

# Leroy Edward Wolfe papers

MS.029

Finding Aid prepared by Hoang Tran

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PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMY  
OF THE FINE ARTS

The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts  
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Updated by Hoang Tran, January 2016

## Summary Information

<b>Repository</b>	The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Dorothy and Kenneth Woodcock Archives
<b>Creator</b>	Leroy Edward Wolfe (1891-1946)
<b>Title</b>	Leroy Edward Wolfe papers
<b>Date [bulk]</b>	
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1935-1946
<b>Extent</b>	1 document box
<b>Location note</b>	
<b>Language</b>	
<b>Language of Materials note</b>	English
<b>Abstract</b>	The collection consists of: letters received by Wolfe, 1937-46 (folders 1-11); photographs (folder 12); printed matter from several art institutions (folders 14-16); a scrapbook of his art reviews; and a scrapbook of his record reviews.

### **Preferred Citation note**

[identification of item], Title of Collection, Collection ID#, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts Archives, Philadelphia, PA.

## **Historical note**

LeRoy Edward Wolfe grew up in the Spring Garden section of Philadelphia. He was active in three career areas: newspaper editor, art critic and music commentary. After working in Springfield, Illinois, he returned to Philadelphia about 1915 and worked for several papers, including The Public Ledger. With the demise of that paper in 1935, he worked for the Pittsburgh Sun Telegraph for a few years, where he wrote, under the pen of Michael Shaw, Jr., a widely syndicated column of criticism of recorded music called "On the Records."

Returning to Philadelphia in mid-1937, he became chief copy editor of the Philadelphia Inquirer. Wolfe wrote art criticism in Philadelphia under the pen name R. Edwin Lewis, and less frequently as Michael Shaw.

## **Scope and Contents note**

The collection consists of: letters received by Wolfe, 1937-46 (folders 1-11); photographs (folder 12); printed matter from several art institutions (folders 14-16); a scrapbook of his art reviews; and a scrapbook of his record reviews.

## **Arrangement note**

## **Administrative Information**

### **Conditions Governing Access note**

Collection is open for research.

The archives reserves the right to restrict access to materials of sensitive nature. Please contact the department for further information.

### **Conditions Governing Use note**

The collection is the physical property of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Archives. The Museum holds literary rights only for material created by Museum personnel or given to the Museum with such rights specifically assigned. For all other material, literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. Researchers are responsible for obtaining permission from rights holders for publication and for other purposes where stated.

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

### **Provenance note**

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The collection was a gift of Mrs. and Mrs. Clark Stull of Villanova, Pennsylvania, in 1999. Mrs. Stull (Carol) was the niece of Leroy Wolfe. She received the collection from the Wolfe's wife, Dorothy Reese Wolfe.

### Processing Information note

## Controlled Access Headings

Person(s)

Corporate Name(s)

Genre(s)

Geographic Name(s)

Subject(s)

## Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements note

## Collection Inventory

Folder title	Date	Box	Folder
Correspondence: Received*	Undated	1	1
Correspondence: Received*	1937	1	2
Correspondence: Received*	1938	1	3
Correspondence: Received*	1939	1	4
Correspondence: Received*	1940	1	5
Correspondence: Received*	1941	1	6
Correspondence: Received*	1942	1	7
Correspondence: Received*	1943	1	8
Correspondence: Received*	1944	1	9
Correspondence: Received*	1945	1	10
Correspondence: Received*	1946	1	11
Photographs: two of Wolfe, one of four newspaper men including Bill Smith and Samuel L. Laciari		1	12
Clippings: by or about Leroy Wolfe		1	13
Printed matter: miscellaneous art institutions		1	14
Printed matter: Philadelphia Art Alliance		1	15
Printed matter and clippings re the Philadelphia Art Alliance (adhered to two scrapbook pages)		1	16
Photocopies of scrapbook pages containing Wolfe's Philadelphia art reviews for the Inquirer (scrapbook stored separately due to its condition)		1	17

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Folder title	Date	Box	Folder
Scrapbook of music recording reviews, 1935-37, and two loose pages of clippings re Philadelphia music events, 1935-37. This scrapbook also contains a small amount of correspondence from recording companies, and a 1935 letter from an unidentified member of the Philadelphia Orchestra describing the players' reactions to the departure of Leopold Stokowski.			

