Finding aid for the Claude-Émile Schuffenecker papers 2023.M.63

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Special Collections

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Summary Information

Repository: Special Collections

Creator: Schuffenecker, Claude Emile, 1851-1934

Title: Claude-Émile Schuffenecker papers

ID: 2023.M.63

Dates: 1860-1966

Extent: 31 Linear Feet (20 boxes)

Request Materials: Request access to the physical materials described in this inventory through the catalog record for this collection. Click here for the access policy.

Language: Collection material is in French.

Abstract: The Claude-Émile Schuffenecker papers, spanning from 1860 to 1966, include personal correspondence, photographs and postcards of portraits, landscapes and monuments in France and Algeria, administrative documents, and printed materials.

Preferred Citation

Claude-Émile Schuffenecker papers, 1860-1966, The Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles, Accession no. 2023.M.63.

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Biographical Note

Claude-Émile Schuffenecker (1851-1934) emerged as a painter in the French post-impressionist movement, following an unusual path from finance to fine art. Born in Fresne-Saint-Mamès to Nicolas Schuffenecker and Anne-Marie Monnet, he began his professional life in Paris as a clerk before advancing to become a stockbroker at the Paris Bourse. In 1880, he married his cousin Marie-Louise Lançon. They had two children: Jeanne in 1881, and Paul in 1884.

Schuffenecker met Paul Gauguin in 1872 when he joined the financial firm Bertin at the Paris Stock Exchange. Their friendship grew close, with Schuffenecker serving as Gauguin's witness at his wedding in 1873, and Gauguin later becoming the godfather to Schuffenecker's son, Paul. In 1880, Schuffenecker resigned from his position at the Bourse to fully dedicate himself to painting, start a collection of artworks, and pursue his artistic passion at the Colarossi Academy under Carolus-Duran. To maintain financial stability, Schuffenecker secured a position as a drawing teacher in Paris city schools, a role he held until 1914.

Schuffenecker's artistic influence extended beyond his own works through his instrumental role in organizing the 1889 Café Volpini exhibition, which showcased works from the Pont-Aven Group, including Gauguin. Working alongside his brother Amédée, Schuffenecker built an impressive collection of works by Van Gogh and Gauguin. In 1889, Gauguin painted a portrait of the Schuffenecker family, *L'Atelier de Schuffenecker* (Musée d'Orsay), which depicts Schuffenecker, his wife Louise, his daughter Jeanne, and his son Paul.

Schuffenecker's artistic style evolved considerably throughout his career, beginning with impressionist influences and progressing toward a more symbolist approach characterized by atmospheric landscapes and contemplative scenes. After retiring from teaching in 1914, he worked primarily from his studio, where his style became increasingly experimental, incorporating elements of pointillism and abstract color theory.

In his final years, Schuffenecker lived with his daughter Jeanne, who became both his primary caregiver and a frequent subject in his paintings. He continued to paint and contribute to Parisian artistic circles until his death on July 31, 1934. His paintings are housed in the collections of the Musée d'Orsay in Paris, the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, and the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam.

Sources consulted:

Grossvogel, Jill-Elyse. *Claude-Émile Schuffenecker: Catalogue raisonné*. Alan Wofsy fine arts, 2000.

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Scope and Content of Collection

The Claude-Émile Schuffenecker papers document the professional life and artistic connections of this French post-impressionist artist, providing insight into the Parisian art world of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The collection's scope extends beyond Schuffenecker's death in 1934 through his daughter Jeanne's correspondence and continued press coverage of his work.

The papers reveal Schuffenecker's professional network through correspondence with cultural figures, including Arsène Alexandre, Marie Bang (Ville Bang), Henri Jules-Bois, Auguste Bouillet, Jacques d'Adelswärd-Fersen, Édouard Deverin, Michel Florisoone, Paul Fort, Louis-Auguste Girardot, André Mellerio, Raymond Meunier, Claude Roger-Marx, and Jacques Tasset.

