

RECORDS OF THE CURATOR OF ISLAMIC ART
MEHMET AGA-OGLU

1929-1933

1 linear foot

Box Code: *ISL 1-2
Accessioned: April, 1979
Completed: November, 1981
by Cherryl Wagner

The records of the Curator of Near Eastern Art, Mehmet Aga-Oglu, were recovered from the North Loft of the Detroit Institute of Arts and accessioned in April of 1979. They consist of curatorial correspondence, accession cards arranged by medium, and photographs.

HISTORY

Dr. Mehmet Aga-Oglu (1896-1949) was Curator of Near Eastern Art from 1929 to 1933. He was instrumental in building the permanent collection, and in arranging an important loan exhibition of Mohammedan Decorative Arts in 1930. Because of cuts in the museum staff due to the Depression, in June of 1933 Aga-Oglu went to the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor as a Freer Research Fellow in Islamic Art, but retained the title of Curator of Near Eastern Art at the Detroit Institute of Arts. He became founder and first editor of Ars Islamica in 1934, and in the same year represented both the Detroit Institute of Arts and the University of Michigan at the Millenium Celebration of Firdausi at Teheran.

Mehment Aga-Oglu was born in 1896(?) At Erivan in the Caucausus Mountains. In 1912 he went to the University of Moscow, where he studied philosophy and Oriental Art, completing his Ph.D. in 1916. He then went to Berlin where he studied with prominent scholars in Islamic, Classical and Byzantine art. In 1926 Dr. Aga-Oglu took a second Ph.D. in Turkish Architecture at Vienna. In the same year, he went to Constantinople to organize the Islamic Museum of Tshinili Koshk and the Ewkaf Museum. He was also elected to the post of Professor of the History of Islamic Art at the University of Constantinople. At the time of his death, Dr. Aga-Oglu was a consultant on Near Eastern Art at the Textile Museum in Washington, D.C.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The records are primarily curatorial in nature, consisting mostly of correspondence with art dealers concerning acquisitions or proposed acquisitions and loans for exhibitions. Also included are duplicate accession cards for various near Eastern art objects.

Important subjects include:

DIA Acquisitions
DIA exhibitions

Among the correspondents are:

Clyde H. Burroughs
Edsel B. Ford
George Pierrot
William R. Valentiner

DESCRIPTION OF AUDIOVISUAL RECORDS

Photographs have been accessioned under AVP 60; 751:01-.25.

SERIES DESCRIPTION AND CONTAINER LISTINGS

Series I: Correspondence, A-Z, and by subject or dealer. *ISL 1-5.
See also VAL. There are also 3 letters on the Bentley Historical
Library, Ann Arbor. ^{at}

*ISL 1

1. A.
2. American Institute of Persian Art.
3. American Russian Institute.
4. B.
5. Barsamian Brothers.
6. Behai, Shua U.
7. Beilouny, Joseph.
8. Boston Museum.
9. Burchard, Otto & Co.
10. C.
11. Cleveland Museum of Art.
12. College Art Association.
13. Costikyan & Co.
14. D.
15. Dalva Brothers.
16. Demotte.
17. Duveen Brothers.
18. Falvy Co.
19. Ford, Edsel B.
20. French & Co.
21. G.
22. Garabed, A.
23. Gouled, Felix.
24. Greco-Buddhic Sculpture.
25. H.
26. Hazarian Importers.
27. Hedin, Sven, Lecturer.
28. Hein Antiquities.
29. Heyl, Jacob.
30. Higgs, J.

31. International Exhibition of Persian Art, London, 1931.
32. Jamgotchian Importers.
33. K.
34. Kelekian, Dikran G.
35. Kevorkain, H.
36. Kouchakji, Fahim.
37. Kuhli-Khan, Ali.

*ISL 2

1. L.
2. M.
3. Margraf & Co.
4. Metropolitan Museum, New York.
5. Minneapolis Institute of Arts.
6. Monif, H. Kahn.
7. Mott Gunther.
8. Noorian, J.
9. P.
10. Parish Watson & Co.
11. Persian Industries Corp.
12. R.
13. S.
14. Seligmann & Co.
15. Shnitnikoff, Boris N.
16. Stora (1).
17. Stora (2).
18. W.

Acquisition cards arranged by medium.

PARTIAL INDEX TO CORRESPONDENTS

Burroughs, Clyde H. 1/32, 1/34, 2/2, 2/16
Ford, Edsel B. 1/17.
La Pointe, Alfred V. 2/16.
March, Benjamin 1/36, 2/2.
Pierrot, George F. 1/28.
Valentiner, William R. 1/5, 1/9, 1/13, 1/18, 1/25, 1/26, 1/29, 1/30,
1/32, 2/2, 2/3, 2/10, 2/14, 2/17, 2/18.
Weibel, Adele C. 1/24, 2/13.