

Digital George Bellows Record Books & Ledger

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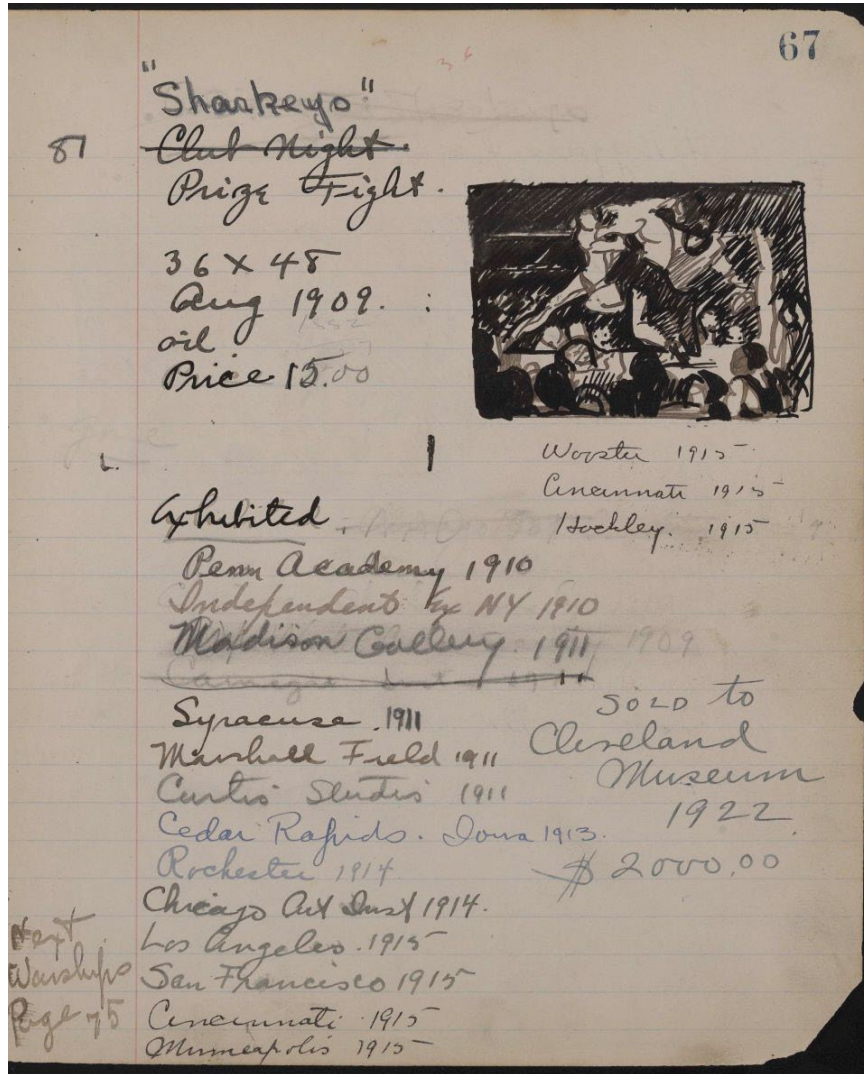




Cropped image of Bellows' *Stag at Sharkey's*, 1908. The Cleveland Museum of Art. <https://www.metmuseum.org/exhibitions/listings/2012/bellows>

George Bellows (1882-1925) and his local roots

- Born and raised in Columbus, Ohio
- Attended The Ohio State University
- Provided illustrations for OSU's school yearbook *Makio*
- His record books and ledger are co-owned by The Ohio State University Libraries and the Columbus Museum of Art



Project details

- Record books and ledger were scanned more than a decade ago for a patron request. However, they were never added to the digital repository.
- Rare Books & Manuscripts Library wanted to provide these objects with page-level metadata.
- Thanks to the Ohio Metadata Mini Grant, a Kent State MLIS student served as project manager. He worked in Metadata Initiatives (MI), collaborating with staff in the Rare Books & Manuscripts Library
- Intern studied the physical works to understand arrangement, notified supervisor of potential PII and digitization issues, and researched the background of the record books and ledger.

