

# Giuseppe Donato collection

MS.065

Finding Aid prepared by Hoang Tran

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PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMY  
OF THE FINE ARTS

The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts  
118-128 North Broad Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19102

[archives@pafa.org](mailto:archives@pafa.org)

215-972-2066

Hoang Tran, June 2016

## Summary Information

<b>Repository</b>	The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Dorothy and Kenneth Woodcock Archives
<b>Creator</b>	Giuseppe Donato (1881-1965)
<b>Title</b>	Giuseppe Donato collection
<b>Date [bulk]</b>	1897-1965
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1897-1995
<b>Extent</b>	1.8 linear feet (4 doc boxes, 1 ½ doc box, 1 oversized 20x30" folder)
<b>Location note</b>	
<b>Language</b>	
<b>Language of Materials note</b>	English, French, Italian
<b>Abstract</b>	The collection provides comprehensive documentation of Giuseppe Donato's career as a sculptor from 1897-1965. Black and white photographs make up the bulk of the collection but correspondence and clippings also provide contextual information to Donato's sculpture projects throughout his career.

### **Preferred Citation note**

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

## **Historical note**

Born in Italy in 1881, Giuseppe Donato came to America at the age of ten, and by the time of his death established himself as a noted sculptor and recognized figure in the Philadelphia art community. Receiving a city scholarship, Donato studied at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts from 1897 to 1903. He also studied modeling and architecture at PMA, which operated at that time as the Pennsylvania Museum and School of Industrial Art. While at PAFA, he won a prize for sculpture as well as a scholarship to study in Europe. In Paris from 1903 to 1905, Donato studied first at the Ecole Des Beaux Arts and then with Rodin. Returning to America, Donato created some controversy with "Burning Desire" and "Nature's Melody," two nudes he created in 1908 for the city of Baltimore. Other works included a large bronze statue of Columbus for the Pennsylvania town of Easton (1930), the west pediment of the building that in 1940 housed the Philadelphia Municipal Court, and a statue completed in 1946 of Thomas Fitzsimmons, one of the signers of the U.S. Constitution, which stands today in Philadelphia's Logan Square. According to a 1965 obituary, Donato's most famous works included busts of Mark Twain and Benito Mussolini, as well as works entitled "Dawn," "Hand of Immorality [sic]," and "Plumline of Human Consciousness." Donato maintained a studio in Philadelphia and was a longtime member of the city's Art Commission.

## **Scope and Contents note**

The collection provides comprehensive documentation of Giuseppe Donato's career as a sculptor from 1897-1965. Black and white photographs make up the bulk of the collection but correspondence and clippings also provide contextual information to Donato's sculpture projects throughout his career.

**Related archival materials:** The Giuseppe Donator Papers at the Philadelphia Museum of Art: [http://philamuseum.org/pma\\_archives/search.php?c=DON](http://philamuseum.org/pma_archives/search.php?c=DON)

## **Arrangement note**

Collection previously arranged by Donato's daughter, Florinda Donato Doelp. Chronological arrangement left fairly intact to trace Donato's history. The archivist minimally arranged the collection by size to promote preservation standards (oversized photographs, photographs mounted on board, etc.)

1. Clippings
2. Photographs
3. Correspondence
4. Ephemera

## **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**

Collection donated to the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts June 17, 2016 by Florinda Donato Doelp, 233 S. 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106. Archival materials were part of a larger gift of ten (10) sculptures by Donato which were also accessioned into the museum's permanent collection.

#### **Processing Information note**

Nearly all archival materials were stored in binders of various sizes. For preservation and access purposes, all pages were removed and all binders were discarded. Weeded out 1914 Annual Exhibition catalog, 1927 FPAFA Annual Report, 1948-1949 Volume 25 Who's Who in America book. Before the materials were weeded, they were photocopied to include mentions of Donato. Framed reproduction of Donato's Hands of Immortality was weeded.

## **Controlled Access Headings**

**Person(s)**

**Corporate Name(s)**

**Genre(s)**

**Geographic Name(s)****Subject(s)****Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements note**

Nearly all materials are sleeved in plastic.

