

MARBLEHEAD



M·U·S·E·U·M

JOHN ORNE JOHNSON FROST (1852-1928)

PAPERS, 1861-2012

MSS 6

Processed by: Lee Jacoby
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Accession #s: 0000.1463
0000.1464
0000.1627.01–0000.1627.05
0000.1628.01–0000.1628.02
0000.3083.109
0000.3116.01–0000.3116.06
1929.47
1931.885–1931.888
1931.890
1932.79.01–1932.79.05
1943.39
1955.61
1967.18
1975.7
1977.12
1990.36.14
1994.28
1996.155A&B
1996.156.01
1996.157.01–1996.157.02
2007.079
2017.070

Volume: 3 boxes
1.5 linear feet

Provenance: Part of this material was donated by the J.O.J. Frost estate, Benjamin Chadwick, Frank Frost, Irene Greatorex, Bette Hunt, Martha Katz-Hyman, Jane Palmer, Mrs. Gregory Smith, Ronald E. Stroud, and Harry Wilkinson. The provenance of the remaining material is unknown.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

John Orne Johnson (J.O.J.) Frost was born in Marblehead, Massachusetts, on January 2, 1852, the son of Amos Dennis Tucker and Mehitable (Johnson) Frost. He went to sea briefly in 1868 and 1869 and married Amy (“Annie”) Lilibridge in 1873. He and Annie had one surviving child: Frank Arthur. They worked in her father’s restaurant for many years, and later Frost assisted Annie in her business of selling cut flowers, mostly sweet peas. After Annie’s death in 1919, Frost began painting scenes of Marblehead history, which were not appreciated until after his death. Frost died in Marblehead on November 3, 1928.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection pertains to John Orne Johnson Frost of Marblehead, Massachusetts. Included are scrapbooks, correspondence, manuscripts, photographs, exhibition catalogs, auction catalogs, news clippings, and one book. The collection has been divided into seven series.

Series I. Scrapbooks consists of four scrapbooks of news clippings compiled by J.O.J. Frost. Scrapbook #1 (62 pages) concentrates on Marbleheaders and Marblehead history. It includes a photograph of Frost, age “75-11 months,” and also a few loose news clippings about Frost and his family. Scrapbook #2 (72 pages) concentrates on Marblehead houses. Scrapbook #3 (101 pages) focuses on Marblehead people and town history, while Scrapbook #4 (93 pages) focuses on early American history. All four scrapbooks contain poems, several about Marblehead.

Series II. Manuscripts contains four typewritten manuscripts pertaining to J.O.J. Frost. The first, *The Life Sketch of a Unique Character in a Unique Town (lovingly typed by his granddaughter Ethel N. Frost)*, was written by Frank Frost, J.O.J.’s son. It is largely autobiographical with extensive quotes from J.O.J. The manuscript is in a binder embossed on the cover “*In Memory of J.O.J. Frost,*” and the binder contains one photograph of Frost holding a painted cod and one of his painted rocks. The second manuscript, *Catalogue of Paintings by J.O.J. Frost*, by Frank Frost, lists and describes 70 paintings donated by Frank Frost to the Marblehead Historical Society in 1929. The third manuscript, *The Life and Work of J.O.J. Frost*, by Jane C. Palmer, describes six of his works in detail. The fourth manuscript, “*J.O.J. Frost: Marblehead Artist,*” is a thesis submitted by Martha B. Katz for a Masters of Arts degree at the State University of New York College at Oneonta. It contains a biography of Frost and also identifies the location of all the Frost paintings she was able to find in 1971.

Series III. Correspondence contains personal and business correspondence. There is one letter written by J.O.J. Frost and others written about him. The papers of Gail Kirker (Murray) Rodgers deal largely with the purchase and exhibition of the Frost painting “*The Alarm -- The Red Coats are Coming, Major Pedrick Spreads the Alarm to Salem*”.

Series IV. Photographs contains photographs and negatives of J.O.J. Frost and his paintings. Frost is portrayed from ages 9 to 76 years, and in many of the photographs he is displaying one of his paintings or wood carvings. The house on Front Street where Frost was born is shown, as is his house on Pond Street. There is also one carte de visite and one postcard showing his

musical rocks. The photographs of Frost’s paintings highlight those in the Marblehead Museum’s collection. A few of Frost’s wood carvings are also portrayed.

Series V. Printed Materials spans the time between the opening of Frost’s gallery in 1926 to an auction of his works in 2012 and reflects the increased appreciation and value of his work. Included is a broadside, exhibition catalogs, auction catalogs, and magazine articles.

Series VI. News clippings contains reminiscences of Frost written by Harry Wilkinson and also ten news clippings pertaining to Frost’s life and art.

Series VII. Books consists of one book given to Frost by James M. Carpenter.

RELATED COLLECTIONS

The Marblehead Museum possesses 32 original paintings by J.O.J. Frost as well as numerous woodcarvings, ships models, and other related carvings. In addition, the Museum is home to the Priscilla and Beth Moulton research collection containing 20-plus years of research by the mother-daughter team into Frost’s life and the disposition of his works over time.

