

**Henry Mattson Papers**

Collection Portfolio

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IST 628 - Archives  
Collections Project

## **INTRODUCTION TO THE COLLECTION**

Henry Mattson was a noted Swedish-American painter of seascapes, nocturnal scenes, and figures. He lived in the artist haven of Woodstock, New York for the majority of his career, which stretched from 1912, when he began painting, to his death in 1971. Being almost entirely self-taught, he developed a singular technique and won a number of accolades over the course of his career.

Mattson donated his papers to the Syracuse University in October of 1964, where it is currently among the holdings of the Special Collections Research Center (SCRC). The collection includes a variety of formats, including newsprint, magazines, letters, sketches, photographs and negatives, as well as a variety of ephemera. The collection did not appear to have been given in any deliberate original order, so I determined that it would be best to reorganize the collection by the type of material, date, and format where it made sense to do so. In keeping with "More Product, Less Process," description of the collection is at the folder level (with some highlights on notable items).

## **INVENTORY**

REPOSITORY: Syracuse University Special Collections Research Center

RECORD GROUP: Henry Mattson Papers

SERIES 1: Clippings

FOLDER 1: Magazines

FOLDER 2: Newspapers

SERIES 2: Correspondence

FOLDER 3: 1933-1945, 1948-1952, 1964, undated

SERIES 3: Memorabilia

FOLDER 4: Exhibition Catalogs

OVERSIZED BOX: Scrapbook

FOLDER 5: Self-portraits

FOLDER 6: World's Fair Materials

FOLDER 7: Miscellaneous

SERIES 4: Publications

FOLDER 8: 1935 October - Carnegie Magazine

FOLDER 9: 1937 May - Magazine of Art

FOLDER 10: 1943 August - The Art Digest

FOLDER 11: 1943 November - American Artist

FOLDER 12: 1945 - Encyclopedia Britannica Collection of Contemporary American Painting

FOLDER 13: 1946-1947 - Paintings of the Year

FOLDER 14: 1952 March - American Swedish Monthly

SERIES 5: Writings

FOLDER 15: 1935 October - Radio transcript

FOLDER 16: 1943 March - Autobiography in Swedish and English

**SURVEY FORM**

<b>Series Inventory Form</b>	
1. DATE PREPARED	2. SERIES LOCATION
3. SERIES TITLE	4. INCLUSIVE DATES
5. VOLUME	6. ANNUAL ACCUMULATION
7. FOLDER DESCRIPTION	
8. FREQUENCY OF USE  <input type="checkbox"/> At least once a month <input type="checkbox"/> Less than once a month <input type="checkbox"/> Not used	9. MEDIUM  <input type="checkbox"/> Paper <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic <input type="checkbox"/> Audiovisual <input type="checkbox"/> 3D Artifact
10. FORM  <input type="checkbox"/> Letter <input type="checkbox"/> Clipping <input type="checkbox"/> Publication <input type="checkbox"/> Photograph <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	11. ARRANGEMENT  <input type="checkbox"/> Original Order <input type="checkbox"/> Chronological <input type="checkbox"/> Alphabetical by Title <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
12. PHYSICAL CONDITION - Comments:    <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR <input type="checkbox"/> POOR	13. RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER RECORDS  <input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate  Location of Originals:  

## Series Inventory Form

<b>1. DATE PREPARED</b> April 17, 2015	<b>2. SERIES LOCATION</b> Henry Mattson Papers, Box 1, Folders 1-2
<b>3. SERIES TITLE</b> Clippings	<b>4. INCLUSIVE DATES</b> 1934 - 1953, 1956, [undated]
<b>5. VOLUME</b> 2 Folders	<b>6. ANNUAL ACCUMULATION</b> Inactive
<b>7. FOLDER DESCRIPTION</b> <p><u>Folder 1:</u> clippings from various magazines covering the years 1934-1940, 1943-1946, 1956, with some undated items</p> <p><u>Folder 2:</u> clippings from various newspapers covering the years 1942-1953, 1956, with some undated items</p>	
<b>8. FREQUENCY OF USE</b> <input type="checkbox"/> At least once a month <input type="checkbox"/> Less than once a month <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not used	<b>9. MEDIUM</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paper <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic <input type="checkbox"/> Audiovisual <input type="checkbox"/> 3D Artifact
<b>10. FORM</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clipping <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Publication <input type="checkbox"/> Photograph <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	<b>11. ARRANGEMENT</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Original Order <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chronological <input type="checkbox"/> Alphabetical by Title <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<b>12. PHYSICAL CONDITION - Comments:</b> Many newspaper clippings are folded and torn; all are fragile and discolored with age.  <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR <input type="checkbox"/> POOR	<b>13. RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER RECORDS</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Duplicate Location of Originals:  Some articles are duplicates of publications in Series 4 of this Collection