The archive includes documentation related to Schuffenecker's interest in Vincent van Gogh, such as a 1901 loan receipt for *The Man with the Pipe*. There is correspondence with the Ministère de l'Instruction Publique et des Beaux-Arts (Ministry of Public Education and Fine Arts) regarding an exhibition, and documentation of his early employment at the Ministère des Finances (Contrôle central du Trésor Public).

The collection provides evidence of Schuffenecker's professional affiliations through membership materials from the Société des Artistes Indépendants and La Ligue de la Défense de l'Art. Visual documentation of his North African travels, particularly in Algeria, along with press clippings, sales catalogs, and exhibition materials, offers insight into his artistic development and legacy, which continued to generate interest through his daughter's correspondence and press coverage well into the mid-twentieth century.

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Arrangement Note

Arranged in four series: Series I. Correspondence, 1869-1966; Series II. Photographs and postcards, 1860-1934; Series III. Personal Papers, 1868-1935; Series IV. Printed Materials, 1883-1927.

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Administrative Information

Access

Open for use by qualified researchers, except for glass plates in Box 20, which are restricted.

Publication Rights

Contact Library Reproductions and Permissions.

Acquisition Information

Acquired in 2023.

Processing Information

Processed by 2024-2025 Graduate Intern Ouijdane Hachimi, under the supervision of Karen Meyer-Roux, September-November 2024.

Custodial History

The archive was owned by Jeanne Schuffenecker, the daughter of Claude-Émile Schuffenecker, and held in her apartment in Paris. It was acquired by Richard Kelton in 2008. The Getty Research Institute acquired the archive from the Kelton Foundation.

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Related Materials

Related Materials

Claude-Émile Schuffenecker letters: to Jules Bois with essay, The Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles, Accession no. 870258.

Odilon Redon letters, 1887-1909, The Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles, Accession no. 850274.

Paul Gauguin letters and writings, 1879-1903, The Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles, Accession no. 850329.

Letters to and from Claude-Émile Schuffenecker from and to Jules Bois, Paul Gauguin, Raub Richard, and Émile Zola, Musée d'Orsay, Paris, RF 28871, RF 28873, RF 28882, RF 28885, RF 28890.

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Controlled Access Headings

Genres and Forms of Materials

- Albumen prints
- Albumen prints -- 19th century
- Albumen prints -- Algeria -- 20th century
- Albumen prints -- France -- 19th century
- Cabinet photographs -- France -- 19th century

- Color prints (photographs)
- Correspondence
- Correspondence -- France -- 19th century
- Correspondence, personal
- Gelatin silver negatives -- Europe -- 20th century
- Gelatin silver prints -- Algeria -- 20th century
- Glass negatives -- 20th century
- Letters (correspondence) -- France -- 19th century
- Photographic postcards -- 19th century
- Photographic postcards -- 20th century
- Photographs
- Photographs, Original
- Postcards
- Postcards -- 19th century
- Postcards -- 20th century

Collection Inventory

Series I. Correspondence, 1869-1966 2.3 Linear Feet (3 boxes)

Scope and Contents: Series I consists of letters and postcards from cultural and artistic figures, including poet Paul Fort, art critic André Mellerio, art historian Michel Florisoone, and writer and critic Claude Roger-Marx. Of particular significance is the extensive Schuffenecker family correspondence (1898-1934), containing letters from Claude-Émile Schuffenecker, his children Jeanne and Paul, and Schuffenecker's obituary. A substantial portion includes letters and drawings by René Bruyez a student of Schuffenecker and a friend of his daughter Jeanne. After Schuffenecker's death in 1934, the correspondence continues primarily through his daughter Jeanne's communications with institutions regarding the loan of his works for exhibitions. In this correspondence are postcards of Algeria.

Arrangement: Series I is arranged alphabetically. Box 2 contains only postcards arranged alphabetically.

