

# Guide to the Bena Frank Mayer Papers

ALSC MS 0005



compiled by Chris Cole and Adrienne Pruitt

December 2024

Arts Library Special Collections  
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## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	3
Requesting Instructions .....	3
Administrative Information .....	4
Immediate Source of Acquisition .....	4
Conditions Governing Access .....	4
Conditions Governing Use .....	4
Preferred Citation .....	4
Processing Information .....	4
Related Materials .....	4
Biographical / Historical .....	4
Scope and Contents .....	5
Arrangement .....	5
Collection Contents .....	6
Series I: Artwork, 1914-circa 1991 .....	6
Bena Frank artwork, 1914-1991 .....	6
Ralph Mayer artwork, 1927-1990 .....	9
Series II: Biographical Materials, 1887-1990 .....	11
General biographical materials, 1887-1990 .....	11
Family papers, circa 1880s-1942 .....	13
Memoir materials, circa 1890s-1990 .....	13
Series III: Correspondence, 1904-1991 .....	15
Series IV: Photographs, circa 1880s-1990 .....	17
Series V: Professional Papers, circa 1930s-1991 .....	19
Series VI: Publications, 1927-1991 .....	20
Selected Search Terms .....	21

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Robert B. Haas Family Arts Library Special Collections  
Arts Library Special Collections  
180 York Street  
New Haven, CT 06511  
203-432-1712  
haasalsc@yale.edu  
<https://web.library.yale.edu/arts/alsc>

**CALL NUMBER:** ALSC MS 0005

**CREATOR:** Mayer, Bena Frank, 1898-1991

**TITLE:** Bena Frank Mayer papers

**DATES:** circa 1880s-1991

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 26.32 linear feet (35 boxes + 1 broadside)

**LANGUAGE:** English (Latin script)

**SUMMARY:** The Bena Frank Mayer papers document Mayer's life as an artist, art teacher, and cofounder, with her husband Ralph, of the Artists Technical Research Institute. Her papers contain correspondence; biographical materials; records of artworks including photographic documentation and lists of works; sketches and paintings; diaries; publications; and auction and exhibition catalogs. Formats includes scrapbooks; framed photographs with glass, cased photographs and leather locket photographs, slides, negatives and transparencies; artwork including charcoal and pencil sketches and watercolors; and etching plates. Materials date from circa 1880s to 1991. Subjects include the Frank family history in Wyoming; Frank's artistic and familial networks; her artistic career, including exhibition history and examples of her work; and her working partnership with her husband Ralph in researching and providing information on technical aspects of art materials and methods.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/ead.arts.alsc.0005>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use on site, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/ead.arts.alsc.0005>.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.        box  
f.        folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Victoria de Grazia, 2024.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

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### Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

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### Preferred Citation

Bena Frank Mayer papers, Robert B. Haas Family Arts Library, Yale University.

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### Processing Information

At the time of her death, Bena Frank had been organizing biographical materials in preparation of a memoir, and the Memoir materials subseries retains this received order. The remainder of the collections preserves the loose groupings of materials found at the time of receipt, but not their exact order. Titles provided by the creator are noted in quotation marks.

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### Related Materials

Related material: Ralph Mayer papers (MS 1710)

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## Biographical / Historical

Bena (Virginia) Frank Mayer was born on May 31, 1898, in Norfolk, Virginia, the daughter of Matilda Metzger Frank and Isaac Frank, and younger sister of Malcolm Gluck Frank (1891-1918). In the first few years of Mayer's life her family moved from Virginia to Newcastle, Wyoming where her father attempted to establish himself as a bank president. Following Mayer's childhood in Wyoming, her family moved back to Virginia before relocating to New York City in 1914.

