

Finding Aids to Personal Papers and Special Collections in the VMFA Archives



Special Collection 07 (SC-07) Lillian Thomas Pratt Personal Papers, 1932-1947

2 boxes (15 folders), 1 oversize item and 1 binder

Processed by
Courtney Yevich Tkacz, VMFA Archivist
February 2011 and February 2015

CONTACT INFORMATION

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ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Provenance

This collection was transferred over time to the VMFA Library in the 2000s by museum staff members Dr. David Park Curry, Curator of the Fabergé collection, David Bradley, Foundation Director, and Richard Woodward, Deputy Director for Architecture and Design. The estate tax information was given to Woodward from the Honorable John D. Butzner, Jr. in the 1970s. The bulk of the collection was accessioned into the VMFA Archives' collection in February 2011. In January 2015, an additional collection of original documents were transferred from the Curatorial files to the Pratt collection.

Abstract

The collection documents the formation of the Lillian Thomas Pratt Collection of Fabergé decorative artworks at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. Bequeathed to the museum upon her death in 1947, Pratt's Fabergé collection consistently remains one of the highlights of the museum's permanent collection. Pratt purchased most of her Fabergé collection from the Schaffer Collection and Hammer Galleries, both of New York City, in the 1930s and 1940s. Comprised of correspondence, invoices, price tags, and detailed item descriptions, this collection

illuminates Pratt's mind as a collector, as well as her relationship with one of her dealers, Alexander Schaffer.

Access Restrictions

This collection is currently closed for digitization.

Processing Note

A large number of publications (almost entirely sales and exhibition catalogs) were interfiled into this collection over the years. None of the publications indicated that they were actually Pratt's personal copies, and almost all had been stamped by the VMFA Library or other departments. Therefore, all of the publications were removed and added to the VMFA Library's holdings during processing. A complete list of these publications is available from the Archivist.

Biographical Note

Two months after Lillian Thomas Pratt's death in June 1947, her stunning and expansive collection of Fabergé artworks were unexpectedly bequeathed to the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. Thought to have been born in 1876 in Philadelphia, details of Pratt's life still remain sketchy and limited. By 1900, she was working as a stenographer at the Puget Sound Flouring Mill, and in 1917, married her second husband, John Lee Pratt, a self-made millionaire engineer and businessman with General Motors. By 1931, they had settled at Chatham Manor in John's native Virginia, and Pratt spent over a decade amassing a collection of over 500 items, eighty percent of which is Russian decorative art, mainly Fabergé.

Pratt began collecting while accompanying her husband on business trips to New York City, shopping in her spare time, and possibly becoming enchanted with the Hammer Galleries' "Russian Imperial Exhibit" at Lord & Taylor in the early 1930s. While the total amount she spent during that time is unknown, she spent \$100,000 alone at New York City's Schaffer Collection. She simultaneously purchased items, including four of her five imperial Easter eggs, from the Hammer Galleries. Her collection includes not only the finest imperial eggs, but also miniature eggs, jewelry, framed photographs, boxes, handles, flowers, and animal figures, among many other types of objects. Whatever her collecting may have been (besides simply furnishing her new home), her fascination with Russian royalty was enduring, and has been shared with museum visitors for over 60 years.

(The above information was taken from [Fabergé: Virginia Museum of Fine Arts](#).)

Scope and Content Note

The collection's inclusive dates are 1932-1947, with the bulk of the material dating from 1933-1945. The collection is comprised of correspondence, invoices, price tags, item descriptions, exhibition labels, estate tax information and inventories, and newspaper clippings.

Arrangement

The collection is organized into four series, and items are generally arranged chronologically within each series. Price tags are arranged numerically by item number. Items with no date are placed at the end at each series:

[Series 1: Schaffer Collection, 1934-1947, n.d.](#)

[Series 2: Hammer Galleries, 1933-1945, n.d.](#)

[Series 3: Estate, 1947, n.d.](#)

[Series 4: Clippings, 1932-1937, n.d.](#)

Controlled Access Points

Pratt, Lillian Thomas, b. 1876?

Lillian Thomas Pratt Collection

Fabergé, Peter Carl, 1846-1920

Fabergé (Firm)

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts

Schaffer, Alexander

Schaffer, Ray

Schaffer Collection

Hammer Galleries

A La Vieille Russie (Firm)

Crown jewels – Russia (Federation) – Art collections

Jewelry – Russia (Federation) – Art collections

Easter eggs – Russia (Federation) – Art collections

Goldwork – Russia (Federation) – Art collections

Art objects – Russia (Federation) – Art collections

Related Materials

See further information in the VMFA Library:

Pratt's Personal Library:

- [The Fall of the Romanoffs: How the Ex-Empress & Rasputine Caused the Russian Revolution, 1917](#)
- [Confessions of the Czarina, 1918](#)
- [Mother Dear: The Empress Marie of Russia and Her Times, 1926](#)
- [The Tragic Bride: The Story of the Empress Alexandra of Russia, 1927](#)
- [The Life and Tragedy of Alexandra Feodorovna, Empress of Russia, 1928](#)
- [The Intimate Life of the Last Tzarina, 1928](#)
- [The Real Romanovs, as Revealed by the Late Czar's Physician and His Son, 1931](#)
- [Russia - My Home: An Intimate Record of Personal Experiences Before, During and After the Bolshevist Revolution, 1931](#)
- [Education of a Princess: A Memoir, 1931](#)
- [A Princess in Exile, 1932](#)
- [Twice Seven, 1937](#)
- [Russian Imperial Treasures: Collection of Lillian T. Pratt, n.d.](#)

