

**BRYANT, OLEN LITTLETON
PAPERS
1961-1992**

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INTRODUCTION

The Olen Littleton Bryant Papers (1961-1992) are centered around the artistic and teaching career of Olen Littleton Bryant, Clarksville, Tennessee. The Bryant Papers were donated to the Tennessee State Library and Archives by his close friend, Vanderbilt faculty member and art critic, Thomas B. Brumbaugh. The collection occupies 1.89 cubic feet and numbers approximately 1350 items.

Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Olen Littleton Bryant Papers may be made for scholarly research.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Olen Littleton Bryant Papers, containing ca. 1350 items, span the period 1961-1992. The collection is composed of advertisements, an agenda, a card, clippings, correspondence, financial documents, genealogical data, horoscopes, interviews, invitations, programs, etc., memoranda, obituaries, poetry, photographs, drawings, etc., publications, a recommendation, a report, sketches, and writings.

The bulk of the collection is comprised of sketch-laden correspondence and numerous clippings generated by artist/sculptor/educator Olen Littleton Bryant, born in Cookeville, Tennessee in 1927. Bryant graduated from Lebanon High School in 1946 and received his undergraduate education from Murray State College (presently known as Murray State University) in Murray, Kentucky. He earned his Master of Fine Arts degree at the Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. He has also studied at other institutions throughout Europe and North and Central America.

While known primarily for his works as a sculptor, Bryant is recognized as an excellent educator, having taught in secondary and post-secondary institutions, including Cumberland University, Union University, and Emory University. He is currently Professor Emeritus of Art at Austin Peay State University.

The majority of correspondence consists of Bryant's communication with close friend Thomas B. Brumbaugh, art critic and faculty member at Vanderbilt University. In most cases, Bryant's correspondence was typed or handwritten on the back of correspondence sent to him. Many times this included correspondence from U.S. Representatives and Senators from Tennessee. The clippings contain mainly newspaper and magazine reviews of art exhibits in which Bryant participated. Also included are art and theatre reviews written by Bryant.

Within the collection are several biographical sketches of Bryant, as well as sketches of artists: Meyer Wolfe (1897-1985) and Edwin B. Johnson (1904-1968). Also included is a biographical sketch of Elizabeth Meriwether Gilmer (1861-1951); advice columnist, commonly known by her pen name "Dorothy Dix." There also exists within the collection genealogical data and clippings related to Gilmer.

Among the publications is a catalog detailing the biographical history of African-American sculptor William Edmondson of Nashville (1883?-1951); and a publication listing photographs and documentation of some of Nashville's nineteenth century skyline architecture. These items were microfilmed and removed to the Library collection.

See clippings, biographical sketches, and interviews for valuable insight into the educational background, accolades, and humorous elements connected to the artistic philosophy of Olen L. Bryant.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Olen Littleton Bryant

- 1927 May 4, born in Cookeville, Putnam County, Tennessee, the son of Emmett and Tottie (Goolsby) Bryant
- 1940 Removed with his family to Lebanon, Tennessee
- 1946 Graduated from Lebanon High School in Lebanon, Tennessee
- 1950 Received Bachelor of Science from Murray State College (presently known as Murray State University) in Murray, Kentucky
- 1950-1952 Served in U.S. Army as occupational therapy technician working with psychiatric patients
- 1954 Received Master of Fine Arts degree from Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan
- 1954-1957 Studied at: Cleveland Institute of Art, Cleveland, Ohio; Haystack Mountain School of Crafts, Deer Island, Maine; Instituto Allende, San Miguel, Mexico; Penland School of Crafts, Penland, North Carolina; Art Students League of New York; University of Delaware (Winterthur Museum); Various institutions throughout Europe
- 1958-1961 Art teacher in Shaker Heights and Marion, Ohio public school systems
- 1962-1965 Assistant Professor of Art at Union University in Jackson, Tennessee
- 1966-1991 Professor of Art at Austin Peay State College (presently known as Austin Peay State University)
- 1991-present Professor Emeritus of Art at Austin Peay State University

Organizations

Who's Who In American Art
Nashville Artists Guild
American Crafts Council
World Crafts Council

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH, continued:

Numerous solo exhibits including:

Tennessee Fine Arts Center
Cheekwood
Evansville, Indiana Museum
Clarksville
Chattanooga
Atlanta

