



Smithsonian  
*Archives of American Art*

**A Finding Aid to the John Vassos Papers,  
1915-1989, in the Archives of American Art**

by Anna Rimel

Funding for the processing of this collection was provided by the  
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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Creator:</b>	John Vassos, 1898-1985
<b>Title:</b>	John Vassos Papers
<b>Dates:</b>	1915-1989
<b>Quantity:</b>	19.3 linear feet
<b>Abstract:</b>	The papers of designer, illustrator, and muralist John Vassos measure 19.3 linear feet and date from 1915 to 1989. The papers include biographical materials, personal and professional correspondence, writings and writing project files, Industrial Designers Society of America (IDSA) files, Radio Corporation of American (RCA) files, Silvermine Guild of Artists files, general professional and committee files, printed materials, four scrapbooks, photographic materials, and artwork.
<b>Language:</b>	Collection is in English

## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

The John Vassos papers were donated from 1989 to 1990 by Paul Johnes, Vassos' nephew.

### Related Material

John Vassos' papers are also at Syracuse University.

### Processing Information

Multiple accessions were merged, processed, and a finding aid prepared by Anna Rimel in 2016 with funding provided by the Smithsonian Institution's Collections Care and Preservation Fund. The Archives of American Art has implemented accelerated processing when possible to increase information about and access to more of our collections. For this collection, accelerated processing included arrangement to the series, subseries and folder levels, adhering to the creator's original arrangement as much as possible. Generally, folder contents were simply verified with the original folder titles, but items within folders were not arranged further. All materials were rehoused in archival folders and boxes for long-term stability, but staples and other fasteners have not all been removed.

### Preferred Citation

John Vassos papers, 1898-1985. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

### Restrictions on Access

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C. Research Center. Contact Reference Services for more information.

Use of archival audiovisual recordings with no duplicate access copy requires advance notice.

## Ownership & Literary Rights

The John Vassos papers are owned by the Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution. Literary rights as possessed by the donor have been dedicated to public use for research, study, and scholarship. The collection is subject to all copyright laws.

## Biographical Note

John Vassos (1898-1985) was an author, designer, illustrator, and muralist, active in Norwalk, Connecticut.

Vassos was born John Vassacopoulos, in Romania to Greek parents, attended Robert College in Turkey, and joined the British Fleet to serve in World War I. He immigrated to Boston in 1919, where he washed windows and studied art and illustration with John Singer Sargent at the Fenway Art School. In 1924, he moved to New York City where he studied at the Art Students League under John Sloan. Vassos began his career as an illustrator for various magazines, in addition to writing, illustrating, and publishing over fourteen books, most notably, *Contempo*, *Phobia*, and *Ultimo*. He worked on many publications with his wife, Ruth Carrier, who often wrote what he then illustrated in the late 1920s through the 1930s.

Employed as an industrial designer at the Radio Corporation of America (RCA), he established their first internal design department in 1933. He contributed a number of RCA product designs, including radios, radio cabinets, and televisions during his time as a consultant and designer. In addition, he designed RCA's first electronically decorated living room for the New York World's Fair, "America at Home" pavilion. He remained as an industrial design consultant with RCA through 1964. Vassos went on to work as a consultant designer to create utensils with Remington Dupont, the first Lucite pen for Waterman, and redesigned turnstiles for Perey Manufacturing Company, among many other companies. In addition to product design work, Vassos did interior design work for restaurants and theaters, and painted murals for a number of companies, hotels, and movie theaters.

During World War II, Vassos served in the U. S. Army Air Corps developing camouflage techniques and conducting special operations in Greece while also writing a number of publications, including informational advertisements and flyers, as well as several brief illustrated books warning about carelessness with regards to camouflage and equipment.

In 1938, Vassos founded the American Designers Institute (ADI) and became president again in 1948. He was instrumental in the merger of the major industrial design associations, the Industrial Designers Institute (IDI), Industrial Design Education Association (IDEA), American Society of Industrial Designers (ASID), and the Society of Industrial Designers (SID), into the Industrial Designers Society of America (IDSA), where he was elected the first Chairman of the Board in 1965.

Additionally, he was president of the Silvermine Guild of Artists in Connecticut for ten terms from 1936 to 1955, where he designed the logo and raised significant funds with help from his influence with RCA. Between 1938 and 1940, the Guild held an exhibition titled *Social Statements* and included works by various members, to which he contributed two oil paintings of his own.

Vassos died in 1985 in Norwalk, Connecticut.

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of designer, writer, illustrator, and muralist John Vassos measure 19.3 linear feet and date from 1915 to 1989. The papers include biographical materials, personal and professional correspondence, writings and writing project files, Industrial Designers Society of America (IDSA) files, Radio Corporation of America (RCA) files, Silvermine Guild of Artists files, general professional and committee files, printed materials, four scrapbooks, photographic materials, and artwork.

Biographical materials include various biographies and resumes, passports for Ruth and John Vassos and other vital documents, one unidentified interview transcript with Vassos, property boundaries, leases, and scattered financial materials among other material. Correspondence is primarily professional in nature and is with colleagues, industrial design organizations in which Vassos' was involved, organizations and individuals

with which Vassos' may have done consulting work, and others. Personal correspondence includes exchanges with a few WWII military colleagues and friends, and several files of personal correspondence between Ruth and John Vassos during his deployment in WWII.

John Vassos was a prolific writer and illustrated and wrote a number of articles, books, essays, and play scripts. Writings and writing projects include handwritten and typed drafts of book manuscripts, including Vassos' autobiography; sketched mock-ups with illustrations and layouts for articles and books; publishing contracts and correspondence; and writings by others. Notable published books include *Contempo*, *Phobia*, and *Ultimo*.