## Series Inventory Form

<b>1. DATE PREPARED</b>  April 17, 2015	<b>2. SERIES LOCATION</b>  Henry Mattson Papers, Box 1, Folder 3
<b>3. SERIES TITLE</b>  Correspondence	<b>4. INCLUSIVE DATES</b>  1933-1945, 1948-1952, 1964, [undated]
<b>5. VOLUME</b>  1 Folder	<b>6. ANNUAL ACCUMULATION</b>  Inactive
<b>7. FOLDER DESCRIPTION</b>  Folder 3: Letters received by Mattson, mostly written in praise of his work or in congratulation for awards he received.	
<b>8. FREQUENCY OF USE</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> At least once a month <input type="checkbox"/> Less than once a month <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not used	<b>9. MEDIUM</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paper <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic <input type="checkbox"/> Audiovisual <input type="checkbox"/> 3D Artifact
<b>10. FORM</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Letter <input type="checkbox"/> Clipping <input type="checkbox"/> Publication <input type="checkbox"/> Photograph <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	<b>11. ARRANGEMENT</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> Original Order <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chronological <input type="checkbox"/> Alphabetical by Title <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<b>12. PHYSICAL CONDITION - Comments:</b>       <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR <input type="checkbox"/> POOR	<b>13. RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER RECORDS</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate  Location of Originals:

## Series Inventory Form

<b>1. DATE PREPARED</b> April 17, 2015	<b>2. SERIES LOCATION</b> Henry Mattson Papers, Box 1, Folders 4-7, Oversized Box
<b>3. SERIES TITLE</b> Memorabilia	<b>4. INCLUSIVE DATES</b> 1933-1964
<b>5. VOLUME</b> 4 Folders, 1 Oversized box	<b>6. ANNUAL ACCUMULATION</b> Inactive
<b>7. FOLDER DESCRIPTION</b> Folder 4: Catalogs from exhibitions in which Mattson participated (dates: 1941,1942, 1945,1949-1956, undated) Oversized Box: Scrapbook containing newspaper clippings Folder 5: Self-portraits, sketches, photographs and negatives of works, a photograph of Mattson Folder 6: Materials from Mattson's participation in the international "Wall of Fame" in the 1940 New York World's Fair Folder 7: Miscellaneous items, including: a note about collection, contract for painting Portland, ME Post Office mural, invitation to 75th anniversary of the MET, certificate of identification for traveling in Sweden, 2 post cards from Portland, ME, photographs of two paintings	
<b>8. FREQUENCY OF USE</b> <input type="checkbox"/> At least once a month <input type="checkbox"/> Less than once a month <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not used	<b>9. MEDIUM</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paper <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audiovisual <input type="checkbox"/> 3D Artifact
<b>10. FORM</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clipping <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Publication <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Photograph <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Negative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>Assorted Ephemera</u>	<b>11. ARRANGEMENT</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Order (Scrapbook) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chronological (Everything else) <input type="checkbox"/> Alphabetical by Title <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<b>12. PHYSICAL CONDITION - Comments:</b> Most items are in very good condition; the scrapbook is in poor condition, with the binding broken and pages deteriorating  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POOR	<b>13. RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER RECORDS</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate  Location of Originals:

## Series Inventory Form

<b>1. DATE PREPARED</b> April 17, 2015	<b>2. SERIES LOCATION</b> Henry Mattson Papers, Box 1, Folders 8-14
<b>3. SERIES TITLE</b> Publications	<b>4. INCLUSIVE DATES</b> 1935, 1937, 1943, 1945-1947, 1952
<b>5. VOLUME</b> 7 Folders	<b>6. ANNUAL ACCUMULATION</b> Inactive
<b>7. FOLDER DESCRIPTION</b> <u>Folder 8:</u> 1935 October - Carnegie Magazine <u>Folder 9:</u> 1937 May - Magazine of Art <u>Folder 10:</u> 1943 August - The Art Digest <u>Folder 11:</u> 1943 November - American Artist <u>Folder 12:</u> 1945 - Encyclopedia Britannica Collection of contemporary American Painting <u>Folder 13:</u> 1946-1947 - Paintings of the Year <u>Folder 14:</u> 1952 March - American Swedish Monthly	
<b>8. FREQUENCY OF USE</b> <input type="checkbox"/> At least once a month <input type="checkbox"/> Less than once a month <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not used	<b>9. MEDIUM</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paper <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic <input type="checkbox"/> Audiovisual <input type="checkbox"/> 3D Artifact
<b>10. FORM</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clipping <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Publication <input type="checkbox"/> Photograph <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	<b>11. ARRANGEMENT</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Original Order <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chronological <input type="checkbox"/> Alphabetical by Title <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<b>12. PHYSICAL CONDITION - Comments:</b> Publications are all in very good condition  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR <input type="checkbox"/> POOR	<b>13. RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER RECORDS</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Duplicate Location of Originals: Some articles are duplicates of clippings in Series 1 of this Collection



