

**University of Toronto Archives
and Records Management Services**



Peter Brieger fonds

B2016-0007

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Biographical note

Prof. Peter H. Brieger (1898-1983) was an art historian and expert in medieval manuscripts and art. A professor at the University of Toronto, Dr. Brieger is considered “a pioneer in Art History as an academic discipline in Canada” (Eleen).

Dr. Brieger was born in 1898 in Breslau, to his father Oskar Brieger, an otolaryngologist, and his mother, Hedwig Lion. He was raised by a governess in an intellectual and cultured home. Brieger fought for Germany in World War I and was wounded in Flanders. Brieger then studied at Breslau and Munich and settled on art history as a discipline, studying under Wilhelm Pinder, Paul Frankl, and Heinrich Wölfflin. He worked as an assistant under August Grisebach at Breslau from 1922-1927 and received his Ph.D. in 1924. After spending 1927-1928 researching in Rome, he returned to Breslau, where he worked as a professor and married historian Barbara Ritter in 1931. In 1933, fearing Nazi persecution, he left for Paris. When he was officially classified a “non Aryan” in 1934, he moved to London, where he worked on the *Atlas of Medieval Art and Architecture in England* at the Courtauld Institute. It was here that his focus shifted from Baroque to medieval art.

In 1936, Dr. Brieger moved to Canada, where he taught at U of T and became a professor in 1947. He chaired the art history department from 1965 until his retirement in 1969. He also served as a part-time professor at the Pontifical Institute of Medieval Studies in Toronto until 1973 and contributed to “Art and the Courts: France and England from 1259 to 1328,” an exhibition at the National Gallery of Canada in 1972.

Dr. Brieger is the author of many influential articles and books, including *English Art, 1216-1307* (1957) and *Illuminated manuscripts of the Divine Comedy* (with Millard Meiss and Charles S. Singleton, 1969).

Dr. Brieger died in Toronto in 1983.

Sources

“Peter H. Brieger,” Senior College Encyclopedia.
https://sce.library.utoronto.ca/index.php/Brieger, Peter_H.

“Peter H. Brieger” in Dictionary of Art Historians
<https://dictionaryofarthistorians.org/briegerp.htm>

Wollesen, Jens T., Eleen, Luba. *In Memoriam: Peter Henry Brieger*. Toronto: Department of Fine Art, University of Toronto, 1991.

Scope and content

Date range: 1918-1987

Extent: 0.6 m (5 of boxes) of textual and graphic records

Fonds consists of records documenting the life and work of Dr. Peter H. Brieger, including his early career in Germany. Records include correspondence, notebooks, lectures, articles, research notes and manuscripts. One series also documents the activities of the Fine Art Club at the University of Toronto. Photographs consists of those taken of illuminated manuscripts, for research purposes.

Custodial history: Records were transferred to the Archives from Dr. Evonne Levy, Professor of Renaissance and Baroque Art and Architecture, who used the records as research material, in coordination with the Brieger family. As Dr. Brieger died more than 30 years before the records were donated, no original order was discernable.

This fonds originally contained 2 series, Series 7 and Series 8, related to Brieger's work on illuminated manuscripts and his bible project. Records from these series have been deaccessioned and transferred to The Library of the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies.

Language: Some records are in German.

Access: Open

Boxes: B2016-0007/001-/005

Series 1: Correspondence

Date range: 1948-1978, n.d.

Extent: 0.07 m (1 box) of textual records

Scope and Content

Series consists of minimal, and various, correspondence with family, colleagues, museums, galleries, publishers, and editors relating to Dr. Brieger's personal life, professional life, and research.

Language: 1 file is in French.

Arrangement: Files are arranged chronologically.

Access: Open

Boxes: B2016-0007/001(01)-(09)

See appendix 1 for a detailed file listing, organized by series.

Series 2: Notebooks and notes

Date range: [193-], n.d.

Extent: 0.13 m (2 boxes) of textual records

Scope and content

Series consists of various notes and notebooks kept by Dr. Brieger, containing research notes, course notes, travel information, sketches, and other information. Many date from his time in Germany in the early 1930s.

Language: Many notebooks are in German.

Access: Open

Boxes: B2016-0007/001(10)-/002(08)

See appendix 1 for a detailed file listing, organized by series.

Series 3: Lectures

Date range: 1955, n.d.

Extent: 0.10 m (2 boxes) of textual records

Scope and content

Series consists of typed and handwritten lecture notes on various topics in art history, especially medieval and Baroque art. See file listing for more details.

Language: 1 file contains some German records.

Arrangement: Files are arranged in alphabetical order.

Access: Open

Boxes: B2016-0007/002(09)-/003(05)

See appendix 1 for a detailed file listing, organized by series.

Series 4: Writing

Date range: 1926-1969, n.d.

Extent: 0.12 m (2 boxes) of textual records

Scope and content

Series consists of manuscripts, drafts and offprints of writing by Dr. Brieger. See file listing for titles.

