

# **S. Donovan Swann Collection 1902-1950**

## **MS46**

**Finding aid prepared by Anita Carrico**

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Enoch Pratt Free Library Special Collections  
2011

<http://www.prattlibrary.org/>

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Enoch Pratt Free Library Special Collections
<b>Title</b>	S. Donovan Swann, Sr. Collection
<b>Date [bulk]</b>	Bulk, 1930-1940
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1902-1950
<b>Extent</b>	35.0 Linear feet 31 boxes
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>The Don Swann collection spans the years 1902-1950 with the bulk of the material from the 1930s and 40s. It contains over 500 etchings across Maryland and the region, including etching of historic and colonial homes in Maryland. The collection also includes papers from the Etchcrafters Art Guild (1902-64) as well as correspondence of the period. Notable is the "Uncle Ed" correspondence which documents his personal life. In addition, it contains drawings and etchings of Colonial and Historic Homes of Maryland by county.</p>

## **Biographical/Historical note**

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S. Donovan Swann, Sr. was born in Fernandina, Florida in 1899. The son of an old Virginia family, he moved to Baltimore as a child. His long and many-faceted career included aviation, exploring, and etching. Mr. Swann was one of the first men in Baltimore to fly an airplane and continued flying as a lieutenant during the First World War. Mr. Swann attended St. John's College in Annapolis but left to attend the Maryland Institute to study art. He studied art in Munich and Paris and formed the Etchcrafters Art Guild in Baltimore. At the outbreak of the Second World War, Don Swann again volunteered for the army and became a major in the public relations section at Fort Belvoir where he served for three years. He traveled the state of Maryland researching, photographing and drawing historic colonial homes and produced one hundred etchings for his book. He developed and marketed the "Swann New Way Etching Outfit", a kit for amateur etchers. He and his wife, Rita had three children; Francis S. Swann, Don Swann, Jr., and Lyn Swann Wagon. After Don Swann, Sr. death in 1954, Don Swann, Jr. continued to produce prints from the original plates.

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## **Scope and Contents note**

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The S. Donovan Swann Collection contains 18 boxes of correspondence from 1910-1945, the vast majority being letters and receipts for marketing the etchings. These include correspondence with department stores in Baltimore, New York, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, etc. A glimpse into his personal life is represented in the "Uncle Ed" letters. There are 13 boxes of prints (etchings).

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## **Arrangement note**

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The Don Swann collection spans the years 1902-1950 with the bulk of the material from the 1930s and 40s.

Series I consist of the Don Swann Papers and the Etchcrafters Art Guild and are organized chronologically. They consist mostly of correspondence and receipts for etchings. Box 1 contains biographical material and obituaries. Box 2 contains the "Uncle Ed" correspondence and is the most revealing of the personal life of the Swann family. Box 17 and 18 contain newspaper clipping and advertisements.

Series II and III contains over 500 etchings. These are organized by size and then by subject/location.

Series IV contains the etchings of Colonial and Historic Homes of Maryland arranged alphabetically by county in boxes 29 and 30.

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## **Administrative Information**

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### **Publication Information**

Enoch Pratt Free Library Special Collections 2011

### **Revision Description**

Entered into Archivist's Toolkit by Joan M. Wolk. September, 2015

### **Conditions Governing Access**

Unrestricted, open by appointment.

### **Immediate Source of Acquisition note**

The library began to acquire Don Swann's etchings in April 1939, and continued to purchase them through the 40's and 50's, many through the Hutzler-Hochschild fund. A large portion consisted of material collected in connection with the production of the two volume Historic and Colonial Homes of Maryland (NA730.M3S8f v.1&v2) which was published in 1939.

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## **Controlled Access Headings**

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### **Corporate Name(s)**

- Etchcrafters Art Guild .
- Hutzler-Hochschild fund.
- Swann New Way Etching Outfit.

### **Genre(s)**

- Advertisements
- clippings (information artifacts)
- Correspondence
- drawings (visual works)
- etching (prints)
- photographs

**Geographic Name(s)**

- Annapolis (Md.)
- Baltimore (Md.)
- Maryland (state)

**Personal Name(s)**

- Swann, S. Donovan

**Subject(s)**

- Historic buildings
- World War, 1939-1945

## Series I: Papers of S. Donovan Swann Sr. &amp; Jr. and Etchcrafters Art Guild,...

**Collection Inventory**

<b>Series I: Papers of S. Donovan Swann Sr. &amp; Jr. and Etchcrafters Art Guild, 1902-64</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
	1-18	1-151
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Biographical material	1	1
Biographical material	1	2
Undated lists	1	3
Invitations	1	4
Christmas cards	1	5
Calendars 1938, 39, 42, 44	1	6
Miscellaneous catalogs	1	7
Miscellaneous pamphlets	1	8
Miscellaneous pamphlets and catalogs	1	9
Letters to "Grandpa", 1902-1905	2	10

## Series I: Papers of S. Donovan Swann Sr. &amp; Jr. and Etchcrafters Art Guild,...

Letter from "Anne", 1930	2	11
"Uncle Ed" correspondence, 1924-1930	2	12
"Uncle Ed" correspondence, 1931	2	13
"Uncle Ed" correspondence, 1932	2	14
"Uncle Ed" correspondence, 1943-45	2	15
Income tax returns, 1930-1933	2	16
Personal correspondence, 1936	2	17
Personal correspondence, 1937, 38	2	18
Personal correspondence, 1939	2	19
Personal correspondence, 1940	2	20
Personal correspondence, 1941, 42	2	21
Pratt Library re: Swann Collection, 1932	2	22
Pratt Library re: Swann Collection, 1945-65	2	23
Etching orders from US Naval Academy, 1930-34	2	24