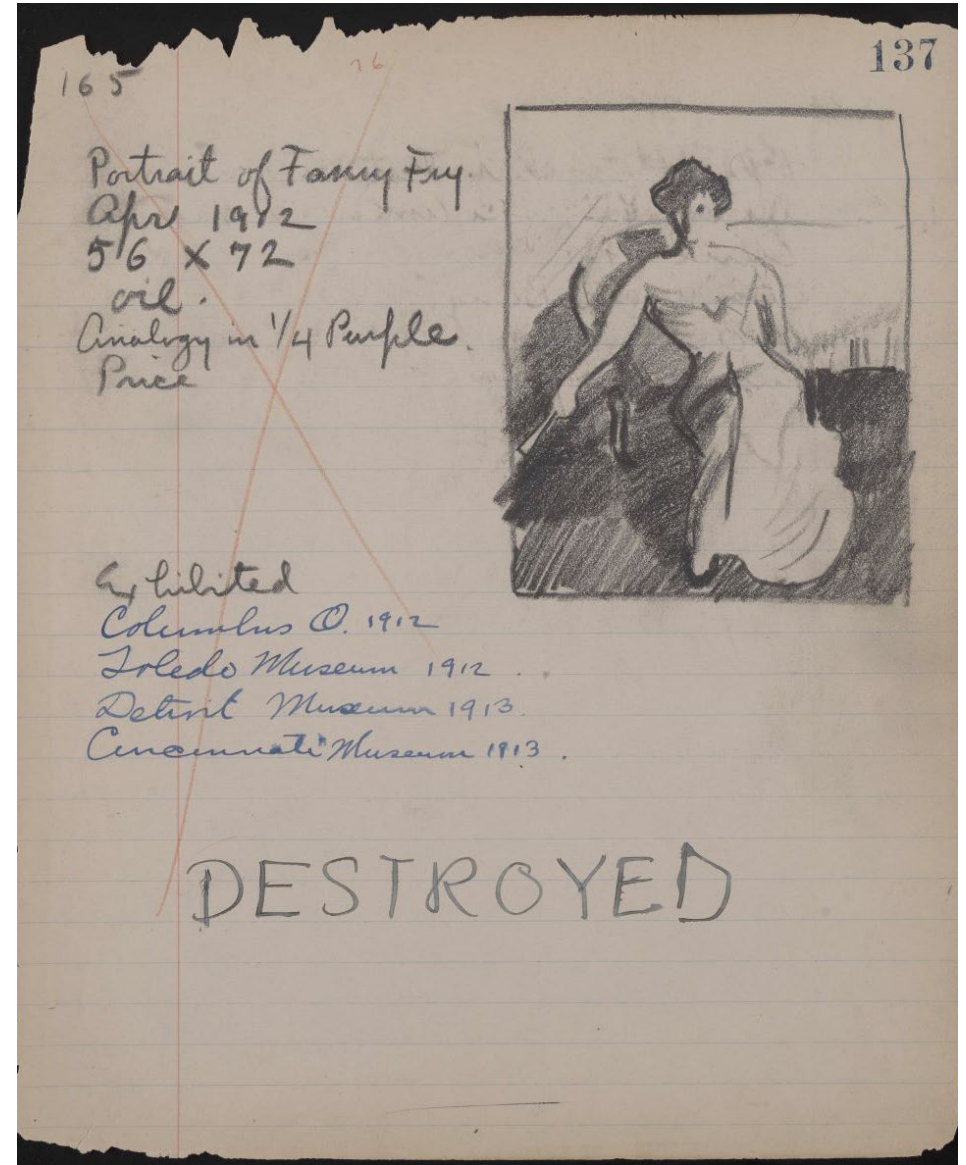
<https://hdl.handle.net/1811/d1dffdb6-7d3c-4bd2-bad2-88263efbc98e>

