



Arthur W. Clement Papers

1794-1952, n.d.
(bulk: 1934-1952)

Compiled by Laura Peimer

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Biographical note

Arthur W. Clement was born in 1878, the son of a Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, Nathaniel Holmes Clement. He attended Yale College (class of 1900) and after graduating from New York Law School in 1902, he worked for the law firms of Cravath & Henderson and Tipple & Plitt. He became a partner at the firm of Bigham, Englar, Jones & Houston.

He served as a trustee of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences and a member of the Governing Committee of the Brooklyn Museum, beginning in 1943. He was elected vice-chairman of the Committee in 1944. In addition, he was elected director of the Kings County Trust Company and was a member of the New York City Bar, the Maritime Law Association and the Century Association of Manhattan (1945-1952). He also served as president of the Rembrandt Club of Brooklyn, a social club for art patrons and collectors.

He was exceedingly interested in art, especially early American pottery, ceramics and china, and traveled throughout the United States, Western Europe and Central America, acquiring ceramics, which he would donate to the Brooklyn Museum, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Newark Museum. He was an avid collector of early American ceramics and wrote and lectured on this subject extensively. In addition to conducting thorough research on early potters, he also lectured and published articles, catalogs, and pamphlets on other early American decorative arts, the art of collecting, and object research. Among these are *The Gentle Art of Collecting* and *Our Pioneer Potters*, in addition to articles in *Antiques* magazine and *The New York Times*.

After donating his vast American ceramics collection to the Brooklyn Museum, he assisted the curators in installing the objects in a new gallery dedicated to ceramics in 1944. He also worked with curators in the decorative arts department at the Brooklyn Museum on exhibitions of American pottery, pewter, and glass, to name a few, and at the Newark Museum.

Clement died on October 31, 1952 in Brooklyn, New York.

Administrative note

Provenance

The Arthur W. Clement papers were transferred to the archives on January 20 and October 7, 2004 from the Department of Decorative Arts by Kevin Stayton, chief curator.

Included were a number of publications that were transferred directly to the library. In addition, the following publications (originally housed with the archival materials) were removed to the library:

Ceramic Abstracts and The Bulletin of the American Ceramic Society 21, no. 8 (August 15, 1942).

Cumulative Index: The Magazine Antiques I-XXX, 1922-1936 (1937).

The Burnap Collection of English Pottery in the William Rockhill Nelson Gallery of Art and Marty Atkins Museum of Fine Arts, Kansas City, MO. Reprint.

The Glass Club Bulletin no. 19 (March 1947).

The Newark Museum Association. *Marks of New Jersey Potteries.* 1914. Reprint.

The Newark Museum Association. *New Jersey Clay.* 1915.

The People's Journal 1, no. 6 (April 1854).

Access tools

In addition to this finding aid, a database table has been developed to provide more detailed access to the collection through folder-level description. The folder description database provides free-text search capability to brief synopses of folder contents for all materials in the collection. A printout of the folder descriptions is included in the finding aid.

Processing and arrangement

The project archivist observed the following processing guidelines: staples and metal clips were detached; folded materials were flattened; oversize materials were either photocopied to a reduced size or housed in appropriate containers; loose photographs and negatives were removed and placed in photograph storage; duplicates were discarded.

Newsprint and other highly acidic paper were photocopied and retained in separate storage. Photostats were photocopied and then discarded.

Correspondence in binders was removed and rehoused in folders. Spiral notebooks and composition books were disbound.

Many of the records were transferred in binders and envelopes. When possible, the archivist maintained original order by filing these materials in their original groupings.