Title/Description	Containers	
A, 1900-1901, undated		
Adelswärd-Fersen, Jacques, 1900 December 29-1901	Box 1	Folder 1
Alexandre, Arsène, undated	Box 1	Folder 1
B, 1894-1930?		
Bang, Marie Vilhelmine, 1894 June 4 *Scope and Contents*: Letter signed "Ville Bang."	Box 1	Folder 2
Bernès, Henri, 1894 November 28	Box 1	Folder 2
Bouillet, Auguste, 1869-1870 *Scope and Contents*: The letters were enclosed with drawings of views of the town of Gray in the form of postcards that are inscribed "Souvenir de vacances, 1869" within	Box 1	Folder 3

a manuscript titled *Nos confidences* in which Bouillet narrates a stay in Gray with Paul Briquet.

Bruyez, René, 1894-1917, 1930?	Box 1	Folder 4
Scope and Contents: Includes letters and postcards sent by René Bruyez, and drawings by him. One letter by Schuffenecker and addressed to "Mon cher René" (1930 June 10) is included in this file and may possibly be addressed to Bruyez.	Box 2 Box 3	
Burgsthal, Richard, 1910 March 23	Box 1	Folder 2
B: Miscellaneous, 1896 July	Box 1 Box 2	Folder 2
C, undated		
Carrouée, H., undated	Box 2	
Cheminot, H., undated	Box 2	
Christos, P., undated	Box 2	
D, 1896-1966, undated		
Darr, William, 1966	Box 1	Folder 5
Delouis, L., 1966 November	Box 1	Folder 5
Desplanques, 1896	Box 1	Folder 5
Deverin, Édouard, 1914-1925	Box 1	Folder 6
D: Miscellaneous, undated	Box 2	
F, 1907-1938, undated		
Florisoone, Michel, 1938 June 8 *Scope and Contents*: Relates to an article in the journal *L'amour de l'art*.	Box 1	Folder 7
Fort, Paul, 1907	Box 1	Folder 7
Foucard, L., undated	Box 2	
G, 1924, undated		
Gardet, L., undated	Box 2	
Gautier, 1924	Box 1	Folder 8
Girardot, Louis-Auguste, undated	Box 2	
Girodie, André, undated	Box 1	Folder 8
Grillon, R., 1910	Box 2	
Grosmane, L., undated	Box 2	
Guilloteau, E., undated	Box 2	

G: Miscellaneous, undated	Box 1 Box 2	Folder 8
J: Jules-Bois, Henri, 1895 September 14	Box 1	Folder 9
K: Kunstler, Charles, 1946 March 26-31	Box 1	Folder 9
L, 1894, undated		
Lassalle, G, 1914	Box 2	
Lebey, André, 1894 September 30 *Scope and Contents*: Includes text titled *Odilon Redon*.	Box 1	Folder 10
Lola, undated	Box 2	
Lonely, L., 1917	Box 2	
Louis, undated	Box 2	
L: Miscellaneous, undated	Box 2	
M, 1873-1933		
Marne, S. J., 1912	Box 1	Folder 11
Masséra, M., 1913-1917	Box 2	
Mauclair, Camille, 1929	Box 1	Folder 11
Mellerio, André, 1895 February	Box 1	Folder 11
Meunier, Raymond, 1911 December 19	Box 2	
Ministère de l'Instruction Publique et des Beaux-Arts, 1900, 1933 *Scope and Contents*: A letter from 1900 discusses loans for the Exposition centennale de l'art français. Another letter, dated 1933 and addressed to Paul Signac, pertains to Signac's request for Schuffenecker to be awarded the Légion d'honneur. The letter reveals that this request was denied.	Box 1	Folder 11
Ministère des Finances, 1873 February 28 *Scope and Contents*: The letter certifies that Schuffenecker served as a "commis auxiliaire" from July 1, 1872, to February 28, 1873, at the Contrôle central du Trésor Public in the Ministère des Finances. He voluntarily ended his employment on the latter date. The letter commends his work.	Box 1	Folder 11
M: Miscellaneous, undated *Scope and Contents*: Includes postcards of Algeria.	Box 1 Box 2	Folder 11
N, 1914-1915		
Nehr, Marie, 1915	Box 2	
N: Miscellaneous, 1914	Box 2	