Vassos' involvement in the founding and eventual merging of major U. S. industrial design organizations is documented within the IDSA files, which include materials on ADI, IDI, ASID, SID, and IDEA.

Vassos' thirty-plus year career as a consultant designer with RCA is documented through various materials, including contract agreements, correspondence, design plans and sketches, expense reports, project proposals, and various other materials. And as the president and an active member of the Silvermine Guild of Artists, Vassos kept extensive files on Guild activities, including building proposals and sketches, logo designs, exhibitions, school plans and lesson structures, photographs, and printed materials.

Vassos' involvement with numerous other professional organizations and committees as a consultant designer, illustrator, member, and muralist, is documented through general professional and committee files. Vassos designed appliances, bicycles, flatware, knives, pens, radios, rifles, television sets, and turnstiles, in addition to painting murals, designing several buildings, and doing interior design work for theaters. Companies include: General Electric Company; M. Hohner, Inc.; the India Industries World Trade Fair; International Society for Arts and Decoration; Kuljian Corporation; Packard Motor Car Company; Perey Manufacturing Company; Prudential Lines, Inc.; Remington Arms Company, Inc.; Remington Dupont; and Savage Arms Corporation, to name a few.

The collection also includes printed materials; three clippings scrapbooks on the Silvermine Guild and School, and one scrapbook assembled by a Greek student, George Second; and photographic items: approximately 97 glass lantern slides, various negatives, color slides, and photographs of John Vassos and others, as well as images of products and designs, and two photo albums of industrial design work.

Artwork includes extensive figure and illustration sketches in pen, pencil, charcoal, watercolor, and other media; two paintings by Vassos; mural design drawings and sketches; sketches of products and designs; and several sketches and a collection of silkscreen prints by other artists, including Dorothy Byard and Bernard Sanders.

## Arrangement

This collection is arranged as 11 series:

- Series 1: Biographical Material, 1915-1975 (0.4 linear feet; Box 1, Box 16, OV20, OV35)
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1927-1986 (2.3 linear feet; Boxes 1-3)
- Series 3: Writings and Writing Projects, circa 1929-1989 (1.0 linear feet; Boxes 3-4, OV20)
- Series 4: Industrial Designers Society of America (IDSA), circa 1938-1976 (2.0 linear feet; Boxes 4-6, Box 16, OV21)
- Series 5: Radio Corporation of America (RCA), circa 1930s-1976 (2.1 linear feet; Boxes 6-7, Box 15, OV22-24, OV26)
- Series 6: Silvermine Guild of Artists, 1915-1986 (1.9 linear feet; Boxes 7-9, Box 16, OV27-28)
- Series 7: General Professional and Committee Files, circa 1920s-1983 (3.8 linear feet; Boxes 9-11, Boxes 15-16, OV26, OV29-39, RD57)
- Series 8: Printed Material, circa 1928-circa 1985 (1.6 linear feet; Boxes 11-12, Box 16)
- Series 9: Scrapbooks, circa 1940s-1953 (0.8 linear feet; Box 13, Box 17, Box 19)
- Series 10: Photographic Materials, 1919-circa 1989 (1.7 linear feet; Boxes 13-14, Box 16, Box 18, OV40-41, Lantern Slide Boxes 58-59)
- Series 11: Artwork, circa 1930s-circa 1970s (1.7 linear feet; Box 14, Box 18, OV25, OV42-56)

## **Names and Subject Terms**

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Archives of American Art under the following terms:

### **Subjects:**

Authors--Connecticut  
Illustrators--Connecticut  
Muralists--Connecticut  
Theaters--Decoration  
Theaters--Designs and plans  
World War, 1939-1945

### **Types of Materials:**

Design drawings  
Interviews  
Paintings  
Photographs  
Scrapbooks  
Screen prints  
Sketches  
Slides (photographs)  
Transcripts

### **Names:**

Byard, Dorothy  
General Electric Company.  
Industrial Designers Society of America.  
Kuljian Corporation.  
Matthias Hohner AG.  
Packard Motor Car Company.  
Perey Manufacturing Company.  
Prudential Lines, Inc..  
Radio Corporation of America.  
Remington Arms Company.  
Sanders, Bernard  
Savage Arms Corporation.  
Second, George  
Silvermine Guild of Artists.  
Vassos, Ruth

### **Occupations:**

Designers--Connecticut--Norwalk  
Design--Study and teaching

## Series Descriptions/Container Listing

### Series 1: Biographical Material, 1915-1975

*0.4 linear feet; Box 1, Box 16, OV20, OV25*

Found here are awards and certificates; biographies and resumes; an FBI file concerning Vassos association with the American Relief for Greek Democracy; general biographical materials, such as various insurance papers, health statements, and estate planning; leases and passports; property boundaries and architectural sketches for Vassos' home in Norwalk, Connecticut; financial materials regarding the sale of the Vassos' Florida home as well as early tax return materials for both Ruth and John Vassos; one unidentified interview transcript with John Vassos; vital documents, such as military enrollment, census registration, and the like; and work travel paperwork.

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	
1	1	Awards and Certificates, 1936-1964 Three oversized awards and certificates housed in Box 16.
1	2	Biographies and Resumes, circa 1949-1967
1	3	FBI File, 1953
1	4-5	Leases, 1926-1975
1	6	Passports, 1929-1970
1	7	Personal Property, Boundaries and Remodel, circa 1950-1962 Oversized property map and 11 blueprints housed in OV20. Four oversized property blueprints housed in OV25.
1	8-9	Sale of Miami Beach House, 1967-1968
1	10	Tax Return Materials, Ruth and John Vassos, 1937-1949
1	11	Unidentified Interview Transcript with John Vassos, circa 1940s
1	12	Vital Documents, 1915-1918
1	13	Work Travel Documents, 1955-1958
1	14	General Biographical Materials, 1932-1970

**Box**  
16 Oversized Awards and Certificates from Box 1, Folder 1, 1936-1964

**Box**  
OV20 Oversized Personal Property Map and Blueprints from Box 1, Folder 7, circa 1950-1962

**Box**  
OV25 Oversized Personal Property Map and Blueprints from Box 1, Folder 7, circa 1950-1962

### Series 2: Correspondence, 1927-1986

*2.3 linear feet; Boxes 1-3*

Correspondence is primarily professional in nature, and is typically with prospective and current clients and professional peers. Also included are several files of personal correspondents with Ruth Vassos, Colonel Tom Lane, Catherine Littlefield, and others.