Catalogs:

- [Imperial Russian Easter Eggs Presented by Tsar Nikolai II, 1940](#)
- [Handbook of the Lillian Thomas Pratt Collection: Russian Imperial Jewels, 1960](#)
- [Fabergé: A Catalog of the Lillian Thomas Pratt Collection of Russian Imperial Jewels, 1976](#)
- [Fabergé: Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, 1995](#)
- [Fabergé Revealed: At the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, 2011](#)

Video:

- [Lillian Thomas Pratt's Fabergé: Shopping, Collecting, Remembering, 1996](#)

Exhibition Files:

- [Selections from the Lillian Thomas Pratt Collection of Jewels, 1947](#)
- [12th Anniversary Exhibition: The Pratt Collection of Jewels, 1948](#)
- [Imperial Russian Easter Eggs, 1949](#)
- [Imperial Russian Easter Eggs, 1950](#)
- [Imperial Russian Easter Eggs, 1951](#)
- [Imperial Russian Easter Eggs, 1952](#)
- [Jewelry by Fabergé, 1953](#)
- [Jewels by Fabergé, 1954](#)
- [Fabergé in America and the Lillian Thomas Pratt Collection of Fabergé, 1996](#)
- [Fabergé Revealed, 2011](#)

Subject Files:

- VMFA Collections: Decorative Arts: Metalwork: Faberge
- VMFA Donors: Pratt, John Lee and Lillian Thomas
- VMFA Gallery Design: Faberge

See related archival records in the following institutions:

Library of Virginia:

- [Virginia Museum of Fine Arts Director's Correspondence, 1936-1976 \(Coll. No. 33863 and 44067\)](#)
- [Virginia Museum of Fine Arts Exhibition Files, 1936-1992 \(Coll No. 31633, 32958, 33041, 33160, 34679, 36342, 36957 and 37636\)](#)

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS / ITEM LISTS

Series 1: Schaffer Collection, 1934-1947, n.d.

Box 1 (6 Folders and 1 Binder)

This series is comprised of correspondence, invoices, price tags, and item descriptions that detail the purchases Pratt made from the Schaffer collection in the 1930s and 1940s. Correspondence between Alexander S. Schaffer, his wife Ray Schaffer, and Pratt discuss sales, payments, display cabinets, family matters, and books and articles he sent to Pratt about Russian history, war, and family matters. After 1944, some of the correspondence, invoices and item descriptions came from A La Vieille Russie, where Schaffer continued to deal in Russian art and antiquities after closing his own shop.

The invoices are often annotated with check numbers as balances were paid off, and dates given often refer to the handwritten notes on the invoice detailing payment history. Similarly, price tags were often annotated with price reductions or alterations in the item's description. Item descriptions are extremely detailed, and include the item number and often the date purchased. Many of the Schaffer descriptions are not dated, and while most of them can be cross-referenced with dates on the invoices, Schaffer often invoiced Pratt much later than the original purchase date, and in some cases, many years later. Finally, most of the item descriptions were annotated by museum staff at some point with VMFA accession numbers.

The series is divided into five subseries:

Series 1.1: Alexander Schaffer Correspondence, 1934-1947

Series 1.2: Ray Schaffer Correspondence, 1937-1947

Series 1.3: Invoices, 1934-1945, n.d.

Series 1.4: Price Tags, n.d.

Series 1.5: Item Descriptions, 1934-1945, n.d.

Series 1.1: Alexander Schaffer Correspondence, 1934-1947

<i>Folder</i>	<i>Item</i>
1	A. Schaffer to Pratt, Apr. 14, 1934
	A. Schaffer to Pratt, July 1, 1935
	A. Schaffer to Pratt, Nov. 19, 1935
	A. Schaffer to Pratt, June 2, 1936
	A. Schaffer to Pratt, June 8, 1936
	A. Schaffer to Pratt, Aug. 3, 1936
	A. Schaffer to Pratt, Aug. 14, 1936
	A. Schaffer to Pratt, Oct. 7, 1936
	A. Schaffer to Pratt, Oct. 10, 1936
	A. Schaffer to Pratt, Oct. 27, 1936
	A. Schaffer to Pratt, Nov. 21, 1936
	A. Schaffer to Pratt, Dec. 11, 1936
	A. Schaffer to Pratt, June 11, 1937