Abbreviations

The following abbreviations are used in this finding aid:

l.f. = linear feet; DB = document box

Scope and content

Arthur W. Clement Papers

Extent: 1 l.f. (DB)
Inclusive dates: 1794-1952, n.d.
Bulk dates: 1934-1952

The papers of collector Arthur W. Clement (1878-1952) consist of records relating to his research on early American decorative arts such as pottery, china, porcelain, and pewter, the individuals who practiced these arts, and the development of his personal collection of ceramics. Included are letters from collectors, museum curators, and directors regarding objects and collections; mock-ups and drafts of his articles and essays; lecture texts; clippings of articles relating to objects, some written by Clement; and photostats of letters and documents of early potters such as William Tucker. Included, as well, are two scrapbooks containing clippings; invitations; announcements to meetings, exhibition openings, and lectures; and photographs.

Of note are several original documents that may have been acquired by Clement for research purposes. These include late eighteenth and nineteenth century invoices from potteries and early twentieth century correspondence between the director of the Pennsylvania Museum and collectors.

The letters, notes, and articles reveal the meticulous and thorough research that Clement undertook to gain a true understanding of the artistry and early manufacture of ceramics, pottery, glass and pewter. Texts of his publications and lectures, and clippings, including reviews of his books, help define him as an authority on art and collecting. The papers also provide some information on his working relationship with museums such as the Brooklyn Museum and the Newark Museum.

Folder descriptions

Corresp [01].

1904 to 1915

Corresp with Edwin A. Barber (Director of Pennsylvania Museum) and D. McMinn re pottery by George Bastian, rejected gift, potential loan; E. Lyatt re potter William Evans; Henry Brunt (Edwin Bennett Pottery) re glazes, potters' tools; Alfred Ronk re old American glass works, pewter; Robert Smith re Womelsdorf pottery; C. Poillon re Salamander Works; A. Kendall (Newark Museum Association) re Salamander Works pottery & marks. Pamphlet: 'Pottery and Porcelain' (1872). Typescript: history of Salamander Works. Two rubbings of Salamander Works' marks.

Corresp [02].

1941 to 1951

Corresp with Hardinge Scholle (Museum of the City of New York) re gift of Certificate of Incorporation of the New Theatre; John Connor (Woodwild Museum) re history of plate; John W. Poole re origins of objects in his collection, American pewter; Percy E. Raymond re German, English, American pewter, including marks, techniques, dates; Ledlie Laughlin re talk at Pewter Collectors Club, critique of article, Albany pewter; John Spargo (Bennington Historical Museum) re origin of Washington bust, earthenware object; John Paul Remensnyder re pewter; Edgar Sittig re inquiry on mark; International Who's Who; Mrs. Leon Estelon re not selling antiques; John Phillips (Yale University Art Gallery) re porcelain mark; Ruth Allender (University of Kentucky) re book and gift exchange; Robert Benton Horton re American potters, collection; Ella May Thornton (Georgia State Library) re potter Andrew Duche; Antiques magazine re Bonnin & Morris porcelain; Simon Lissim (City College) re lecture; Henry Hornblower (Plimoth Plantation) re receipt of book; Alexander Crane re Dedham Pottery; E.D. Wells (Grand Lodge of Georgia) re Andrew Duche; John Pope (Freer Gallery of Art) re origin of bowl; Charles Mills re Dedham Pottery designs; Margaret Morris re bequest of Apostle pitcher; Lura Watkins re pottery research. Lists: pewter exhibited at Pewter Collector's Club; collection of Hugh Williamson Kelly. Newsletters: Newark Museum News Notes (1947); Georgia Commentary, Georgia State Library (1950). Clipping: American Potters Journal (1888). Photos.

Corresp [03]. (Removed from binder, 1 of 4.)