**Collection Inventory**

<b>Folder title</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Newspaper Clippings scrapbook volume 1	1897-1917	1	1
Newspaper Clippings scrapbook volume 2	1921-1965, 1995	1	2
Diploma: Philadelphia Public Industrial Art School	1897	FF	
Photographs: Personal (32)		2	1
Photographs: Sculptures (45)		2	2
Photographs: Sculptures (45)		2	3
Photographs: Sculptures (45)		2	4
Photographs: Sculptures (24)		2	5
Photographs: Sculptures (62)		3	1
Photographs: Sculptures (45)		3	2
Photographs: Inventions		3	3
Photographs: Christopher Columbus sculptures (work in progress) (27)		3	4
Photographs: Religious Sculptures (work in progress) (20)		3	5
Photographs: PAFA 1914 Annual Exhibition-installation view (3)		3	6
Photographs: Personal (52)		4	1
Photographs: Personal (60)		4	2
Photographs: Paul Muni Exhibition at Mastbaum Theater (14)		4	3
Photographs: Pediment relief (19)		4	4
Fountain: Dance of the Eternal Spring re: Hershey family		4	5
US Patents: Donato Inventions		4	6
Correspondence and Ephemera		4	7
Correspondence: Patent and inventions		4	8
Correspondence: General		4	9
Correspondence: General		5	1
Correspondence: General		5	2
Pen with which the contract for the sculpture on the pediment was signed for the Municipal Court Building	December 12, 1939	5	2
Clippings		5	3

## Giuseppe Donato collection (MS.065)

Folder title	Date	Box	Folder
Clippings		5	4
Clippings and personal ephemera		5	5
Passport: Giuseppe Donato		5	6
Miscellaneous printed matter (clippings, ephemera, etc.)		5	7
Diploma: Industrial Art School	1897		
<b>Oversized Photographs</b>			
Installation of Municipal Family Court Pediment (Philadelphia, PA)		6	
Gentlemen Massimo Gomez Monument "Equestrian Figure" (Havana, Cuba)		6	
Immortality		6	
Rock of Peril: the Abyss (Paris, France) [front view]	1902	6	
Rock of Peril: the Abyss (Paris, France) [back view]	1902	6	
Rock of Peril: the Abyss (Paris, France) [side view, left]	1902	6	
Rock of Peril: the Abyss (Paris, France) [side view, right]	1902	6	
Plaster for Sans Fin	1891	6	
Man		6	
Dawn: Horizon Above Christ		6	
Full scale model in clay of Municipal Family Court Pediment (Philadelphia, PA)		6	
look up title		6	
look up title		6	
The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts Edmund Stewardson Prize in Sculpture Certificate	May, 1900	6	
look up title	1906	6	
Portrait Bust Dr. Francine for Medical Society of Philadelphia, PA. Assistant Director of Health Harrisburg, PA.		6	
Hand of Immortality		Flat File 21	2
Statue of Thomas Fitzsimons (Logan Circle, Philadelphia, PA)		6	
Portrait Bust Mrs. Annis Lee Wister, Authoress Philadelphia and Rosemont, PA (Sister of Howard Furness)		Flat File 21	2
Dance of Eternal Spring (Rosengarten of Harrisburg, PA)	1909	6	
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Dance of Eternal Spring (Rosengarten of Harrisburg, PA)	1909	6	
Abraham Lincoln		6	
God, The Universe		6	
Competition for Gomez Monument (Havana, Cuba)		6	
look up title		6	
Winged Thoughts		Flat File 21	1
Matinata Gloriosa #2		Flat File 21	1

## Giuseppe Donato collection (MS.065)

Folder title	Date	Box	Folder
Bronze Portrait Bust of John H. Converse		6	
Celestial Horizon		Flat File 21	2
L'epanishment Nature's Melody (Paris, France)		6	
Dance of Eternal Spring (Rosengarten of Harrisburg, PA)		6	
Plaster for Sans Fin		6	
Faun, Bronze Fountain base (Rosegarten of Harrisburg, PA)		6	
Front of Gomez Monument		6	
Christ #2		Flat File 21	1
look up title		6	
Bronze Portrait Bust of Adam Tindell Esquire (Barrister) (London, England)		6	
Mantle of Chorus		6	
Bronze Figure of Christopher Columbus part of Columbus Monument taken at Independence Square, Philadelphia, PA (Easton, PA).		6	
Marble Portrait bust of Mr. Reeves (Phoenixville, PA)		6	
Study Sketch Grief		6	
Brute of Toil (Paris, France)		Flat File 21	1
Famine		Flat File 21	2
Sheppard's Group		6	
Portrait photograph of Giuseppe Donato	1935	Flat File 21	2
The Ideal Horizon Heaven and Earth - Celestial Horizon		Flat File 21	1
Philadelphia Chapter of the American Institute of Architects Architectural Merit certificate awarded to the Kling Partnership	1982	Flat File 21	1
Print/sketch of cityscape	undated	Flat File 21	1