<i>Folder</i>	<i>Item</i>
1	A. Schaffer to Pratt, June 17, 1937
	A. Schaffer to Pratt, June 21, 1937
	A. Schaffer to Pratt, Aug. 6, 1937
	A. Schaffer to Pratt, Aug. 10, 1937
	A. Schaffer to Pratt, Sep. 1, 1937
	A. Schaffer to Pratt, Oct. 7, 1937
	A. Schaffer to Pratt, Oct. 11, 1937
	A. Schaffer to Pratt, Dec. 29, 1937
	A. Schaffer to Pratt, Apr. 15, 1938
	A. Schaffer to Pratt, Apr. 25, 1938
	A. Schaffer to Pratt, May 2, 1938
	A. Schaffer to Pratt, May 11, 1938
	A. Schaffer to Pratt, June 3, 1938
	A. Schaffer to Pratt, July 1, 1938
	A. Schaffer to Pratt, Aug. 1, 1938
	A. Schaffer to Pratt, Aug. 12, 1938
	A. Schaffer to Pratt, Oct. 4, 1938
	A. Schaffer to Pratt, Nov. 2, 1938
	A. Schaffer to Pratt, Apr. 3, 1939
	A. Schaffer to Pratt, Apr. 21, 1939
	A. Schaffer to Pratt, May 6, 1939
	A. Schaffer to Pratt, May 29, 1939
	A. Schaffer to Pratt, June 2, 1939
	A. Schaffer to Pratt, June 19, 1939
	A. Schaffer to Pratt, June 30, 1939
	A. Schaffer to Pratt, Aug. 1, 1939
	A. Schaffer to Pratt, Sep. 1, 1939
	A. Schaffer to Pratt (enclosure from Macomber & Company), Oct. 20, 1939
	A. Schaffer to Pratt, Oct. 31, 1939
	A. Schaffer to Pratt, Dec. 18, 1939
	A. Schaffer to Pratt, Dec. 29, 1939
	A. Schaffer to Pratt, Apr. 1, 1940
	A. Schaffer to Pratt, May 1, 1940
	A. Schaffer to Pratt, Sep. 3, 1940
	A. Schaffer to Pratt, Nov. 4, 1940
	A. Schaffer to Pratt, Dec. 11, 1940
	A. Schaffer to Pratt, Mar. 31, 1941
	A. Schaffer to Pratt, May 1, 1941
	A. Schaffer to Pratt, June 3, 1941
	A. Schaffer to Pratt, June 18, 1941
	A. Schaffer to Pratt, June 23, 1941
	A. Schaffer to Pratt, July 3, 1941
	A. Schaffer to Pratt, Aug. 4, 1941
	A. Schaffer to Pratt, Sep. 3, 1941

Folder	Item
1	<p>A. Schaffer to Pratt, Oct. 2, 1941</p> <p>A. Schaffer to Pratt, Nov. 1, 1941</p> <p>A. Schaffer to Pratt (enclosure retirement notice), Nov. 13, 1941</p> <p>A. Schaffer to Pratt, Dec. 8, 1941</p> <p>A. Schaffer to Pratt, Dec. 8, 1941</p> <p>A. Schaffer to Pratt, Dec. 15, 1941</p> <p>A. Schaffer to Pratt, Dec. 30, 1941</p> <p>A. Schaffer to Pratt, Jan. 21, 1942</p> <p>A. Schaffer to Pratt, Nov. 21, 1945</p> <p>A. Schaffer to Pratt, June 4, 1946</p> <p>A. Schaffer to Pratt, May 6, 1947</p> <p>Original envelopes (9)</p>

Series 1.2: Ray Schaffer Correspondence, 1937-1947

Folder	Item
2	<p>R. Schaffer to Pratt, July 1, 1937</p> <p>R. Schaffer to Pratt, Nov. 19, 1938</p> <p>R. Schaffer to Pratt, Feb. 3, 1942</p> <p>R. Schaffer to Pratt, Apr. 10, 1942</p> <p>R. Schaffer to Pratt, Apr. 24, 1942</p> <p>R. Schaffer to Pratt, June 3, 1942</p> <p>R. Schaffer to Pratt, July 5, 1942</p> <p>R. Schaffer to Pratt, Nov. 2, 1945</p> <p>Pratt to R. Schaffer, Dec. 4, 1945</p> <p>R. Schaffer to Pratt, Dec. 7, 1945</p> <p>R. Schaffer to Pratt, Mar. 13, 1947</p>

Series 1.3: Invoices, 1934-1945, n.d.

Folder	Item
3	<p>73/44, 38, 23, Mar. 1, 1934</p> <p>70, D2, Apr. 2, 1934</p> <p>86, 5, 36, June 4, 1934</p> <p>461, 462, 463, 558, 181, 150, 309, Dec. 4, 1934</p> <p>572, AS26, 438, 504, 571, 760, 774, 780, 598, 417, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 435, 436, 437, 445, 447, 449, 450, 458, 459, 639, 673, 676, 779, 779A, June 1, 1935</p> <p>110, 905, 909, 904, 911, 907, 908, 901, 893, 888, 912, 894, 1017, 1041, 1049, Nov. 1, 1935</p> <p>1006, 972, 1043, 1176, Mar. 2, 1936</p>