## Series Inventory Form

<b>1. DATE PREPARED</b> April 17, 2015	<b>2. SERIES LOCATION</b> Henry Mattson Papers, Box 1, Folders 15-16
<b>3. SERIES TITLE</b> Writings	<b>4. INCLUSIVE DATES</b> 1935, 1943
<b>5. VOLUME</b> 2 Folders	<b>6. ANNUAL ACCUMULATION</b> Inactive
<b>7. FOLDER DESCRIPTION</b> <u>Folder 15:</u> 1935 October - Radio transcript  <u>Folder 16:</u> 1943 March - Autobiography in Swedish and English	
<b>8. FREQUENCY OF USE</b> <input type="checkbox"/> At least once a month <input type="checkbox"/> Less than once a month <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not used	<b>9. MEDIUM</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paper <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic <input type="checkbox"/> Audiovisual <input type="checkbox"/> 3D Artifact
<b>10. FORM</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Letter <input type="checkbox"/> Clipping <input type="checkbox"/> Publication <input type="checkbox"/> Photograph <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>Manuscript</u>	<b>11. ARRANGEMENT</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Original Order <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chronological <input type="checkbox"/> Alphabetical by Title <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<b>12. PHYSICAL CONDITION - Comments:</b>  Radio transcript is glued to the back of a letter, which may negatively impact its longevity. The autobiography appears to have been torn out of scrapbook and is printed on light-weight paper.  <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR <input type="checkbox"/> POOR	<b>13. RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER RECORDS</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate  Location of Originals:

## **COLLECTION PROPOSAL**

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the Henry Mattson Papers is to document the painter's work and achievements through the preservation of his correspondence, memorabilia, and collected ephemera. The Syracuse University Special Collections Research Center serves users by providing access to these and other cultural heritage resources, while preserving these resources for posterity.

### **ROLE FOR SCHOLARS**

This collection poses research opportunities for researchers interested in Henry Mattson's public and personal presence in the art community. Potential research topics could include: experiences of immigrant artists; Woodstock, NY as an artist community; or Mattson's technique and approach to art.

### **CURRENT BOUNDARIES OF THE COLLECTION**

The collection includes correspondence received by Henry Mattson, but not the letters he sent to others. While there are some rough sketches and photographic negatives of his self-portraits, the collection does not include any equivalent materials relating to his landscape work. The bulk of the materials in the collection are from the 1930s and 1940s, with no items representing Mattson's career prior to 1933 and only a few items from the 1960s. No items were added to the collection after Mattson's initial donation in 1964.

### **FUTURE AREAS FOR GROWTH**

Acquiring the letters that Mattson sent to others would give further context to the materials he received. The collection would also be enhanced if it included materials from later in Mattson's career or materials relating to the productions of his landscapes (if extant).

### **REALISTIC END**

Since Mattson passed away in 1971, it remains unlikely that further materials will be added to the collection. Acquiring additional items from his correspondence would be time-consuming and consequently also remains unlikely. However, it remains conceivable that Mattson's heirs could make further donations to the collection, if any significant items remain in their possession.

## VALUE ASSESSMENT

As a collection, the Henry Mattson Papers offer multifaceted value as cultural heritage resources. The value of the collection can be taken on two levels: the provenance of Mattson's desire to collect certain items as well as the evidential and informational value offered by the items themselves.

By virtue of the quantity and care he took to preserve clippings and publications—both as individual items and also through the creation of a scrapbook—it is evident that Mattson valued the public attention garnered by his work. He likewise saved a number of letters of congratulation, which document personal praise for his accomplishments. Consequently, this collection offers value to researchers by providing insight into Mattson's self-image.

