

Visitor Information

Schaufenster Archiv

John A. Brown and his Gift to the City of Baden

August 30 to December 6, 2020

In the former library of Sidney H. Brown (1898-1970), the mediation vessel *Schaufenster Archiv* shows selected documents from the extensive holdings of the museum archive. The archive has been systematically catalogued from 2017-18 and includes documents, letters, post-cards, diaries and photographs from the Brown family estate. The time frame of the preserved documents spans the years 1850 to 1987. The *Schaufenster Archiv* focuses on a new topic two to three times a year and offers exemplary insights into the archive of the Museum Langmatt.

**«... knowing your and father's sincere love
for your pictures»: John A. Brown and his
Gift to the City of Baden**

The Museum Langmatt celebrates its thirtieth anniversary in 2020. In a look back, the current *Schaufenster Archiv* illuminates the life and legacy of the founder John Alfred Brown.

Under the influence of his art-loving mother Jenny, John A. Brown began to take an interest in fine art at a very early age, collecting art books and painting himself. Before he seriously dealt with art scientifically, he completed a doctorate in law.

From the 1930s John A. Brown lived permanently in Paris, where he worked as "Attaché au Musée du Louvre" - probably a term used to describe voluntary project workers. In Paris, thanks to the wealth of his family, he led a materially carefree life and continued to cultivate contacts with artists and art dealers that his parents had made during their trips to Paris. Together with Carl Montag, an art agent from Winterthur, he advised his parents on further art purchases and organized exhibitions in Paris and Zurich, not least with loans from Baden. For the Langmatt collection he carefully compiled inventories.

It was not until two years after the death of his mother Jenny that John A. Brown married his longtime life partner Andrée Marthe Müller, a French-Swiss painter model, in 1970. Jenny Brown had rejected the union throughout her life as "below status". After a stroke in 1971, which left John A. Brown paralyzed on one side, he and his wife moved to the Villa Langmatt in Baden in 1972. After the death of his wife (1976) he spent the rest of his life here, cared for by the administrator Paul Germann, his wife Rosabianca and two nurses. His main interests remained to be art, literature and French film.

In his last will and testament, John A. Brown (1900-1987), the last descendant of the Browns, appointed the city of Baden as his sole inheritor. In accordance with his wishes, the foundation "Stiftung Langmatt Sidney und Jenny Brown", established in 1988, aims to preserve the important art collection and to make the Langmatt accessible to the public as a museum.

Jonas Huggenberger

LANGMATT

Museum Langmatt
Stiftung Langmatt Sidney und Jenny Brown
Römerstrasse 30
CH-5401 Baden

info@langmatt.ch
+41 (0)56 200 86 70
www.langmatt.ch