<i>Folder</i>	<i>Item</i>
3	1088, 1097, 37, 991, 1306, 982, 987, 478, 482, 1166, 1035, 537, 476, 804, 1189, 1291, 986, May 1, 1936
	533, 1317, 535, 1167, July 3, 1936
	533, 1317, 535, 1167 Duplicate, July 3, 1936
	1359, Dec. 10, 1936
	1101, 539, 997, 509, 989, 481, 536, 480, 665, 538, 477, 479, 75, 1350, 1315, 1075, 1078, 1073, 1317, Feb. 1-Oct. 1, 1937
	1597, 1537, 1562, 1575, 1578, 182, 1589, 1549, 1464, 1546, June 1, 1937
	G.3, G.5, G.8, G.13, G.14, G.16, 1556, 1573, 1576, 1580, 1661, 1736, 1737, 2237, 2238, Aug. 18, 1937
	1479, 1524, 1543, 1735, 2247, 2278, 2281, Apr. 1-June 1, 1939
	“Vulture, frame, frame, egg, parrot,” handwritten list with prices on Hotel McAlpin stationary, [Apr. 1-June 1, 1939]
	Rock crystal handle, June 16, 1939
	G.22, 1509, 1568, 1591, 2136, 2243, 1934, 1956, June 30-Sep. 1, 1939
	1182, 778, 1183, 906, 1343, 1367, 1345, 1364, Oct. 2-Nov. 1, 1939
	798, 1205, Nov. 1-Dec. 28, 1939
	One cabinet, complete, including packing and shipping, Dec. 26, 1939
	2299, 2340, 2419, Dec. 28, 1939-Feb. 1, 1940
	2322, 2323, 2326, Feb. 1-Mar. 1, 1940
	2353, L-14, Gold stand, Apr. 1, 1940
	2497, 2496, 2325, 2498, Mar. 1-June 1, 1940
	2453, 2421, 1569, 1546, June 1-Aug. 1, 1940
	1022, 2279, G.25, 1749, 2297, 2300, Sep. 3, 1940-Feb. 1, 1941
	2692, 2691, Feb. 1, 1941
	2445, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2460, 2465, 2470, 2472, 2457, 2461, 2467, 2474, 2464, 2468, Mar. 1-June 2, 1941
	2445, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2460, 2465, 2470, 2472, 2457, 2461, 2467, 2474, 2464, 2468 Duplicate, Mar. 1-June 2, 1941
	Gold bracelet, lapis and gold necklace, turquoise necklace with credit attachments, Mar. 6, 1941
	2821, June 24, 1941
	2524, 93, July 1-Dec. 29, 1941
	1326, Feb. 2, 1942-Dec. 1, 1944
	1326 Duplicate, Feb. 2, 1942-Dec. 1, 1944
	X-1937, Oct. 23, 1944
	1763, 2723, JZ-1, JZ-2, JZ-3, JZ-4, Dec. 30, 1944-Jan. 31, 1945
	2786, Jan. 31-Apr. 2, 1945
	2722, 2859, 2882, 2868, 2869, 2870, Apr. 2-June 1, 1945
	2568, 2680, 1044, 2657, June 1-Sep. 1, 1945
	2675, 2525, 2651, 1578, Star ruby ring, Sep. 1-Nov. 8, 1945
	2433, 2891, Nov. 7, 1945
	X.2366, X.2367, X.2368, Nov. 21, 1945
	92

<i>Folder</i>	<i>Item</i>
3	93
	1085, 980, 1167
	2373
	2512
	2881
	“Handles,” handwritten list with prices
	Original envelope

Series 1.4: Price Tags, n.d.

<i>Folder</i>	<i>Item</i>
Binder	D2
	G.3
	G.5
	G.8 (2 tags)
	G.13
	G.14
	G.16
	5
	23
	36
	38
	70
	73/44
	75.WM
	86
	93
	477
	479
	480
	481
	509
	534
	536
	538
	539
	665
	989
	997
	1073
	1075
	1078
	1101

<i>Folder</i>	<i>Item</i>
Binder	1315
	1350
	1556
	1573
	1576
	1580
	1591
	1661
	1736
	1737
	2237
	2238
	“Miniature gold and platinum charm in the form of a bulldog...”
4	Original envelope

Series 1.5: Item Descriptions, 1934-1945, n.d.

<i>Folder</i>	<i>Item</i>
5	572, Jan. 1, 1934
	“A most unusual topaz brooch...”, Jan. 1, 1934
	23, Mar. 1, 1934
	23 Duplicate, Mar. 1, 1934
	38, Mar. 1, 1934
	73/44, Mar. 1, 1934
	315, Apr. 1 [Easter], 1934
	70, Apr. 2, 1934
	D2, Apr. 2, 1934
	86, Apr. 30, 1934
	5, June 4, 1934
	36, June 4, 1934
	461, July 28, 1934
	462, July 28, 1934
	463, July 28, 1934
	558, Sep. 28, 1934
	150, Dec. 3, 1934
	309, Dec. 3, 1934
	597, Dec. 25 [Christmas], 1934
	504, Jan. 2, 1935
	438, Feb. 26, 1935
	571, Mar. 25, 1935
	760, Mar. 25, 1935
	774, Mar. 25, 1935