1934 to 1942

Corresp with Josiah Wedgwood re painter of vases; Helen Kearin re stoneware; Metropolitan Museum of Art re bisque porcelain relief portraits, roof tiles, Tucker porcelain, marks, English pottery, pottery exhibits; Free Public Library of Trenton, New Jersey re Josiah Jones; Lenox, Inc. re trademarks, designer Frank Holmes, loan for BMA exhibition; Bob Griffing re Trumbull-Prime collection, plaques; Helen Graley (Onondaga Pottery Co.) re Syracuse china; Henry DuPont; George McKearin re Goodale Eagle jug, Bennington Hound handle pitcher, American pottery; John Spargo (Bennington Historical Museum) re New Jersey potteries; Princeton University re Trumbull-Prime collection, Sandford family; O.G. Alexander (Bank of Manhattan) re water supply; J. Milton Robertson (Dedham Pottery) re designer Joseph Linden Smith, Dragon's Hood, Rockwood pottery; John Connor (Woodwild Museum) re origin of plate; Detroit Institute of Arts re pottery and porcelain catalog, Warne & Letts pottery; Margaret Haskell re china, earthenware; John Connor (Olde Curiosity Shop) re Salamander Works, American pottery; John Groben re pottery sites; New Jersey Historical Society re potter P.P. Sandford, Barbadoes Neck; Frank Connolly (Middlesex County Surrogate's Office) re estate of Thomas Warne; Robert Sim re Warne & Letts, early American potters, sales, Philadelphia Art Museum objects, Cheesequake site, marks, Ginsburg and Levy store, watercooler; W. Raymond re Warne family, Crolius ware, sales; Beryl de Mott re Raymond's collection, Shenandoah pottery; Ruth Whitman, Burton Gates re Boscawen ware; W.H. Plummer & Company re loan of Lenoxware for BMA exhibition; Massachusetts Institute of Technology re New England pottery excavations; C. Lucile Godfrey re cartlidge china. Typescript: 'Map of Susan Aymars Lot.' Notes, including re Lazarus Johnson genealogy. List: New Jersey potters.

Corresp [04]. (Removed from binder, 2 of 4.)

1943 to 1944

Corresp with Society for Preservation of New England Antiquities re Marblehead pottery; Marblehead Arts Association re Marblehead potteries; New Jersey state Library re James Morgan; County Clerk of Norfolk County, Virginia re Andrew Duche; Sidney T. Strickland (Plimoth Bay Workshop) re pictures of redware for China Students' Club, Boston lecture; Metropolitan Museum of Art re pitcher from Southern Porcelain Company; Philadelphia Museum of Art re Coxe, Tucker, and Hemphill potteries; National Park Service re excavations at Jamestown; Franklin Institute re award to Jersey Porcelain and Earthenware Company, William Tucker; McKearin Antiques re Salamander Works; Donald Shelley (New-York Historical Society) re stoneware in collection; Harvard College Library, University of Pennsylvania, Milton Thomas (Columbia University) re Dr. Henry Mead; Arthur J. Sussel re BMA exhibit, New Jersey Porcelain and Pottery; Historical Society of Pennsylvania re Pennsylvania Society for the Encouragement of Useful Arts and Manufacturers; Rhea Knittle re types of pottery, objects in collection; Harold Gillingham re Bonnin & Morris chinaware; Albany Institute of History and Art re Albany potters; Warren Cox re quality of American ceramics, book edits. Notes, including re Tucker porcelain.

Corresp [05]. (Removed from binder, 3 of 4.)

