

**Charles and Maurice Prendergast
Personal Photo Collection
FG.2013.02**

Finding aid prepared by Eric Shannon

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

WCMA_Repository
2013

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Summary Information

Repository	WCMA_Repository
Creator	Prendergast, Charles, 1863-1948
Creator	Prendergast, Maurice, 1858-1924
Title	Charles and Maurice Prendergast Personal Photo Collection
Date	ca. 1877-1948
Extent	2.0 Linear feet
Physical Description note	2 boxes
Language	English
Abstract	The Charles and Maurice Prendergast personal photo collection consists primarily of photos of the Prendergast brothers, but also includes photos of friends and relatives.

Biographical note

The brothers Maurice Prendergast (1858–1924) and Charles Prendergast (1863–1948) were born in St. John's, Newfoundland. The Prendergasts moved to Boston to be near their mother's family after their father's business closed in 1868. After completing the required eight years of public school, Maurice pursued a path in commercial art and Charles went to work at Doll and Richards art gallery in Boston. They both went to Paris in 1891 to study art, but only Maurice stayed to establish himself as a fine artist, returning to Boston in 1894. Charles began his career as a framemaker at this time. As painter and framemaker respectively, Maurice and Charles were active in avant-garde circles in Boston and New York in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Maurice Prendergast participated in seminal groups and exhibitions such as *The Eight* (1908) and the *Armory Show* (1913). An admirer of Cézanne and Matisse, he helped introduce their innovations into American art and is recognized as one of the first American modernists. Maurice painted in a variety of locations throughout New England and Europe including New York, Maine, Massachusetts, France, and Italy. Attuned to the American labor movement's quest for more leisure time for the American worker, he often painted beaches, parks, and people engaged in leisure activities. He worked in many media including oils, watercolors, sketches, and monotypes. Never married, he and Charles lived and worked together until he died in 1924.

Charles Prendergast was steeped in the Arts and Crafts culture of Boston as a young man and produced highly prized, hand-carved frames for the greatest artists of his day, including John Singer Sargent. He devised a method of painting on carved and incised panels that was influential in American primitive and folk art of the first half of the twentieth century. He turned to pictorial fine art in 1912, bringing non-Western and pre-Renaissance styles into his carved panels. In 1927, Charles married Eugénie Van Kemmel. By 1940, he turned to American folk art and subjects. His search for innocence—the aesthetics of pure forms and child-like vision—was the product both of his time and of his unique personality.

Eugénie Prendergast (1894–1994), Charles's widow, was an active guardian of the work and reputations of Maurice and Charles after Charles's death in 1948. In 1983, she and the Prendergast Foundation formed an association with the Williams College Museum of Art to sponsor the Prendergast catalogue raisonné and related research projects, which continued as the Prendergast Archive and Study Center. Mrs. Prendergast also donated or bequeathed approximately 400 works by the Prendergast brothers and established funds for ongoing research, exhibitions, and publications on the Prendergasts and their artistic era, as well as operating support for the museum and its education and outreach programs. This largesse is supplemented by letters, documents, books, and other archival materials that support the original research. The museum's Prendergast holdings and archives relating to the lives and careers of the brothers make the museum a center for scholarship on the Prendergasts and their contemporaries.

Scope and Contents note

Ranging in date from the 1870s until the late 1940s, the Charles and Maurice Prendergast personal photo collection includes portraits of the brothers and Charles' wife Eugénie Prendergast as well as photos of their father Maurice Prendergast, Sr. and several Prendergast relatives and friends.

Arrangement note

The photos have been arranged in chronological order.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

WCMA_Repository 2013

Acquisition note

Gift of Mrs. Charles Prendergast

Processing note

The photos have been put into polyester sleeves and placed inside archival folders and boxes.