In New York, Mayer enrolled in the Cooper Union and the Art Students League to pursue her visual art education before privately studying with Gifford Beal, Stuart Davis, George Luks, and Cecelia Beaux, in Paris. Mayer supported herself as a portrait painter throughout the 1920s, using the money she earned to finance an extended study trip to France, Spain and the Balearic Islands. Her work received many awards, including silver and bronze medals while a student at Cooper Union, first watercolor prize from the National Association of Women Artists (1951), the Marcia Tucker Award, and the Lena Newcastle Memorial Prize (1959), among others. She was also the recipient of numerous artist residencies including the Yaddo Fellow award (1956), the Huntington Hartford Foundation award (1957), the MacDowell Colony (1960 and 1966), as well as the Beaux Arts resident award at Hydra, Greece (1964). Her work was shown in the Carnegie International exhibition, the Whitney Museum of American Art, the University of Bangor

(Maine), the Norfolk Museum of Art. She had solo shows at Simon's Rock in Great Barrington (1972) and the Yale School of Art (1990).

She met materials technologist and artist Ralph Mayer at a small social event hosted for young people at Temple Imanuel in New York. The two were married on July 25, 1927 in Manhattan. Together, Ralph and Bena Frank Mayer researched and edited several artist's reference books, including *The Artists' Handbook of Materials and Techniques*, first published in 1940. Their work together would eventually lead to the founding of the Artists Technical Research Institute (ATRI) in 1959, with the support of businessman and philanthropist Huntington Hartford. In addition to serving as co-founder and vice president of ATRI, Mayer also served as a board member for the National Association of Women Artists, the American Society of Contemporary Artists, and was twice president of the New York Society of Women Artists.

In 1990, Bena Frank Mayer established the Ralph Mayer Learning Center at the Yale University School of Art to house materials related to the Artists Technical Research Institute and support the continued study of artists' materials and techniques in the fields of painting and drawing. Steven Sheehan, the first director of the Mayer Center, edited and revised *The Artists' Handbook* for its 1991 edition. Mayer died in New York on August 22, 1991.

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## Scope and Contents

The Bena Frank Mayer papers document her personal and professional life and family history. Materials date from the 1880s until her death in 1991, and detail her artistic career, professional affiliations, and role in the establishment of the Artists Technical Research Institute (ATRI) with her husband Ralph Mayer, as well as her stewardship of his work following his death in 1979.

The collection consists of original works of art, sketches, studies, and reference photographs, as well as extensive diaries and autobiographical writings detailing her travels in Europe, her thoughts on marriage and domesticity, and her psychoanalysis. The collection also includes correspondence, photographs, and other documents related to Bena Frank Mayer's immediate and extended family, as well as that of her late husband, providing a fuller biographical portrait of her upbringing between Wyoming and Virginia. There are also numerous examples of work and written reflections on her time as an art student in New York in the 1910s to the 1920s. Membership lists, group exhibition catalogs and brochures document her involvement with many artistic organizations in New York.

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## Arrangement

This collection is organized into six series: I. Artwork, 1914-circa 1991. II. Biographical Materials, 1887-1990. III. Correspondence, 1904-1991. IV. Photographs, circa 1880s-1990. V. Professional Papers, circa 1930s-1991. VI. Publications, 1927-1991.

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Artwork, 1914-circa 1991

This series contains original artworks, including drawings, sketches, watercolors, pastels, studies, as well as some reproductions of oil paintings produced by both Bena Frank and Ralph Mayer. Subjects represented in the collection include: urban scenes in and around New York City, landscapes, portraits (both commissioned and of the artist's friends and relatives), and cats and other animals. Much of the works present are in the form of sketchbooks, some of which document Bena Frank's travels in Europe between the 1940s and the early 1980s. The collection also contains some early examples of Bena Frank's artistic explorations and development from the 1920s shortly after completing her formal art education and before her marriage to Ralph Mayer.

The portion of this series pertaining specifically to Ralph Mayer contains numerous portfolios of drawings and studies, as well as color notes, reference photographs, sketchbooks, and some exhibition loan documents for Ralph Mayer's paintings. Examples of Ralph Mayer's work in the collection similarly represent subjects including urban scenes and landscapes in and around New York, as well as some produced during European travels between the 1950s and 1960s.

Series I is organized into two subseries: Bena Frank Mayer artwork and Ralph Mayer artwork.