1945 to 1951

Corresp with Warren Cox re James Budd and Edward Randall trial, book edits; H.F. DuPont re viewing collection; National Park Service re American pottery and china exhibit; Frances S. Stout re Bonnin & Morris objects; J.H. Lycett re sale of book of formulas owned by Edward Lycett; James Gillinder re glassmaker Edwin Bennett, Gillinder family; Margo Antiques re Bennington bowling ball; New-York Historical Society re William E. Warner, stoneware factory, Reginald P. Bolton collection; George McKearin re Salamander Works, objects; Alice Winchester (Antiques magazine) re objects; Rose Williams re information on pitchers; Stratford Lee Morton re origins of jug, purchase of watercooler; Bucks County Historical Society re jug; Henry Payne re salt glaze; Anne Tucker Earp re Tucker family, pottery; Jean Hemphill re Tucker china; Albany Cemetery Association re David Henderson; Mary Sweet re Hemphill china; Titus Geesey re Newark Museum, Durrell pottery; Ledlie Laughlin re William Will coffee pot; Metropolitan Museum of Art re chemist H.J. Plenderleith; John Warren Homestead re potter John de Wilde; P.R. Bassett re W. Boch ceramic mark, Greenpoint; Corinne Linden re Dedham pottery; Ralph M. Chait re Sir Percival David; Jean Gorely re Liverpool porcelain; Percy Raymond; Paul Maddaus re article on Staten Island pie plate, John Johnson pottery; Georgia State Library re Andrew Duche, porcelain; Sally Keith re pottery work; Detroit Institute of Arts re Tucker tea cups. Typescript: "A Staten Island Plate" (Clement). Object descriptions from Hammer Galleries.

Corresp [06]: Ramsay. (Removed from binder, 4 of 4.)

1942 to 1951

Corresp with John Ramsay re New Jersey potter Daniel Greatbach; hound-handled pitchers; collection; sale of objects; pottery markings; stoneware; types of potteries; techniques; white ware; figurines; lotus ware; Belleek; collector Rhea Mansfield Knittle; glazes; zoar tile. Letter from Rhea Knittle re book. Catalog: 'Collection of Rhea Mansfield Knittle with additions from Earl J. Knittle, John Ramsay, and Others' (Massillon Museum, 1942).

Early documents.

1872 to 1878

Invoices: Mercer Pottery Co.; from Union Porcelain Works for Charles Douglas & Co.; from Stewart, Sutphen & Co for Nathaniel Clement; Chemung Stone Ware Works, 1853 (copy).

Early documents.

1794 to 1821

Invoices: itemized bill from Clarkson Crolius for John Peck; from John Etting for Henry von Solinger; from Thomas Goodwin for J. Dickison. Notes: 'China Manufactory Information received at Paris for Judge Hemphill.' Notice re Thomas Warne estate.

Lectures: Gentle Art of Collecting.
n.d. to
Lecture text. Notes.

Lectures: Wedgwood ware.
n.d. to
Lecture text re Wedgwood ware.

Lists.
1941 to
Lists: G. Lorimer's Pennsylvania German pottery; Albany pottery & potters; 'List of Pieces of which Photos are Requested by Clement'; 'A Collector's List of Identified American Pottery and Porcelain'. Bibliography of Americana in Brooklyn Museum library. Notes re Lorimer loan.

Publications.
1944 to 1951
Articles by Clement: 'The Cheesequake Potteries'; 'New Light on the Crolius and Remmey Potteries'; 'New Jersey Pottery Rarities in a Special Exhibition'; 'American Pottery and Porcelain'; 'Ceramics in the South'. Pamphlet by Clement: 'How to Learn the Past of Your Antiques'.

Publications: 'Gentle Art of Collecting' (draft).
1948 to
Typescript and mock up: 'Gentle Art of Collecting.'

Publications: 'Notes on American Ceramics' (draft).
1944 to
Mock up: 'Notes on American Ceramics.' Notes.

Publications: articles (drafts).
1947 to
Typescripts: 'Eighteenth Century New York Redware'; pottery article; 'Classifying American Ceramics'; 'The Darnall Story: A Study in Slave Law'; 'A Staten Island Plate'; 'Barber's Pottery and Porcelain of the United States'.

Research (legal-size folder).
n.d. to
Crolius family documents and document re possessions of James Morgan (copies).

Research: 'Gentle Art of Collecting'.
1946 to 1948
Clippings re information on totem poles; early American stoneware; American ceramics; gallery opening at BMA; Bennington pitcher. Clippings by Clement re early potter Cornelius Paulus; potter David Henderson; Native American pitcher design; earthenware fragment at Newark Museum exhibition. Rubbing of pottery mark. Letters from Mary Sweet re Tucker jug; Rhea Knittle re Ohio stoneware. Postcards. Notes for book. Flyers: history of Crolius pottery; Syracuse China. Photographs.