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	
		Professional Correspondence
1	15-21	A-B, 1932-1963
1	22-25	C, 1930-1963
1	26-29	D, 1927-1959
1	30-33	E-F, 1933-1963
1	34-36	G, 1932-1962
1	37-40	H-J, 1932-1962
1	41-44	K-L, 1932-1961

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	
		Professional Correspondence
2	1-4	M, 1932-1963
2	5-8	N, 1932-1976
2	9-14	O-P, 1932-1963
2	15-17	Q-R, 1932-1962
2	18-22	S, 1932-1962
2	23-34	T-Z, 1932-1961
2	35	Personal Correspondence, Lane, Colonel Tom, 1945-1948
2	36	Personal Correspondence, Littlefield, Catherine, circa 1943
2	37-40	Personal Correspondence, Vassos, Ruth, 1942-1944
2	41-44	General Correspondence, 1927-1945

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	
3	1-14	General Correspondence, 1946-1986

### **Series 3: Writings and Writing Projects, circa 1929-1989**

*1 linear foot; Boxes 3-4, OV20*

Writings and writing projects include: handwritten and typed drafts of articles and essays; contracts and publishing agreements; drafts of book manuscripts and John Vassos' autobiography; sketched mock-ups of article and book layouts; play scripts; and scattered correspondence and notes. Also included are play scripts by Ruth Vassos, articles and essays by others about John Vassos, and several writings by others. Notable books by John Vassos include *Contempo*, *Humanities*, *Phobia*, and *Ultimo* among others.

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	
3	15-17	Articles and Essays, circa 1930-circa 1970s
3	18	Article, "Field Trials Are Fun," circa 1930-circa 1970s Includes drafts and mock-up of layout with photographs.
		Books and Book Projects
3	19	Autobiography, Handwritten Draft, 1974



3	20	Autobiography, Drafts and Manuscripts, circa 1974
3	21	Autobiography, Mock-Ups of Layout, circa 1974
3	22	Autobiography, Notes and Correspondence, circa 1974
3	23	<i>Beatrice the Ballerina</i> , Correspondence, 1942
3	24	<i>Beatrice the Ballerina</i> , Contracts and Cover, 1942
3	25-26	<i>Beatrice the Ballerina</i> , Illustration Sketches and Drafts, circa 1940s
3	27-28	<i>Beatrice the Ballerina</i> , Illustrated Page Drafts, circa 1942
3	29	<i>Booby the Bear</i> , Illustrated Draft and Final Book, circa 1943
3	30	<i>Contempo</i> , Book and Illustration Prints, circa 1929
3	31	<i>Dogs Are Like That</i> , Manuscript Draft, circa 1941

**Box Folder**

Books and Book Projects

4	1-3	<i>Humanities</i> , Drafts and Layout, circa 1930s-circa 1935 Three oversized uncut book prints housed in OV20.
4	4	<i>John Vassos: Contempo, Phobia and Other Graphic Interpretations</i> , Correspondence and Forward Manuscript Drafts, 1976
4	5	<i>John Vassos: Contempo, Phobia and Other Graphic Interpretations</i> , Finished Book, 1976
4	6-10	<i>Phobia</i> , Correspondence and Drafts, circa 1930s
4	11	<i>Synthesis Number 1: Poems by Dorothy Randolph Byard</i> , Interpreted by John Vassos, 1937, 1988
4	12	<i>Ultimo</i> , Drafts and Illustrations, circa 1930s
4	13	Unidentified, Drafts and Illustrations, circa 1930s-circa 1950s
4	14	Exhibition and Publication Proposal, <i>The American Style in Music and Painting</i> , 1965-1969
4	15	Lecture at Syracuse University, March 6, 1973
4	16	Play Scripts by John Vassos, Drafts, circa 1941
4	17-18	Writings by Others About John Vassos, circa 1930s-1989
4	19	Play Script Drafts by Ruth Vassos, circa 1930s-circa 1941
4	20-21	Writings by Others, circa 1945-1949

**Box**

OV20

Oversized Books and Book Projects, *Humanities*, Drafts and Layout from Box 4, Folder 1, circa 1930s-circa 1935

**Series 4: Industrial Designers Society of America (IDSA), circa 1938-1976**

*2 linear feet; Boxes 4-6, Box 16, OV21*

Files document the founding, shifting, and merging of industrial design organizations within the United States.

The American Designers Institute (ADI) was established in 1938 and renamed the Industrial Designers Institute (IDI) in 1951; the American Society of Industrial Designers (ASID) was established in 1955 as the renamed Society of Industrial Designers (SID); and the Industrial Design Education Association (IDEA) was established in 1957 because

nether professional society (IDI or ASID) accepted educators as members. All organizations merged in 1964 to form the Industrial Designers Society of America (IDSA).

John Vassos co-founded and served as the first president of ADI in 1938, and was president again in 1948. He was elected Chairman of the Board of IDSA when it was formed in 1965.

Materials include: annual meeting and symposium files; organization by-laws and founding documents; board and committee meeting minutes; correspondence; membership materials; and printed materials and publicity.

