

## Nan Youngman Collection

### MS 5323

'Pictures for Schools' exhibitions began in 1947, organised to enable schools and local education authorities to buy original works of modern art by contemporary artists. It had precedents in Youngman's work for Morris in Cambridge and for the AIA. She had also organised an exhibition of children's work for Lucy Wertheim's gallery in 1931, and Wertheim started a scheme for lending works of art to schools. The first exhibition was at the Victoria and Albert Museum in 1947 and the following year at the Tate but it was eventually established more or less regularly at the Whitechapel Art Gallery. The shows ended in 1967. There were Scottish 'Pictures for Schools', as well as Welsh 'Pictures for Schools' which lasted much longer. Extraordinarily successful and nearly always paying their way, the exhibitions were selected from an open submission and were some of the best 'mixed' shows of their period. Artists like Frances Hodgkins, Winifred Nicholson, Claude Rogers, Duncan Grant, Richard Eurich and John Minton showed together with then young unknowns such as William Townsend, George Fullard and Sandra Blow, alongside Peter Peri and Betty Rea.

The Collection covers the year's 1931-1997.

The physical extent of the collection is 119 files.

#### Introduction

Nan Youngman was born in Maidstone, and educated at Wycombe Abbey School, before being accepted by the Slade, studying under Tonks and Steer between 1924 and 1927. She was a Slade prize-winner in 1927 and it was while at the Slade that Youngman began to define her own lifestyle, outwardly typified by the wearing of trousers and the pudding basin haircut, which she never changed. In 1928 Youngman began teaching part-time at Highbury Hill Girls School. She trained to teach at the London Day Training College, and it was here that she met Marion Richardson and through her influence, she developed a strong belief in the central importance of art in the curriculum. Alongside her own artistic outputs, Youngman was a teacher, writer and art advisor, lecturer for the British Council and art examiner for local examinations boards as well as external examiner at teacher training colleges and organiser of the 'Pictures for Schools' exhibitions. As an artist she continued to develop her palette-knife, and limited palette technique, though her painting was constrained by the need to earn a living.

In 1936 Youngman joined the Artists International Association, (AIA), founded in 1933 by a group of politically conscious painters, sculptors and designers, aiming to resist the rise of European Fascism and Nazism. It was here that Youngman

met Betty Rea, a sculptor, their personal relationship lasted until Betty's death in 1965. Youngman contributed with Quentin Bell to the debate about art education at the first British Artist Congress in 1937.

In 1944, Youngman became Art Advisor for Cambridgeshire under Henry Morris, though part-time, this job provided Youngman with a platform which led her eventually to the Chair of the Society for Education through Art, the editorship of its journal, 'Athene', and in 1947 to the first 'Pictures for Schools' exhibition.

In 1945 as their family was expanding, Youngman and Rea rented 'Papermills', a former mill, which became a base for new painting and sculpture from them both and a centre for the radical politics of the 1950's Peace Movement. In 1952 Youngman founded the Studio Workshop under the Cambridge Institute of Education, she extended the 'Pictures for Schools' Exhibitions to Wales and, in 1952 and 1954 undertook advisory assignments in the West Indies and West Africa for the British Council. Youngman held her first one-person exhibition, at the Leicester Galleries in 1953, after she was encouraged to take time away from teaching to paint. In 1955, Youngman, along with Rea, Elisabeth Vellacott, Cecil and Elizabeth Collins, John Mills and others formed the Cambridge Society of Painters and Sculptors.

After Rea's death in 1965, Youngman bought 'The Hawks' in Waterbeach, changing the direction of her painting from industrial landscape towards the Fen countryside and the beaches of the Norfolk coast. At the same time, she moved more and more towards watercolour and gouache in place of oils. During the 1970s, Youngman wrote more - many letters and sometimes poetry and her relationship with the Welsh painter Esther Grainger became closer. Youngman organised the 'Mill Group', to teach mainly amateur women painters during this period.

After her eightieth birthday Youngman found painting increasingly difficult due to cataracts and spent more time drawing meticulously observed small plants and animals. Youngman was awarded an OBE in 1987.

Nan Youngman died in April 1995.