In addition to the provenance of the collection, the constituent items have evidential value as landmarks of his achievements. The number of times Mattson appears in local Woodstock newspapers demonstrates his importance to the local artist community. Individual items similarly have demonstrable value as evidence of specific events in Mattson's life. A certificate of identification offers evidence that Mattson traveled to Sweden in 1939; a contract for a post office mural in Portland, Maine serves as record of that commission; the World's Fair materials demonstrate his participation in an international "Wall of Fame."

Beyond evidential value, many items in the Henry Mattson Papers hold informational value as well. The content of the clippings and publications offer numerous insights into Mattson's activities. Mattson's short autobiographical manuscript conveys his self-reflections while he was in an active period of his career. In a similar vein, his self-portrait sketches and prints offer relatively unmediated views of his artistic method. Art historians could find implicit informational value in these materials.

These sketches and prints could potentially carry monetary value as original works. However, the collection retains much of its value in terms of provenance, evidence, and information, not in its monetary worth. There are many facets of Mattson's life and works that could be explored with the aid of this collection.

Apart from some minor stabilizing preservation procedures, the cost of retaining this collection is minor in comparison to its value. Many of these materials, especially the clippings, would lose most of their value if separated from the collection as a whole. If kept under ideal conditions, this collection is likely to maintain its value for some time to come.

## REPRESENTATIVE ITEMS

### **Series 1: Clippings** | Folder 1: Magazines

Mattson saved a number of clippings related to his work, highlighting his achievements and providing insight into the works that resonated with his audience. The magazine articles contained in this folder include several long-form articles that effectively put Mattson's career into a wider perspective.

### **Series 2: Correspondence** | Folder 3: 1933-1945, 1948-1952, 1964, undated

Mostly handwritten notes, often written in congratulations for an award or recognition. Some letters indicate an interest in purchasing a given work.

**Series 3: Memorabilia** | Oversized Box: Scrapbook

This scrapbook is in poor condition and the binding is broken. Since this item cannot fit in a standard document box, it was rehoused in a larger box, allowing it to sit flat on the shelf. The scrapbook primarily contains newspaper articles, which have been glued to the separate sheets of paper included within the scrapbook.

**Series 3: Memorabilia** | Folder 5: Self-Portraits

These items encompass both original works by Mattson, as well as reproductions and source images related to his paintings. Photographic negatives are included as documentation of several of his paintings.

**Series 3: Memorabilia** | Folder 7: Miscellaneous

This folder includes a certificate of identification used by Mattson while traveling to Sweden in 1939, a contract for painting a Portland, Maine Post Office mural, an invitation to the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, a certificate of identification for traveling in Sweden, two post cards from Portland, ME, and photographs of two paintings.

**Series 4: Publications** | Folder 11: American Artist

Mattson saved a number of publications featuring articles written about him, including this issue of *American Artist*, which also had a picture of him on the cover.

**Series 5: Writings** | Folder 16: Autobiography

The collection includes a typed autobiography, which appears to have once been a part of the scrapbook. The paper has holes consistent with the binding of the scrapbook, but was separate at the time of processing. A Swedish translation is enclosed.

## CONDITION ASSESSMENT

The majority of the items in the Henry Mattson Papers collection are in very good condition. The correspondence, photographs, photographic negatives, and sketches all appear to be in stable condition. However, the scrapbook and newsprint clippings are in relatively poor condition. Many of the newspaper clippings are discolored, bent, and some are very brittle. There are some metal fasteners and a number of items are glued together. As mentioned previously, the scrapbook has deteriorated significantly—the leaves are no longer attached to the binding, glue is used throughout to bind the clippings to individual leaves. The photographic negatives have been interleaved with acid-free paper to isolate them from other items. At the time of processing they did not display signs of excessive brittleness or off-gassing.

**CONDITION REPORT FORM**

<b>Condition Report Form</b>	
1. DATE PREPARED	2. SERIES LOCATION
3. SERIES TITLE	4. INCLUSIVE DATES
5. VOLUME	6. ANNUAL ACCUMULATION
7. DESCRIPTION OF DEFECTS	
8. RESTRICTIONS ON USE	9. MEDIUM  <input type="checkbox"/> Paper <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic <input type="checkbox"/> Audiovisual <input type="checkbox"/> 3D Artifact
10. FORM	11. CHECK ALL THAT APPLY  <input type="checkbox"/> Brittle paper <input type="checkbox"/> Discoloration <input type="checkbox"/> Mold <input type="checkbox"/> Pest damage <input type="checkbox"/> Odor <input type="checkbox"/> Oxidation <input type="checkbox"/> Soil <input type="checkbox"/> Stains <input type="checkbox"/> Tears <input type="checkbox"/> Other: Describe:
12. PHYSICAL CONDITION          <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR <input type="checkbox"/> POOR	