Files are arranged generally by organization formation and reflects their eventual consolidation: ADI, SID, IDI, ASID, IDEA, and IDSA.

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	
4	22-33	American Designers Institute (ADI), circa 1938-circa 1951
4	34	Society of Industrial Designers (SID), 1945-1947
4	35-44	Industrial Designers Institute (IDI), circa 1952-circa 1962 Oversized IDI Annual Design Symposium materials from folder 37 housed in Box 16 and OV21.

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	
5	1-27	Industrial Designers Institute (IDI), 1944-1975
5	28-37	IDI and American Society of Industrial Designers (ASID), 1941-1964

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	
6	1-2	IDI, ASID, and Industrial Designers Education Association (IDEA), 1961-1964
6	3-4	IDI, ASID, and IDSA, 1964-1965
6	5-13	IDSA, 1953-1976 Two oversized IDSA Merit Award certificates from folder 13 housed in Box 16.
6	14	Printed Material, Industrial Design, 1947-1962
6	15	General Material, 1959-1960

<b>Box</b>	
16	Oversized IDI Materials from Box 4, Folder 37, circa 1952-circa 1962

<b>Box</b>	
OV21	Oversized IDI Materials from Box 4, Folder 37, circa 1952-circa 1962

<b>Box</b>	
16	Oversized IDSA Merit Award Certificates from Box 6, Folder 13, 1953-1976

## **Series 5: Radio Corporation of America (RCA), circa 1930s-1976**

### *2.1 linear feet; Boxes 6-7, Box 15, OV22-24, OV26*

RCA files include: contracting agreements; correspondence; design analyses and proposals; design plans and sketches by Vassos; expense reports and financial materials; lectures and publications with RCA by Vassos; RCA magazines, other printed materials, and publicity; meeting minutes and program development; presentation

materials; various product project assignments; photographs of John Vassos, of interiors and exteriors of RCA headquarters, and of products and advertisements; product design boards by Vassos; and materials relating to the RCA "Room of Tomorrow" model as well as the 1964 World's Fair RCA pavilion, both designed by Vassos.

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	
6	16	Bicycle Design, circa 1937
6	17-18	<i>Broadcast News</i> Magazines, Articles on Vassos, 1933-1963
6	19	Contracting Agreements, 1939-1950
6	20-25	Correspondence, 1933-1963
6	26-28	Design Analyses and Proposals, 1935-1957
6	29-30	Design Plans and Sketches, circa 1946-1960 Six oversized design plans and sketches from folder 29 housed in Box 15; one in OV22; and three in OV24.
6	31-32	Expenses and Financial Materials, 1947-1956
6	33	Industry in Canada, 1951-1955
6	34	Lectures and Publications with RCA, 1934-1936
6	35-36	Meeting Minutes and Radio Program Development, 1946-1948
6	37-38	National Home Furnishing Show, 1958-1975
6	39	Pascoe Incorporated, 1951-1952
6	40	Presentation, Magitron, circa 1947 Three oversized sketches housed in Box 15.

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	
7	1-7	Photographs, circa 1940s-circa 1975 Four oversized photographs of Vassos at RCA, from folder 1, housed in Box 15.
7	8-14	Printed Material, 1932-circa 1970s Two oversized catalogs housed in Box 15; one oversized catalog housed in OV23; Four RCA posters housed in OV24.
7	15	Product Design Boards, circa 1938 Four oversized product design boards housed in OV22, and two housed in OV24.
7	16	RCA Reports, circa 1930s-circa 1970s
7	17	RCA Room of Tomorrow, circa 1940s-circa 1950s
7	18-20	World's Fair Documents, 1961-1964 Ten oversized sketches from folder 19 housed in Box 15; twelve blueprints housed in OV26.
7	21-27	General Materials, 1955-1976

**Box**  
15                                  Oversized Design Plans and Sketches from Box 6, Folder 29, circa 1946-1960

**Box**  
OV22                                Oversized Design Plans and Sketches from Box 6, Folder 29, circa 1946-1960

**Box**  
OV24                      Oversized Design Plans and Sketches from Box 6, Folder 29, circa 1946-1960

**Box**  
15                         Oversized Sketches from Magitron Presentation, Box 6, Folder 40, circa 1947  
15                         Oversized Photographs of John Vassos at RCA, from Box 7, Folder 1, circa 1940s-circa 1975  
15                         Oversized Printed Material from Box 7, Folder 8, 1932-circa 1970s

**Box**  
OV23                      Oversized Printed Material from Box 7, Folder 8, 1932-circa 1970s

**Box**  
OV24                      Oversized Printed Material from Box 7, Folder 8, 1932-circa 1970s

**Box**  
OV22                      Oversized Product Design Boards from Box 7, Folder 15, circa 1938

**Box**  
OV24                      Oversized Product Design Boards from Box 7, Folder 15, circa 1938

**Box**  
15                         Oversized World's Fair Documents from Box 7, Folder 19, 1961-1964

**Box**  
OV26                      Oversized World's Fair Documents from Box 7, Folder 19, 1961-1964

## **Series 6: Silvermine Guild of Artists, 1915-1986**

*1.9 linear feet; Boxes 7-9, Box 16, OV27-28*

Found here are materials related to the Silvermine Guild of Artists and early community organizations and include: correspondence; clippings, brochures, catalogs, and yearbooks; various organization event materials, including concerts and annual plays; financial materials and reports; guild exhibition documentation; histories and by-laws; building and program plans and development; membership materials; guild school of art documentation; photographs and slides of events and activities; sketches and plans, among other materials. Also included are three cassette tapes and one sound tape reel of Silvermine celebrations, events, and planning meetings.