O: Oggier, Madeleine, undated	Box 2	
P, undated		
Pouzin, Jean, undated	Box 1	Folder 12
R, 1912-1937, undated		
Régouin, Lucien, undated	Box 1	Folder 13
Robert, Madeleine, Suzanne, 1929	Box 2	
Robert, Pierre, undated	Box 2	
Robin, Maurice, 1914-1937	Box 1 Box 2	Folder 13
Roger-Marx, Claude, undated	Box 1	Folder 13
Rossier, G., 1912	Box 2	
R: Miscellaneous, undated	Box 2	
S, 1898-1934		
Saintville, Georges, 1910	Box 2	
Schuffenecker family, 1898-1934 *Scope and Contents*: Includes letters and postcards written by Claude-Émile Schuffenecker, his children Jeanne and Paul, and other members of the Schuffenecker family. Also contains Schuffenecker's obituary.	Box 1 Box 2	Folder 14
Schuffenecker, Paul, undated	Box 1 Box 2	Folder 14
T, 1895, 1910, undated		
Tasset, Jacques, 1895, 1910, undated	Box 1 Box 2	Folder 15
T: Miscellaneous, undated	Box 1 Box 2	Folder 15
Y: Yaya, undated	Box 2	
Unidentified, undated	Box 1 Box 2	Folder 16

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Series II. Photographs and postcards, 1860-1934 12.26 Linear Feet (8 boxes)

Scope and Contents: Series II consists of postcards and personal photographs. There are postcards of Algerian locations, with particular emphasis on Bou Saâda (depicting daily life of the Ouled Naïl women and local gardens), Laghouat (showing town life and the marabout of Sidi Abdelkader), and Blida (focusing on the Chiffa Gorges). Of special historical significance are postcards of the now-destroyed Birmandreis (now Bir Mourad Raïs) cave sculptures. This series also includes views of France, Greece, and Belgium. The personal photographs section dating from 1908 to 1934, contains portraits and images taken primarily in France and Algeria. Photographs taken in France document landscapes and pavilions of the colonial exhibition "Exposition coloniale" of 1931.

Arrangement: Series II is arranged into two groups: Blank postcards; Personal photographs. The postcards are arranged alphabetically by geographical location.

For additional postcards, see Series 1: Correspondence, Box 2.

Title/Description	Containers	
Postcards, 1880-1920		
Note: The postcards appear to date from 1880 to 1920.		
Algeria, undated		
Scope and Contents: Photomechanical postcards from a wide variety of photographers and publishers.		
Bou Saâda, undated	Box 4	Folder 1
Scope and Contents: Include postcards depicting the daily life of residents in the commune of Bou Saâda, featuring candid shots of women from Ouled Naïls, as well as images of gardens and oasis.		
Laghouat, undated	Box 4	Folder 1
Scope and Contents: Includes postcards showing daily life in the town, the marabout of Sidi Abdelkader, and photographs of the desert.		
Blida, undated	Box 4	Folder 1
Scope and Contents: Contains photographs taken in the Chiffa Gorges.		
Grotte Birmandreis, undated	Box 4	Folder 1
Scope and Contents: Includes postcards of sculptures from the Birmandreis cave, which no longer exists.		
Miscellaneous, undated	Box 4	Folder 1
France, undated	Box 4	Folder 2
Scope and Contents: Photomechanical postcards from a wide variety of photographers and publishers. The postcards depict various scenes and monuments from different sites and cities in France, such as Notre-Dame de Paris and Notre-Dame du Mont in Marseille. The collection also features postcards from the Colonial Exhibition of 1931, depicting various colonies such as Vietnam, Cambodia, and Algeria.		