**MS 5323/1** File entitled 'Pictures for Scottish Schools: Scottish artists'  
1964 and 1966

- MS 5323/2** File entitled 'Pictures for Welsh Schools'  
1966 and 1968
- MS 5323/3** File containing payments to artists for sales (blank forms),  
'Pictures for Schools Exhibition'  
1968
- MS 5323/4** File relating to the Inland Revenue and correspondence with  
solicitors (Few & Kester) re Declaration of Trust for 'Pictures for  
Schools Exhibition'  
1969-1970 and 1970-1971
- MS 5323/5** File entitled 'Lows (typewriter hire)'  
1968
- MS 5323/6** File relating to Invitations to the private view of 'Pictures for  
Schools Exhibition'  
1961-1969  
Invitation cards and correspondence
- MS 5323/7** File entitled 'Artists' prints: sales Pictures for Schools Exhibition'  
1968-1969
- MS 5323/8** File entitled 'Arts Council: correspondence re Pictures for  
Schools Exhibition'  
1957-1971

- MS 5323/9** File of correspondence re adverts for 'Pictures for Schools Exhibition' 1968-69 in Art Review, The Guardian, The Observer, The Sunday Times, The New Statesman and Nation. Copies of Arts Review: 28 February 1968; 11 October 1969  
1968-1969
- MS 5323/10** File of correspondence between Joan Bartlett (Exhibition Secretary) and Mrs Evelyn Atkinson  
1964-1970
- MS 5323/11** File of correspondence with the Automobile Association re temporary sign for 'Pictures for Schools Exhibition'
- MS 5323/12** File of correspondence between Joan Bartlett and Miss Katherine Baker (Treasurer of Pictures for Schools Exhibition until September 1967)  
1968
- MS 5323/13** File relating to the 'Pictures for Schools Exhibition': Invited works  
1968-1969
- MS 5323/14** File of enquiries from artists re 'Pictures for Schools Exhibitions'  
1969-1970

- MS 5323/15** File entitled 'Art colleges and schools'  
1960-1964  
3 letters re Pictures for Schools Exhibition
- MS 5323/16** File of correspondence with Art Exhibitions Bureau (Foundation  
of British Artists)  
1964-1970
- MS 5323/17** File entitled 'Art galleries: miscellaneous'  
1970  
Correspondence, leaflets and notes on prospective galleries to  
hold the exhibition
- MS 5323/18** File of miscellaneous correspondence  
1960-1969
- MS 5323/19** File of correspondence re school parties & Guide lecturer for  
'Pictures for School Exhibition'  
1968-1969
- MS 5323/20** File entitled, 'City Art Gallery, Manchester - Rutherston  
Collection'  
1963-1969
- MS 5323/21** File relating to private buyers from 'Pictures for Schools  
Exhibition'  
1969

- MS 5323/22** File entitled 'Colleges of education'  
1968
- MS 5323/23** File of correspondence and literature re exhibition of  
Contemporary Hangings  
1966-1970
- MS 5323/24** File of correspondence with Curwen Gallery  
1967 and 1968
- MS 5323/25** File relating to Customs & Excise
- MS 5323/26** File entitled 'Dates of Pictures for Schools exhibitions'  
1964-1967
- MS 5323/27** File entitled, 'Duplicators', containing single copies of forms  
duplicated and correspondence re duplication  
1963-1970
- MS 5323/28** File of correspondence with the Royal College of Art  
1963-1969

- MS 5323/29** File of correspondence with Saffron Press (printers)  
1968-1970
- MS 5323/30** File of correspondence with Walter E Savage - sign writer
- MS 5323/31** File of correspondence with The School Government Publishing  
Company Ltd
- MS 5323/32** File of correspondence with schools  
1968 and 1971
- MS 5323/33** Posters for Pictures for Schools Exhibitions  
1966-1969
- MS 5323/34** File of press cuttings  
1966 and 1969
- MS 5323/35** File entitled 'Press list: press letter: schools attending for press'  
1967 and 1969

- MS 5323/36** File of Lists of private buyers (general)  
1964-67
- MS 5323/37** File relating to the 'Pictures for Schools Exhibition'  
Questionnaire (school parties)  
1964-1969
- MS 5323/38** File entitled, 'Royal Academy of Art: Royal Academy schools'  
1963-1971
- MS 5323/39** File entitled 'Selectors for Pictures for Schools Exhibition'  
1968  
Correspondence and selection forms
- MS 5323/40** File entitled 'Notice to artists: sending-in forms'  
1964-1969
- MS 5323/41** File of correspondence between Joan Bartlett and Nan  
Youngman  
1967-1971
- MS 5323/42** File of correspondence with typographers: Cameron Poulter, Bill  
Pletts  
1966-1970