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	
7	28	Architectural Sketches and Blueprints, 1973 Oversized sketches housed in Box 16; four blueprints housed in OV27.
7	29	Artists' Ball, 1948
7	30-32	Brochures and Catalogs, 1925-circa 1960s
7	33	Celebration and Meeting Sound Recordings, circa 1970-circa 1977 <i>3 cassette tapes</i>

7 34 Meeting Sound Recording, circa 1950s  
*1 sound tape reel*

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	
8	1-4	Clippings, 1915-1986 Oversized clippings from folder 1 housed in Box 16.
8	5-16	Correspondence, 1945-1961
8	17	Elena Nikolaidi Concert, 1958
8	18	Exhibition Catalogs, The New Canaan Society of Artists, 1915-circa 1917
8	19-23	Financial Materials and Reports, 1933-1959
8	24	Gallery Maintenance, 1957
8	25-29	Guild Exhibition Materials, 1946-1986 Oversized John Vassos' Memorial Exhibition blueprint from folder 29 housed in OV27.
8	30	Guild Publication Mock-Up, circa 1950s
8	31	Hellenic Tribute to the Arts, A Delphic Festival, 1956-1957
8	32	Histories and By-Laws, 1922, circa 1953-circa 1962
8	33	Membership, 1952-1962
8	34	New Building Plans, 1950-1951
8	35	Paint Sketches of Logo and Stationery Designs, circa 1950s
8	36-37	Photographs, circa 1940s-circa 1950s Oversized photograph from folder 36 housed in Box 16.

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	
9	1-6	Printed Material, circa 1930-circa 1986 Oversized printed material from folder 6 housed in Box 16 and OV27.
9	7	Program Proposal, circa 1940s-circa 1950s
9	8-9	Publicity, circa 1940s-1980
9	10	Real Estate Tax Exemption Issue, 1948-1951
9	11-13	Reports and Meeting Minutes, 1939-1961
9	14-15	School of Art and Education at the Guild, 1951-1963
9	16	Scrapbook Page, Loose, circa 1935
9	17	Silvermine Community Association, 1963-1965
9	18	Silvermine Map Design and Sales, Silvermine Tavern, 1945-1963 Three oversized sketches of map design housed in OV27; one oversized map layout housed in OV28.
9	19	Silvermine Neighbors, Constitution and By-Laws, circa 1910s
9	20	Silvermine School and Performance Slides, circa 1950s-1977
9	21	Silvermine Sillies, "Frustrations of the 48," circa 1948
9	22	Silvermine Sillies of 1949, "Arts and Flowers," 1949
9	23	Sketches and Signage, circa 1950 Six oversized sketches housed in Box 16.

- |            |       |  |
|------------|-------|--|
| 9          | 24    | Studio and Dramatic Arts Building Proposal and Plans, 1949-1951<br>Oversized blueprint housed in OV27. |
| 9          | 25    | Yearbook 1952, Draft, circa 1952   |
| 9          | 26-27 | Yearbooks, circa 1935-1956   |
| <br>       |       |  |
| <b>Box</b> |       |  |
| 16         |       | Oversized Architectural Sketches and Blueprints from Box 7, Folder 28, 1973                            |
| <br>       |       |  |
| <b>Box</b> |       |  |
| OV27       |       | Oversized Architectural Sketches and Blueprints from Box 7, Folder 28, 1973                            |
| <br>       |       |  |
| <b>Box</b> |       |  |
| 16         |       | Oversized Clippings from Box 8, Folder 1, 1915-1986  |
| <br>       |       |  |
| <b>Box</b> |       |  |
| OV27       |       | Oversized Guild Exhibition Materials from Box 8, Folder 29, 1946-1986                                  |
| <br>       |       |  |
| <b>Box</b> |       |  |
| 16         |       | Oversized Photographs from Box 8, Folder 36, circa 1940s-circa 1950s                                   |
| 16         |       | Oversized Printed Material from Box 9, Folder 6, circa 1930-circa 1986                                 |
| <br>       |       |  |
| <b>Box</b> |       |  |
| OV27       |       | Oversized Printed Material from Box 9, Folder 6, circa 1930-circa 1986                                 |
| OV27       |       | Oversized Silvermine Map Design and Sales, Silvermine Tavern, from Box 9, Folder 18, 1945-1963         |
| <br>       |       |  |
| <b>Box</b> |       |  |
| OV28       |       | Oversized Silvermine Map Design and Sales, Silvermine Tavern, from Box 9, Folder 18, 1945-1963         |
| <br>       |       |  |
| <b>Box</b> |       |  |
| 16         |       | Oversized Sketches and Signage, from Box 9, Folder 23, circa 1950                                      |
| <br>       |       |  |
| <b>Box</b> |       |  |
| OV27       |       | Oversized Studio and Dramatic Arts Building Proposal and Plans, from box 9, Folder 24, 1949-1951       |

## **Series 7: General Professional and Committee Files, circa 1920s-1983**

*3.8 linear feet; Boxes 9-11, Boxes 15-16, OV26, OV29-39, RD57*

Vassos' professional files document various consulting jobs and committee involvement and consist of company advertising and illustration consulting, architectural design consulting, graphic design work, and product design. Companies and organizations include: General Electric Company; the Hellenic University Club; M. Hohner, Inc.; Kuljian Corporation; Mills Industries, Incorporated; Packard Motor Car Company; Perey Manufacturing Company; Prudential Lines, Inc.; Remington Arms, Inc.; Remington Dupont; Savage Arms, Inc.; and L. E. Waterman

Company, among many others. Additional materials document Vassos' involvement in designing the American Pavilion at the India Industries World Trade Fair in 1955 and work with the U. S. Army during WWII.

Materials include: architectural sketches and blueprints, correspondence, contracting agreements, design sketches and photographs, printed materials, and other items.