	Bena Frank artwork	1914-1991
	This subseries is arranged chronologically.	
b. 2, f. 1	Self-portrait painting	circa 1914
b. 2, f. 2	Sketchbook Containing artistic process notes and biographical notes.	circa 1919-circa 1958
b. 2, f. 4	"Hebron N.H." sketchbook	circa 1920s-circa 1930s
b. 2, f. 3	Loose sketchbook pages	circa 1920s-circa 1930s
b. 2, f. 5	"10 St. and AVB - New York City" mixed media drawing	circa 1920s-circa 1960s
b. 23, f. 1	Framed drawing	1924
b. 2, f. 7	"France" sketchbooks	1925
b. 2, f. 6	Sketchbook	circa 1925
b. 1, f. 1	Collaged letter to Ralph Mayer	1926
b. 26	Intaglio printing plates Includes seven small plates.	circa 1926
b. 1, f. 2	"Mrs. Heidelberger" lithograph	1928
b. 2, f. 8	"Woodstock" sketchbook	circa 1928-circa 1930
b. 1, f. 3	Assorted drawings	circa 1929-circa 1977

## Bena Frank artwork (continued)

b. 2, f. 9	"Cats-Country" sketchbook	circa 1930s-circa 1960s
b. 3, f. 4	"France" sketchbook	circa 1930s-circa 1960s
b. 3, f. 1	"House Design Sketches" sketchbook	circa 1930s
b. 2, f. 11	"Locations around town-1930s" sketchbook	circa 1930s-1941
b. 3, f. 5	"Miscellaneous" sketchbook	circa 1930s-circa 1950s
b. 3, f. 6	"Montauk" sketchbook pages	circa 1930s
b. 2, f. 10	Sketchbook	circa 1930s
b. 3, f. 7	Sketchbook	circa 1930s
b. 3, f. 9	Sketchbook	circa 1930s-circa 1940s
b. 3, f. 2-3	Sketchbook	circa 1930s-circa 1950s
b. 1, f. 4	Sketchbook	circa 1930s-circa 1970s
b. 1, f. 5	Sketch of cats	circa 1930s-circa 1980s
b. 1, f. 6	"Venice" sketchbook	circa 1940s-circa 1960s
b. 3, f. 8	"Small Watercolors" portfolio	circa 1930s-circa 1960s
b. 3, f. 10	"The Girls" sketchbook	circa 1940s-circa 1960s
b. 3, f. 11	"Fire Island" sketchbook	circa 1940s-circa 1970s
b. 4, f. 1-2	Sketchbook	circa 1940s-circa 1960s
b. 4, f. 3	Sketchbook	circa 1940s-circa 1970s
b. 4, f. 4	"Cambridge" sketchbook	circa 1940s-circa 1970s
b. 4, f. 5-6	Sketchbook	circa 1940s-circa 1960s
b. 4, f. 7	"Drawing of Herbert and photo negative"	circa 1940s-circa 1960s
b. 4, f. 8	Sketchbook	1948

## Bena Frank artwork (continued)

b. 4, f. 9	"Dimitri Shostakovich, Aaron Copeland" sketchbook Sketches from life at Columbia University.	1949
b. 4, f. 10	"Tom's Meat Market" sketchbook	circa 1950s-circa 1960s
b. 4, f. 11	Watercolor sketch of man reading Previously housed behind photograph of Bena Frank Mayer in France (Box 20, Folder 2).	circa 1950s
b. 5, f. 1	Miscellaneous photos, sketches, and notes Materials appear to have been Ralph Mayer's.	circa 1950s-circa 1970s
b. 5, f. 2	"American folk art oil painting" reproduction	circa 1950s-circa 1980s
b. 5, f. 3	"Watkins Glen" sketchbook	1952
b. 5, f. 4	"Yaddo" sketchbook	1956
b. 5, f. 5	Sketchbook	1960
b. 5, f. 6	"Greece" sketchbook	circa 1960s
b. 5, f. 7	Sketchbook page	circa 1960s-circa 1980s
b. 5, f. 8	"Greece" sketchbook	circa 1964
b. 5, f. 9	Sketchbook	1969
b. 5, f. 10	"Grenada W.I. etc." sketchbook Alternately spelled "Granada" on cover.	circa 1969
b. 6, f. 1	Sketchbook	circa 1970s
b. 6, f. 2	"De Grazia" sketchbook	circa 1970s-circa 1980s
b. 6, f. 3	De Grazia sketches	circa 1970s-circa 1980s
b. 6, f. 4	"Key West, cats, etc." sketchbook	circa 1970s
b. 6, f. 5	"Susan Robinson" sketchbook and reference photograph	circa 1970s
b. 6, f. 6	Reproductions of paintings by Bena Frank	circa 1970s-circa 1980s
b. 6, f. 7	Bena Frank art postcards	circa 1970s-circa 1980s
b. 6, f. 8	Bena Frank art notes	circa 1970s-circa 1991
b. 6, f. 9	Wyoming sketchbook	1972-1976
b. 6, f. 10	"Cats" sketchbook	circa 1977