- MS 5323/43** File entitled 'South London Art Gallery'  
1964-1968
- MS 5323/44** File relating to Peter Spiegel & Co (adhesive labels printer)
- MS 5323/45** File relating to Travelling expenses and telephone calls made by  
Exhibition Secretary  
1968-1969
- MS 5323/46** File entitled 'Wine (catering) - Edwin Giddings'
- MS 5323/47** File of correspondence with Whitechapel Art Gallery & Greater  
London Council/Inner London Education Authority, Upper  
Gallery  
1957-1970
- MS 5323/48** File relating to Sun Alliance Insurance

- MS 5323/49** File of correspondence with W H Sharpington (letterer)  
1966-1969
- MS 5323/50** File related to Sending-in forms for 'Pictures for Schools  
Exhibition' artists
- MS 5323/51** File of correspondence with Mancini-Tozer Ltd (casters)  
1966
- MS 5323/52** File of single leaflets  
1964-1969
- MS 5323/53** File entitled 'Editions Alecto: correspondence and press cuttings'
- MS 5323/54** File of correspondence with education authorities  
1966-68
- MS 5323/55** File entitled 'The Embroiderers' Guild'  
1966-1971

**MS 5323/56** File of correspondence with General Press Cuttings Association  
Ltd

**MS 5323/57** File of correspondence with the Greater London Council/Inner  
London Education Authority  
1961-1968

**MS 5323/58** File relating to Hanging fees containing reminder letters

**MS 5323/59** File relating to Helpers and stewards  
1967-1970

**MS 5323/60** File relating to Planning Committee meetings and  
correspondence  
1963-1970

**MS 5323/61** File containing Miss J P Bartlett's CV (Exhibition secretary 1963-  
71)  
June 1971  
**FILE CLOSED UNTIL 2051**

- MS 5323/62** File of correspondence with The Arts Council  
1963-1966
- MS 5323/63** File containing completed buyer forms, signed sales forms and  
orders for the 1969 Exhibition  
1969
- MS 5323/64** Invoice books  
1948-1968  
7 books
- MS 5323/65** File containing 'Pictures for Schools exhibition' invitations and  
catalogues  
1947-1969
- MS 5323/66** Pictures for Schools Exhibition account book  
1967-1971
- MS 5323/67** File of papers relating to Buyers  
1968
- MS 5323/68** File of papers relating to Buyers  
1970  
containing buyers forms; sales forms; note to purchasers and  
correspondence with buyers re no exhibition for 1970

- MS 5323/69** File of correspondence with individual Artists  
1969-1970
- MS 5323/70** File entitled 'W & F C Bonham (auctioneers): auctions'  
1965, 1967, 1969, 1971
- MS 5323/71** File of correspondence with James Bourlet Sons Ltd  
1968-1971
- MS 5323/72** File of papers relating to Buyers  
1969
- MS 5323/73** File of papers relating to Private buyers  
1968
- MS 5323/74** File relating to BBC 'Art & Design': Schools Broadcasting  
Council series  
1968
- MS 5323/75** File of correspondence with British Legion Attendants Co. Ltd  
1966-1969

- MS 5323/76** File of correspondence re catalogues  
1968 and 1969
- MS 5323/77** File of correspondence with Barclays Bank  
1967-1971
- MS 5323/78** Account book of income and expenditure: Society for Education  
through Art, 'Pictures for Schools' exhibitions  
1949-1958
- MS 5323/79** File of Nan Youngman's teaching notes
- MS 5323/80** File of papers relating to a British Council visit to Sierra Leone  
and West Africa  
1954
- MS 5323/81** File of papers relating to Oxford Local Examinations GCE 'O'  
Levels - set by Nan Youngman  
1955-1967

- MS 5323/82** File entitled 'Society for Education through Art'  
1968-1970  
containing correspondence, minutes
- MS 5323/83** File of papers relating to a British Council visit to Tobago,  
Trinidad and Jamaica  
1952
- MS 5323/84** File of papers relating to a British Council visit to Malta  
1959
- MS 5323/85** File of 'Pictures for Schools Exhibition' completed questionnaires  
1969
- MS 5323/86** File of miscellaneous press cuttings on art education
- MS 5323/87** File of 'Pictures for Schools Exhibition' photographs
- MS 5323/88** File of papers relating to the 'Wertheim Exhibition'  
1931