<i>Folder</i>	<i>Item</i>
5	780, Mar. 25, 1935
	818, Apr. 21 [Easter], 1935
	417, 419, 420, 421, 639, May 2, 1935
	422, 423, 424, 445, 447, May 2, 1935
	425, 426, 427, 428, 429, May 2, 1935
	430, 431, 432, 435, 436, May 2, 1935
	437, 458, 459, 673, 676, May 2, 1935
	449, 450, 779, 779A, May 2, 1935
	110, July 27, 1935
	888, Sep. 30, 1935
	893, Sep. 30, 1935
	894, Sep. 30, 1935
	901, Sep. 30, 1935
	905, Sep. 30, 1935
	907, 908, Sep. 30, 1935
	909, 904, 911, Sep. 30, 1935
	912, Sep. 30, 1935
	1017, Oct. 29, 1935
	1041, Oct. 29, 1935
	1049, Oct. 29, 1935
	92, Feb. 1, 1936
	972, Feb. 1, 1936
	982, Feb. 1, 1936
	1006, Feb. 1, 1936
	1043, Feb. 17, 1936
	1176, Mar. 1, 1936
	37, Apr. 2, 1936
	991, Apr. 2, 1936
	1088, Apr. 2, 1936
	1097, Apr. 2, 1936
	1179, Apr. 2, 1936
	1306, Apr. 2, 1936
	476, Apr. 9, 1936
	478, Apr. 9, 1936
	482, Apr. 9, 1936
	537, Apr. 9, 1936
	986, Apr. 9, 1936
	987, Apr. 9, 1936
	1035, Apr. 9, 1936
	1166, Apr. 9, 1936
	1189, Apr. 9, 1936
	804, Apr. 11, 1936
	1291, Apr. 11, 1936
	980, May 18, 1936

<i>Folder</i>	<i>Item</i>
5	1085, May 18, 1936
	533, May 20, 1936
	533 Duplicate, May 20, 1936
	535, May 20, 1936
	535 Duplicate, May 20, 1936
	539, July 28, 1936
	1101, July 28, 1936
	509, Aug. 26, 1936
	997, Aug. 26, 1936
	477, Oct. 29, 1936
	479, Oct. 29, 1936
	480, Oct. 29, 1936
	481, Oct. 29, 1936
	536, Oct. 29, 1936
	538, Oct. 29, 1936
	665, Oct. 29, 1936
	989, Oct. 29, 1936
	75, Dec. 1, 1936
	93, Dec. 1, 1936
	906, Dec. 1, 1936
	1073, Dec. 1, 1936
	1075, Dec. 1, 1936
	1078, Dec. 1, 1936
	1182, 1183, 778, Dec. 1, 1936
	1315, Dec. 1, 1936
	1350, Dec. 1, 1936
	6
1364, Jan. 1, 1937	
1367, Jan. 1, 1937	
1464, Mar. 19, 1937	
1537, Mar. 19, 1937	
1546, Mar. 19, 1937	
1578, Mar. 19, 1937	
1556, Aug. 18, 1937	
1573, Aug. 18, 1937	
1576, Aug. 18, 1937	
1580, Aug. 18, 1937	
1661, Aug. 18, 1937	
1736, Aug. 18, 1937	
1737, Aug. 18, 1937	
2237, Aug. 18, 1937	
2238, Aug. 18, 1937	
G-3, Aug. 18, 1937	

<i>Folder</i>	<i>Item</i>
6	G-5, Aug. 18, 1937
	G-8, Aug. 18, 1937
	G-13, Aug. 18, 1937
	G-14, Aug. 18, 1937
	G-16, Aug. 18, 1937
	1509, Oct. 1, 1937
	1568, Oct. 1, 1937
	1591, Oct. 1, 1937
	1934, Oct. 1, 1937
	1956, Oct. 1, 1937
	2136, Oct. 1, 1937
	2243, Oct. 1, 1937
	G-22, Oct. 1, 1937
	798, Oct.11, 1937
	1205, Oct.11, 1937
	2443, Nov., 1945
	2891, Nov., 1945
	181
	540
	598
	1022
	1044
	1291
	1326
	1479
	1524
	1543
	1569
	1735
	1749
	1763/2723
	2122
	2247
	2278
	2279
	2281
	2297
	2299
	2300
	2322
	2323
	2325
	2326
	2340

<i>Folder</i>	<i>Item</i>
6	2353
	2373
	2376
	2419
	2421
	2445
	2453
	2454
	2455, 2456
	2457, 2461, 2467, 2474
	2460, 2465, 2470, 2472
	2464, 2468
	2496
	2497
	2498
	2512
	2524
	2525
	2568
	2651
	2657
	2675
	2680
	2691
	2692
	2722
	2786
	2821
	2859
	2868
	2869
	2870
	2881
	2882
	JZ-1, JZ-2, JZ-3, JZ-4
	L-14
	G.25
	Gold presentation box of Nicholas II of Russia

Series 2: Hammer Galleries, 1933-1945, n.d.

Box 1 (5 Folders, 1 Oversize Item and 1 Binder)

This series is comprised of invoices, price tags, item descriptions, exhibition labels and correspondence that document the purchases Pratt made from the Hammer Galleries in the 1930s

and 1940s. The Lord & Taylor invoices are undated, but the item numbers match up with Hammer Galleries price tags, and the Galleries did present and sell their collection at Lord & Taylor in the early 1930s (probably 1934 based upon letterhead from the item descriptions).

Price tags were often annotated with price reductions or alterations in the item's description. Item descriptions are extremely detailed, and include the item number and the date purchased. Most of the item descriptions were annotated by museum staff at some point with VMFA accession numbers. A note in Pratt's hand is written on the item description for a traveling clock (item number 5253, purchased June 16, 1933) and says "Given to H.R.H. Princess Margaret Rose of England May 1939." She received a letter of acknowledgment and appreciation back from Lady Constance Harriet Stuart Gaskell, a Woman of the Bedchamber to Queen Mary.

