

**Finding Aid for the Sergei M. Eisenstein
Collection of Drawings and Sketches, ca. 1917–1946**

Collection Processed by:

Jessica Garcia (February 25, 2019)

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Revised, Joel Parham (November 18, 2025)

OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION

Origination/Creator: Eisenstein, Sergei Mikhailovich
Title of Collection: Sergei M. Eisenstein Collection
Date of Collection: 1917–1946
Physical Description: 2 Boxes
Identification: Special Collections #23
Repository: American Film Institute
AFI Archives
2021 N. Western Ave.
Los Angeles, CA

RIGHTS AND RESTRICTIONS

Access Restrictions: Collection is open for research.
Copyright: Estate of Sergei M. Eisenstein
Acquisition Method: Gift from various sources

BIOGRAPHICAL / HISTORY NOTE

Eisenstein was born in 1889, in Riga, Governorate Livonia, Russian Empire (now Latvia). His father was a famous architect, and like him, he went on to study architecture and engineering at the Petrograd Institute of Civil Engineering. However, in 1918 with the outbreak of the Russian Revolution, he joined the Red Army. It was his time in the Red Army and his exposure to Japanese Kabuki that would later inspire him to pursue a career in theatre. In 1920 he took a job with the Prolekult Theatre as an assistant decorator, where he designed the costumes and scenery of many notable plays. After making a short film for his production of the WISE MAN, he became more interested in cinema and theory, publishing his first article “The Montage of Attraction” in 1923. Eisenstein made his first full length movie STRIKE in 1925, followed by such movies as; BATTLESHIP POTEMKIN, OCTOBER, THE GENERAL LINE and the IVAN TRILOGY. Throughout his filmmaking career, Eisenstein was influenced greatly by his travels, first with the Red Army and the Japanese influences he experienced. Then later with his tours of western Europe, America and Mexico. While he did not make many films and did not have many successes, he is still well known and respected as the father of cinematic montage. Eisenstein died of a heart attack in 1948.

Sergei M. Eisenstein Collection of Drawings and Sketches

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains artwork by Sergei Eisenstein spanning from 1917 to 1946, and reflect different aspects and inspirations of his career. All the work in this collection are reproductions created by the specialists of the Leningrad Ivan Fedorov Press and were published in 1968-1971 by the Association of Filmmakers of the USSR.

The collection is split into four series: Drawings of Different Years, Mexican Motifs, Ivan the Terrible and Theatrical Sketches. It should be noted that Series 2: Mexican Motifs is missing one piece of art from its Mexicans sub-series entitled Merida, Yucatan. Series 4: Theatrical Sketches is the only series that contains duplicates of all the artwork.

CONTAINER LIST

Box 1

f. 1. Letter from Serguei Yutkevitch

Series 1: Drawings of Different Years, Published 1968

f. 2. Brochure re: Series 1, 1968

Sub-series: Youth Drawings

f. 3. Petrograd. 1917, undated

Sub-series: In the world of arts

f. 4. Leonardo, undated

f. 5. Buonarotti, undated

f. 6. King Duncan's death, undated

f. 7. Gauguinism, undated

f. 8. Rimbaud, undated

f. 9. Lady from a French novel, undated

f. 10. Bach, undated

Sergei M. Eisenstein Collection of Drawings and Sketches

Sub-series: Reminiscences

- f. 11. Film-fans, undated
- f. 12. At the church, undated
- f. 13. Sketch in color pencil, undated
- f. 14. Hotel Savoy, undated
- f. 15. Hearty advices, undated
- f. 16. Niece and uncle, undated
- f. 17. A couple, undated
- f. 18. Nostalgia, undated

Sub-series: Antique motifs

- f. 19. Apollo, undated
- f. 20. Dionysios, undated
- f. 21. Poseidon, undated
- f. 22. Orpheus, undated
- f. 23. Centaur, undated
- f. 24. Faun, undated
- f. 25. King and queen, undated
- f. 26. Three weird sisters, undated
- f. 27. 3x3 weird sisters, undated

Series 2: Mexican Motifs, Published 1971

- f. 28. Brochure re: Series 2, 1971, undated

Sergei M. Eisenstein Collection of Drawings and Sketches

Sub-series: Mexicans

- f. 29. Sebastian (The "Maguey" sequence from "Que Viva Mexico!"), undated
- f. 30. Sorrow, undated
- f. 31. Mexican Madonna, undated
- f. 32. Three Women, undated
- f. 33. Spanish Lady at a Balcony, undated
- f. 34. Tehuantepec. On the way to the market (The "Sandunga" sequence from "Que viva Mexico!"), undated
- f. 35. Indio women, undated
- f. 36. Mexican woman, undated

Sub-series: Ironic mythology

- f. 37. Fall (from the "Satan's downfall" cycle), undated
- f. 38. The angry eye (from the "Fall of Adam and Eve" cycle), undated
- f. 39. Drawing from the "Judas" cycle, undated
- f. 40. Extasy (from the "Veronique" cycle), undated
- f. 41. Autograph (from the "Veronique" cycle), undated
- f. 42. Drawings from the "Mexican barocco" cycle (1 of 2), undated
- f. 43. Drawings from the "Mexican barocco" cycle (2 of 2), undated
- f. 44. Ascension of Maria, undated

Sub-series: Holidays

- f. 45. Religious procession in Uman (1 of 3), undated
- f. 46. Religious procession in Uman (2 of 3), undated

Sergei M. Eisenstein Collection of Drawings and Sketches

- f. 47. Religious procession in Uman (3 of 3), undated
- f. 48. Corrida, undated
- f. 49. Adoration of the torrero, undated
- f. 50. Veronique, undated
- f. 51. Synthesis and pardon (from the Tauromachy "suite"), undated

Sub-series: Beloved Mexico...

