OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION

Title: Samuel Yellin Collection

Date(s): ca. 1928-1930; 1971-1975

Extent and Forms of Material: 0.33 cu. ft. (2 boxes)

Creator: Samuel Yellin

Abstract: Samuel Yellin was an American master blacksmith. In 1910, he built the Arch Street Metalworker's studio.


Collection Number: AC0254

Processing Note: This collection was processed by David Haberstich, February 2001 based on earlier work by Carol Dreyfus.

INFORMATION FOR USERS OF THE COLLECTION

Conditions Governing Access: The collection is open for research use.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use: Collection items available for reproduction, but the Archives Center makes no guarantees concerning copyright restrictions. Other intellectual property rights may apply. Reproduction permission from Archives Center: reproduction fees may apply.

Physical Access: Researchers must use gloves when handling unprotected photographs. No user copies of the films are available, so they must be handled carefully and viewed by special arrangement with the audiovisual archivist. Please contact Wendy Shay at shayw@si.edu

Preferred Citation: Title and date of item, Samuel Yellin Collection, circa 1928-1930; 1971-1975, Archives Center, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution, box number X, folder number XX, digital file number XXXXXXXX

IN-DEPTH INFORMATION ABOUT THE COLLECTION

Administrative/Biographical History: Samuel Yellin (1885-1940), was born in Poland and began learning ironwork at seven. He migrated to America in 1906 and taught at the

For more information contact the Archives Center at archivescenter@si.edu or 202-633-3270
Pennsylvania Museum and the school of Industrial Art. In 1910, he built the Arch Street Metalworker's studio, which eventually employed more than 200 craftsmen. Yellin was also an avid collector of fine examples of ironwork.

The photographs in this collection were made by Smithsonian photographer Richard Hofmeister on a visit with curator Richard Ahlborn to the Samuel Yellin Metalworkers factory, Philadelphia, April 1, 1975. The master's thesis and article by Davis relate to an exhibition of Yellin's work at the Dimock Gallery, George Washington University.

**Scope and Content:** The collection is divided into three series: (1) Motion pictures; (2) Documents; and (3) Photographs. There are two 16mm silent black-and-white films, one showing Yellin working; a master's thesis on Yellin and an article about him, both by Myra Tolmach Davis; and 86 photographs of Yellin's studio, factory, and home.

The films are: (1) "The Making of Wrought Iron", produced by the Metropolitan Museum of Art, shows an artist sketching a grille and Yellin shaping a grille for a chair. (2) "The Florida Film" shows examples of Yellin's first work as used in the Singing Tower, Mountain Lake, Florida. Both are distributed by Southern Illinois University at Carbondale.


The photographs (Series 3) are 86 prints from 35mm negatives by Richard Hofmeister, Office of Printing and Photographic Services, Smithsonian Institution, April 1, 1975, with an itemized checklist, "The Samuel Yellin Metal Working Building & Collection, Philadelphia..." These photographs show Smithsonian curator Richard Ahlborn during his visit to the Yellin shop on April 1, 1975, and the exterior of the building, library, factory, study, and collection rooms. The original 35mm negatives by Richard Hofmeister, who accompanied Ahlborn on this research trip, are in the Office of Imaging, Printing and Photographic Services (OIPP) negative library, nos. 75-4495 to 75-4499.

**System of Arrangement:** This collection is arranged in three series.

**Series 1: Films**

**Series 2: Documents**

**Series 3: Photoprints**

For more information contact the Archives Center at archivescenter@si.edu or 202-633-3270
Custodial History: Transferred to the Archives Center from the Division of Community Life, National Museum of American History, 3/1/1987. The source of the films is not clear.

Access Points:

**Subject/Topical**
Metal-workers
Wrought-iron
Art metal-work
Ironwork
Metal-work
Artisans
Emigration and immigration

**Subject/Geographical**
Singing Tower (Mountain Lake, Fla.)
Pennsylvania

**Subject/Name**
Yellin, Harvey
Ahlborn, Richard E.
Yellin, Samuel
Metalworkers

**Form/Genre**
Photographs -- 1950-2000 -- Black and white photoprints -- Silver gelatin
Theses
Motion pictures (visual works)
Articles -- 20th century

**Additional Bibliography**


**CONTAINER LISTING**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td><strong>Series 1. Motion Pictures</strong>&lt;br&gt;1 Film can containing two films, both distributed by Southern Illinois University at Carbondale.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>16mm. black-and-white silent film: “The Making of Wrought Iron” produced by the Metropolitan Museum of Art (250 ft., ca. 1930), shows an artist sketching a grille and Yellin shaping a grille for a chair.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td><strong>Series 2. Documents</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>3-8 <strong>Series 3. Photographs</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>3 86 numbered contact proof prints from 35mm negatives, individually cut and pasted on 5 paper sheets. With itemized checklist of images, 5 pp. Images include Mr. Harvey Yellin, Richard Ahlborn, the exterior of the building, carvings from Samuel Yellin’s collection, examples of Yellin’s work, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>4 Photoprints (fiber base), nos. 1-16. Note: See negative nos. in collection)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>4 1-3. Harvey Yellin and Richard Ahlborn at entrance with original sign.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page</td>
<td>Section</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>---------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>