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	
9	28-29	Advertising Preliminary Sketches, Various Companies, circa 1940s, 1971
9	30	Columbia Recording Corporation, 1944
9	31	Columbia University School of General Studies Advisory Council, 1962-1963
9	32	Condado Beach Hotel Murals, 1947-1953
9	33	Dover Publications, Inc., 1972-1983
9	34	E. P. Dutton and Co., Inc., 1933-1946, 1974
9	35	Egli Co., Inc., circa 1948 Three oversized photographs housed in Box 16.
9	36-37	General Electric Company, 1932-1950
9	38-42	Graphic Design Illustration and Advertising Consulting, circa 1920s-circa 1940s Thirty-nine oversized print ads and one paint sketch of ad housed in Box 15; twelve print ads, three illustration boards, and one sketch housed in OV 29; eight illustration boards housed in OV30; four illustration paint sketches housed in OV32.

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	
10	1-3	Hellenic University Club and Greek Associations, circa 1952-circa 1977 Thirty-nine oversized photos and blueprints housed in Box 16; one paint sketch, four certificates, and seven architectural sketches housed in OV33; two certificates and one oversized flyer layout housed in OV34.
10	4	Hofstra University, Broadcast Program Videorecording, circa 1978 <i>Includes one U-matic videocassette; Label reads: "Vassos at Hofstra University, Channel 21"</i>
10	5-6	M. Hohner, Inc., circa 1948-circa 1961 Thirteen oversized photographs, nine sketches, and nine blueprints from folder 5 housed in Box 16.
10	7	India Industries Fair, World Trade Fair, American Pavilion, 1955 Thirteen oversized blueprints and plan sketches housed in OV35; twelve oversized blueprints and plan sketches housed in OV36.
10	8	Institute of Contemporary Art, Meeting Minutes, 1957
10	9-11	International Society for Arts and Decoration, circa 1935-circa 1936
10	12	John Vassos Associates, circa 1947
10	13	Julore Design Competition, 1950
10	14	Kuljian Corporation, 1950-1952
10	15	P. R. Mallory and Co., Inc., 1945 Three oversized blueprints housed in OV33.
10	16	Medallion Design Work, circa 1950s Five oversized sketches housed in Box 16.

10	17	Mills Industries, Incorporated, 1945-1948
10	18	National Committee of 13, Against Superstition and Fear, circa 1946
10	19	Neo-Byzantine Church Design, 1973 Seven oversized architectural sketches and five blueprints housed in Box 16.
10	20	Packard Motor Car Company, circa 1930s-circa 1940s
10	21	Perey Manufacturing Company, Turnstiles, 1932
10	22	Product Design Awards Competition, Electrical Manufacturing, 1945-1950
10	23-26	Prudential Lines, Inc., circa 1965-circa 1980 Oversized blueprints, greeting cards, and sketches housed in OV34.
10	27	Remington Arms Company, Inc., 1936-1949
10	28-29	Remington Dupont, circa 1937-circa 1968
10	30	Rothschild Realty Co., 1931 Six oversized sketches housed in Box 16.
10	31	Savage Arms Corporation, 1935-1947 One oversized blueprint housed in OV34.

**Box**  
RD57 Savage Arms Corporation, Blueprint, circa 1935-circa 1947

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	
10	32	Tennis Magazine Cover Designs, 1971-1974 Four oversized sketches and designs housed in Box 16; one oversized cover design housed in OV33.

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	
11	1	Tennis Magazine Cover Designs, 1971-1974
11	2-6	Theater Design Work, circa 1941-circa 1960s Thirty-seven oversized blueprints and sketches from folder 6 housed in Box 16 and OV26, OV37-39.
11	7-14	U. S. Army, circa 1940s-1953
11	15	L. E. Waterman Company, circa 1939

**Box**  
16 Oversized Egli Co., Inc. Material from Box 9, Folder 35, circa 1948

**Box**  
15 Oversized Graphic Design Illustration and Advertising Consulting Materials from Box 9, Folder 38, circa 1920s-circa 1940s

**Box**  
OV29 Oversized Graphic Design Illustration and Advertising Consulting Materials from Box 9, Folder 38, circa 1920s-circa 1940s

**Box**



- OV30 Oversized Graphic Design Illustration and Advertising Consulting Materials from Box 9, Folder 38, circa 1920s-circa 1940s
- Box**  
OV32 Oversized Graphic Design Illustration and Advertising Consulting Materials from Box 9, Folder 38, circa 1920s-circa 1940s
- Box**  
16 Oversized Hellenic University Club and Greek Associations Materials from Box 10, Folder 1, circa 1952-circa 1977
- Box**  
OV33 Oversized Hellenic University Club and Greek Associations Materials from Box 10, Folder 1, circa 1952-circa 1977
- Box**  
OV34 Oversized Hellenic University Club and Greek Associations Materials from Box 10, Folder 1, circa 1952-circa 1977
- Box**  
16 Oversized M. Hohner, Inc. Material from Box 10, Folder 5, circa 1948-circa 1961
- Box**  
OV35 Oversized India Industries Fair, World Trade Fair, American Pavilion Materials from Box 10, Folder 7, 1955
- Box**  
OV36 Oversized India Industries Fair, World Trade Fair, American Pavilion Materials from Box 10, Folder 7, 1955
- Box**  
OV33 Oversized P. R. Mallory and Co., Inc. Materials from Box 10, Folder 15, 1945
- Box**  
16 Oversized Medallion Design Work Materials from Box 10, Folder 15, circa 1950s  
16 Oversized Neo-Byzantine Church Design Materials from Box 10, Folder 19, 1973
- Box**  
OV34 Oversized Prudential Lines, Inc. Materials from Box 10, Folder 23, circa 1965-circa 1980
- Box**  
16 Oversized Rothschild Realty Co. Materials from Box 10, Folder 30, 1931
- Box**  
OV34 Oversized Savage Arms Corporation Materials from Box 10, Folder 31, 1935-1947

