

# Finding Aid for the Cornelius V. S. Roosevelt Research Materials on M.C. Escher, 1957–1982

## Summary Information

Repository	National Gallery of Art Archives Sixth Street and Constitution Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20565 archives@nga.gov
Title	Cornelius V. S. Roosevelt Research Materials on M.C. Escher
Identifier	SC.006
Creator	Roosevelt, Cornelius V. S., 1915-1991
Date	1957–1982
Extent	3.5 cubic feet (8 boxes)
Abstract	This collection documents Cornelius V.S. Roosevelt's interest in the Dutch artist, M.C. Escher. Roosevelt acquired a major collection of Escher's work, which he donated to the National Gallery of Art between 1973 and 1983.

## Biographical Note

Cornelius Van Schaak Roosevelt was the grandson of President Theodore Roosevelt and the son of Army Brigadier General Theodore Roosevelt Jr. He was born in New York City, attended Harvard University, and graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He joined the CIA in Washington in 1952 as an engineer and continued to be employed there until his retirement in 1973.

Roosevelt became interested in the graphic work of Dutch artist M.C. Escher in the mid-1950s. Roosevelt eventually acquired a major collection of Escher's work, which he donated to the National Gallery of Art in four segments between 1973 and 1983. Beginning in 1966, at the artist's request, Roosevelt represented Escher in negotiations with United States publishers who wished to use the artist's graphic work.

## Scope and Content

This collection documents Roosevelt's interest in Escher and consists primarily of correspondence between him and the artist and, after Escher's death, with members of the artist's family. Roosevelt also collected copies of correspondence between the artist and other

individuals as a research resource and conducted extensive correspondence with other individuals and organizations concerning the artist and his work.

## Arrangement

Materials are arranged in accordance with the arrangement system that Roosevelt developed:

Series 1 Roosevelt and Escher Correspondence, 1957-1982

Series 2 Copies of M.C. Escher Correspondence, circa 1920s-1970s

Series 3 Subject Files, circa 1957-1982

## Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access	This collection is open for research by appointment under the conditions of the National Gallery of Art Archives Access Policy. For all inquiries or to schedule an appointment, please contact <a href="mailto:archives@nga.gov">archives@nga.gov</a> .
Preferred Citation	National Gallery of Art Archives. Cornelius V.S. Roosevelt Research Materials on M.C. Escher.
Rights Status	In copyright
Language	English
Processing Information	Processed by archives staff in 1997.
Acquisition	Gift of Cornelius Van Schaak Roosevelt, 1983.
Related Archival Materials	The National Gallery of Art prints and drawings department holds scrapbooks of clippings and photographs donated by Cornelius V.S. Roosevelt relating to M.C. Escher.

## Series Descriptions

### Series 1 Roosevelt and Escher Correspondence, 1957–1982 [1 box]

This series consists of correspondence between Cornelius V.S. Roosevelt and M.C. Escher from 1957 until the artist's death in 1972. Also included is correspondence with George A. Escher and other Escher family members from 1972 to 1982.

**Series 2 Copies of M.C. Escher Correspondence [1 box]**

This series includes copies of M.C. Escher's correspondence with other individuals that Roosevelt acquired as a research and study resource. The correspondence is organized alphabetically by the name of the individual with whom Escher corresponded.

**Series 3 Subject Files [4 boxes]**

This series consists of mainly correspondence. From about 1957 to 1982, Roosevelt conducted wide-ranging correspondence with several individuals and organizations relating to the artist and his work. Some of the correspondence relates to the use of Escher prints in publications. A small amount of audiovisual reference material relating to Escher's works is also included.