## Condition Report Form

1. DATE PREPARED  April 17, 2015	2. SERIES LOCATION  Henry Mattson Papers, Box 1, Folders 1-2
3. SERIES TITLE  Clippings	4. INCLUSIVE DATES  1934 - 1953, 1956, [undated]
5. VOLUME  2 Folders	6. ANNUAL ACCUMULATION  Inactive
7. DESCRIPTION OF DEFECTS  Magazine clippings generally remain in good condition  Newspaper clippings discolored; many are folded, and some are torn; moderately brittle	
8. RESTRICTIONS ON USE  No restrictions on use	9. MEDIUM  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paper <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic <input type="checkbox"/> Audiovisual <input type="checkbox"/> 3D Artifact
10. FORM  clippings	11. CHECK ALL THAT APPLY  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brittle paper <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discoloration <input type="checkbox"/> Mold <input type="checkbox"/> Pest damage <input type="checkbox"/> Odor <input type="checkbox"/> Oxidation <input type="checkbox"/> Soil <input type="checkbox"/> Stains <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tears <input type="checkbox"/> Other: Describe:
12. PHYSICAL CONDITION           ___ GOOD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR    ___ POOR	

## Condition Report Form

<b>Condition Report Form</b>	
1. DATE PREPARED April 17, 2015	2. SERIES LOCATION Henry Mattson Papers, Box 1, Folder 3
3. SERIES TITLE Correspondence	4. INCLUSIVE DATES 1933-1945, 1948-1952, 1964, [undated]
5. VOLUME 1 Folder	6. ANNUAL ACCUMULATION Inactive
7. DESCRIPTION OF DEFECTS Generally in very good condition	
8. RESTRICTIONS ON USE No restrictions	9. MEDIUM <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paper <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic <input type="checkbox"/> Audiovisual <input type="checkbox"/> 3D Artifact
10. FORM letters	11. CHECK ALL THAT APPLY <input type="checkbox"/> Brittle paper <input type="checkbox"/> Discoloration <input type="checkbox"/> Mold <input type="checkbox"/> Pest damage <input type="checkbox"/> Odor <input type="checkbox"/> Oxidation <input type="checkbox"/> Soil <input type="checkbox"/> Stains <input type="checkbox"/> Tears <input type="checkbox"/> Other: Describe:
12. PHYSICAL CONDITION  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR <input type="checkbox"/> POOR	

## Condition Report Form

<b>1. DATE PREPARED</b>  April 17, 2015	<b>2. SERIES LOCATION</b>  Henry Mattson Papers, Box 1, Folders 4-7, Oversized Box
<b>3. SERIES TITLE</b>  Memorabilia	<b>4. INCLUSIVE DATES</b>  1933-1964
<b>5. VOLUME</b>  4 Folders, 1 Oversized box	<b>6. ANNUAL ACCUMULATION</b>  Inactive
<b>7. DESCRIPTION OF DEFECTS</b>  Generally in very good condition.  Scrapbook sheets have become detached from binding, which consists of two cords run through holes in the sheets. Clippings are glued onto the sheets.	
<b>8. RESTRICTIONS ON USE</b>  Use of scrapbook should be kept to a minimum, but the rest of this series can be used without restriction	<b>9. MEDIUM</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paper <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audiovisual <input type="checkbox"/> 3D Artifact
<b>10. FORM</b>  Clippings, letters, ephemera, photographs, photographic negatives	<b>11. CHECK ALL THAT APPLY</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brittle paper <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discoloration <input type="checkbox"/> Mold <input type="checkbox"/> Pest damage <input type="checkbox"/> Odor <input type="checkbox"/> Oxidation <input type="checkbox"/> Soil <input type="checkbox"/> Stains <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tears <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Describe: torn binding, glued sheets
<b>12. PHYSICAL CONDITION</b>         <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POOR	