**\*Inventory of the Correspondence of Leroy Wolfe, n.d., 1937-46**

**1937**

[n.d.], S. Ferris, comments on new art Section

1/27, Henry C. Pitts, admired review of Kathe Kollwitz

7/2, Dr. William A. Kennedy, Founder Pan American University, offer of employment

7/15, Lewis F. Cunningham, Nat'l Headliners Club, note after recent meeting

8/16, Dorothy Kantner, Pittsburgh Sun Telegraph, regrets Wolfe's departure

10/4, Yarnall Abbott, Philadelphia. Art Alliance, congratulations on a review

10/25, Fiske Kimball, PMA, don't use information on "red flannels"

10/26, William A. Castellini, The Franklin Institute, request for visit

11/12, Sherman H. Raveson, thanks for a notice

12/19, Myra Reed, artist, request for a notice

12/22, C. H. Bonte, Peirce School, information re a new arts group

12/31, J.B. Orrick, Oxford U. Press, purchase of 4 books

**1938**

n.d., Vera White, thanks for the Carles catalogue

1/3, American Fed. of Arts, re sending publications for review

1/3, The Print Club, congratulations on a review

1/4, The Plastic Club, regrets that Wolfe will no longer write his column

1/4, The Print Club, same as above

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1/5, Harvey Watts, regrets that Wolfe will no longer write his column  
1/30, Harvey Watts, congratulations on a fine review  
1/13, Nicola D'Ascenzo, invitation to speak at the Sketch Club  
1/15, Louise May, thanks for article  
1/21, Frances Serber, congratulations on review  
1/25, Frederick W. Weber, Art Club, notes of 125th meeting  
1/26, Nicola D'Ascenzo, invitation to visit studio  
1/27, Edward Warwick, Pennsylvania Museum and School of Indus. Art, information on a lecture  
1/27, Franz de Merlies, thanks for a review  
2/7, Sol A. Bauer, artist, thanks for a review  
2/8, Harvey M. Watts, Moore Institute, invitation to be a judge  
2/27, Hobson Pittman, enjoyed Art Alliance exhibition of Arthur B. Carles  
2/28, V. Leonard Sessler, info on an exhibition  
3/3, Laura M. Greenwood, thanks for comments on Plastic Club  
3/7, Samuel Salko, thanks for a review  
3/31, Mr. Leslie Flaksman, thanks for speaking at exhibition of Young Men's/Women's Hebrew Assoc.  
3/31, Ruth J. Mallis, same as above  
4/24, Hobson Pittman, thanks for comments in column  
4/29, Emlen Etting, congratulations on review  
5/11, Rosemary Corcoran, thanks for agreeing to be a judge  
5//26, Print Club, closing for summer  
5/29, John J.A. Dixon, artist, thanks for the mention  
6/7, PAFA, thanks for a mention  
6/11, Russell Hogeland, thanks for a mention  
7/6, PAFA thanks for a mention  
8/1, Rosalyn Krakover, former Pittsburgh colleague, invitation to visit  
9/30, Walter Baum, try to arrange a meeting  
10/11, Art Institute of Chicago, sends names of Pennsylvania artists in their current exhibition

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10/12, Willem Wright, information re local artists working for the WPA

10/14, [T?] Taylor[?], was nice to get together

10/21, Jean Marsh, request for a copy of a review

11/1, Earl B. Milliette, Philadelphia School District, not re exhibition of School Art League

11/7, Justin A. Pardi, Da Vinci Art Alliance, thanks for a review

12/9, PAFA, thanks for a review

**1945**

1/4, Josephine Sitjar, thanks for a review

1/10, Cincinnati Art Museum, information re exhibition Wolfe judged

2/20, Fiske Kimball, PMA, invitation to lunch

3/30, Cincinnati Art Museum, information re exhibition Wolfe judged

4/14, Edith Scarlett, thanks for invitation to Art Alliance

6/12, Sister Mary Julia, same as above

9/18, PAFA, invitation to a dinner

10/2, Antoinette Kraushaar, thanks for invitation to lecture by Mr. Taube

10/2, Henry Clifford, PMA, same as above

10/2, Henri Marceau, PMA, same as above

10/3, Georgette Passedoit Gallery, same as above

10/13, New York Society of Ceramic Arts, invitation to serve on a jury

10/29, Vaughn Flannery, regrets at not attending Taube lecture

10/30, same as 10/13

12/6, same as above, re jury service

12/17, Guild for Contemporary Music, thanks for a review

12/17, Louis Kazze, thanks for review of songs

12/19, Edward H. Wannemacher, discusses a performance

12/22, Charles L. Wagner, thanks for a review of a pianist

**1946**

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1/2, Golden Slipper Square Club. Invitation to a dinner

1/3, Art Alliance, invitation to a dinner for Josef Scharl

1/9, Dorothy Grafly, invitation to look at Ike Newport show

1/31, Art Alliance, thanks for efforts on behalf of organization

2/9, Willard Gallery, needs two works photographed

3/28, Elizabeth Horter, thanks for a fine talk

n.d., Elizabeth Horter, invitation to speak

5/2, Art Alliance, notice of reelection to Chairman of Oil Paintings Committee

7/12, United Nations Council of Philadelphia, thanks for work on behalf of art auction