Language: Some files are in German

Access: Open

Boxes: B2016-0007/003(06)-/004(01)

See appendix 1 for a detailed file listing, organized by series.

Series 5: Work by others

Date range: 1918-1979

Extent: 0.24 m (2 boxes) of textual records

Scope and content

Series consists of offprints, manuscripts, and other copies of works by other authors, including limited student work and exams from the 1960s.

Language: Some articles are in German

Access: Open

Boxes: B2016-0007/004(02)-/005(16)

See appendix 1 for a detailed file listing, organized by series.

Series 6: University of Toronto. Fine Art Club

Date range: [196-]-1981

Extent: 0.05 m (2 boxes) of textual records

Scope and content

Series consists of records relating to the University of Toronto's Fine Art Club from the 1960s and 1970s, including records documenting trips to New York, Cleveland, and Detroit, and a publication put out by the group. Also includes the constitution, minutes, correspondence and newspaper clippings of the Fine Art Society in 1981.

Access: Open

Boxes: B2016-0007/005(17)-/005(21)

See appendix 1 for a detailed file listing, organized by series.

Appendix

Series 1: Correspondence

File number	File title	Date range
B2016-0007/001 (01)	Dr. E.M. Brieger, correspondence, cv	1948
B2016-0007/001 (02)	Soane Museum: correspondence	1956-1987
B2016-0007/001 (03)	Correspondence: Bollingen Series (Meiss, Callman, etc)	[196-]
B2016-0007/001 (04)	Correspondence: Beryl Smally: exegetical works and Pontifical Research	1967-1968
B2016-0007/001 (05)	Mediaeval Centre and other correspondence [includes National Gallery of Canada correspondence re: exhibition of the Medieval Art of France and England, 1972]	[196-]-[197-]
B2016-0007/001 (06)	Les chansons des Saxons: correspondence and notes [in French]	1971
B2016-0007/001 (07)	Amiens-Durham: correspondence from Peter Barnet	1977
B2016-0007/001 (08)	Christmas letter from Allen Walters, with tribute to Kathleen Walters	1978
B2016-0007/001 (09)	Unidentified correspondence	n.d.

Series 2: Notebooks and notes

File number	File title	Date range
B2016-0007/001 (10)	Blue notepad: 'Frankreich: Excerpte. Nach Verfassern	n.d.
B2016-0007/001 (11)	Blue notepad: 12-14 Jahrh: MS by city – 'Frankreich' notes and sketches	n.d.
B2016-0007/001 (12)	Blue notebook: Frankreich, Literatur, and letters from the 1930s	[193-]
B2016-0007/001 (13)	Blue notepad: 'Frankreich: Quellen und Künstler'	n.d.
B2016-0007/001 (14)	Blue notepad: "All gemeines Literatur" – including notes on Griesbach	n.d.
B2016-0007/001 (15)	Black notebook. Purchases in Breslau – Alphabetical directory. Notes on Spanish art, all periods. Extra contents: seperata, typed list	ca. 1931

File number	File title	Date range
	of books ordered by Brieger. Notepad with notes on Spanish medieval art. Also image lists	
B2016-0007/001(16)	German period. Black notebook. Alphabetical register. Notes on Baroque artists, early 1930s and miscellaneous notes on German cities, Goethe, etc.	[193-?]
B2016-0007/002(01)	German period notebook: 'Italien. Geschichte' blue paper cover, less than 10 pages	n.d.
B2016-0007/002(02)	German period. Black notebook: notes, incomplete	n.d.
B2016-0007/002(03)	Black notebook: notes on medieval Britain	n.d.
B2016-0007/002(04)	Black notebook: plus envelope with course notes, SS1919, also notes on medieval and early modern	n.d.
B2016-0007/002(05)	Notepad: art history notes, all periods, with drawings	n.d.
B2016-0007/002(06)	Paper pad: 'Berliner Malerschule' – Romantic	n.d.
B2016-0007/002(07)	Parish churches, Baroque – handwritten notes in German	Post 1939
B2016-0007/002(08)	Notes on Baroque churches	n.d.

Series 3: Lectures

File number	File title	Date range
B2016-0007/002(09)	"Archaeology lectures": Greek and Roman sculpture [no date, but looks early Canadian English]	n.d.
B2016-0007/002(10)	Baroque Theatre/Research Society: The Baroque Equation. Illusion and reality. [notes for lecture?]	n.d.
B2016-0007/002(11)	Lecture: Surrender of Breda – Canada	n.d.
B2016-0007/002(12)	Lecture on mural painting. English	n.d.
B2016-0007/002(13)	Leonardo lecture – typed script. English. Also a German typed MS – development of Kupferstiche	n.d.
B2016-0007/002(14)	Notes for lecture: Bible and reform	n.d.
B2016-0007/002(15)	Old lectures [typed lecture notes on Renaissance art]	n.d.

