reference: Law-1

Extent: 11 files

Reference	Description	Dates
AAD/1997/5/1-14	Packet of assorted loose design sketches, traced on paper, mainly drafts for greeting cards, vouchers, and book and tokens. Some V.L. hand coloured. 1 file	Undated
AAD/1997/5/15-22	Flower designs, traced on paper, and two flower collages. 1 file	Undated
AAD/1997/5/23	Textile designs on printed fabrics. Teapot design with small lino cut and swatches from Dickins and Jones, Robinson and Cleaver, and DHE (D.H. Evans). 1 file	Undated
AAD/1997/5/24	Acorn designs, samples in assorted colours and fabrics, one marked "Designed, cut and printed by V.L." Swatches from Jones, and Dickins & Jones. Sample of acorn combined with cup and saucer design, marked J.L. [John Lewis?]. 3 sketches of teapot. 1 file	Undated
AAD/1997/5/25	Samples of plain fabric, two marked V.L. and Jones. 1 file	Undated
AAD/1997/5/26	Notes on colours, marked Hollingsworth. 1 file	Undated
AAD/1997/5/27	Assorted samples of decorative borders mainly paper, a few fabric. 1 file	Undated
AAD/2002/12/13	Examples of small linocut prints for a table-cloth 2 items Previous ref: MSL/2001/7/4 Designed and executed by Vera Law.	Undated

AAD/2002/12/15	Paper napkin with hand drawn design of flowers in red and black felt pen 1 item Previous ref: MSL/2001/7/6	Undated
AAD/2002/12/16	Fragments of artwork 10 items Previous ref: MSL/2001/7/7	Undated
AAD/2002/12/18	Collage designs for greetings cards and photocopies 7 items Previous ref: MSL/2001/7/8	Undated

Examples of, and materials used in calligraphy and gilding, 1922 - 1950

Reference: Law-2

Extent: 11 files

Reference	Description	Dates
AAD/1997/5/28-29	Copy of preamble to National Memorial Scroll (for Lord Roberts) with note of his titles, decorations and regimental commands. Also noted that the scroll was engrossed by V.L. 1 file	Undated
AAD/1997/5/30	Copy of pro forma letter signed George R.I. (King George V) sending this memorial of a "brave life given for others in the Great War." 1 file	Undated
AAD/1997/5/31-35	Photocopies of title page and four (non consecutive) pages of the Roll of Honour for the Metropolitan Police, 1914-18 and 1939-45. 1 file	Undated
AAD/1997/5/36	Cutting from Folkestone Herald relating to above Roll and to Vera Law's major share in production. 1 file	7 July 1950
AAD/1997/5/37	Photograph of a blank gesso panel, for a church. Annotated on rear "carved and gilded by Vera Law, 29 Collingham Gardens, SW5". Also noted that panel was designed for later painting by Hugh de Poix, query pre-1928. 1 file	Undated
AAD/1997/5/38	Assorted samples of coloured papers used as borders. Various shapes and textures, some very thin strips. 1 file	Undated
AAD/2002/12/1	'A Song of the Little City', by Wilfred Rowland Childe 1 item Previous ref: MSL/2001/7/1 Written out on parchment and bound by Vera Law, unfinished.	ca. 1927
AAD/2002/12/2	'The epistle of Paul & Titus' 1 item Previous ref: MSL/2001/7/2 Designs, writing and binding by Vera Law, unfinished.	ca. 1922

AAD/2002/12/14	Menu for The Savage Club with tribute to David Urquhart 1 item Previous ref: MSL/2001/7/5 Caligraphy by Vera Law.	1922
AAD/2002/12/17	Fragments of caligraphy, some hand coloured 20 items Previous ref: MSL/2001/7/7 Caligraphy by Vera Law.	Undated
AAD/2002/12/19	Photocopied examples of Vera Law's work 3 items Previous ref: MSL/2001/7/9	Undated

Documents and papers, 1923-1995

Reference: Law-3

Extent: 28 files

Reference	Description	Dates
AAD/1997/5/39	Testimonial from Central School of Arts and Crafts, commending Vera Law's work as a student. 1 file	1923
AAD/1997/5/40	Testimonial from Governor of Borstal Institution, Aylesbury commending Vera Law's work as Handwork tutor. 1 file	1924
AAD/1997/5/41	Copy of form from L.C.C. appointing Vera Law as part time teacher of writing in Central School of Arts & Crafts. 1 file	24 Oct 1927
AAD/2002/12/3	Letter to Vera Law from Alfred Fairbank 1 item Previous ref: MSL/2001/7/3/1	22 Sept 1933
AAD/2002/12/4	Letter to Vera Law from Alfred Fairbank 1 item Previous ref: MSL/2001/7/3/2 This letter is incomplete.	26 Oct 1933
AAD/1997/5/42	Copy of note by Vera Law re her hours of teaching in L.C.C. Hammersmith School of Building and Arts and Crafts. 1 file	1939
AAD/2002/12/5	Letter to Vera Law from Paul Standard 1 item Previous ref: MSL/2001/7/3/3	15 Nov 1941
AAD/2002/12/6	Letter to Vera Law from Fred 1 item Previous ref: MSL/2001/7/3/4 The letter is dated Christmas 1944.	1944
AAD/2002/12/7	Letter to Vera Law from Fred 1 item Previous ref: MSL/2001/7/3/5	11 Apr 1945