## Bena Frank artwork (continued)

b. 7, f. 1	Sketchbook	1978–1979
b. 7, f. 2	Sketches and reference photographs of Jim Hanson	1979
b. 7, f. 3	"Sketch of Jim Hanson"	1979
b. 7, f. 4	Sketchbook	circa 1980s
b. 7, f. 5	"Livia" sketchbook	circa 1980s
b. 7, f. 6	"Impressions of London" sketchbook and travel diary	1982
	Ralph Mayer artwork	1927–1990
b. 8, f. 1	Sketchbook	1927–1932
b. 8, f. 2	Drawings	1927-circa 1930s
b. 8, f. 3	Sketchbook	circa 1930s-circa 1960s
b. 25 (oversize), f. 1	"1969" portfolio of sketches, photographs, and paintings	circa 1930- circa1969
b. 8, f. 4	"3rd Ave and 20th St." sketches with reference photos	circa 1940s-circa 1950s
b. 24 (oversize), f. 1	Portfolio of sketches, notes, and photographs	circa 1940s-circa 1960s
b. 23, f. 2	Framed print	circa 1940s-circa 1970s
b. 8, f. 5	"Country Misc." sketches and reference photos	circa 1950s
b. 8, f. 6	"Kaywood Farms" sketches	circa 1950s-circa 1970s
b. 25 (oversize), f. 2	"Saratoga" portfolio of sketches, photographs, and newspaper clippings	circa 1950s-circa 1960s
b. 8, f. 7	"Europe 1953" sketchbook Includes some travel and technical notes.	1953
b. 8, f. 8	"Stillwater NY" sketch and photos	1956
b. 8, f. 9	"Orchard St. Garment Market" photos and sketches	1958
b. 8, f. 10	"10th Avenue" sketches, notes, and photos	circa 1959
b. 8, f. 11	"Road Bridge Peterborough" sketches and photos	circa 1960
b. 8, f. 12	"Europe" sketches, notes, and reference images	circa 1960s
b. 8, f. 13	Ralph Mayer art postcards	circa 1970s-circa 1980s
b. 8, f. 14	Sketches and studies	circa 1974

Ralph Mayer artwork (continued)

b. 8, f. 15

Ralph Mayer artwork loan documents

1988-1990

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**Series II: Biographical Materials, 1887-1990**

The majority of this series is composed of Bena Frank Mayer's writing in the forms of poetry and prose, diaries (including reflections on her experience of psychoanalysis), travelogues, unpublished memoir drafts, notes on art, and other unpublished writings gathering her thoughts on feminism, marriage, and homemaking. Additionally present are diaries, wills, and news clippings related to other members of Bena Frank and Ralph Mayer's families, as well as miscellaneous personal documents such as Bena Frank's wedding certificate and anniversary materials. Family photographs may be found in Series IV.

Series II is organized into three subseries: General biographical materials, Family papers, and memoir materials.