## Condition Report Form

<b>1. DATE PREPARED</b>  April 17, 2015	<b>2. SERIES LOCATION</b>  Henry Mattson Papers, Box 1, Folders 8-14
<b>3. SERIES TITLE</b>  Publications	<b>4. INCLUSIVE DATES</b>  1935, 1937, 1943, 1945-1947, 1952
<b>5. VOLUME</b>  7 Folders	<b>6. ANNUAL ACCUMULATION</b>  Inactive
<b>7. DESCRIPTION OF DEFECTS</b>  Generally in very good condition. Some corners are slightly bent, minor wear on covers.	
<b>8. RESTRICTIONS ON USE</b>  No restrictions	<b>9. MEDIUM</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paper <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic <input type="checkbox"/> Audiovisual <input type="checkbox"/> 3D Artifact
<b>10. FORM</b>  Magazines, ephemera	<b>11. CHECK ALL THAT APPLY</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> Brittle paper <input type="checkbox"/> Discoloration <input type="checkbox"/> Mold <input type="checkbox"/> Pest damage <input type="checkbox"/> Odor <input type="checkbox"/> Oxidation <input type="checkbox"/> Soil <input type="checkbox"/> Stains <input type="checkbox"/> Tears <input type="checkbox"/> Other: Describe:
<b>12. PHYSICAL CONDITION</b>          <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR <input type="checkbox"/> POOR	

## Condition Report Form

<p><b>1. DATE PREPARED</b></p> <p>April 17, 2015</p>	<p><b>2. SERIES LOCATION</b></p> <p>Henry Mattson Papers, Box 1, Folders 15-16</p>
<p><b>3. SERIES TITLE</b></p> <p>Writings</p>	<p><b>4. INCLUSIVE DATES</b></p> <p>1935, 1943</p>
<p><b>5. VOLUME</b></p> <p>2 Folders</p>	<p><b>6. ANNUAL ACCUMULATION</b></p> <p>Inactive</p>
<p><b>7. DESCRIPTION OF DEFECTS</b></p> <p>Radio transcript is glued to the back of a letter.</p> <p>Autobiography appears to have been torn from scrapbook; text has faded slightly</p>	
<p><b>8. RESTRICTIONS ON USE</b></p> <p>No restrictions</p>	<p><b>9. MEDIUM</b></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paper  <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic  <input type="checkbox"/> Audiovisual  <input type="checkbox"/> 3D Artifact</p>
<p><b>10. FORM</b></p> <p>Letter, transcript, manuscript</p>	<p><b>11. CHECK ALL THAT APPLY</b></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brittle paper  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discoloration  <input type="checkbox"/> Mold  <input type="checkbox"/> Pest damage  <input type="checkbox"/> Odor  <input type="checkbox"/> Oxidation  <input type="checkbox"/> Soil  <input type="checkbox"/> Stains  <input type="checkbox"/> Tears  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Describe: glued sheets</p>
<p><b>12. PHYSICAL CONDITION</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> GOOD    <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR    <input type="checkbox"/> POOR</p>	

## **CONSERVATION PLAN**

Things to watch for on the materials currently within and planned for inclusion in the collection:

- Brittle paper
- Discoloration
- Folded items
- Glued sheets
- Odor
- Off-gassing
- Stains
- Tears

## **CURRENT ENVIRONMENT**

The collection is currently housed in archival document boxes, which are stored in a climate controlled environment in Special Collections Research Center stacks. As such the collection is relatively safe from many environmental factors, short of broken pipes and natural disasters. SCRC has smoke detectors and a sprinkler system.

## **IDEAL ENVIRONMENT**

The conditions at the Syracuse University Library Facility (SULF) would be ideal for these materials since the climate control is able to maintain a constant 50°F and 30% relative humidity. Photographic negatives may be better preserved if housed separately in plastic slide pages.<sup>1</sup> Under the conditions offered by SULF, brittleness and mold would be kept to a minimum, and the deterioration of photographic negatives would be slowed. The additional security and limited access provided by SULF would also better protect these materials from theft.

## **IN-HOUSE PRESERVATION SITUATIONS**

On the collection level, The Henry Mattson Papers will be kept in archival boxes, which will serve to minimize light exposure. If stored in an ideal environment, the collection is not likely to be in need of extensive conservation procedures. Realistically, these collection-level measures will be the extent of preservation measures.

If SCRC staff finds the time to give the collection item-level preservation attention, then several procedures would be helpful. At a very basic level, I interleaved the photographic negatives between sheets of acid free paper—this will help to protect both the negatives and the surrounding materials. Considering further procedures, the removal of metal fasteners would be a relatively unobtrusive procedure—though some materials may be damaged depending on the nature of the fastener. Removing glue from the materials would also be beneficial, but poses an even greater risk of damaging the materials and takes even more staff hours to complete.