## Series I: Papers of S. Donovan Swann Sr. &amp; Jr. and Etchcrafters Art Guild,...

Report card "Junior" (Francis)	2	25
Don Swann, Jr. correspondence re: sales of etchings, 1963-64	2	26
Papers, 1910-1925	3	27
Papers, 1931	3	28
Papers, 1932	3	29
Papers, 1933	3	30
Papers, 1934	3	31
Papers, January, February, 1935	3	32
Papers, March, April, May, 1935	3	33
Papers, June, July, August, 1935	3	34
Papers, September, October, November, 1935	3	35
Papers, December, 1935	3	36
Papers, Undated, 1936	4	37
Papers, January – June, 1936	4	38-43

## Series I: Papers of S. Donovan Swann Sr. &amp; Jr. and Etchcrafters Art Guild,...

Papers, July – December 1936	5	44-49
Undated, 1937	6	50
Papers, January – May 1937	6	51-55
Papers, June – December 1937	7	56-62
Undated, 1938	8	63
Papers, January – June, 1938	8	64-69
Papers, July – December, 1938	9	70-75
Papers, January – June, 1939	10	76-81
Papers, July – December 1939	11	82-87
Papers, Undated, 1940	12	88
Papers, January – June, 1940	12	89-94
Papers, July – December, 1940	13	95-100
Papers Undated, 1941	14	101
Papers January – December, 1941	14	102-113

## Series I: Papers of S. Donovan Swann Sr. &amp; Jr. and Etchcrafters Art Guild,...

Papers, January, February, March, 1942	15	114
Papers, April, May, June, 1942	15	115
Papers, July, August, September, 1942	15	116
Papers, October, November, December, 1942	15	117
Papers, January – December 1943	15	118-129
Papers, Undated, 1944	15	130
Papers, January – December 1944	15	131-142
Papers, Undated, 1940s	16	143
Papers, January, February, 1945	16	144
Papers, March, 1945	16	145
Papers, April, May, 1945	16	146
Papers, June, 1945	16	147
Papers, July – December 1945	16	148
Papers, 1946	16	149

## Newspaper clippings/miscellaneous pamphlets/World War II items

Papers, 1947	16	150
Papers, 1948-1950	16	151
		<b>Box</b>
Newspaper clippings/Ads and articles		17
		<b>Box</b>
<b>Newspaper clippings/miscellaneous pamphlets/World War II items</b>		18
<b>Series II: Etchings</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
	19-26	1-19
		<b>Box</b>
Assorted small etchings		19
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Etchings of Delaware	20	1
Etchings of North Carolina	20	2
Etchings of Virginia	20	3
Miscellaneous etchings	20	4
Etchings of Baltimore City	21	5
Etchings of Annapolis, MD	21	6
Etchings of Maryland	21	7

## Series II: Etchings

Etchings of Washington, DC	21	8
Etchings of Princeton and Harvard	22	9
Etchings of Washington, DC	22	10
Etchings of New York	22	11
Miscellaneous etchings	22	12
Etchings by Duvall	22	13
Etchings by Dano Jackley	22	14
Etchings by John McGrath	22	15
		<b>Box</b>
Etchings of Baltimore, Maryland		23
Etchings of Virginia		24
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
House plans by county: Allegeny – Howard	25	16
House plans by county: Garrett – Worcester	25	17
Etchings of Western Maryland	25	18

## Series III: Large format etchings

Etchings of Annapolis and the US Naval Academy	25	19
		<b>Box</b>
Etchings of landscapes, seascapes, animals		26
<b>Series III: Large format etchings</b>	<b>Box</b> 27-28	<b>Folder</b> 20-29
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Etchings of Pittsburg and etchings by Gettier	27	20
Etchings of Baltimore, Maryland	27	21
Etchings of Washington, DC	27	22
Etchings of Maryland and Virginia	27	23
Etchings of ships, planes, landscapes	27	24
Etchings by Don Swann, Jr.	27	25
Etchings of Baltimore, MD	28	26
Etchings of Washington, DC, Annapolis, Bay Bridge	28	27
Etchings of Planes, ships, landscapes, miscellaneous	28	28
Book of stock certificates for the Hilltop Theater in the Round, Inc. issued to S. Donovan Swann, Jr, 1950	28	29

## Series IV: Etchings of Colonial and Historic Homes of Maryland

<b>Series IV: Etchings of Colonial and Historic Homes of Maryland</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
	29-31	30-52
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Allegheny County	29	30
Anne Arundel County	29	31
Baltimore County	29	32
Calvert County	29	33
Caroline County	29	34
Carroll County	29	35
Charles County	29	36
Cecil County	29	37
Dorchester County	29	38
Frederick County	29	39
Garrett County	29	40
Harford County	29	41
Howard County	29	42

## Series IV: Etchings of Colonial and Historic Homes of Maryland

Kent County	30	43
Montgomery County	30	44
Prince Georges County	30	45
Queen Anne's County	30	46
St. Mary's County	30	47
Somerset County	30	48
Talbot County	30	49
Washington County	30	50
Wicomico County	30	51
Worcester County	30	52
		<b>Box</b>
Glass negatives and aluminum plates and negatives (list included)		31