- f. 52. Mexican youth, undated
- f. 53. Boatman from Xochimilco, undated
- f. 54. Peons at the Tetlapayac hacienda (1 of 3), undated
- f. 55. Peons at the Tetlapayac hacienda (2 of 3), undated
- f. 56. Peons at the Tetlapayac hacienda (3 of 3), undated
- f. 57. Querido Mexico, querido mexicanos!, undated

Box 2

Series 3: Drawings from IVAN THE TERRIBLE, Published 1967

- f. 1. Brochure re: Series 3, 1967
- f. 2. Tsar Ivan, undated
- f. 3. Ivan's childhood. Reception of Ambassadors, undated
- f. 4. Coronation, undated
- f. 5. Tsar Ivan speaks at the Assumption Cathedral, undated
- f. 6. The young Ivan, undated
- f. 7. Opritchnik Fedor Basmanov, undated

Sergei M. Eisenstein Collection of Drawings and Sketches

- f. 8. Ambrogio, Italian from the suite of Prince Kurbsky, undated
- f. 9. Vladimir Andreevitch Staritzky, protege of the boyards, undated
- f. 10. Sketch for Ivan's costume, undated
- f. 11. Boyard Obolensky, undated
- f. 12. Tsar Ivan on his march against the Khanat of Kazan, undated
- f. 13. Fight between Tsar Ivan and Kurbsky, undated
- f. 14. Extreme Unction, undated
- f. 15. Ivan recovers from illness, undated
- f. 16. Court-jester of King Sigismund of Poland, undated
- f. 17. Knight Heinrich von Staden departing to Moscow, undated
- f. 18. Metropolitan Philip, undated
- f. 19. Vladimir Staritzky, undated
- f. 20. Dispute between Ivan and Philip, undated
- f. 21. Metropolitan Philip accuses the Tsar in the Assumption Cathedral, undated
- f. 22. Pimen, Archbishop of Novgorod, undated
- f. 23. Euphrosinia Staritzkaya with her son, undated
- f. 24. Murder of Vladimir Staritzky in the Cathedral, undated
- f. 25. Monk- cup bearer, undated
- f. 26. "Silent march" of the opritchniks, undated
- f. 27. Stone cross on the road to Novgorod, undated
- f. 28. "Thou are silent, Almighty!", undated

Sergei M. Eisenstein Collection of Drawings and Sketches

f. 29. Ivan's ghost appears before Kurbsky, undated

f. 30. Maliouta wounded, undated

f. 31. Finale. Tsar Ivan at the sea, undated

Series 4: Theatrical Sketches, Published 1970

f. 32. Brochure re: Series 4, 1970

f. 33. General view of a theatre, 1917

f. 34. Characters of ancient theatre, 1917

f. 35. Characters of commedia dell'arte: Panatalone, Smeraldine, Brigella, 1917 (3 items)

f. 36. Characters from the comedy "The Million of Pierrot", 1917

f. 37. Costume and mask of the Giant for "The Woman-serpent" by C. Gozzi, 1917

f. 38. Pierrot and Harlequin of the XIXth century, 1917

f. 39. Sketches for W. Shakespeare's "Hamlet": King and queen, actor, 1917 (2 items)

f. 40. Mask for Strepsiade for "The Cloud" by Aristophanes, 1919

f. 41. The Invalid; sketch for the stage-production of "The Seizure of Bastille" by R. Rolland, 1920

f. 42. Characters from the miracle-play "The Cologne Cathedral Builder", 1920

f. 43. Sketch for the stage-production of "The Mexican" after Jack London: the stout negress group, 1920

f. 44. Sketches of costumes for the production of "The Mexican" at the Proletkult Theatre: a miner and two Indians, 1920 (2 items)

f. 45. The Capital. Costume and mask for the stage-production of "The Proletkult Dawns" by V. Ignatovitch, 1921

f. 46. Heroine of the melodrama "The Kidnapper" by d'Ennery, 1921

Sergei M. Eisenstein Collection of Drawings and Sketches

- f. 47. Costumes of Peabrock and Atkins for the production of "The Kidnapper", 1921 (1 of 2)
- f. 48. Costumes of Peabrock and Atkins for the production of "The Kidnapper", 1921 (2 of 2)
- f. 49. Setting design for the comic opera "Tales of Hoffmann" by J. Offenbach, 1920
- f. 50. Character from the opera "Tales of Hoffmann": Olympia, 1921 (1 of 4)
- f. 51. Character from the opera "Tales of Hoffmann": Doctor Miracle, 1921 (2 of 4)
- f. 52. Character from the opera "Tales of Hoffmann": Person for the "Polonaise" sequence, 1921 (3 of 4)
- f. 53. Character from the opera "Tales of Hoffmann": Person for the "Polonaise" sequence, 1921 (4 of 4)
- f. 54. Costume of Macbeth and Lady Macbeth for the stage-production of W. Shakespeare's tragedy, 1922 (1 of 2)
- f. 55. Costume of Macbeth and Lady Macbeth for the stage-production of W. Shakespeare's tragedy, 1922 (2 of 2)
- f. 56. Stage construction for the production of "Puss in Boots" by L. Tieck, 1921
- f. 57. Stage construction for the production of "Heartbreak House" by B. Shaw, 1922
- f. 58. Sam Mangen's costume for the stage-production of "Heartbreak House", 1922
- f. 59. Isben, 1942
- f. 60. Maeterlinck, 1942
- f. 61. Richard III sketches for W. Shakespeare's tragedy, 1944 (1 of 2)
- f. 62. Richard III sketches for W. Shakespeare's tragedy, 1944 (2 of 2)