

CRANBROOK

ARCHIVES

Richard P. Raseman

Papers, 1934-1956 (bulk 1934-1942)

1.25 linear ft.

Acquisition Number:	1979-03
Acquisition:	Found in the basement of Cranbrook House, May 1979.
Access:	Access to the collection is unrestricted.
Copyright:	Copyright to this collection is held by Cranbrook Educational Community.
Preferred Citation:	Richard P. Raseman Papers, Cranbrook Archives, Bloomfield Hills, MI.
Index:	See end of finding aid.
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History

Richard Perrien Raseman was born in Detroit on February 8, 1896 and attended Detroit Public Schools. In 1919, he traveled to Japan and China to study and in 1920, received his Bachelor of Architecture from Cornell University. Raseman then began his career with Harrie T. Lindeberg (1920-1921) at the office of his father, architect Richard E. Raseman. He entered into private practice in 1925 and was married to interior designer and architect, Rachel DeWolfe.

In June 1932, the Cranbrook Foundation, whose goal was to ensure the Academy of Art's permanence among Cranbrook institutions and a prominent place in the field of art, named Eliel Saarinen President of the Academy of Art. The office of Executive Secretary was created to handle all ordinary and routine matters in connection with the operation of the academy. Eliel Saarinen recommended Richard P. Raseman for the position. Raseman served as Executive Secretary and Vice President of the Cranbrook Academy of Art from 1932-1943. In this capacity, he was solely responsible for the administration of the Academy on a daily basis. Raseman was also instrumental in putting forward the proposal to have the Academy established as a separate entity and incorporated as an educational institution chartered to award degrees.

Raseman also served as president of the Detroit chapter of the American Institute of Architects, and as chairman of the AIA's Committee on Allied Arts. Raseman resigned from the Academy of Art on April 1, 1943 to serve as a Lieutenant in the U.S. Naval Reserve (1943-1945). He was stationed at the John Carrol University in Cleveland, OH, where he contributed to the Navy's V-5 program. After leaving the Navy, Raseman resided in Harrisville, MI with his second wife and their two daughters. He served as a member of the Alcona County School board from 1952-1962, and on the Board of Directors of the Port Huron Paper Co. (1936-1971). Raseman died in Nov 1976 and was survived by his wife and two daughters.

Scope and Content of Collection

The collection covers the building and grounds repair and construction records for all of the Cranbrook Institutions between 1934-1956 (primarily 1934-1942). The collection is alphabetically arranged in eight series, following the arrangement of the Cranbrook Architectural Office Records by institution: I. Brookside School, II. Christ Church Cranbrook, III. Cranbrook Academy of Art, IV. Cranbrook Foundation/Estate, V. Cranbrook Institute of Science, VI. Cranbrook School, VII. Kingswood School, and VIII. Utilities. The folders are arranged alphabetically and items within each folder chronologically. Most folders contain correspondence and work orders from Wermuth & Son. Other common contractors throughout the collection are Mayers, Murray and

Phillip (architects), Leonard Electrical Company, Kawneer Company, Otis Elevator Company, J.L. Hudson, and Fred Sanders Confectioners. The drawings referenced in work orders and correspondences are held in the architectural drawings collection.

Related Collections

- Cranbrook Academy of Art Records of the Administration (1981-09)
- Cranbrook Architectural Office Records (1989-01)
- Cranbrook Foundation Records (1981-05)
- George Gough Booth Papers (1981-01)

Box Number--Description

Box 1

SERIES I: BROOKSIDE SCHOOL

1. General, Jun 1938 – Aug 1939

SERIES II: CHRIST CHURCH CRANBROOK

2. Assistant Rector's Residence #2, 1934-1940
3. Dr. Marquis' Residence, 1936
4. Doors, Nov 1937 – Oct 1938
5. Equipment & Fixtures, Nov 1937 – Dec 1938
6. General, Feb 1936 – Apr 1942
7. Hardware, Oct 1937 – Aug 1938
8. St. Dunstan's Chapel, Jul 1937 – Mar 1938
9. Specifications & Estimates, Jul 1937 – Oct 1937
10. Specifications & Estimates, Nov 1937 – Jul 1938

SERIES III: CRANBROOK ACADEMY OF ART

11. Alterations & Repair Orders, Apr 1940 – Dec 1940
12. Alterations & Repair Orders, Jan 1941 – Apr 1941

Box 2

1. Alterations & Repair Orders, May 1941 – Jun 1942
2. Heating & Water Softeners, Oct 1938 – Jul 1941
3. New Water System, Jun 1940 – Aug 1941

SERIES IV: CRANBROOK FOUNDATION/ESTATE

4. Faculty Row, Nov 1940 – Oct 1941
5. Fire Station Residence, Jun 1938 – Aug 1939
6. George G. Booth Driveway, Jul – Dec 1937
7. Greek Theater Lighting, 1940
8. Lone Pine Inn Alterations, Feb – Aug 1942
9. Michael Vettraino Residence, Jun – Jul 1940
10. Parking Area – Lone Pine Road, 1938
11. Pavilion – General, Jun 1934 – Apr 1956
12. Retaining Wall – Lone Pine Road, Dec 1937 – Nov 1938
13. Roads, Drives, Sidewalks, May 1935 – Aug 1942
14. Tower Cottage, May 1941 – May 1942

Box Number--Description

Box 2 (cont'd)

15. Valley Farm, Aug 1940 – May 1942

SERIES V: CRANBROOK INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE

16. Electrical, May 1936 – Feb 1939

17. Elevator, May 1936 – Mar 1937

18. Hardware and Iron Works, Sep 1935 – Jul 1936

19. Heating, Plumbing, Ventilating, May 1936 – Mar 1938

Box 3

1. General Correspondence, Apr 1935 – Sep 1941

2. Glass Blocks, Dec 1937 – Mar 1939

3. Library, Museum, Auditorium, Apr 1935 – Apr 1937

4. Paving, Curbing, Jan – Dec 1937

5. Proposals/Estimates, Apr 1935 – Nov 1937

6. Specifications, n.d.

SERIES VI: CRANBROOK SCHOOL

7. General Contractors, Mar 1935 – Mar 1941

8. General Repair and Remodel, Dec 1934 – Nov 1940

9. Music Hall, Jan – Dec 1937

10. Science & Crafts Building, Jul 1941 – Oct 1942

SERIES VII: KINGSWOOD SCHOOL

11. General Contracting, Jul 1934 – Oct 1941

12. Tennis Courts, Jul – Aug 1936

SERIES VIII: UTILITIES

13. Buckberrough Report, n.d.

14. Eames & Brown, Oct 1938 – Jul 1939

15. Electrical Distributing System, Dec 1938 – Apr 1941

16. Electrical Transmission System, Aug 1940 – Aug 1941

17. Public Utilities Committee, Feb – Jun 1941

18. Sewage Disposal System, Aug 1938 – Dec 1940

19. Vaults for Transformers, Jun – Oct 1940

20. Water System, Aug 1941 – Apr 1942

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