## Cornelius Van Schaak Roosevelt Research Materials on M.C. Escher

### Series 1 Roosevelt and Escher Correspondence, 1957–1982

#### Box 1

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 1-1  | C.V.S. Roosevelt and M.C. Escher Correspondence, 1957-1961      |
| 1-2  | C.V.S. Roosevelt and M.C. Escher Correspondence, 1962           |
| 1-3  | C.V.S. Roosevelt and M.C. Escher Correspondence, 1963-1965      |
| 1-4  | C.V.S. Roosevelt and M.C. Escher Correspondence, 1966           |
| 1-5  | C.V.S. Roosevelt and M.C. Escher Correspondence, 1967           |
| 1-6  | C.V.S. Roosevelt and M.C. Escher Correspondence, 1968           |
| 1-7  | C.V.S. Roosevelt and M.C. Escher Correspondence, 1969           |
| 1-8  | C.V.S. Roosevelt and M.C. Escher Correspondence, 1970           |
| 1-9  | C.V.S. Roosevelt and M.C. Escher Correspondence, 1971-1972      |
| 1-10 | C.V.S. Roosevelt and George A. Escher Correspondence, 1972-1974 |
| 1-11 | C.V.S. Roosevelt and George A. Escher Correspondence, 1975-1982 |

### Series 2 Copies of M.C. Escher Correspondence

#### Box 1

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 1-12 | M.C. Escher Correspondence with Professor Melvin Calvin |
| 1-13 | M.C. Escher Correspondence with H.S.M. Coxeter          |
| 1-14 | M.C. Escher Correspondence with Martin Gardner          |
| 1-15 | M.C. Escher Correspondence with S.L. Hartz              |
| 1-16 | M.C. Escher Correspondence with Herrie Kist             |

## Cornelius Van Schaak Roosevelt Research Materials on M.C. Escher

1-17 M.C. Escher Correspondence with Roland Holst

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1-18 M.C. Escher Correspondence with Kroon

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1-19 M.C. Escher Correspondence with Simon Lowinsky

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1-20 M.C. Escher Correspondence with Thomas E. Phipps

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1-21 M.C. Escher Correspondence with Richard Rosett

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### Series 3 Subject Files

#### Box 1

1-1 American Association of Suicidology  
*See also correspondence with Shneidman.*

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1-2 Arts Anciens  
*Includes correspondence with P. Y. Gabus and L. Watstein.*

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1-3 Bagshaw, Mrs. Sydney

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1-4 Ballantine Books

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1-5 Battaglia, Jack

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1-6 Bell Telephone Laboratories  
*Includes correspondence with Dr. William Gorton and Dr. M.V. Mathews.*

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1-7 Bodewes, H.F.

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1-8 Boot-Huygen, Tineke  
*See also correspondence with Meulenhoff.*

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1-9 Brentano's Gallery

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1-10 Breughel, G.W.  
*Includes correspondence with Reprinter Reproductions.*

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## Cornelius Van Schaak Roosevelt Research Materials on M.C. Escher

1-11 Bushell, Raymond

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1-12 California College of Arts and Crafts  
*Includes correspondence with Robert Ballard.*

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1-13 Carlisle, David

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1-14 Carson Trust, Rachel

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1-15 Cartier, Del

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1-16 Cincinnati Art Museum  
*Includes correspondence with Kristin L. Spangenberg.*

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1-17 Cincinnati Science Center  
*Includes correspondence with Marti Niemczyk.*

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1-18 Cohen, Professor Alvin J.  
*Includes correspondence with University of Pittsburgh.*

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1-19 Cohen, Jeffrey R.  
*See also correspondence with Breughel.*

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1-20 Cooperativa Operai Tipografi  
*Includes correspondence with Dr. Luigi Chiesa-Abbiati.*

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1-21 Cordover, Ronald H.

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1-22 Cousteau Society  
*Includes correspondence with Frederick Richards.*

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1-23 Coxeter, H.S.M.  
*Includes correspondence with University of Toronto. See also correspondence with Gardner.*

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1-24 Daane, Laurens A.

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1-25 Davison Art Center  
*Includes correspondence with Heinrich Schwarz and Wesleyan University.*

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## Cornelius Van Schaak Roosevelt Research Materials on M.C. Escher

1-26 Dawson, Dr. John W., Jr.