<b>Box</b> 16	Oversized Tennis Magazine Cover Designs from Box 10, Folder 32, 1971-1974
<b>Box</b> OV33	Oversized Tennis Magazine Cover Designs from Box 10, Folder 32, 1971-1974
<b>Box</b> 16	Oversized Theater Design Work Materials from Box 11, Folder 6, circa 1941-circa 1960s
<b>Box</b> OV26	Oversized Theater Design Work Materials from Box 11, Folder 6, circa 1941-circa 1960s
<b>Box</b> OV37	Oversized Theater Design Work Materials from Box 11, Folder 6, circa 1941-circa 1960s
<b>Box</b> OV38	Oversized Theater Design Work Materials from Box 11, Folder 6, circa 1941-circa 1960s
<b>Box</b> OV39	Oversized Theater Design Work Materials from Box 11, Folder 6, circa 1941-circa 1960s

## **Series 8: Printed Material, circa 1928-circa 1985**

### *1.6 linear feet; Boxes 11-12, Box 16*

Printed materials relate to Vassos' work and highlight his murals, designs, products, illustration and advertising work, as well as various retrospective exhibitions or those in which a design of his is featured. Materials include: one book, bulletins, extensive clippings, exhibition catalogs and materials, journals, magazines, programs, a yearbook to which Vassos contributed, and other items.

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	
11	17	Book, <i>Faces and Facts By and About 26 Contemporary Artists</i> by Willis Birchman, 1937 There is an entry for John Vassos within this book, in addition to it being signed to Vassos' by the author.
11	18-19	Bulletins, 1933-1939 Oversized material from folder 19 housed in Box 16.
11	20-29	Clippings, circa 1928-circa 1973 Oversized clippings from folder 20 housed in Box 16.
<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	
12	1-5	Clippings, 1935-1977
12	6	Exhibition Catalogs, 1941-circa 1985 Oversized exhibition catalog housed in Box 16.
12	7	Exhibition Materials, 1935-circa 1950
12	8-11	Journals, 1930-1941

12	12-29	Magazines, 1930-1971
12	30	Program, Civic Opera House, 1941
12	31	Yearbook, Womans College of Alabama, 1932 Vassos' was a contributor.
12	32-36	General Printed Material, 1932-1969

**Box**

16		Oversized Bulletins from Box 11, Folder 19, 1933-1939
16		Oversized Clippings from Box 11, Folder 20, circa 1928-circa 1973
16		Oversized Exhibition Catalog from Box 12, Folder 6, 1941-circa 1985

**Series 9: Scrapbooks, circa 1940s-1953**

*0.8 linear feet; Box 13, Box 17, Box 19*

Included here are three oversized clippings scrapbooks relating to the Silvermine Guild of Artists, and one dismantled scrapbook by George Second, Greek student of Signal Station 713.

**Box**

19		Clippings Scrapbook, Silvermine Guild of Artists, 1950-1951
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**Box**

17		Clippings Scrapbook, Silvermine Guild of Artists, 1952-1953
17		Clippings Scrapbook, Silvermine Guild School, 1951-1953

**Box Folder**

13	1-2	Scrapbook by George Second, Dismantled, circa 1940s It is noted that George Second was a Greek student of Signal Station 713.
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**Series 10: Photographic Materials, 1919-circa 1989**

*1.7 linear feet; Boxes 13-14, Box 16, Box 18, OV40-41, Lantern Slide Boxes 58-59*

Photographs, slides, transparencies, and 97 lantern slides are of John Vassos and others; Vassos' memorial exhibition; buildings and outdoors; Vassos' home in Connecticut; interior design spaces; various products and designs; and artwork by Vassos and others. Also included are two photo albums of Vassos' industrial design work.

**Box Folder**

13	3-5	Images of John Vassos, circa 1920s-circa 1979
13	6	Images of John Vassos and Dogs, circa 1930s-circa 1960s
13	7	Images of John Vassos and Others, Slides, circa 1954-circa 1980
13	8	Images of Others, 1919-circa 1950s Includes images of Carola Goya and Margaret Bourke-White. Two oversized photographs housed in Box 16.
13	9	Buildings and Outdoors, circa 1940-circa 1989 Oversized photograph housed in Box 16.

13	10	Snapshots of John Vassos' Home, circa 1980s
13	11	Interior Design Spaces, Margaret Bourke-White's NYC Apartment, circa 1940s
<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	
14	1	Interior Design Spaces, circa 1940s-circa 1960s Nine oversized photographs housed in Box 16.
14	2	Interior Design Spaces, Negatives, circa 1940s-circa 1960s
14	3	Exhibition Photographs, John Vassos' Memorial Exhibition, 1986
14	4-7	Products and Designs by John Vassos, circa 1940s-circa 1970s Sixteen oversized photographs of products and designs housed in Box 16 and OV40-41.
14	8	Products and Designs by John Vassos, Negatives, circa 1940s-circa 1950s
14	9	Artwork, circa 1930s-circa 1950s One oversized photograph housed in Box 16.
14	10	Artwork by Others, 1938-1941
14	11	Photo Albums, Industrial Designs by John Vassos, circa 1920s-circa 1960s Two oversized photo albums housed in Box 18.
<b>Box</b>		
Lantern Slide Box 58		Lantern Slides of Interior Design Spaces, Buildings and Outdoors, Artwork, Unidentified Artwork, circa 1940s-circa 1950s <i>56 lantern slides</i>
<b>Box</b>		
Lantern Slide Box 59		Lantern Slides of Products and Designs by John Vassos, circa 1940s-circa 1950s <i>41 lantern slides</i>
<b>Box</b>		
16		Oversized Photographs of Others from Box 13, Folder 8, 1919-circa 1950s
16		Oversized Photographs of Buildings and Outdoors from Box 13, Folder 9, circa 1940-circa 1989
16		Oversized Photographs of Interior Design Spaces from Box 14, Folder 1, circa 1940s-circa 1960s
16		Oversized Photographs of Products and Designs by John Vassos from Box 14, Folder 4, circa 1940s-circa 1970s
<b>Box</b>		
OV40		Oversized Photographs of Products and Designs by John Vassos from Box 14, Folder 4, circa 1940s-circa 1970s
<b>Box</b>		
OV41		Oversized Photographs of Products and Designs by John Vassos from Box 14, Folder 4, circa 1940s-circa 1970s