	General biographical materials	1887-1990
b. 27, f. 3	"Precious Mementoes" scrapbook Contains correspondence, sketches, and photographs.	1887-1964
b. 9, f. 1	Bena Frank baby/child book pages	1898-circa 1910
b. 9, f. 2	"The Sunbonnet Babies" illustrated book and letter	circa 1907
b. 9, f. 3	"Philosophical Yearnings" and diary	circa 1909-circa 1925
b. 9, f. 4	Diary page	circa 1910s-circa 1980s
b. 9, f. 5	"Precious" Envelope of materials mostly pertaining to Ralph Mayer and Artists Technical Research Institute (ATRI).	circa 1910s-circa 1979
b. 9, f. 6	Bena Frank musical performance program	1913
b. 9, f. 7	Poem	1917
b. 27, f. 1	Bena Frank diary	1919-1923
b. 9, f. 8	Address books	circa 1920s-circa 1970s
b. 9, f. 9	"Other Love Letters"	circa 1920s-circa 1970s
b. 9, f. 10	"Unclassified - Historic"	circa 1920s-circa 1970s
b. 9, f. 11	"Abstract writing"	circa 1920s-1988
b. 9, f. 12	Writings	circa 1923-circa 1950s
b. 9, f. 13	Diary	1925
b. 9, f. 14	Travelogue of trip to France	circa 1925
b. 10, f. 1	Travelogue of France	1925

## General biographical materials (continued)

b. 28 (oversize), f. 1	Wedding certificate	1927
b. 10, f. 2	Diary and sketchbook	circa 1927-circa 1928
b. 10, f. 3	"Airy" envelope containing lock of hair	circa 1927-circa 1979
b. 27, f. 2	"And women's lib." diary	1928-1929
b. 10, f. 4	Poem "To Bena"	circa 1930s-circa 1979
b. 10, f. 5	"Stories and Biography" memoir notebook volume 1	1930-1940
b. 10, f. 6	Bena Frank lecture notecards	1932
b. 10, f. 7	"Just before Ralph #1" memoir notebook volume 2	1940
b. 10, f. 8	"Just before Ralph #2" memoir notebook volume 3	circa 1940
b. 10, f. 9	Diary and biographical notes	circa 1940s-circa 1950s
b. 10, f. 10	Outline of notes and correspondence	circa 1940s-circa 1980s
b. 10, f. 11	"Overnight stops" travel itinerary for trip to Canada	circa 1940s-circa 1970s
b. 11, f. 1	"The Artist's Wife's Handbook" notes and drafts	circa 1940s-circa 1950s
b. 11, f. 2	"Some thoughts on portrait painting"	circa 1940s-circa 1960s
b. 11, f. 3	"Beginning of Analysis" diary	1942-circa 1945
b. 11, f. 4	Writing fragments	circa 1950-circa 1970s
b. 11, f. 5	Poems	1950-1975
b. 11, f. 6	European trip travel documents and notebook	circa 1950s-circa 1970
b. 11, f. 7	Travelogue of European trip	1953
b. 11, f. 8	Miscellaneous newspaper clippings	1954-circa 1970s
b. 11, f. 9	Memoir notes and Ralph Mayer biographical information	circa 1960s-circa 1980s
b. 11, f. 10	Note	1962
b. 11, f. 11	Travelogue of London and Greece	1964
b. 12, f. 1	Diary	1967-1977

## General biographical materials (continued)

b. 12, f. 2	Memoir notes and outline	circa 1970s-circa 1980s
b. 12, f. 3	Travelogue of Japan	1973
b. 12, f. 4	Ralph Mayer driver's license	1976
b. 12, f. 5	50th wedding anniversary materials	1977
b. 12, f. 6	Miscellaneous correspondence and writing drafts	circa 1980s-1990
b. 12, f. 7	Guestbook	1980-1988
b. 12, f. 8	"Bena Frank Mayer: The Art of Life" article in <i>American Artist</i> Labeled "People of the Century."	1982 May
b. 12, f. 9	"People of the Century" materials	1978-1982
	Family papers	circa 1880s-1942
b. 13, f. 1	Matilda Metzger Frank diary and writings	circa 1880s
b. 13, f. 2	Malcolm Gluck Frank diary Diary of a 17-year old relative. Also contains Bena Frank's notes about her brother's death.	1908
b. 13, f. 3	Isaac Frank will	1921
b. 13, f. 4	Leonora Mayer will	1929
b. 13, f. 5	"Aunt Cora (Metzger)" death announcement newspaper clipping	1942
	Memoir materials This subseries maintains received order.	circa 1890s-1990
b. 14, f. 1	Bena Frank correspondence to Ralph Mayer	circa 1960s-circa 1970s
b. 14, f. 2	Miscellaneous materials Includes sketches, family history, art sale catalogs, and IIA notes.	circa 1960s
b. 14, f. 3	Photographs, negatives, and slides	circa 1950s-1990
b. 14, f. 4	Ron Pisano correspondence to Bena Frank	circa 1989
b. 14, f. 5	"Early years of marriage" memoir notes	circa 1940s-circa 1960s
b. 14, f. 6	Bena Frank artwork documentation	circa 1960s
b. 14, f. 7	National Association of Women Artists materials	1990
b. 14, f. 8	<i>Long Island Landscapes</i> exhibition press clippings	1990
b. 14, f. 9	Artists Technical Research Institute (ATRI) materials and auction catalog	circa 1967-circa 1980
b. 15, f. 1	Diary, correspondence, and publication	1955-1980