Finally, the few exhibition labels were used in the Hammer Collection's "Russian Imperial Exhibit" at Lord & Taylor. Four are still mounted on the original gold colored panels.

The series is divided into five subseries:

- Series 2.1:** Lord and Taylor Invoices, [1933]
- Series 2.2:** Price Tags, n.d.
- Series 2.3:** Item Descriptions, 1933-1945, n.d.
- Series 2.4:** Exhibition Labels, 1933-1934, n.d.
- Series 2.5:** Correspondence, 1939

Series 2.1: Lord and Taylor Invoices, [1933]

<i>Folder</i>	<i>Item</i>
7	Ikon 5278, Ikon 5282, Ikon 5283, Ikon 5279, Ikon 5277, Jan. 27, [1933]
	Ikon 5281, Ikon 5280, Ikon 5286, Ikon 5284, Jan. 27, [1933]
	5278, 5282, 5259, 5284, 5279, Feb. 1, [1933]
	5283, 5281, 5286, 5280, Feb. 1, [1933]
	Icon D 1000, Icon 4580, Feb. 17, [1933]
	Cope X 896, Ikon 5232, Feb. 23, [1933]

Series 2.2: Price Tags, n.d.

<i>Folder</i>	<i>Item</i>
Binder	E-43
	A-104
	A-105
	D-1000
	H-3825
	H-4098
	4108
	X-4110

<i>Folder</i>	<i>Item</i>
Binder	4122-C
	4404
	4580 (2 tags attached together)
	4809
	4809
	4830
	5054
	5253
	5253
	5259
	5358
	5523
	5524
	5524
	5846
	X-6101
	6577
	X-6787
	X-6794
	10685-B
	Icon A68, Icon, Icon, H3825, Cheese Scoop, Icon A105, Icon 5846, Snuffbox 6577

Series 2.3: Item Descriptions, 1933-1945, n.d.

<i>Folder</i>	<i>Item</i>
8	X 4110, Jan. 25, 1933
	F 99 D, Jan. 25, 1933
	F 99 C, Jan. 25, 1933
	H 4098, Jan. 26, 1933
	5054, Jan. 26, 1933
	5358, Jan. 26, 1933
	H 4108, Jan. 26, 1933
	4809, Jan. 26, 1933
	X 6101, Jan. 27, 1933
	4830, Jan. 27, 1933
	4809, Jan. 27, 1933
	10685-B, Feb. 1, 1933
	5253, Feb. 2, 1933
	5259, Feb. 14, 1933
	D 1000, Feb. 17, 1933
	4580, Feb. 17, 1933
	5253, June 16, 1933
	3550, Oct. 2, 1933

<i>Folder</i>	<i>Item</i>
8	3623, Oct. 2, 1933
	F43, Oct. 2, 1933
	X 6154, Oct. 2, 1933
	4404, Oct. 2, 1933
	X 5153, Oct. 2, 1933
	X 5096, Oct. 2, 1933
	X 6396, Oct. 2, 1933
	6025, Oct. 31, 1933
	E-1000, Oct. 31, 1933
	6787, Dec. 4, 1933
	X 6707, Dec. 4, 1933
	X 6794, Dec. 4, 1933
	4763, Jan. 4, 1934
	5528, Jan. 4, 1934
	6136, Jan. 4, 1934
	4765, Jan. 4, 1934
	6111, Feb. 1, 1934
	6019, Feb. 1, 1934
	6148, Feb. 1, 1934
	5421, Mar. 26, 1934
	5538, Mar. 26, 1934
	4122 C, May 3, 1934
	E-313, Jan. 31, 1935
	A-104, Jan. 31, 1935
	5547, June 21, 1935
	5401, June 21, 1935
	5687, June 21, 1935
	A-62, June 21, 1935
	5570, Mar. 6, 1936
	Easter Egg, Apr. 12 [Easter], 1936
	AS-1312, May, 1936
	E-327, May, 1936
	E-451, Aug. 17, 1936
	GT-1530/3, Nov. 9, 1936
	GT-1530/2, Nov. 9, 1936
	E-762/80, Nov. 9, 1936
	4776, Nov. 12, 1936
	E-43, Nov. 12, 1936
	IP-1553/2, Jan. 29, 1937
	ME-1249, Feb. 8, 1937
	5571, May 11, 1937
	JJ-5050/2, Oct. 2, 1937
	AV-5008/1, Oct. 2, 1937
	RB-5210/37, Dec., 1937