**Box**  
16 Oversized Photograph of Artwork from Box 14, Folder 9, circa 1930s-circa 1950s

**Box**  
18 Oversized Photo Albums of Industrial Designs from Box 14, Folder 11, circa 1920s-circa 1960s

### **Series 11: Artwork, circa 1930s-circa 1970s**

*1.7 linear feet; Box 14, Box 18, OV25, OV42-56*

Found here are one collaged event poster; two early paintings by John Vassos; and three sketches by Bixby, Dorothy Byard, and Bernard Sanders, as well as silkscreen prints by D. Jones. Also included are approximately 201 pen, pencil, charcoal, and paint sketches depicting architectural layouts, mural designs, product designs, and interior spaces.

**Box**      **Folder**  
14      12      Collage, Event Poster, circa 1940s  
                         Oversized material housed in Box 18.

**Box**  
OV42      Paintings, 1919  
                         Includes two early paintings by John Vassos.

**Box**      **Folder**  
14      13-15      Sketches, Charcoal, Pen, and Pencil, circa 1930s-circa 1960s  
                         Twenty-three oversized sketches from folder 13 housed in Box 18, OV50 (15 sketches),  
                         OV 56 (9 sketches, pencil and charcoal).

14      16      Product Design and Architectural Sketches, Pencil and Paint, circa 1930s-circa 1960s  
                         Oversized artwork housed in Box 18 (41), OV43 (7 architectural sketches), OV44 (8  
                         paint sketches), OV45 (31), OV46 (3), OV47 (22 of bicycle design), OV48 (3 sketches  
                         on board), OV49 (4 design sketches on board).

14      17-18      Mural Designs and Sketches, circa 1940s-circa 1970s  
                         Oversized mural designs and sketches housed in Box 18 (24), OV25 (1), OV51 (11),  
                         OV52 (1), OV53 (4), OV54 (3 mural paint sketches), OV55 (16), OV56 (6).

14      19      Sketches by Other Artists, circa 1930s-circa 1970s  
                         Oversized Bernard Sanders pencil sketch of Vassos housed in Box 18; two oversized  
                         sketches of Vassos by Bixby and Dorothy Byard housed in OV25.

14      20      Silkscreen Prints by D. Jones, circa 1953-circa 1954

**Box**  
18      Oversized Collage, Event Poster from Box 14, Folder 12, circa 1940s

18      Oversized Sketches from Box 14, Folder 13, circa 1930s-circa 1960s

**Box**  
OV50      Oversized Sketches from Box 14, Folder 13, circa 1930s-circa 1960s

**Box**  
OV56                      Oversized Sketches from Box 14, Folder 13, circa 1930s-circa 1960s

**Box**  
18                              Oversized Product Design and Architectural Sketches from Box 14, Folder 16, circa 1930s-circa 1960s

**Box**  
OV43                      Oversized Product Design and Architectural Sketches from Box 14, Folder 16, circa 1930s-circa 1960s

**Box**  
OV44                      Oversized Product Design and Architectural Sketches from Box 14, Folder 16, circa 1930s-circa 1960s

**Box**  
OV45                      Oversized Product Design and Architectural Sketches from Box 14, Folder 16, circa 1930s-circa 1960s

**Box**  
OV46                      Oversized Product Design and Architectural Sketches from Box 14, Folder 16, circa 1930s-circa 1960s

**Box**  
OV47                      Oversized Product Design and Architectural Sketches from Box 14, Folder 16, circa 1930s-circa 1960s

**Box**  
OV48                      Oversized Product Design and Architectural Sketches from Box 14, Folder 16, circa 1930s-circa 1960s

**Box**  
OV49                      Oversized Product Design and Architectural Sketches from Box 14, Folder 16, circa 1930s-circa 1960s

**Box**  
18                              Oversized Mural Designs and Sketches from Box 14, Folder 17, circa 1940s-circa 1970s

**Box**  
OV25                      Oversized Mural Designs and Sketches from Box 14, Folder 17, circa 1940s-circa 1970s

**Box**  
OV51                      Oversized Mural Designs and Sketches from Box 14, Folder 17, circa 1940s-circa 1970s

**Box**  
OV52                      Oversized Mural Designs and Sketches from Box 14, Folder 17, circa 1940s-circa 1970s

**Box**  
OV53                      Oversized Mural Designs and Sketches from Box 14, Folder 17, circa 1940s-circa 1970s

**Box**  
OV54                      Oversized Mural Designs and Sketches from Box 14, Folder 17, circa 1940s-circa 1970s

**Box**  
OV55                      Oversized Mural Designs and Sketches from Box 14, Folder 17, circa 1940s-circa 1970s

**Box**  
OV56                      Oversized Mural Designs and Sketches from Box 14, Folder 17, circa 1940s-circa 1970s

**Box**  
18                              Oversized Sketches by Other Artists from Box 14, Folder 19, circa 1930s-circa 1970s

**Box**  
OV25                      Oversized Sketches by Other Artists from Box 14, Folder 19, circa 1930s-circa 1970s