Portraits, undated *Scope and Contents*: Gelatin silver real photographic postcards portraying Schuffenecker's family.	Box 4 Box 17	Folder 3
Others, undated *Scope and Contents*: Includes postcards of Greece and Belgium.	Box 4	Folder 4
Personal photographs, 1860-1934, undated		
Algeria, 1931-1933 38 photographic prints	Box 5	Folder 1
France, 1931-1934 74 photographic prints *Scope and Contents*: Contains photographs of landscapes in France and of colonial exhibition pavilions.	Box 5	Folder 2
Photograph albums, 1860-1930		
Brown carte-de-visite family album, 1860-1900 *Scope and Contents*: Oblong carte-de-visite album bound in brown tooled leather with deep debossing containing 63 albumen cartes-de-visite. Comprises 66 pages with two openings per page, recto and verso; some openings lack photographs.	Box 8	
Green carte-de-visite family album, 1860-1900 *Scope and Contents*: Carte-de-visite album bound in green tooled leather with deep debossing and gilt decorations and with a silver metal hinge on the fore edges. Contains 34 albumen cartes-de-visite. Comprises 35 pages with one opening per page, recto and verso; some openings lack photographs. With two loose cartes-de-visite portraits of women.	Box 7	
Travel album, approximately 1900-1930 *Scope and Contents*: Burgundy cloth bound album containing 185 gelatin silver prints from 120 film.	Box 9	
Loose portraits, undated 19 photographic prints *Scope and Contents*: Contains collodion photographs, cabinet cards, albumen prints, and gelatin silver prints.	Box 5	Folder 3
Glass plate negatives, undated *Scope and Contents*: Two glass plates: a portrait of Schuffenecker's family (folder 1) and a portrait of an unidentified young girl (folder 2). *Conditions Governing Access*: Restricted due to fragility.	Box 20	Folder 1-2

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Series III. Personal papers, 1868-1935, undated 4 Linear Feet (3 boxes)

Scope and Contents: Series III spans from 1868, marked by a bronze medal awarded to Claude-Émile Schuffenecker for first place in the Adult Drawing Classes Competition, to 1935. It includes administrative papers comprising military service records, professional memberships, and exhibition documentation. It also includes a loan receipt for Vincent van Gogh's *The Man with the Pipe* owned by Claude-Émile Schuffenecker and insured for 2,000 Reichsmarks, as well as membership documentation from La Ligue de la Défense de l'Art (1929) and exhibition certificates from La Société des Artistes Indépendants. Also included are financial records such as expense logs and checkbooks.

Arrangement: Series III is arranged into three groupings: Administrative papers; Financial records; Other.

Title/Description	Containers	
Administrative papers, 1868-1935		
Military service record, 1886	Box 17	Folder 2
Member card, 1929 *Scope and Contents*: Full member card of the league for the defense of art "Ligue de la défense de l'art."	Box 17	Folder 2
Exhibitor certificate, 1934 *Scope and Contents*: Exhibitor certificate of the Society of Independent Artists ("Société des artistes indépendants").	Box 17	Folder 2
Notice of acquisition, 1935 January 24 *Scope and Contents*: Notice of Acquisition - Annual Exhibition of the Society of Independent Artists.	Box 17	Folder 2
Loan receipt, 1901 *Scope and Contents*: Loan receipt for Vincent van Gogh's artwork *The Man with the Pipe*, owned by Claude-Émile Schuffenecker, insured for 2000 Reichsmarks, marked not for sale. The work was borrowed by the Berliner Secession for exhibition in the *Internationale Kunstausstellung*.	Box 17	Folder 2
Pension record, 1933 *Scope and Contents*: Military parent pension notebook, French Land Army and Colonial Army, "L'Armée de Terre et l'Armée Coloniale françaises."	Box 17	Folder 2
Retirement fund record, 1928-1935 *Scope and Contents*: Seine Prefecture Personnel Retirement Fund notebook.	Box 17	Folder 2
Life annuity record book, 1932	Box 17	Folder 2

Scope and Contents: Notebook issued by the National Retirement Fund for the Elderly under State guarantee.

