

# Guide to the Moritz Geiger Papers, 1941-1969

Guide to the Moritz Geiger Papers, 1941-1969

## Table of Contents

- [Collection Summary](#)
- [Biographical Note](#)
- [Scope and Content Note](#)
- [Subject Headings](#)
- [Administrative Information](#)
- [Access and Use](#)
- [Encoding Information](#)
- [Series List](#)
- [Container List](#)

## Collection Summary

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives and Special Collections Library, Vassar College Libraries
<b>Creator:</b>	Geiger, Moritz, 1880-1937
<b>Title:</b>	Moritz Geiger Papers
<b>Dates:</b>	1941-1969
<b>Quantity:</b>	1.5 cubic feet (5 boxes)
<b>Abstract:</b>	Typescripts of and correspondence pertaining to an English translation of Geiger's writings on aesthetics.

[Top](#)

## Biographical Note

Born in Frankfurt, Germany, in 1880, Moritz Geiger was the son of Alfred and Adelheid Geiger and a nephew of Abraham Geiger, the founder of Reform Judaism. Geiger studied philosophy, mathematics, and other subjects, earning his Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of Munich in 1904. He then taught as a professor at the universities of Munich and Goettingen. An associate of Edmund Husserl, Geiger was one of the leading early proponents of the philosophical movement known as Realistic Phenomenology. His major contribution to that movement was the application of Husserl's objective "eidetical" method to aesthetics. With the rise of Nazism, Geiger left Germany in 1933 and moved to the United States. That year he accepted a position as Professor of Philosophy at Vassar College. He began teaching in 1934 and later served as chair of the Philosophy Department. In 1935 he was named the James M. Taylor Professor of Philosophy. Active in the Vassar community, Geiger delivered lectures to faculty, students, and alumnae on topics

ranging from threats to cultural values to the problem of anti-intellectualism. In 1918 Geiger married Elizabeth Muhl, an art historian and sculptor who also taught at Vassar. After a brief illness, Moritz Geiger died on September 9, 1937.

[Top](#)

## Scope and Content Note

This collection includes correspondence pertaining to the editing, translation into English, and publication of *The Significance of Art: Foundations of an Aesthetics of Value*, a collection of Geiger's writings on aesthetics. Also included are four copies of the typescript of that collection.

[Top](#)

## Subject Headings

### Names:

- Berger, Klaus, 1901-
- Greene, Theodore Meyer, 1897-1969
- MacCracken, H. N. (Henry Noble), 1880-1970
- Panofsky, Erwin, 1892-1968
- Smith, Datus Clifford, 1907-

### Subjects:

- Aesthetics
- Phenomenology
- Phenomenology and art

### VCL Categories

- Philosophers and Philosophy
- Vassar College

[Top](#)

## Encoding Information

Encoded by Mark Seidl, November 2011.

[Top](#)

## Administrative Information

### Preferred Citation

Moritz Geiger Papers, Archives and Special Collections Library, Vassar College Libraries.

## Processing Information

Processed by Mark Seidl, November 2011.

## Acquisition Information

For the bulk of the collection, original acquisition date unknown. One copy of the typescript of *The Significance of Art: Foundations of an Aesthetics of Value* was acquired as a gift from Emory University in July 2008.

[Top](#)

## Series List

<b><u>Series I.</u> Correspondence, 1941-1969, bulk 1941-1945 (Folders 1.1-1.20)</b>
--

Correspondence pertaining to the editing, translation into English, and publication of Geiger's <i>The Significance of Art: Foundations of an Aesthetics of Value</i> . Correspondents include Klaus Berger, editor of Geiger's writings in German, Vassar College president Henry Noble MacCracken, philosopher Theodore M. Greene, and publisher Datus Clifford Smith.
--

<b><u>Series II.</u> Typescripts, circa 1944 (Boxes 2-5)</b>
--

This series consists of four copies of the typescript of <i>The Significance of Art</i> . On two of these copies appear handwritten editorial notes.
--

## Container List

Series I. Correspondence	
Folder 1.1	[n.d.]
Folder 1.2	1941
Folder 1.3	1942 January-March
Folder 1.4	1942 April
Folder 1.5	1942 May-July
Folder 1.6	1942 September-October
Folder 1.7	1942 November-December
Folder 1.8	1943
Folder 1.9	1944 January-July

Folder 1.10	1944 August-December
Folder 1.11	1945
Folder 1.12	1946 January-June
Folder 1.13	1947 January-1948 May
Folder 1.14	1957-1969
<b>Series II. Typescripts: <i>The Significance of Art: Foundations of an Aesthetics of Value</i></b>	
Box 2	Copy 1, circa 1944
Box 3	Copy 2, circa 1944
Box 4	Copy 3, circa 1944
Folder 5.1	Copy 4, circa 1944 [pp. 1-187]
Folder 5.2	Copy 4, circa 1944 [pp. 188-429]

[Return to the Table of Contents](#)

▼ Details

Abstract

Typescripts of and correspondence pertaining to an English translation of Geiger's writings on aesthetics.