<i>Folder</i>	<i>Item</i>
8	RH-1815, Dec. 9, 1937 E-517/4, Dec. 25 [Christmas], 1937
9	IP-1843/4, Jan. 8, 1938 RH-5214/4, Jan. 27, 1938 A-61, Jan. 27, 1938 E-754, Jan. 27, 1938 RH-5214/3, Jan. 27, 1938 RH-5214/1, Jan. 28, 1938 RH-5214/47, Feb. 1, 1938 RH-5214/41, Feb. 1, 1938 RH-5214/46, Feb. 1, 1938 RH-5214/39, Feb. 1, 1938 RH-5214/45, Feb. 1, 1938 RH-5214/38, Feb. 1, 1938 RH-5214/33, Feb. 1, 1938 RH-5214/32, Feb. 1, 1938 RH-5214/44, Feb. 1, 1938 RH-5214/9, Feb. 1, 1938 RH-5214/13, Feb. 2, 1938 RH-5209/26, Apr. 15, 1938 RH-5380-13, Jan. 9, 1939 RH-5380/2, Jan. 31, 1939 RH-5408/10, Jan. 31, 1939 VD-5399/16, Feb. 4, 1939 RH-5408/17, Feb. 4, 1939 RH-5416/29, Feb. 17, 1939 CA-5364/2, Feb. 17, 1939 RH-5380/3, Feb. 17, 1939 RH-5332/7, Feb. 17, 1939 RH-5389/2, Feb. 17, 1939 RH-5416/28, Feb. 20, 1939 RH-5380/16, Feb. 23, 1939 RH-5380/11, Feb. 24, 1939 RH-5413/4, Feb. 24, 1939 RH-5408/5, Feb. 24, 1939 RH-5380/14, Feb. 24, 1939 RH-5408/12, Feb. 24, 1939 RH-5408/11, Feb. 24, 1939 RH-5413/3, Feb. 24, 1939 RH-5380/10, Feb. 24, 1939 VD-5399/5, Mar. 2, 1939 VD-5399/4, Mar. 2, 1939 RH-5408/16, Mar. 3, 1939

<i>Folder</i>	<i>Item</i>	
9	RH-845/1, Mar. 15, 1939	
	3531, Mar. 17, 1939	
	RH-5454/3, Apr. 19, 1939	
	5448, Apr. 19, 1939	
	RH-1842/12, Apr. 19, 1939	
	5449, Apr. 19, 1939	
	RH-1842/8, Apr. 19, 1939	
	RH-5409/25, June 1, 1939	
	Rooster, Sep. 25, 1939	
	Jade Coupe, Sep. 25, 1939	
	Bear Charm, Oct. 2, 1939	
	Bear Charm, Oct. 2, 1939	
	Vase, Oct. 2, 1939	
	Easter Egg Charm, Oct. 2, 1939	
	Easter Egg Charm, Oct. 2, 1939	
	Easter Egg Charm, Oct. 2, 1939	
	Easter Egg Charm, Oct. 2, 1939	
	Easter Egg Charm, Oct. 2, 1939	
	Easter Egg Charm, Oct. 2, 1939	
	Silver Vase, Dec. 4, 1939	
	Ink Well, Dec. 4, 1939	
	Locket, Dec. 6, 1939	
	Parasol Handle, Dec. 6, 1939	
	Parasol Handle, Dec. 6, 1939	
	Bulldog, Dec. 6, 1939	
	10	5450-6, Jan. 5, 1940
		5625-11, Jan. 5, 1940
E23, Jan. 5, 1940		
5550-1, Jan. 5, 1940		
RH1698-100, Jan. 9, 1940		
5509, Jan. 9, 1940		
RH5380-6, Jan. 9, 1940		
RH5380-2, Jan. 9, 1940		
RH5380-9, Jan. 9, 1940		
RH5413-2, Jan. 9, 1940		
RH5408-14, Jan. 9, 1940		
5478-5, Jan. 10, 1940		
5625-3, Jan. 24, 1940		
5450-17, Jan. 31, 1940		
RH-5332-17, Feb. 6, 1940		
5756-19, Dec. 4, 1940		
5903-4, Dec. 4, 1940		
5903-3, Dec. 4, 1940		

<i>Folder</i>	<i>Item</i>
10	5777-8, Dec. 4, 1940
	5839-12, Dec. 4, 1940
	5839-9, Dec. 4, 1940
	5840-6, Dec. 4, 1940
	5808-1, Dec. 4, 1940
	5756-18, Dec. 4, 1940
	5791-10, Dec. 4, 1940
	5903-1, Dec. 4, 1940
	5903-5, Dec. 4, 1940
	5903-6, Dec. 4, 1940
	6201-1, Dec. 4, 1940
	5870-3, Dec. 4, 1940
	1189-8, Jan., 1941
	505-6, Feb., 1941
	Miniature in Frame, Feb. 26, 1941
	Florentine Renaissance Bust, Jan., 1945
	5324
	5454
	5523, 5524
	5846
	A68
	A105
	H3825
	Easter Eggs
	Imperial Russian Easter Egg 1896

Series 2.4: Exhibition Labels, 1933-1934, n.d.

<i>Folder</i>	<i>Item</i>
11	“Photograph of the daughters...”, Oct. 2. 1933
	“Linen handkerchief...”, Oct. 2. 1933
	“Solid gold column...”, Jan. 4, 1934
	“Silver plaque...”, Jan. 4, 1934
	“Icon delicately painted...”, Jan. 4, 1934
	“Silver teapot...”, Jan. 4, 1934
	“Heart-shaped box...”

Series 2.5: Correspondence, 1939

<i>Folder</i>	<i>Item</i>
OS	Lady Constance Harriet Stuart Gaskell to Pratt, May 27, 1939

Series 3: Estate, 1947, n.d.*Box 2 (3 Folders and 1 Binder)*

This series is comprised of information about Pratt's estate after her death on July 21, 1947. The estate tax return outlines the extent of her entire estate, including the varied philanthropic bequests and funds she had arranged. Detailed inventories of the estate list her belongings by category. One of the paintings lists was annotated by a local appraiser, Virginia Clarke Taylor, denoting which paintings were "antiques" or not. Finally, there are many price tags from other non-Faberge purchases she made over the years. Most are from the New York department store B. Altman & Company, and detail her acquisitions of silver, lamps, fabric, vases, paintings, and other decorative items.