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<sup>1</sup> “How Should I Store Negatives and Transparencies?” National Archives, accessed April 18, 2015, <http://www.archives.gov/preservation/storage/negatives-transparencies.html>.

Although the newsprint may benefit from being flattened, it would not fit in folders if it were unfolded, and doing so may make it even more fragile. Other critical items, such as the self-portrait sketches, would benefit from being put in mylar enclosures.

## **DISASTER CONTINGENCY PLAN**

The Special Collections Research Center operates under the “Disaster Recovery Manual for the Syracuse University Library,” which outlines procedures for handling water-related emergencies.<sup>2</sup> Staff are first instructed to ensure their own safety, call the appropriate personnel to address the issue, attempt to mitigate the source of the disaster, and find an appropriate staging area to treat damaged materials. While some intensive procedures would be outsourced, basic procedures are also outlined in the manual. David Stokoe, who leads the Disaster Response Team, offers regular staff training sessions.

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<sup>2</sup> “Disaster Recovery Manual for the Syracuse University Library,” Department of Preservation and Conservation, Syracuse University, September 2014, accessed April 23, 2015, <http://surface.syr.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1065&context=sul>.

## Conservation Outsourcing Form

To Be Completed by Special Collections Research Center:

1. DATE PREPARED

2. COLLECTION LOCATION

3. COLLECTION TITLE

4. INCLUSIVE DATES

5. VOLUME

6. ANNUAL ACCUMULATION

7. ITEM DESCRIPTION

8. FORM

9. MEDIUM (all that apply)

To Be Completed by Conservator:

10. DATE OF ARRIVAL

11. NAME OF INSTITUTION

12. NAME OF CONSERVATOR

13. DATE PREPARED

14. DEFECTS FOR CONSERVATION

15. DETAILS OF DEFECTS

16. DESCRIPTION OF TREATMENTS

## COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT

Since Henry Mattson died in 1971, opportunities to expand the collection would be limited. As previously discussed in the “Future Areas for Growth” section, acquiring letters that Mattson sent to others, materials from later in Mattson’s career, or materials relating to the productions of his landscapes (if extant) would all add value to the collection. These items would be beneficial to researchers, as they would offer a fuller representation of Mattson’s career.

Another, potentially more feasible, direction for collection development would be to collect materials from other artists within Mattson’s artistic community. Woodstock, New York served as an incubator for a diverse set of painters and other artists. The Henry Mattson Papers could be strengthened through this broader context.

Additional items, should they become available for acquisition, would be acquired through bequest, gift, or other transfer of title without financial transaction. Duplication within the current collection is not pervasive enough to warrant deaccessioning. If further items were added to the collection, it would need to be reviewed before deaccessioning is considered. SCRC staff would make any further decisions regarding accessioning and deaccessioning.

**ACQUISITIONS FORM**

<b>Acquisitions Form</b>	
1. DATE RECEIVED	2. RECEIVED FROM
3. ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE  E-MAIL _____	4. BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION
5. PROVENANCE	6. EXTENT
7. DESCRIPTION	
8. METHOD OF ACQUISITION  <input type="checkbox"/> Donation <input type="checkbox"/> Transfer <input type="checkbox"/> Copied material <input type="checkbox"/> Purchase: \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Other	9. CONTENTS(all that apply)  <input type="checkbox"/> Textual Records <input type="checkbox"/> Photographs <input type="checkbox"/> Sound Recordings <input type="checkbox"/> Maps/plans <input type="checkbox"/> Books/publications <input type="checkbox"/> Ephemera <input type="checkbox"/> Prints, paintings, drawings <input type="checkbox"/> Film/video <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe):
10. CHOOSE TO ACCESSION  <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
11. ACCESSION TITLE	12. DATE OF ACCESSION
13. ACCESSION NUMBER	14. LOCATION NUMBER
15. RESTRICTIONS	

## PUBLIC SERVICES

The collection remains available for use by students, researchers, and the general public, under the conditions stipulated on SCRC's visitor policies.<sup>3</sup> As Mattson is no longer alive, none of the materials contained in the collection should contain personal information that would be inappropriate for public consumption. Furthermore, Mattson did not stipulate any restrictions on the material when he donated the collection in 1964. Written permission must be obtained from SCRC and all relevant rights holders before publishing quotations, excerpts or images from any materials in this collection.

Several items in the collection are potential candidates for physical exhibitions. The self-portrait sketches would be the items most likely to be used in this fashion, though other materials relating to the New York World's Fair of 1939-1940 could also be of interest. Many other items would be appropriate for digital exhibitions, since textual items such as letters and manuscripts lend themselves better to digital presentations where visitors can read them at their leisure.