SERIES LIST

- SERIES I. Scrapbooks**
- SERIES II. Manuscripts**
- SERIES III. Correspondence**
- SERIES IV. Photographs**
- SERIES V. Printed materials**
- SERIES VI. News clippings**
- SERIES VII. Books**

CONTENTS LIST

SERIES I. Scrapbooks

| <u>Box</u> | <u>Folder</u> | <u>Contents</u> | <u>Date</u> |
|------------|---------------|--|---------------------|
| 1 | 1 | Scrapbook #1, compiled by J.O.J. Frost | 1923, 1926, undated |
| | 2 | Scrapbook #2, compiled by J.O.J. Frost | 1924, undated |
| | 3 | Scrapbook #3, compiled by J.O.J. Frost | 1926, undated |
| | 4 | Scrapbook #4, compiled by J.O.J. Frost | 1927, undated |

SERIES II. Manuscripts

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---------|
| 1 | 5 | <i>The Life Sketch of a Unique Character in a Unique Town, (lovingly typed by his granddaughter Ethel N. Frost),</i> by Frank Frost (typewritten copy in binder) | Undated |
| | 6 | <i>The Life Sketch of a Unique Character in a Unique Town, (lovingly typed by his granddaughter Ethel N. Frost),</i> by Frank Frost (photocopy) | Undated |

SERIES II. Manuscripts (contd.)

| <u>Box</u> | <u>Folder</u> | <u>Contents</u> | <u>Date</u> |
|------------|---------------|--|-------------|
| 2 | 1 | <i>Catalogue of Paintings by J.O.J. Frost</i> , by Frank Frost | Undated |
| | 2 | <i>The Life and Work of J.O.J. Frost</i> , by Jane C. Palmer | 1967 |
| | 3 | <i>J.O.J. Frost: Marblehead Artist</i> , thesis submitted for Master of Arts degree, by Martha B. Katz | 1971 |

SERIES III. Correspondence

| | | | |
|---|---|---|--------------------|
| 2 | 4 | Letter from J.O.J. Frost to Edmund N. Holden | 1928 |
| | 5 | Letter from N. Chamberlain ("Biscuit") to Gene (draft) | 1971 |
| | 6 | Correspondence and papers of Gail Kirker (Murray) Rodgers | 1971-2002, undated |
| | 7 | Letter from Helen P. Doane to Bette Hunt | 1986 |

SERIES IV. Photographs

| | | | |
|---|----|---|--------------------|
| 2 | 8 | Photographs of J.O.J. Frost and his residences | 1861-1928, undated |
| | 9 | Photographs of J.O.J. Frost paintings and wood carvings | Undated |
| | 10 | Negatives of selected photographs | Undated |

SERIES V. Printed Materials

| | | | |
|---|----|--|---------|
| 2 | 11 | <i>Mr. J.O.J. Frost, 11 Pond St., Marblehead, has opened his new art building</i> , broadside [circa 1924] | Undated |
| | 12 | <i>Catalog of Paintings by John O.J. Frost on Exhibition at his Art Gallery, 11 Pond Street, Marblehead, Massachusetts</i> (photocopy) | Undated |
| | 13 | <i>J.O.J. Frost: Primitive Paintings of Marblehead by One of New England's Most Gifted and Unusual Artists</i> , announcement of exhibition and sale, Childs Gallery, Boston | 1954 |
| 3 | 1 | <i>History in House Paint</i> , American Heritage, June 1962, Volume XIII, Number 4 | 1962 |
| | 2 | <i>American Painting and Folk Art, Exhibition and Sale</i> , Parke-Bernet Galleries, Inc., New York | 1971 |
| | 3 | <i>Marblehead: The Place and the People. An Exhibition of Paintings by William T. Bartoll and J.O.J. Frost</i> , Marblehead Arts Association and Marblehead Historical Society | 1979 |
| | 4 | <i>JOJ The Man with a Wheelbarrow Full of Art</i> , Marblehead Magazine, Vol. I No. 2, Summer 1980 | 1980 |
| | 5 | <i>J.O.J. Frost</i> , by Pam Peterson, Marblehead Historical Society | 2003 |

SERIES V. Printed Materials (contd.)

| <u>Box</u> | <u>Folder</u> | <u>Contents</u> | <u>Date</u> |
|------------|---------------|--|-------------|
| 3 | 6 | <i>American Furniture and Decorative Arts</i> , auction catalog, Skinner, Inc., Boston | 2012 |

SERIES VI. News clippings

| | | | |
|---|---|---|-----------------------|
| 3 | 7 | <i>Stories of J.O.J. Frost</i> by Harry Wilkinson (photocopies) | 1925-1929, 1979, 1999 |
| | 8 | Miscellaneous news clippings | 1954-1997, undated |

SERIES VII. Books

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|---|---|--|------|
| 3 | 9 | <i>Songs of the Sea and Sailors' Chanteys: An Anthology Selected and Arranged by Robert Frothingham</i> , Houghton Mifflin Company | 1924 |
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Subject Headings

Art—paintings
 folk art
 Frost, Frank Arthur (1873-1947)
 Marblehead--Mass.
 Rodgers, Gail Kirker Murray (1934-2002)
 Scrapbooks
 Ship models
 Wood carvings