AAD/1997/5/43	Application form, signed and completed by Vera Law, for appointment as part time teacher at Hammersmith School of Building and Arts and Crafts, gives details of education, qualifications and experience, and names three suppliers of testimonials. 1 file	12 Dec 1945
AAD/1997/5/44	Letter to Vera Law from House of Lords' Crown Office, enclosing drafts of letters patent and commenting on VL's design of Barony Patent for Lt. Colonel Rees-Williams. 1 file	29 June 1950
AAD/1997/5/45	Draft of Letter Patent conferring Barony on David Rees-Williams, signed Napier. 1 file	Undated
AAD/1997/5/46	Draft of Letter Patent conferring Barony on Sir John Bradbury, signed Napier. 1 file	Undated
AAD/1997/5/47	Cutting from The Times of Birthday Honours List confirming Baronetcy for Colonel Rees-Williams 4 pages	8 June 1950
AAD/2002/12/8	Letter to Vera Law from Alfred 1 item Previous ref: MSL/2001/7/3/6	15 Aug 1950
AAD/2002/12/9	Letter to Vera Law from Alfred 1 item Previous ref: MSL/2001/7/3/7	20 Mar 1955
AAD/2002/12/10	Letter to Vera Law from Dorothy Mahoney 1 item Previous ref: MSL/2001/7/3/8	10 May 1956
AAD/2002/12/11	Letter to Vera Law from A 2 items Previous ref: MSL/2001/7/3/9	16 Nov 1970
AAD/2002/12/12	Fragment of letter to Vera Law from Fred 1 item Previous ref: MSL/2001/7/3/10 At least the first page of the letter is missing.	Undated
AAD/2002/12/20	Sepia photographs of the interior of W. S. Gilbert's house 2 items Previous ref: MSL/2001/7/10 Manuscript notes by Vera Law are on the reverse.	Undated
AAD/2002/12/21	Black and White photograph of Vera Law 1 item Previous ref: MSL/2001/7/11 The back of the photograph is annotated.	Aug 1935
AAD/2002/12/22	Sheet containing two colour photographs of '52 Park Avenue North, Northampton' and one of Vera Law 1 item Previous ref: MSL/2001/7/12/1 The sheet is dated Spring 1980.	1980

AAD/2002/12/23	Colour photographs of 'Abington Park House, 439 Wellingborough Road, Northampton 3 items Previous ref: MSL/2001/7/12/2 Two of the photographs are stuck down on a sheet of paper, dated 1982.	1982
AAD/2002/12/24	Two photographs of 'The Library Canons. Edgware. Middx.' 1 item Previous ref: MSL/2001/7/12/3 The photographs are stuck down on a sheet of paper.	June 1981
AAD/2002/12/25	Four photographs of '23 Devonshire Road. Hatch End. Middx.' 2 items Previous ref: MSL/2001/7/12/4 The photographs are stuck down on two sheets of paper.	June 1981
AAD/2002/12/26	Ten photographs of '439 Wellingborough Road, Northamptonshire'. 4 items Previous ref: MSL/2001/7/12/5 The photographs are stuck down on four sheets of paper.	June 1982
AAD/1997/5/48	Cutting from the Sphere magazine, relating to Kennedy North and his method of x-ray diagnosis of pictures, p. 111. 4 pages See also: AAD/1997/5/53	Mar 1995
AAD/1997/5/49	Copy of photograph of Cedrus Deodora (tree) planted in memory of Vera Law, 1899-1985 in Abington Park in Northampton. Annotated by A. Freeman Stroud, Gos. 1 file	Mar 1995

Reference material, various, Undated

Reference: Law-4

Extent: 8 files

Reference	Description	Dates
AAD/1997/5/50	Selection of pictures of assorted flowers and shrubs, cut out from seed catalogues. A few identified, no dates. 1 file	Undated
AAD/1997/5/51-55	Material relating to the Wilton Diptych. 1 file	Undated

Contains the following documents:

National Art Collections Fund's report on acquisition of Wilton Diptych for National Gallery. 111. 4 pages, ref: AAD/1997/5/51	Undated
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	Reproductions of Diptych panels, front and reverse. 2 pages, ref: AAD/1997/5/52	Undated
	Letters to The Times re. The Diptych from Kennedy North July 8, no year 1 item, ref: AAD/1997/5/53 See also: AAD/1997/5/47	Undated
	Letter to The Times re. The Diptych from Martin Conway Aug 26, no year 1 item, ref: AAD/1997/5/54	Undated
	Letter to The Times re. The Diptych from Herbert Blakiston Aug 22, no year 1 item, ref: AAD/1997/5/55	Undated
AAD/1997/5/56	Section of National Gallery's reproduction of Crivelli's Madonna and Child with Saints. Identified on rear. 1 file	Undated
AAD/1997/5/57	Reproduction of ca. 14th Painting of Virgin and Child with Angels, exhib. In London in 1930. Details of subject matter annotated on rear, poss. by Vera Law. b.w. 1 file	Undated
AAD/1997/5/58	National Gallery reproduction of Oreagna's Coronation of the Virgin. Florentine School ca. 14th. b.w. 1 file	Undated
AAD/1997/5/59	Photograph album, cloth covers, containing assorted postcards of medieval paintings and book illustrations. Also photographs of a performance of Midsummer Night's Dream (no venue or casting details) and of a statue in Coventry Cathedral. 1 file	Undated
AAD/1997/5/60	Blank paper, assorted sizes, textures and colours. 1 file	Undated
AAD/2002/12/27	Copy of 'The Strand', Vol. No. 114, Issue No. 682 in envelope addressed to Miss Vera Law 2 items Previous ref: MSL/2001/7/13	