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1-27 de Raat, Jean  
*Includes correspondence with Water Witch.*

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1-28 Detroit Institute of Arts  
*Includes correspondence with Ellen Sharp.*

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1-29 Document Associates Inc.  
*Includes correspondence with Lisa Doty.*

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1-30 Donnay, Professors J.D.H. and Gabrielle  
*Includes correspondence with McGill University. See also correspondence with Servos.*

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1-31 Dudley, George

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1-32 Dunham, Dr. Douglas  
*Includes correspondence with University of Minnesota.*

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1-33 Elliott, Scott Gallery

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1-34 Emboden, Dr. William A.  
*Includes correspondence with Natural History Museum of Los Angeles.*

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1-35 Emmer, Professor Michele  
*Includes correspondence with Istituto Matematico and Universita di Roma.*

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1-36 Endfield, Cy

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1-37 Endless Octave  
*Includes correspondence with Douglas Clark.*

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1-38 Estudio Actual  
*Includes correspondence with Clara Diamant Sujo.*

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1-39 Fitch-Febvrel Gallery  
*Includes correspondence with Andrew Fitch.*

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## Cornelius Van Schaak Roosevelt Research Materials on M.C. Escher

1-40 Fukuda, Shigeo

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1-41 Gardner, Martin  
*See also correspondence with Phipps and Woodman.*

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1-42 Getchell, Professor Charles  
*Includes correspondence with Lycoming College and Menlo College.*

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1-43 Glasser, Professor L.  
*Includes correspondence with Rhodes University.*

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1-44 Graham, John

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1-45 Gregory, Professor Richard L.  
*Includes correspondence with Duckworth and University of Bristol. See also correspondence with Haycraft.*

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1-46 Haags Gemeentemuseum  
*Includes correspondence with Drs. C.H.A. Broos; P.A. Frequin; Dr. J.L. Locher.; and Dr. L.J.F. Wijzenbeek. See also correspondence with Schwartz.*

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1-47 Handmaiden Boutique  
*Includes correspondence with Catherine Simons. See also correspondence with Servos.*

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1-48 Harwell, Kevin

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1-49 Hatfield, Bianca and Robert A.

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1-50 Haycraft, Colin

---

1-51 Hawes, Lorin

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1-52 Hertzberger, Menno

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1-53 Horizon  
*Includes correspondence with Jane Wilson.*

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1-54 Horton, Carolyn

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## Cornelius Van Schaak Roosevelt Research Materials on M.C. Escher

1-55 Huber, Lynn Manos  
*Includes correspondence with University of Missouri.*

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1-56 IBM Gallery  
*Includes correspondence with Suzanne Crowley.*

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1-57 Israel Museum  
*See also correspondence with Sachs and Schwartz.*

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1-58 Isselbacher Gallery

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1-59 Izumi, Yuka  
*Includes correspondence with National Museum of Ethnology.*

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1-60 Killian, James R., Jr.  
*See also correspondence with Sharon Arts Center.*

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### Box 2

2-1 Kist, Jan R.  
*Includes correspondence with Bastiaan Kist. See also correspondence with Schwartz and Wilkie and Herrie Kist.*

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2-2 Knuf, Frits

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2-3 Kraus, Jerelle  
*See also correspondence with New York Times.*

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2-4 Landshoff, Andreas  
*See also correspondence with Schattschneider.*

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2-5 Landwehr, John

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2-6 Levitin, Karl E.  
*Includes correspondence with Znanie-Sila.*

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2-7 Linnenfabrieken Van Dissel  
*Includes correspondence with Ami Jansen.*

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## Cornelius Van Schaak Roosevelt Research Materials on M.C. Escher

2-8 Loeb, Dr. Arthur L.

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2-9 Loveland, Ronald J.  
*See also correspondence with University of Wyoming.*

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2-10 Lowinsky, Simon  
*See also correspondence with Phoenix Gallery.*

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2-11 Luce, Clare Booth

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2-12 MacGillavry, Caroline H.

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2-13 Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)  
*Includes correspondence with Herbert L. Beckwith; Carroll G. Bowen; Dr. F.L. Foster; John I. Mattill; and MIT Press. See also correspondence with Killian, Loeb, Spackman, and Von Hippel.*

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2-14 Matthews, Jeffrey  
*See also correspondence with Wiley.*

---

2-15 McLaughlin, James W.