Controlled Access Headings

Personal Name(s)

- Prendergast, Charles, 1863-1948
- Prendergast, Eugénie
- Prendergast, Maurice, 1858-1924

Collection Inventory

	Box	Folder
Lucy Catherine Prendergast (A.1.391) ca. 1877-1879	1	1
Maurice B. Prendergast (A.1.392) ca. 1880	1	2
Charles Prendergast (A.1.393) 1885	1	3
Charles Prendergast (A.1.394) 1890-1891	1	4
Charles Prendergast & Maurice Prendergast Sr. (A.1.395) 1898-1900	1	5
Maurice Prendergast, Sr. (A.1.396) 1898-1900	1	6
Maurice Prendergast, Sr. (A.1.397) 1898-1900	1	7
Unknown man, Maurice Prendergast, Sr., Charles Prendergast (A.1.398) 1898-1900	1	8
Charles Prendergast & Maurice Prendergast, Sr. with dog (A.1.399) 1898-1900	1	9
Maurice Prendergast, Sr. (A.1.400) 1898-1900	1	10

Maurice Prendergast, Sr. & Charles Prendergast with dog (A.1.401) 1898-1900	1	11
Maurice Prendergast (in deck chair on board ship)(A.1.402) 1899	1	12
Maurice Prendergast (A.1.403) 1901	1	13
Charles Prendergast (A.1.404) 1901	1	14
Charles Prendergast (A.1.405) 1901	1	15
Charles Prendergast (A.1.406) 1895-1905)	1	16
Maurice Prendergast, Sr. & Charles Prendergast (A.1.407) 1901	1	17
Charles Prendergast (A.1.408)	1	18
Charles Prendergast (A.1.409) 1901-1903	1	19
Maurice Prendergast (A.1.410) 1901	1	20
Unknown man (A.1.411) 1901	1	21
Unknown man and Maurice Prendergast (A.1.412) 1901	1	22
Maurice Prendergast (A.1.413) 1907	1	23

Maurice Prendergast (A.1.414) 1911	1	24
Maurice Prendergast (A.1.415) 1918	1	25
Charles Prendergast (Hand) (A.1.416) 1918	1	26
MDC Crawford & Charles Prendergast (in sailboat) (A.1.417)	1	27
Charles Prendergast holding rope (A.1.418)	1	28
Virginia Keep Clark, Charles Prendergast, Mr. Clark (A.1.419)	1	29
Maurice Prendergast (in canoe) (A.1.420) 1920-1923	1	30
Maurice Prendergast (A.1.420.A) 1920-1923	1	31
Charles Prendergast (A.1.421) 1930-1932	2	1
Charles Prendergast (A.1.422) 1940	2	2
Charles Prendergast (A.1.422.A) 1940	2	3
Charles Prendergast (A.1.423) 1946	2	4
Charles Prendergast (A.1.424) 1946	2	5
Charles Prendergast (A.1.425) 1946	2	6

Charles Prendergast (A.1.426) 1946	2	7
Eugénie Prendergast (A.1.427) 1940-1948	2	8
Eugénie Prendergast, Antoinette Maynard, Charles Prendergast (A.1.428) 1940-1948	2	9
Unknown man & Charles Prendergast (A.1.429) 1940-1948	2	10
Paul Maynard, Charles Prendergast, Antoinette Maynard, Eugénie Prendergast (A.1.430) 1940-1948	2	11
Charles Prendergast (A.1.431) 1940-1948	2	12
Charles Prendergast & Unknown person (A.1.432) 1940-1948	2	13
Eugénie Prendergast & Antoinette Maynard (A.1.433) 1940-1948	2	14
House on Crooked Mile Rd (A.1.434) 1940-1948	2	15
House on Crooked Mile Rd (A.1.435) 1940-1948	2	16
House on Crooked Mile Road (A.1.436) 1940-1948	2	17
Charles Prendergast, Unknown, Eugénie Prendergast (A.1.437, A.1.437.A) 1940-1948	2	18
Eugénie Prendergast (A.1.438) 1940-1948	2	19

Charles Prendergast (A.1.439) 1940-1948	2	20
Charles Prendergast (A.1.440) 1940-1948	2	21
Charles Prendergast (A.1.441)	2	22
Charles Prendergast (A.1.442)	2	23
Charles Prendergast (A.1.443)	2	24
Charles Prendergast (A.1.444)	2	25
Charles Prendergast (A.1.445)	2	26
Eugénie Prendergast (A.1.446)	2	27
Eugénie Prendergast (A.1.447)	2	28
Unidentified Prendergast male relative (A.1.448)	2	29
Unidentified female Prendergast relative (A.1.449)	2	30
Unidentified male Prendergast relative (A.1.450)	2	31