Sources: Olen Littleton Bryant
Olen Littleton Bryant Papers

CONTAINER LIST

BOX NUMBER 1

1. Advertisements--"Clarksville Architecture," 1977
2. Advertisements--Williams, Olleen, n.d.
3. Agendas--"Dorothy Dix Symposium: a literary and journalistic event"
4. Cards--Greeting--Bryant, Olen
5. Clippings--"A.P.S.U. supports Bicentennial," April 9, 1975
6. Clippings--A.P.S.U. Art Department Letter to the Editor, January 13, 1977
7. Clippings--Art Exhibits--Bryant, Olen, 1962-1975
8. Clippings--Art exhibits--Bryant, Olen, 1976-1988
9. Clippings--Art Institute Grant awarded to Olen Bryant, 1967
10. Clippings--"Artist At Work--," November 4, 1981
11. Clippings--"Artists Honored," April 13, 1965
12. Clippings--"Art Professor Woman's Club Speaker," 1988
13. Clippings--"Attends Presidential Reception--," September 11, 1968
14. Clippings--Austin Peay State University sculpture: "A Sentinel"--Bryant, Olen, 1979-1981, 1983, 1990
15. Clippings--"Bryant To Speak To Woodcarvers," December 7, 1990
16. Clippings--"Bryant's Works Prized By Country Music Stars," 1989
17. Clippings--The Center for the Creative Arts, Fall 1986
18. Clippings--"Centers For Excellence Take Artists to the Students," December-January 1988-89
19. Clippings--Comics--"B.C.," n.d.
20. Clippings--Comics--"Satyre" by Ron Fontes, 1972, 1973
21. Clippings--"Figures Express Serenity," November 19, 1991
22. Clippings--Gilmer, Elizabeth (Meriwether) "Dix, Dorothy" (1861-1951)
23. Clippings--"Inspect Artistic Works," November 22, 1964
24. Clippings--Miscellaneous, 1962-1989
25. Clippings--"Olen Bryant," Fall 1978
26. Clippings--"Olen Bryant Carves A Reputation," April 20, 1975
27. Clippings--Reviews--"Audience Likes `Skin Of Our Teeth,'" review by Olen L. Bryant, October 28, 1977
28. Clippings--Reviews--Exhibition review by Olen L. Bryant, April 17, 1968
29. Clippings--Reviews--"`Greasepaint' Is Lively Production," review by Olen L. Bryant, February 5, 1976
30. Clippings--Sculpture Presented to State, 1986
31. Clippings--"Seeds" sculpture, 1988
32. Clippings--"Sophomore wins honor," n.d.
33. Clippings--"Teens Interpret Art Uniquely," July 26, 1966
34. Clippings-- "Tennessee," July 1968
35. Clippings--Theatre--"Death Takes A Holiday," n.d.
36. Clippings--Toy, Randy, n.d., March 20-24, 1989
37. Clippings--World Crafts Council, August 25, 1968

CONTAINER LIST, continued:

BOX NUMBER 2

Correspondence

1. Correspondence--Bain, Kittler, March 3, 1982
2. Correspondence--Brindley, Charles, December 4, 1990
3. Correspondence--Bryant, Olen L., 1962-1964
4. Correspondence--Bryant, Olen L., 1965
5. Correspondence--Bryant, Olen L., 1966
6. Correspondence--Bryant, Olen L., 1967
7. Correspondence--Bryant, Olen L., 1968
8. Correspondence--Bryant, Olen L., 1969-1971
9. Correspondence--Bryant, Olen L., 1972-1973
10. Correspondence--Bryant, Olen L., 1974
11. Correspondence--Bryant, Olen L., 1975

BOX NUMBER 3

Correspondence

1. Correspondence--Bryant, Olen L., 1976
2. Correspondence--Bryant, Olen L., 1977
3. Correspondence--Bryant, Olen L., 1978
4. Correspondence--Bryant, Olen L., 1979
5. Correspondence--Bryant, Olen L., 1980
6. Correspondence--Bryant, Olen L., 1981
7. Correspondence--Bryant, Olen L., 1982-1983
8. Correspondence--Bryant, Olen L., 1984-1985
9. Correspondence--Bryant, Olen L., 1986-1987
10. Correspondence--Bryant, Olen L., 1988-1989
11. Correspondence--Bryant, Olen L., 1990
12. Correspondence--Bryant, Olen L., 1991-1992
13. Correspondence--Grogan, Kevin, April 14, 1982
14. Correspondence--Higgs, Joanna, 1962-1963
15. Correspondence--Hochstetler, Max, 1990
16. Correspondence--Klahn, David R., 1979-1980
17. Correspondence--Klahn, Faye G., 1980
18. Correspondence--Riggs, Robert O., Office of the President, Austin Peay State University,
May 8, 1980
19. Correspondence--Toy, Randy, 1974-1991

CONTAINER LIST, continued:

BOX NUMBER 4

1. Financial Documents--Canceled checks--Brumbaugh, Thomas B., 1963-1964, 1972
2. Genealogical Data--Lineage of Gilmer, Elizabeth (Meriwether) "Dix, Dorothy" (1861-1951)
[1991]
3. Horoscopes--Bryant, Olen, September 30, 1975
4. Interviews--Interview of Olen L. Bryant by Homer Alexander, March 1990
5. Interviews--"Olen Bryant, Angelmaker," an interview by Thomas B. Brumbaugh, November 1968
6. Invitations, programs, etc.--"America's Bicentennial Event "Freedom of Religion" Tour of Clarksville's Historic Churches," April 20, 1975
7. Invitations, programs, etc.--Art Exhibits--Bryant, Olen L., 1962-1991
8. Invitations, programs, etc.--Art Exhibits--"Old Hickory: A Life Sketch of Andrew Jackson," 1991
9. Invitations, programs, etc.--Austin Peay State University dedication of sculpture done by Professor Olen L. Bryant, May 25, 1980
10. Invitations, programs, etc.--Biography of Olen L. Bryant--Hunterdon Art Center, February 6-27, 1978
11. Invitations, programs, etc.--Dedication of sculpture--Olen L. Bryant, May 29, 1988
12. Invitations, programs, etc.--Hochstetler, T. Max--"Analytical Swiss Patterns," November 18-December 7, 1990
13. Invitations, programs, etc.--"Reflections of a Lifetime: Meyer Wolfe (1897-1985)"
14. Invitations, programs, etc.--"The 1985 Roy Acuff Award Dinner," November 23, 1985
15. Invitations, programs, etc.--"The 1987 Roy Acuff Award Dinner," November 17, 1987
16. Invitations, programs, etc.--"The 1988 Roy Acuff Award Dinner," March 7, 1989
17. Invitations, programs, etc.--"The Thirteenth Annual Senior Night," November 3, 1990
18. Invitations, programs, etc.--Union University Christmas Music Festival, December 18, 1962
19. Invitations, programs, etc.--WPLN/FM 90 Program Guides--Cover artwork by Charles Brindley, February, May, December 1991
20. Memoranda--Berwind, Anne May, May 29, 1987
21. Memoranda--T.A.C.A. Nomination Committee, October 6, 1975
22. Obituaries--Johnson, Edwin Boyd (1904-1968), August 7, 1968
23. Poetry--Collection--"Tower"--Austin Peay State College, 1967
24. Poetry--Glass, Malcolm--"The Artist--for Olen Bryant," May 25, 1980
25. Photographs, drawings, etc.--Bryant, Olen L., 1965-1987
26. Photographs, drawings, etc.--"Crafts Fair - Centennial Park," April 1975
27. Photographs, drawings, etc.--"Marie Schwartz and others at Artists' Guild, Olen Bryant sculpture," Winter 1968
28. Photographs, drawings, etc.--"Olen at the Crafts Fair," May 1973
29. Photographs, drawings, etc.--"Olen Bryant at Artists' Guild, Nashville, Tenn.," Winter 1968
30. Photographs, drawings, etc.--"Olen Bryant sculpture"

CONTAINER LIST, continued:

BOX NUMBER 4, continued:

31. Photographs, drawings, etc.--"Olen Bryant working on hackberry figure," 1964
32. Photographs, drawings, etc.--"The Sentinel," 1980
33. Photographs, drawings, etc.--"Union University," March 1963
34. Photographs, drawings, etc.--Toy, Randy
35. Publications--Booklet--"Nashville Skyline: an album of architecture," 1975
36. Publications--Booklet--"Tennessee Sculpture 1971"
37. Publications--Bulletin--Austin Peay State University Art Department Curriculum, 1975-1976
38. Publications--Catalog--"Atlanta Art Association," July 14-31, 1963
39. Publications--Catalog--"Brooks Memorial Art Gallery Mid-South Exhibition," February 27-March 31, 1965
40. Publications--Catalog--"Mississippi River Craft Show," May 4-26, 1963
41. Publications--Catalog--"Will Edmondson's Mirkels," April 12 - May 31, 1964
42. Publications--Magazine--"Motive," December 1963
43. Publications--Magazine--"school arts," January 1969
44. Publications--Magazine--"The Tower," 1966
45. Publications--Newsletter--"Carroll Reece Museum," March 1973
46. Publications--Newsletter--"Cheekwood Mirror," November 1968
47. Publications--Statement--Bryant, Olen L.--"Man," n.d.

BOX NUMBER 5

1. Recommendations--Lowe, Harry--for Bryant, Olen L., January 25, 1963
2. Reports--Parker, Malcolm-- "A Two Rivers Primitive Site: Nashville-Donelson Area," 1972
3. Sketches--Biographical--Bryant, Olen L., April 7, 1988, 1991
4. Sketches--Biographical--Gilmer, Elizabeth (Meriwether) "Dix, Dorothy" (1861-1951), n.d.
5. Sketches--Biographical--Johnson, Edwin Boyd, 1940, 1947, 1953
6. Sketches--Biographical--Wolfe, Meyer (1897-1985)
7. Sketches--General--Tour of Woodstock Mansion and Grounds--Birthplace of Gilmer, Elizabeth (Meriwether) "Dix, Dorothy," n.d.
8. Sketches--Historical--Johnson, Edwin Boyd (1904-1968)
9. Writings--Bryant, Olen L.--"Seeds," March 7, 1988