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2-16 Merriam, John D.  
*See also correspondence with Sachs and Schwartz.*

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2-17 Meulenhoff International BV  
*Includes correspondence with Fokke Wierda.*

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2-18 Mickelson Gallery  
*Includes correspondence with Sidney Mickelson.*

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2-19 Milton, Dr. Charles  
*Includes correspondence with Richard H. Foote and Journal of the Washington Academy of Sciences.*

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2-20 Morrison, Phyllis Singer

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2-21 Moynahan, Denise

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## Cornelius Van Schaak Roosevelt Research Materials on M.C. Escher

2-22 Museum of Modern Art

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2-23 National Gallery of Art

*Includes correspondence with J. Carter Brown; Fred Cain; Elizabeth A. Croog; Lynn M. Gould; Lloyd Hayes; Pamela Jenkinson; Kathleen Ewing Kissane; Charles Parkhurst; Thomas Radford; Andrew Robison; H. Diane Russell; and Jacquelyn L. Sheehan.*

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2-24 New York Public Library

*Includes correspondence with David J. Johnson.*

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2-25 New York Times

*Includes correspondence with Peter Schjeldahl. See also correspondence with Kraus.*

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2-26 Old Dominion T-Shirt Company

*Includes correspondence with W.A. Retskin.*

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2-27 Perdok, Professor Wiepko G.

*Includes correspondence with University of Groningen. See also correspondence with Servos.*

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2-28 Phipps, Thomas E.

*See also correspondence with Gardner.*

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2-29 Phoenix Gallery

*Includes correspondence with Nikki Arai and R. Denton. See also correspondence with Lowinsky and Estudio Actual.*

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2-30 Poston, Jane

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2-31 Pratt Graphic Art Center

*Includes correspondence with Professor Fritz Eichenberg.*

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2-32 Print Collector's Newsletter

*Includes correspondence with Jacqueline Brody.*

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2-33 Reader's Digest

*Includes correspondence with Elinor Bratton and George Kent.*

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## Cornelius Van Schaak Roosevelt Research Materials on M.C. Escher

2-34 Rice, Charles D.

*Includes correspondence with This Week.*

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2-35 Rizzoli International Bookstore and Gallery

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2-36 Roosevelt, Susan

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2-37 Rosett, Dr. Richard

*Includes correspondence with University of Chicago.*

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2-38 Sachs, Dr. Michael S.

*Includes correspondence with H.M. Gronlo-Wels. See also correspondence with Knuf, Merriam, Schattschneider, and Servos.*

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### Box 3

3-1 Sakane, Itsuo 1975

*Includes correspondence with Asahi Shimbun. See also correspondence with Gardner, Shindo, and Silver.*

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3-2 Sakane, Itsuo 1976-1983

*See also correspondence with Gardner, Shindo, and Silver*

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3-3 Savage, Sam L.

*Includes correspondence with Shmuzzles, Inc..*

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3-4 Schattschneider, Dr. Doris, 1974-1975

*Includes correspondence with Coronet Instructional Media; George A. Escher; Moravian College; New Yorker Magazine; and Dr. George A. Polya. See also correspondence with George A. Escher, Talbot, and Wallace.*

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3-5 Schattschneider, Dr. Doris, 1976-1982

*See also correspondence with George A. Escher, Talbot, and Wallace*

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3-6 Schwartz, Seymour

*Includes correspondence with Berrocal Imports Inc.; Caprock Developments, Inc.; John Forest; Adda Knabe; Lee C. F. Sallows; SIRIS Gallery; Sotheby Mak van Waay; and Vendu Notarishuis . See also correspondence with Verschoor.*

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## Cornelius Van Schaak Roosevelt Research Materials on M.C. Escher

- 3-7 Scientific American  
*Includes correspondence with Dennis Flanagan; Gerard Piel; and Marianne L. Teuber. See also correspondence with George A. Escher, Gardner, and VAGA.*
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- 3-8 Senechal, Dr. Marjorie  
*Includes correspondence with Smith College.*
- 
- 3-9 Servos, Professor Kurt  
*Includes correspondence with F. Haag; Menlo College; Dr. A. Pabst; Dr. George A. Polya; Paul B. Schuster; Tromp-Meester; and Horace Winchell.*
- 
- 3-10 Sharon Art Center  
*See also correspondence with Killian.*
- 
- 3-11 Shindo, Makoto  
*Includes correspondence with Griffin's Corporation. See also correspondence with Phoenix Gallery, Sakane, and Xerox.*
- 
- 3-12 Shneidman, Edwin S.  
*Includes correspondence with University of California.*