## FINDING AID

### *Henry Mattson Papers*

#### **An inventory of his papers at Syracuse University**

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### **Overview of the Collection**

<b>Creator:</b>	Mattson, Henry E. (Henry Elis), 1887-1971
<b>Title:</b>	Henry Mattson Papers
<b>Inclusive Dates:</b>	1933-1964
<b>Quantity:</b>	0.5 linear ft
<b>Abstract:</b>	Swedish-American painter. Collection contains clippings, correspondence, printed material, subject files, photographs, drawings, manuscripts and articles.
<b>Language:</b>	Most is in English, a few items in Swedish
<b>Repository:</b>	Syracuse University 222 Waverly Ave Syracuse, NY 13244

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### **Biographical History**

Henry Mattson (1887-1971) was a Swedish-American painter known for his seascapes, nocturnal scenes and figures. Born in Gothenburg, Sweden, Mattson immigrated to the

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<sup>3</sup> "Visitor Policies," Syracuse University Libraries, accessed on April 23, 2015, <http://library.syr.edu/find/scrc/visit/visit-policies.php>



United States in 1906. Mattson began painting in 1912, while working in a machine shop in Worcester, Massachusetts. He moved to Woodstock, New York in 1916 and developed a distinctive style through being almost entirely self-taught. During the 1930s and 1940s, Mattson's career began to flourish, winning him awards and wider recognition.

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## Scope and Contents of the Collection

The **Henry Mattson Papers** are divided into five series. **Clippings** include both newsprint and magazine articles related to Mattson's work. **Correspondence** is a mixture of personal and professional letters, often congratulating Mattson on accomplishments or negotiating the purchase of a work of art. **Memorabilia** are a collection of photos, receipts, self-portraits, and other materials. **Publications** are a collection of full publications featuring articles on Mattson's work. **Writings** include autobiographical materials written for address or broadcast.

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## Arrangement of the Collection

Materials are arranged alphabetically by topic or format, and then chronologically within each series.

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## Restrictions

### Access Restrictions

There are no access restrictions on this material.

### Use Restrictions

Written permission must be obtained from SCRC and all relevant rights holders before publishing quotations, excerpts or images from any materials in this collection.

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## Subject Headings

### Persons

Mattson, Henry E. (Henry Elis), 1887-1971.

### Subjects

Painting, American--20th century.

New York World's Fair (1939-1940: New York, N.Y.).

### **Places**

Woodstock (N.Y.).

### **Genres and Forms**

Clippings (information artifacts).

Correspondence.

Photographs.

Sketches.

### **Occupations**

Painters.

### **Administrative Information**

#### **Preferred Citation**

Preferred citation for this material is as follows:

Henry Mattson Papers,  
Special Collections Research Center,  
Syracuse University Libraries

#### **Acquisition Information**

Gift of Henry Mattson, 1964.

#### **Finding Aid Information**

Created by: Ryan Perry

Date: 30 Mar 2015

Revision history: 30 Mar 2015 - Finding aid encoded in EAD (RTP)

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## **Inventory**

### **Clippings**

**Box 1, Folder 1** Magazine 1934-1940, 1943-1946, 1956, [undated]

**Box 1, Folder 2** Newspaper 1942-1953, 1956, [undated]

### **Correspondence**

**Box 1, Folder 3** Assorted 1933-1945, 1948-1952, 1964, [undated]

## **Memorabilia**

- Box 1, Folder 4** Exhibition Catalogs 1941,1942, 1945,1949-1956, [undated]
- Oversized Box** Scrapbook
- Box 1, Folder 5** Self-Portraits
- Box 1, Folder 6** World's Fair Materials
- Box 1, Folder 7** Miscellaneous

## **Publications**

- Box 1, Folder 8** Carnegie Magazine 1935 Oct
- Box 1, Folder 9** Magazine of Art 1937 May
- Box 1, Folder 10** The Art Digest 1943 Aug
- Box 1, Folder 11** American Artist 1943 Nov
- Box 1, Folder 12** Encyclopedia Britannica Collection of Contemporary American Painting 1945
- Box 1, Folder 13** Paintings of the Year 1946-1947
- Box 1, Folder 14** American Swedish Monthly 1952 Mar

## **Writings**

- Box 1, Folder 15** Autobiography in Swedish and English 1935 Oct
- Box 1, Folder 16** Radio transcript 1943 Mar