

Rupert Lee, artist, papers, ca. 1880s-2001

Introduction and summary description

Creator: Rupert Godfrey Lee

Reference: AAD/2001/11

Extent: 28 files

Context

Rupert Godfrey Lee (1887 - 1959) was born in India and educated in southern England. He attended the Slade School of Art from 1911, where he became friends with Paul Nash and joined the New English Art Club. An accomplished musician, in 1913 he was employed as Director of Music at Gordon Craig's School for the Art of the Theatre. He served in the Artists' Rifles during the First World War. In 1918 he married Madge Pemberton.

During the 1920s Lee taught sculpture at the Westminster School of Art and joined the London Group, later becoming president. In 1930 he moved to Holland in an attempt to obtain a divorce and announced his engagement to Diana Brinton, then secretary of the London Group. In 1935 Lee and Brinton announced their marriage. In 1936 they organised the first Surrealist exhibition at the New Burlington Galleries for the London Group.

Rupert Lee served as a Major in the Home Guard during the Second World War and in 1944 moved to Hedgerley near Denham, where he worked processing films at the British Film Studios. In 1946 he moved to Spain due to his wife's ill health, where he concentrated mainly on painting: this work was shown at the New Burlington Galleries in 1948 and 1950. Rupert Lee died in 1959.

Scope and content

Photographs (ca.1880s - ca.1930s); personal papers and correspondence (1890 - 2001); artwork and reference material (ca.1916 - ca.1950); papers relating to the London Group (1917 - 1945); press cuttings and articles (1920 - 1950); papers relating to the Contemporary Art Society (1920s); papers relating to the New English Art Club (1927 - 1930).

Provenance

Given by the Estate of Rupert Godfrey Lee, 2001.

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.

Related Material

Archive and manuscript sources

Papers (20th century). Imperial War Museum Department of Documents.

Some items of ephemera transferred to the Imperial War Museum, Brooklands Museum, the British Film Institute, 2001.

Selected publications

Wilcox, Denys J. The London Group, 1913-1939 : the artists and their works. Aldershot, England ; Brookfield, Vt., USA : Scolar Press, c1995. vi, 256 p. ; 22 cm. ISBN 185928048X

Nash, Paul and John and Rupert Lee. The Sun Calendar 1920. London: Sun Engraving Co. Ltd., [1919?]. [26] p. : ill. (chiefly col.) ; 25 cm.

Detailed catalogue

Artwork and reference material, ca.1916 - ca.1950

Reference: Lee-1

Extent: 5 files

Reference	Description	Dates
AAD/2001/11/9	Sketches and designs by Rupert Lee 1 folder includes sketches made while working for British Film Studios	ca. 1916 - ca. 1950
AAD/2001/11/1	The Sun Calendar for the year 1920 1 volume	ca. 1919
AAD/2001/11/19	Advertising booklet for the Sun Engraving Co. Ltd entitled The Reason Why, illustrated by Rupert Lee 2 copies of 1 item	ca. 1920s
AAD/2001/11/8	Pulls of blockprints by Rupert Lee 1 folder	Undated
AAD/2001/11/25	Reference material 1 folder	Undated

Press cuttings and articles, 1920-1950

Reference: Lee-2

Extent: 3 files

Reference	Description	Dates
AAD/2001/11/4	Cuttings book containing articles by Rupert Lee from The Educational Times and The Town Crier 1 volume	1920-1929

AAD/2001/11/5	Draft articles and reviews by Rupert Lee, also letters to newspapers and magazines 1 folder	ca. 1920s - ca. 1930s
AAD/2001/11/10	Press cuttings relating to Rupert Lee and the London Group 1 folder	1921-1950

Photographs, ca. 1880s - ca. 1930s

Reference: Lee-3

Extent: 2 files

Reference	Description	Dates
AAD/2001/11/6	Photographs of Rupert Lee, also his family and examples of his work 28 items	ca. 1880s - ca. 1930s
AAD/2001/11/7	Photographs's, mostly of Rupert Lee's sculpture ca.90 items	ca. 1920s - ca. 1930s

Personal papers and correspondence, 1890-2001

Reference: Lee-4

Extent: 5 files

Reference	Description	Dates
AAD/2001/11/26	Personal correspondence, mainly between Rupert Lee and his parents 1 folder	1890-1909
AAD/2001/11/23	Correspondence and biographical material realting to Rupert Lee, including catalogues of exhibitions of his work 1 folder	1935-1950
AAD/2001/11/21	Papers relating to the Estate of Mrs Annie Louisa Frederica Lee 1 folder	1949-1952
AAD/2001/11/28	Photocopy of a scrapbook of Rupert Lee's life and work compiled by Joanna Box 1 folder Joanna Box is the niece of Diana Brinton Lee. The scrapbook was loaned by her to The Archive of Art and Design in December 2001 for copying. The scrapbook included photographs of Lee's work, press cuttings, and a letter by Lee describing his relationship with Paul Nash.	2001
AAD/2001/11/27	Biographical notes compiled by Joanna Box 4 pages Joanna Box is the niece of Diana Brinton Lee.	2001

Papers relating to the London Group, 1917-1945

Reference: Lee-5

Extent: 11 files

Reference	Description	Dates
AAD/2001/11/12	Catalogues of London Group exhibitions at the Mansard Gallery (6th, 7th and 8th exhibitions) 3 items	1917- 1918
AAD/2001/11/16	Catalogues of London Group exhibitions at the Mansard Gallery (12th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th and 20th exhibitions) 13 items includes additional copies annotated with sales, hanging fees etc.	1920- 1924
AAD/2001/11/17	Catalogues of London Group exhibitions at the RWS Gallery (22nd, 23rd, 24th and 25th exhibitions) 5 items	1925- 1927
AAD/2001/11/14	Catalogue of the London Group retrospective exhibition 1914-1928 at the New Burlington Galleries 1 item See also: AAD/2001/11/15	1928
AAD/2001/11/15	Mock-up for the catalogue of the London Group retrospective exhibition 1914-1928 at the New Burlington Galleries 1 item See also: AAD/2001/11/14	ca. 1928
AAD/2001/11/18	Catalogues of London Group exhibitions at the New Burlington Galleries (26th, 27th, 28th, 30th and 31st exhibitions) 12 items includes additional copies annotated with sales, hanging fees, removal notices etc.	1929- 1935
AAD/2001/11/20	Catalogue of the London Group exhibition of open-air sculpture at the Roof Gardens, Messrs Selfridge & Co. Ltd 1 item	1930
AAD/2001/11/11	Catalogues of London Group exhibitions (3rd, 4th and 6th war-time exhibitions; 1945 exhibition) 4 items	1941- 1945
AAD/2001/11/24	Private view cards for London Group exhibitions at the Mansard Gallery 2 items	1921- 1929
AAD/2001/11/22	Correspondence between Diana Brinton Lee and officials of the London Group, mainly regarding payment of commissions 1 folder	1922- 1927
AAD/2001/11/13	Rules of the London Group [1927 and 1933 printed versions] 2 items	1927- 1933

Papers relating to the New English Art Club, 1927-1930

Reference: Lee-6

Extent: 1 file

Reference	Description	Dates
AAD/2001/11/3	Exhibition catalogues of the New English Art Club, some annotated with prices 6 items	1927-1930

Papers relating to the Contemporary Art Society, ca. 1920s

Reference: Lee-7

Extent: 1 file

Reference	Description	Dates
AAD/2001/11/2	Papers relating to Diana Brinton Lee's work with the Contemporary Art Society, including reports, exhibition catalogues, correspondence and account statements 8 items	ca. 1920s