### Box 4

- 4-1 Silver, Mrs. Lillian  
*See also correspondence with National Gallery of Art, Shindo, and Xerox*
- 
- 4-2 Sirolly, Charles  
*Includes correspondence with C. Trent Exhibition.*
- 
- 4-3 Small, Horace
- 
- 4-4 Smith, Dr. Cyril Stanley
- 
- 4-5 Sotheby Parke Bernet and Co.  
*Includes correspondence with Tessa N. Helfet. See also correspondence with Boot-Huygen.*
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- 4-6 Spackman, Peter
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## Cornelius Van Schaak Roosevelt Research Materials on M.C. Escher

- 4-7 Strens, Ir. Eugene  
*See also correspondence with Gardner.*
- 
- 4-8 Surreality Images
- 
- 4-9 Talbot, Jonathan  
*See also correspondence with Schattschneider.*
- 
- 4-10 Taylor, Dr. A.
- 
- 4-11 Teeters, Dr. Joseph L.  
*Includes correspondence with University of Wisconsin.*
- 
- 4-12 Telos Press
- 
- 4-13 Thompson-Greer, Lowell  
*Includes correspondence with Fred Cain.*
- 
- 4-14 University of Wyoming  
*Includes correspondence with Victor H. Flach and Mrs. Fred Reed.*
- 
- 4-15 Van der Peet, C.P.J.
- 
- 4-16 Veldhuysen, W.F.  
*See also correspondence with Schwartz.*
- 
- 4-17 Vermeulen, J.W.  
*See also correspondence with Phoenix Gallery, Schwartz, and Servos.*
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- 4-18 Verschoor, G.
- 
- 4-19 Veth, C. J. F.
- 
- 4-20 Visual Artists and Galleries Association (VAGA)  
*Includes correspondence with Globe Book Company, Inc.; Dan Koehler; Susan London; and Prindle, Weber; and Schmidt.*
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- 4-21 Von Hippel, Professor Arthus
-

## Cornelius Van Schaak Roosevelt Research Materials on M.C. Escher

- 4-22 Vorpal Galleries  
*Includes correspondence with Muldoon Elder.*
- 
- 4-23 Walker, Wallace  
*See also correspondence with Schattschneider.*
- 
- 4-24 Whiley, George M., Ltd.  
*Includes correspondence with J.R. Finch. See also correspondence with Matthews.*
- 
- 4-25 Wilkie, Ken  
*Includes correspondence with Holl and Herald. See also correspondence with Kist.*
- 
- 4-26 Wood, Mrs. Elizabeth A.
- 
- 4-27 Woodman, George  
*Includes correspondence with University of Colorado.*
- 
- 4-28 Worm Runner's Digest  
*Includes correspondence with Dr. James V. McConnell.*
- 
- 4-29 Wyman Gallery
- 
- 4-30 Xerox Corporation
- 
- 4-31 Yaglom, Professor I.M.  
*See also correspondence with Silver.*
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- 4-32 Minor Escher-Related Correspondence
- 
- 4-33 Correspondence Concerning Use of Escher Prints in Publications A - Na
- 
- 4-34 Correspondence Concerning Use of Escher Prints in Publications No - X

### Box 5

- 5-1 Audiovisual Materials - Flor de Pascua images of Escher prints
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- 5-2 Audiovisual Materials - M.C. Escher en Zijn Experimenten
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## Cornelius Van Schaak Roosevelt Research Materials on M.C. Escher

5-3 Audiovisual Materials - A Pair of Paradoxes made by Bell Laboratories based on Ascending and Descending and Endless Octave

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5-4 Audiovisual Materials - Iso Axis made by Doris Schattschneider of folding rings of linked tetrahedra decorated with Escher's repetitive designs

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### Box 6

6-1 Audiovisual Materials - Adventures in Perception

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6-2 Audiovisual Materials - Escher made by Lisa Doty of Document Associates, Inc.

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