The series is divided into three subseries:

Series 3.1: Tax Information, 1947

Series 3.2: Inventory, 1947, n.d.

Series 3.3: Other Furnishings, n.d.

Series 3.1: Tax Information, 1947***Folder* *Item***

12 United States Estate Tax Return, July 21, 1947
 Memorandum of Articles Bequeathed to VMFA (5 copies), Aug. 20, 1947

Series 3.2: Inventory, 1947, n.d.***Folder* *Item***

13 Inventory M1-M85, [Books and Miscellaneous]
 Inventory P1-P131, [Paintings]
 Inventory P1-P136, Paintings (Antique)
 Inventory P3-P139, Paintings (Not Antique)
 Inventory P1-P139, [Paintings, Annotated by Virginia Clarke Taylor], Sep. 6, 1947
 Inventory F1-F256, Furniture (Antique)
 Inventory F4-F257, Furniture (Not Antique)
 Inventory F1-F257, [Furniture (All)]
 Inventory F84-F257, [Furniture (All)]
 Inventory S1-S111, [Silver]
 Inventory S50-S104, [Silver], 6 copies
 Inventory J1-J188, [Jewelry]
 Inventory J159-172, [Jewelry], 6 copies
 Inventory Estate, [8 Miscellaneous Items], 4 copies

Series 3.3: Other Furnishings, n.d.

<i>Folder</i>	<i>Item</i>
Binder	B. Altman, 26853
	B. Altman, 149322
	B. Altman, 159619
	B. Altman, 101/4062
	B. Altman, 353/13122
	B. Altman, S1108
	B. Altman, 16/640
	B. Altman, 94/203
	B. Altman, 94/407
	B. Altman, 100/14
	B. Altman, 100/101
	B. Altman, 139/10211
	B. Altman, 139/12015
	B. Altman, Bloor Darby Long Tom Vase
	B. Altman, Old Colebrookdale Vase
	B. Altman, 13/B
	B. Altman, 93C
	B. Altman, 93C
	B. Altman, 97/5043
	B. Altman, 191
	B. Altman, 191
	B. Altman, 191
	B. Altman, 191
	B. Altman, 44718
	B. Altman, A917
	B. Altman, A917
	B. Altman, A922
	B. Altman, A922
	B. Altman, C3 93, 896 TL, D6199
	B. Altman, C3 93, 896 TL, D6199
	B. Altman Old Silver, 301/034F
	B. Altman Old Silver, 301/7514
	B. Altman Old Silver, 301/7515
	B. Altman Old Silver, 301/7524
	B. Altman Old Silver, 301/7524
	B. Altman Old Silver, 301/7545
	B. Altman Old Silver, 301/7547
	B. Altman Old Silver, 301/7555
	B. Altman Old Silver, 319/2182
	B. Altman Old Silver, 321/140
	B. Altman, 12/953
	B. Altman, 12/953

<i>Folder</i>	<i>Item</i>
Binder	B. Altman, 12/989
	B. Altman, 97/5043
	B. Altman, 5203
	B. Altman, 10346
	B. Altman, 10640
	B. Altman, 11370
	B. Altman, 11696
	B. Altman, 12875
	B. Altman, 13698
	B. Altman, Price Sticker
	B. Altman, Blank Tag
	B. Altman, Blank Tag
	Miller & Rhoads, 393B2
	Lord & Taylor, E-10 2212
	J. E. Caldwell, Old Silver Tray
	J. Parker & E. Wakelin, Sauce Boat
	McCutcheon's Upholstery Department, S91
	Unknown, 236
	Unknown, 237-E
	Unknown, 243
	Unknown, 286
	Unknown, 295
	Unknown, D1215
	Unknown, D1234
	Unknown, D1361
	Unknown, D1369
	Unknown, 1353B
	Unknown, 1353B
	Unknown, 4537
	Unknown, 307
	Unknown, 2398/L
	Unknown, 10679
	Unknown, 301/7523
	Unknown, 2886
	Unknown, 2002
	Unknown, D1244
	Unknown, 39032 (2 tags attached together), Feb. 26, 1932
14	S. & G. Gump item description

Series 4: Clippings, 1932-1937, n.d.

Box 2 (1 Folder)

This series is comprised of the few clippings that were found in the collection. As none of these particular clippings were mentioned in the correspondence directly, it's possible that they did not originally belong to Pratt. The photographic copies of some of the articles were obviously made much later, but were retained as they may have been copies of articles Pratt once kept.

Folder ***Item***

- 15 "Royal Russian Treasures," Richmond News Leader (2 copies), Apr. 20, 1932
"Czarist Treasures to be seen in the Lobby of the Jefferson Hotel," Richmond Times-Dispatch (2 copies), Apr. 24, 1932
"Romanoff Gems, Art Shown Here," Aaron Marc Stein, New York Evening Post, Jan. 3, 1933
"Grand Duchess Victoria Dead," United Press, New York Herald Tribune, Mar. 3, 1936
[Image of beverage urn], New York Sun, Oct. 16, 1937
"Faberge Royal Craftsman," Ethel Walton Everett, Source unknown