



Fact Sheet

THE BARNES FOUNDATION ARCHIVES, LIBRARIES, AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

The Barnes Foundation was established as an educational institution by Albert C. Barnes in 1922 to “promote the advancement of education and the appreciation of the fine arts.” The Barnes is home to one of the world’s largest collections of Impressionist, Post-Impressionist and early Modern paintings, with extensive holdings by Picasso, Matisse, Cézanne, Renoir and Modigliani, as well as important examples of African sculpture. The Barnes Foundation also maintains a twelve-acre Arboretum.

The Barnes Foundation Archives, Libraries and Special Collections comprise two circulating libraries of art and horticulture books; institutional archives; and special collections of rare books, auction catalogues, exhibition catalogues and personal papers and other donated collections related to the history of the Foundation.

Art Library

The Art Library supports the educational, philosophical and aesthetic principles of the Barnes Foundation. Its collection includes books, periodicals, databases and other resources on art history—especially 19th- and 20th-century artistic movements—art education, visual literacy, philosophy, psychology and art conservation. Visitors can research and browse library resources, search the holdings from computer terminals or direct their questions about the Foundation’s collections, programs, events and exhibitions to the art librarian and other staff members.

The Art Library has been relocated to the Foundation’s new building on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway and will be open beginning in May 2012. Those interested in using the Art Library should contact the visitor services department or the Art Library directly for hours and access information.

Horticulture Library

The Horticulture Library contains reference books and guides relevant to the Foundation’s living collections and its horticultural programs. Particular strengths in its collection include source materials on the history of North American, Spanish, Irish and Italian garden design; identification guides for trees and other woody plants; soil management resources; notes on climate conditions and plant requirements; information about native plants; and books covering the world’s varied regional vegetation.

The Horticulture Library is located in Merion, where it is used by Barnes Foundation staff, students, docents, garden guides and faculty and is made available to others by appointment. The Barnes Merion site is scheduled to reopen in late summer 2012.

- more -

Archives and Special Collections

The institutional archives contain correspondence, financial records, writings, ephemera, photographs, publications and other records related to the Foundation since before the establishment of the organization to the present day. Of particular interest to researchers is Dr. Barnes's correspondence, which comprises 125 linear feet of letters between Barnes and notable figures such as Paul Philippe Cret, Charles Demuth, John Dewey, Paul Guillaume, Charles S. Johnson, Jacques Lipchitz, Henri Matisse, Pierre Matisse, Georgia O'Keeffe, Charles and Maurice Prendergast, Bertrand Russell, Leo Stein and Carl Van Vechten.

Special collections include donated manuscripts and personal papers, photographs and a rare book collection particularly strong in early 20th century art and horticulture imprints, as well as exhibition catalogues from the same period.

The archives and special collections are located in Merion, with a reopening date of late summer 2012. These collections are available by appointment only.

For more information about the Archives, Libraries and Special Collections, visit:

www.barnesfoundation.org/collections/archives-libraries-and-special-collections or email reference@barnesfoundation.org.