Civil pension record, 1928	Box 17	Folder 2
Identity card, 1912-1913	Box 17	Folder 2
Pension certificate, 1906-1933	Box 17	Folder 2
Lease agreement, 1907 July 1	Box 17	Folder 2
Extract of registration, 1923	Box 17	Folder 2
Scope and Contents: Certificate of registration from the National Retirement Fund for the Elderly.		
Decree, 1910-1926	Box 17	Folder 2
Identity certificate, 1909 June 30	Box 17	Folder 2
Scope and Contents: Issued by the Police Prefecture.		
Financial papers, 1874-1920, undated		
Expense log, 1874-1898	Box 17	Folder 3
Checkbooks, 1903	Box 17	Folder 3
Inventory book, 1880-1881	Box 17	Folder 3
Scope and Contents: General Inventory Book of Assets and Liabilities of "Monsieur Fontalirant."		
Invoice, 1920 June	Box 17	Folder 3
Scope and Contents: Quotation for Painting Works to be Executed for Claude-Émile Schuffenecker.		
Decree, 1882 July 13	Box 17	Folder 3
Expense report, undated	Box 17	Folder 3
Other, 1868-1911		
Bronze medal, 1868	Box 18	
Scope and Contents: A medal awarded to Claude-Émile Schuffenecker for first place in the Adult Drawing Classes Competition in 1868.		
Handwritten notes, 1901	Box 17	Folder 4
Wedding announcement, 1911 December 12	Box 19	
Scope and Contents: Wedding announcement of Paul Schuffenecker and Madeleine Charvagatle, December 12, 1911.		

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Series IV. Printed materials, 1883-1927, undated 12.3 Linear Feet (7 boxes)

Scope and Contents: Series IV includes magazine clippings mentioning Claude-Émile Schuffenecker, documents related to the Salon des Artistes Indépendants, articles from the journal *Les Beaux-Arts*, newspaper clippings, exhibition and auction catalogs, as well as several issues of French periodicals and books published between 1883 and 1927.

Arrangement: Series IV is arranged by material type.

Title/Description	Containers	
Magazine clippings, undated		
Scope and Contents: Includes clippings from various magazines that mention Claude-Émile Schuffenecker in their articles.		
Salon des Artistes Indépendants, undated	Box 10	Folder 1-2
Les Beaux-Arts, undated	Box 10	Folder 1-2
Newspaper clippings, undated	Box 10	Folder 3
	Box 11	Folder 1
Catalogs, undated	Box 10	Folder 4
Auction catalogs, 1927		
Tableaux modernes, collection d'un amateur, 1927	Box 11	Folder 2
Tableaux modernes, collection de monsieur R. P., 1927	Box 11	Folder 3
Periodicals, 1927, undated		
Le journal pour tous, no. 4, 1927, undated	Box 11	Folder 4
L'art vivant, no. 17, 1920	Box 11	Folder 5
La Bretagne touristique, no. 2, undated	Box 11	Folder 6
Books, 1883-1907		
Forain, Jean-Louis. *La vie*, 1893?	Box 11	Folder 7
Forain, Jean-Louis. *Album de Forain*, 1895?	Box 11	Folder 8
Forain Jean-Louis. *La comédie parisienne*, 1892	Box 12	
Forain, Jean-Louis. *La comédie parisienne*, deuxième série, 1904	Box 13	
Loyson, Paul Hyacinthe. *Les âmes ennemies*, 1907	Box 14	
Rosny, J.-H. *Les origines*, 1895	Box 15	

Mlochowski de Belina, Apollo. *Nos peintres dessinés par eux-mêmes*, 1883 Box 16

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