## Memoir materials (continued)

b. 15, f. 2	Correspondence	1937-1986
b. 15, f. 3	N.Y. Society of Women Artists materials Membership lists and annual exhibition publications.	circa 1945-1987
b. 15, f. 4	Bena Frank and Ralph Mayer biographical materials	1964-1979
b. 15, f. 5	Correspondence	1972-1973
b. 15, f. 6	Correspondence and biographical writings	circa 1920s-circa 1980s
b. 16, f. 1	Bena Frank wills and biographical note	circa 1960s-1984
b. 16, f. 2	Ralph Mayer correspondence and lectures	circa 1920s-circa 1930s
b. 16, f. 3	"Uncle Meyer Frank"	circa 1960s-circa 1970s
b. 16, f. 4	Bena Frank resume drafts	circa 1950s-circa 1960s
b. 16, f. 5	<i>American Artist</i> , vol. 46, no. 478	1982 May
b. 16, f. 6	"Snowflakes were falling"	1964
b. 16, f. 7	"Outline and miscellaneous notes"	circa 1940-circa 1987
b. 16, f. 8	"Ralph's accomplishments"	circa 1933-circa 1983
b. 16, f. 9	Notes for memoir	1989
b. 16, f. 10	"Photographs for books"	circa 1890s-circa 1910s
b. 16, f. 11	Biographical writings	circa 1930s-circa 1980s
b. 16, f. 12	"Bena's background and accomplishments"	circa 1970s
b. 16, f. 13	"Snowflakes...." memoir draft	1990

**Series III: Correspondence, 1904-1991**

This series contains letters and notes between Bena Frank and Ralph Mayer, their acquaintances, and family members dating from the 1900s to 1991. Among the items included are a letter from Ralph Mayer to Bena Frank written in morse code, a postcard from American artist Adolf Dehn, holiday and birthday cards, and an audio cassette of Ralph Mayer dictating responses to letters he had received.

Series III is arranged chronologically.

b. 17, f. 1	Bena Frank family correspondence	1904-circa 1980s
b. 17, f. 2	Unidentified correspondence	circa 1910-circa 1940s
b. 17, f. 3	Mixed correspondence Materials found bound together with a ribbon; no organizing principle has been identified.	circa 1910s-circa 1950s
b. 17, f. 4	Bena Frank family correspondence Includes correspondence with Uncle Nathan, Uncle Ben, Aunt Betty, Aunt Cora, Malcolm Gluck Frank, Matilda Metzger, Mother Mayer, Aunt Edna, and Pop.	circa 1910s-circa 1970s
b. 17, f. 5	Birthday and holiday cards to Bena Frank	circa 1930s-circa 1970s
b. 17, f. 6	Birthday and holiday cards to Ralph Mayer	circa 1930s-circa 1970s
b. 17, f. 7	Postcard from Adolph Dehn	circa 1939
b. 17, f. 8	Correspondence	circa 1940s
b. 17, f. 9	Bena Frank notes to Ralph Mayer	circa 1940s-circa 1960s
b. 17, f. 10	Miscellaneous blank cards	circa 1940s-circa 1970s
b. 18, f. 1	Letter to Ralph Mayer	circa 1950s-circa 1970s
b. 18, f. 2	Ralph Mayer letter in Morse code	circa 1950s-circa 1970s
b. 18, f. 3	Bena Frank birthday cards	circa 1960s-circa 1970s
b. 18, f. 4	Correspondence	circa 1960s
b. 18, f. 5	Notes and cards	1964-1979
b. 18, f. 6	Correspondence	circa 1970s
b. 18, f. 7	"Recording of Ralph Mayer dictating answers to letters he received" Audio cassette tape	1979
b. 18, f. 8	Correspondence	circa 1980s

