



SOUTH CAROLINA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

John H. D. Wigger Papers, 1937-2002

SCHS # 0693.00

Description: 0.75 linear ft. (2 boxes)

Biographical/Historical Note: Born in Charleston, S.C., John H.D. Wigger was a graduate of the Citadel. After graduating from Georgetown University Law School, he practiced law in the antitrust division of the U.S. Justice Department. After military service in the 1940s, he returned to the antitrust division, retiring in 1976. Wigger returned to Charleston in 1980 and traveled extensively in Europe, where he became a collector of British pewter and 18th and 19th century watercolor paintings. In 2004, Wigger bequeathed his collection of paintings to the Gibbes Museum in Charleston.

Scope and content: Collection chiefly consists of diaries and travel diaries, as well as daybooks and memo books of personal records relating to expenses, purchases, theatrical productions, pewter, artwork, and artists. Also included are lists of paintings and prints owned by John H.D. Wigger, and a few artifacts such as World War II medals. Photographs have been removed to the Visual Materials Collection, 0693.00 VM. These include a color portrait (ca. 1937) of John H. D. Wigger in his Citadel cadet uniform, black and white portraits of him in World War II era uniform, and a color studio portrait dating to around 2000.

Preferred citation: Wigger, John H. D. John H. D. Wigger papers, 1937-2002. (0693.00) South Carolina Historical Society.

Search terms:

Wigger, John H. D., 1915-2004.
Art -- Collectors and collecting
Artists -- Great Britain
Pewter -- Great Britain
Prints
Travelers' writings
Watercolor painting, British -- 18th century
Watercolor painting, British -- 19th century

Container listing:

BOX 1

- 1 Diaries, 1948-1949.
- 2-3 Personal records, 1953-1994, removed from binder. Includes notes on various expenses such as medical expenses and book and gift purchases, notes on “food and hotels” and “books & movies,” names and addresses of various individuals, and Christmas lists.
- 4 Travel diaries, 1981-1986, removed from binder. Notes on a trip to South Africa (1981), and trips to London, England. Includes notes on London theater, expenses, and purchases of pewter and other items.

BOX 2

- 1 Travel diaries, 1987-1996, removed from binder. Notes on trips, mainly to London, England. Includes notes on expenses and purchases of pewter and other items.
- 2 Record of purchases, 1981-2000, removed from binder. Documents purchases of art, antiques, and household items. Also, a pocket memo/calendar book, 1986, that includes a list of names and addresses of various individuals, as well as notes on books, artwork, and artists.
- 3 Personal records, 1993-2002, removed from binder. Records include notes on membership in various organizations; notes on theater productions, movies, and television programs; and trips to London.
- 4 Personal records, 1990s, removed from binder. Includes notes on books, prints, and watercolors “to seek,” as well as a record of personal expenses.
- 5 “John Wigger’s Prints.” Pages removed from binder that appear to date in the 1980s and 1990s. Includes notes on 18th, 19th and 20th century lithographs, engravings, etchings, prints, and artists. Some entries list information on sellers.
- 6 Notebook of records on antique maps, art, and furniture, 1981-1995.
- 7 List of watercolor paintings owned by John H. D. Wigger. Includes purchase information.
- 8 Miscellaneous items, including biographical information on John H. D. Wigger.