Research: American pewter.
1936 to 1952
Articles re American pewter, including clippings on early American pewter by John W. Poole. Images of objects. Corresp with Metropolitan Museum of Art re John Skinner pewter marks; Poole collection; Charles Montgomery re sale of Eggleston Dish and other objects; John Ramsay re pottery and pewter. Checklists: 'Pewter collection of Ledlie I. Laughlin'; 'John B. Kerfoot Collection of Marked American Pewter'; 'Charles Montgomery's Price List of American Pewter'; 'Poole Collection'; 'Pewter Collection of C.K. Davis at Fairfield, Connecticut'. Bulletin: 'The Pewter Collectors' Club of America', includes article by Clement: 'When an Art Museum shows Pewter'.

Research: Duche, Andrew.
1951 to
Notes re 'Andrew Duche of Savannah, Master Potter'.

Research: magazine articles.
1924 to 1952
Articles, including from Antiques magazine and American Collector, re American pottery; porcelain; glass; china; pewter; early Louisville potteries. Announcement and list: George F. Ives Collection of Antiques, public sale.

Research: notes.
n.d. to
Notes, including re Andrew Duche. List: objects purchased by Clement in Guatemala, 1938-1940.

Research: pottery and porcelain.
n.d. to
Clippings of objects from catalog: jars; jugs; pitchers; plates. Promotional brochure from Syracuse China.

Research: Tucker family, deeds (legal-size folder).
n.d. to
Indentures (copies) re transfers of land between John Flood, John Bird and William Tucker (1826); transfers of land between Jacob Way and William Ellis Tucker (1827).

Research: Tucker family.
n.d. to
Notes re William Ellis Tucker. Tucker letters (copies). Clippings.

Scrapbook.
1938 to 1948
Clippings, including re state of museums; modern art; Worcester Museum. Typescript of humorous newsletter.

Scrapbook: 'Arthur W. Clement, His Book I.'
1934 to 1951
Clippings re BMA American ceramics gallery; lecture at Plainfield Art Association; BMA exhibitions, including glass, miniatures, antique New York chairs, pewter, centennial; BMA room exhibition, including checklist; Phyfe chair; collecting; Clement's collection; meeting of Pewter Collector's Club of America; 'Notes on Early American Porcelain, 1738-1838'; Newark Museum pottery and porcelain exhibition; 'Our Pioneer Potters,' Wedgwood Club lecture; Andrew Duche; Clement's gift of engravings to university. Articles by Clement: 'Ceramics in the South' (Antiques Magazine, Feb. 1951); 'Francis Bassett Also Jersey Pewterer'; 'New York Potter of 1793 is Found'; 'Hound-handle Jug Amerind Design'; 'More Early Jersey Potters Unearthed'; 'Newark Museum exhibits Jersey's Ceramic Artistry'; 'Shards date Cheesequake Pottery'; 'Earthenware Bit dated 1688'; 'The Problem of Andrew Duche'; 'Ceramic Classification Improved'; 'Unknown Ceramic Mark Discovered'; 'Tale of Manumitted Slaves found in Tucker Papers'; 'Museum Gets Apostle Cuspidor.' Program: Antique Club of New Jersey. Bulletin: 'Newark Museum News Notes'(1947). Invitations: Newark Museum exhibition; members' opening of BMA American Ceramics gallery. Announcements: BMA American pewter exhibition; House & Garden party; lectures, including at Rembrandt Club; China Students' Club; Antique Club; Wedgwood Club. Book announcement: 'Our Pioneer Potters.' Ticket to BMA Wedgwood loan exhibition (copy). Business cards. Brochure for Harvard Club dinner. Letters re praise of Clement's collection; from Century Association re membership. Photographs, including of inscription on Willoughby House written by Clement. Forged check (copy).