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b. 18, f. 9	Letters, notes, and cards	1986-1990
b. 18, f. 10	Correspondence	circa 1990-1991

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**Series IV: Photographs, circa 1880s-1990**

This series contains various printed, mounted, and/or framed photographs, primarily of Bena Frank and Ralph Mayer. Also included are early family photographs and albums, leather locket, and photographs of friends and associates, such as Huntington Hartford. Materials date from the 1880s to the 1980s, and also include some snapshot photography by the Mayers of New York, Palm Beach, and various other locations.

Series IV is arranged chronologically.

b. 19, f. 1	Unidentified Ralph Mayer family photographs	circa 1880s
b. 32	Unidentified Ralph Mayer framed family photographs Includes 5 framed photographs.	circa 1880s
b. 34, item 3	Matilda Frank framed photograph	circa 1880s-1890s
b. 19, f. 2	Bena Frank family photographs	circa 1880s- circa 1910s
b. 33, f. 1	Bena Frank family photo album Includes two small sketches.	circa 1880s- circa 1920s
b. 19, f. 3	Bena Frank family photographs	circa 1880s- circa 1980s
b. 30, item 1	Bena Frank family photo album	circa 1880s- circa 1980s
b. 30, item 2	"Family Bena (early) for Marjory" photo album	circa 1880s- circa 1920s
b. 19, f. 4	Ralph Mayer family photographs	circa 1890s-circa 1970s
b. 19, f. 5	Tintype of Ralph Mayer with his father	circa 1890s
b. 34, item 1	Bena Frank, Malcom Frank, and Elizabeth Bracey framed photograph	circa 1900s
b. 34, item 2	Bena Frank with dolls framed photograph	circa 1900s
b. 33, f. 2	"Early Bena Data" photo album and scrapbook	circa 1900s- circa 1920s
b. 19, f. 6	Photographs of people other than Bena Frank and Ralph Mayer	circa 1900s-1987
b. 29, f. 1	Bena Frank, Malcolm Frank, and Matilda Frank framed photo triptych	circa 1910s
b. 19, f. 7	"Passports (pix)"	circa 1920s-circa 1970s
b. 19, f. 8	Miscellaneous photographs Includes photographs of Bena Frank, Ralph Mayer, Aunt Cora, Victoria de Grazia, and Lloyd Goodrich.	circa 1920s-circa 1980s
b. 19, f. 9	Bena Frank and Ralph Mayer photo leather locket	circa 1930s

b. 31, f. 1	Photo album Photographs of Bena Frank and Ralph Mayer.	circa 1930s-circa 1970s
b. 19, f. 10	Ralph Mayer photo leather locket	circa 1940s
b. 19, f. 11	Unidentified family photograph	circa 1940s
b. 19, f. 12	"Love Farm Burdette" photographs	circa 1940s-circa 1950s
b. 19, f. 13-15	Photographs of Bena Frank and Ralph Mayer	circa 1940s-circa 1970s
b. 20, f. 1	Huntington Hartford Photograph was received damaged.	circa 1950s-circa 1960s
b. 20, f. 2	"Bena Frank Mayer on the Queen Elizabeth #1" Previously housed in frame with watercolor sketch (Box 4, Folder 10).	1953
b. 20, f. 3	"Europe / New York" photo album	1953
b. 20, f. 4	"Metora" Greece negatives	circa 1960s
b. 20, f. 5	Miscellaneous photographs	circa 1960s
b. 20, f. 6	Ralph Mayer in his studio, mounted photograph	circa 1960s-circa 1970s
b. 20, f. 7	"Racoon Originals by Ralph / Key West"	circa 1960s-circa 1970s
b. 20, f. 8	Photographs of people other than Bena Frank and Ralph Mayer	circa 1960s-1990
b. 20, f. 9	Unidentified negatives	circa 1970s
b. 20, f. 10	Bena Frank and Martin Bressler photos	circa 1970-circa 1980s
b. 20, f. 11	"Snow" New York City photographs	1973
b. 20, f. 12	Key West and wedding photographs and slides	circa 1974-circa 1984
b. 20, f. 13	"New School Exhibition"	1980