File number	File title	Date range
B2016-0007/002(16)	Pre-gothic (lectures and unknown school courses)	n.d.
B2016-0007/003(01)	Rafael's Madonnas lecture	n.d.
B2016-0007/003(02)	Typed script. Lecture on "Nicolas Poussin in the French Classic Tradition" AGO	17 Oct 1955
B2016-0007/003(03)	Velasques lecture	n.d.
B2016-0007/003(04)	Westminster Abbey of Henry III (lecture)	n.d.
B2016-0007/003(05)	Westminster Abbey: lecture draft	n.d.

Series 4: Writing

File number	File title	Date range
B2016-0007/003(06)	Abstract for Brieger doctorate, 1926 "Zur Geschichte des Kunsturteils"	1926
B2016-0007/003(07)	"Principles of French Classic Painting" 17 th century MS for Art Bulletin article (published 1938)	[193-]
B2016-0007/003(08)	French art, 15 th -18 th century – various notes, exhibition review, 1961, "Heritage de France", other miscellaneous	[196-?], n.d.
B2016-0007/003(09)	Text book and art gallery article: Baroque – Italy, France	1961, n.d.
B2016-0007/003(10)	Offprint "Karl Friedrich Lessing" by Peter Brieger [in German]	n.d.
B2016-0007/003(11)	Offprint "Schlesier des 18. Und 19. Jahrhunderts" by Peter Brieger [German]	n.d.
B2016-0007/003(12)	126 page typed MS: "St. Peter's at Westminster?" [front page missing]	n.d.
B2016-0007/003(13)	Brieger and Meiss, Illuminated Manuscripts of the Diving Comedy, proofs [1 of 2]	ca. 1969
B2016-0007/003(14)	Brieger and Meiss, Illuminated Manuscripts of the Diving Comedy, proofs [2 of 2]	ca. 1969
B2016-0007/004(01)	Book manuscript: "Working Carbon of Chapter 4" 189 pages + footnotes [re: illuminated manuscripts of John's Apocalypse]	n.d.
B2016-0007/007(10)	"The Trinity College apocalypse": marked up proofs	1967

Series 5: Work by others

File number	File title	Date range
B2016-0007/004(02)	Miscellaneous articles, not by Brieger	1971, n.d.
B2016-0007/004(03)	Various offprints 1 [English and German]	1963-1970
B2016-0007/004(04)	Various offprints 2 [English and German]	1968-1979
B2016-0007/004(05)	"Bibliographies of the History of Art" University of London, Courtauld Institute of Art	[1934?]
B2016-0007/004(06)	[More Courtauld bibliographies]	[1934?]
B2016-0007/005(01)	Offprint: "Goethe: 1749-1949" by Johanna Richter, Dalhousie Review	
B2016-0007/005(02)	Offprint: Friedrich Meinecke, "die Bedeutung der geschichtilchen welt"	1918
B2016-0007/005(03)	Offprint with dedication: H.P. Kingdon, "Had the crucifixion a political significance"	1937
B2016-0007/005(04)	Offprint: "Lefebuch für Baumeiffer: Herausgegeben und eingeleitet"	1947
B2016-0007/005(05)	The Art times v. 2 n.2	Sept 1959
B2016-0007/005(06)	Ecclesiastical History Society, list of members' names, degrees, addresses, and recent publications	1967
B2016-0007/005(07)	Offprint: Audrey Baker, "the Wall Paintings in the Church of St. John the Baptist Clayton"	1970
B2016-0007/005(08)	Article: "The silk comes from the first crusade"	1972
B2016-0007/005(09)	Extract, The place names of Middlesex	
B2016-0007/005(10)	Xerox: German book on the devil (from Warburg Institute)	n.d.
B2016-0007/005(11)	Typed MS: The Historiated Initials to 1 Kings in English and French Bibles of the Twelfth and Thirteenth Centuries / Denis R. Reid	n.d.
B2016-0007/005(12)	Art and archaeology exams	1962
B2016-0007/005(13)	Student paper on 3 illuminated manuscripts of the Apocalypse of St. John	n.d.
B2016-0007/005(14)	Typed MS (student work?): "Report on Transition to Gothic" Fine Art 1006	n.d.
B2016-0007/005(15)	"The creation as illustrated in Spanish art: Historiated initials – Kings II"	n.d.
B2016-0007/005(16)	"The last judgement as it appears in apocalyptic manuscripts"	n.d.

Series 6: University of Toronto. Fine Art Club

File number	File title	Date range
B2016-0007/005(17)	Art Club publication	n.d.
B2016-0007/005(18)	Fine Art Trip to New York	1972
B2016-0007/005(19)	Fine Art Student Club	[196-]-[197-]
B2016-0007/005(20)	Fine Art Club and 1966 trip to Cleveland, Detroit	[196-]
B2016-0007/005(21)	Fine Art Society constitution, minutes, correspondence, and newspaper clippings	1981