- MS 5323/89** Nan Youngman's Pictures for Schools file  
1940-1969  
Correspondence, catalogues, accounts
- MS 5323/90** File containing the text of the Marion Richardson Memorial  
lecture given by Nan Youngman  
1949
- MS 5323/91** File of papers relating to the British Council courses for  
overseas art teachers held in the UK  
1953, 1955, 1958
- MS 5323/92** File of Lecture notes; notes for teachers' courses; notes on first  
Marion Richardson memorial lecture  
1956
- MS 5323/93** A booklet entitled, 'For Nan Youngman: tributes on her 80th  
Birthday June 28 1986'  
1986
- MS 5323/94** Exhibition catalogue 'Nan Youngman: Paintings, Drawings,  
Prints 1924-1986', Kettle's Yard Gallery, Cambridge  
1987



- MS 5323/95** Photocopy of the catalogue of the 'The British Council Exhibition of British Children's drawings' exhibited in New York 1941-1942
- MS 5323/96** Photographs of Highbury Hill School stage productions, puppet shows and paintings mostly during the Second World War when the school was evacuated to Huntingdon
- MS 5323/97** Black and white photograph of Nan Youngman
- MS 5323/98** Cards illustrated with different artwork to accompany lectures 'Goods and bads'
- MS 5323/99** National Advisory Council on Art Education: First Report August 1960
- MS 5323/100** Marion Richardson file: including M. R. memorial, M. R. archive and exhibition at UCE, 'Athene' 1947, vol. 4, no. 1 (2 copies) & 1959, vol. 9, no. 2  
1947 and 1959

- MS 5323/101** Nan Youngman's 'Pictures for Schools' file
- MS 5323/102** Booklets entitled, 'Planning our new schools: buildings for further education' by Henry Morris; 'Cambridgeshire Education Committee: The hanging of pictures' notes by the County Art Adviser (Nan Youngman)
- MS 5323/103** File entitled 'Art education' - various published articles by Nan Youngman
- MS 5323/104** File of papers relating to the Artists' International Association
- MS 5323/105** Bag and counters used in Private View draw
- MS 5323/106** File of papers relating to 'Pictures for schools' 1952 and 1969 including an article from 'The Listener' 1952 (p.108), selectors' lists, 1969 questionnaires, methods of selection etc

- MS 5323/107** File of Information, correspondence and forms relating to 'Pictures for Welsh Schools' and 'Pictures for Scottish Schools Exhibitions' and envelope of press cuttings for the Welsh Exhibition
- MS 5323/108** File containing 'Pictures for Welsh Schools' exhibition catalogues, invitations and Notice to Artists 1955-1989 (incomplete run) and catalogues and information on the 1967 'Pictures for Scottish Schools Exhibition' 1955-1989
- MS 5323/109** File containing a copy of a thesis entitled 'Pictures for schools' by Nick Arnfield, University of Manchester 1985
- MS 5323/110** Boards and scans of various items, including several photographs from the Nan Youngman archive used for a display at the University of Reading
- MS 5323/111** File containing photographs
- Includes photographs of children at Pictures for Schools exhibitions and sculptures by Betty Rea

- MS 5323/112** Box of slides of children's paintings used in lectures given by Nan Youngman
- MS 5323/113** Booklet entitled 'Nan Youngman 1906-1995'  
1906-1995
- 2 copies
- MS 5323/114** Copies of various publications, some with articles by Nan Youngman.
- MS 5323/115** Catalogue of 'An exhibition of contemporary art: May 22-June 1, 1945' in which Nan Youngman exhibited  
22/5-1/6/1945  
2 copies
- MS 5323/OS116** Scrapbook entitled 'To bring to your remembrance Some of the Puppets 1949', made by Kay Boileau, of drawings used in production of 'Noah'  
1949
- MS 5323/OS117** Pictures for Schools book of press cuttings  
1947-1966

**MS** Poster for Nan Youngman exhibition 'Nan Youngman 1906-  
**5323/OS118** 1995: Paintings Life and Work' Morley Gallery, London  
7-30/10/1997

**MS** Pictures for Schools Exhibition posters  
**5323/OS119** 1967, 1968, 1969