**Series V: Professional Papers, circa 1930s-1991**

This series includes materials related to Bena Frank's solo artistic career as well as her professional involvement with Ralph Mayer through the Artists Technical Research Institute (ATRI), which they co-founded in 1959. Also included are an early draft of Bena Frank's articulation of the impetus for founding ATRI, some personal correspondence of Ralph Mayer related to the use of painting varnishes, various drafts of Bena Frank's resume, loan and consignment documents, and materials related to solo exhibitions of Bena Frank's work.

Series V is arranged chronologically.

b. 21, f. 1	Bena Frank miscellaneous professional papers	circa 1930s-circa 1980s
b. 21, f. 2	"Hilton's first letters and my first attempt at 'Revolution'"	circa 1940s-circa 1980s
b. 21, f. 3	Bena Frank miscellaneous professional papers	circa 1950s-circa 1980s
b. 21, f. 4	"Offbeats" folder of professional papers	circa 1950s-circa 1980s
b. 21, f. 5	Ralph Mayer professional correspondence	1955-1973
b. 35, f. 1	Minutes of The Artists Technical Research Institute Inc.	1959-1963
b. 21, f. 6	"Bena-resume"	circa 1960s-1991
b. 21, f. 7	"Simons Rock" exhibition materials	1972-1973
b. 21, f. 8	Bena Frank loan and consignment documents	circa 1987-1991
b. 21, f. 9	Bena Frank Yale exhibition materials	1989
b. 21, f. 10	Bena Frank New York Artists Equity Association, Inc. certificate	1989
b. 21, f. 11	New York Society of Women Artists membership list	1991

**Series VI: Publications, 1927-1991**

This series consists mostly of exhibition catalogs and brochures for shows held by organizations of which Bena Frank and/or Ralph Mayer were members, such as the Allied Artists of America, the National Association of Women Artists, the American Society of Contemporary Artists, and the Artists Equity Association of New York. Additionally included are materials for a Works Progress Administration (WPA) group exhibition, the catalog of an auction to benefit the Israeli Soldiers Rest Camp, and the catalog of an exhibition focused on "The Eight," artists who taught at the Art Students League of New York and with whom Bena Frank Mayer studied.

Series VI is arranged chronologically.

b. 22, f. 1	<i>The Allied Artists of America Inc. Fourteenth Annual Exhibition</i> catalog	1927 January 22
b. 22, f. 2	National Association of Women Artists annual exhibitions materials	1950-1969
b. 22, f. 3	National Association of Women Artists annual exhibitions materials	1973-1979
b. 22, f. 4	National Association of Women Artists annual exhibitions materials	1980-1983
b. 22, f. 5	<i>Art News</i> , vol. 55, no. 9	1957 January
b. 22, f. 6	American Society of Contemporary Artists (ASCA) exhibition materials and brochures	circa 1964-1984
b. 22, f. 7	<i>Pannonia 1971 Annual Exhibition</i> brochure	1971
b. 22, f. 8	Artists Equity Association of New York member exhibition brochures	1975-1977
b. 22, f. 9	Works Progress Administration (WPA) exhibition catalog and materials	1977-1982
b. 22, f. 10	<i>Art Auction for the benefit of Israeli Soldiers Rest Camp</i> catalog	1980 May 15
b. 22, f. 11	New York Society of Women Artists exhibition postcard	1982
b. 22, f. 12	<i>The Immortal Eight and Its Influence</i> exhibition catalog Catalog for exhibition at The Art Students League of New York to which Bena Frank lent artwork.	1983 January 9
b. 22, f. 13	National Association of Women Artists annual exhibitions materials	1985-1991

## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Subjects**

Artists' materials  
Art -- Study and teaching  
Painting

### **Names**

Mayer, Bena Frank, 1898-1991

### **Acquired From**

De Grazia, Victoria.