Page-level focus

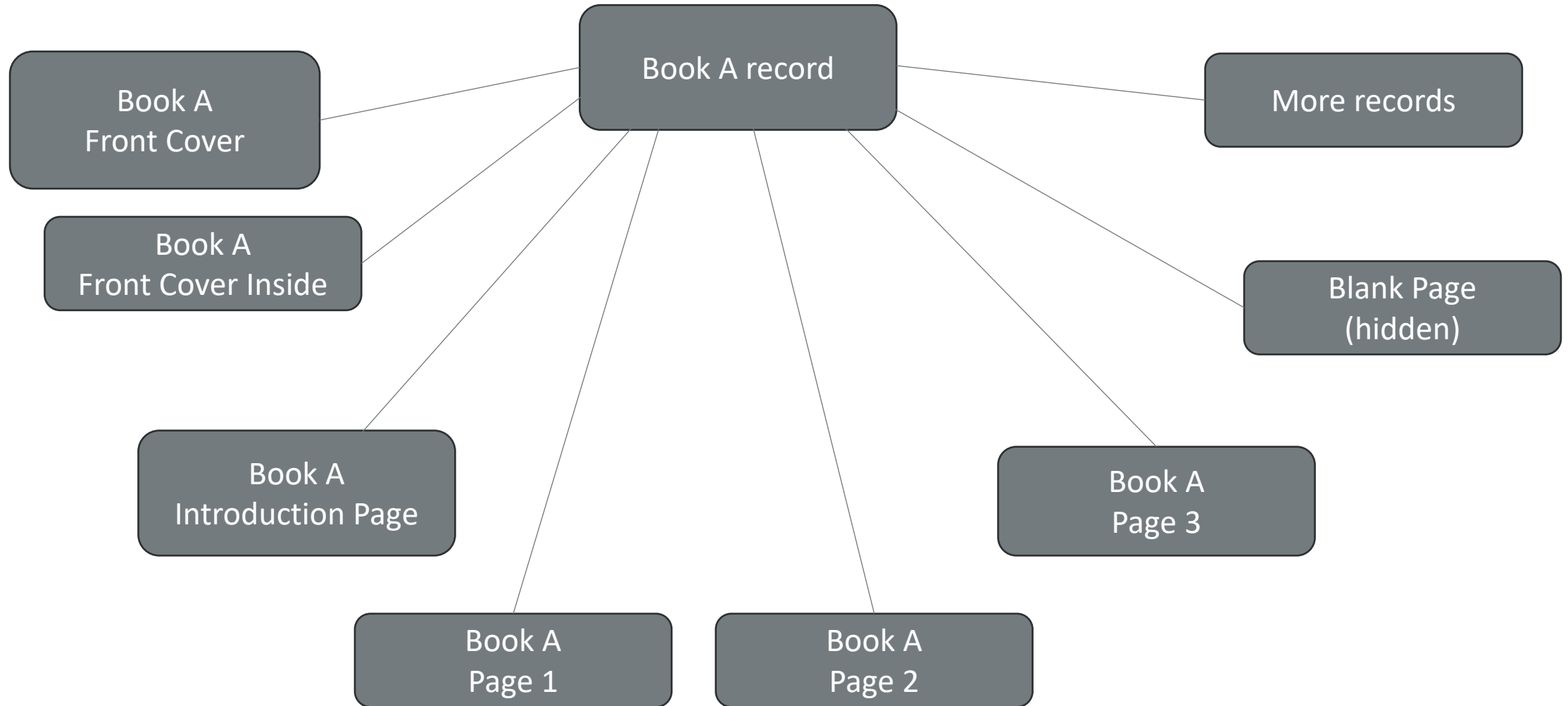
Metadata includes:

- Name of artwork in the Summary (dcterms:abstract), e.g. "Portrait of Fanny Fay"
- Subjects (dcterms:subject) available. I just added in "Portraits" and "Women" for this record.

Record includes text transcription as .txt file that is publicly accessible. It can be updated if there are corrections.



Parent – Child Records: A simplified diagram



Pros of Parent-Child Records

- Within Digital Collections (DC) platform (built on Samvera Hyrax), the parent records display all the child records in an intuitive fashion.
- Can provide rich, searchable metadata for each page to support researchers.
- DPLA was able to harvest each page individually which increases the ability for researchers to find information for a specific Bellows' painting.



Cons of Parent-Child Records

- From the child record, it's not clear that there is a parent record. As a workaround, we created metadata and links to parent record in the child record to clarify this arrangement.
- The nuances of the record relationship are not maintained when harvesting. Parent and child records are all simply harvested as records.
- Blank pages that are scanned are a nuisance for harvesting and searching. We hid those as private records.
- Less useful records, e.g. cover, gets harvested as a record.



Accessibility & Transcriptions

- Intern created transcriptions of text. This is provided for the entire work in the parent record and as individual files with the child records.
- Transcriptions as .txt file that can be edited over time if corrections are needed. But publicly accessible to patrons.
- The team followed transcription guidelines from the Minnesota Historical Society and the State Archives of North Carolina.
- Issues encountered: Legibility of handwriting, offensive language, personally identifiable information, and misspellings.



Transcription considerations (Part 1)

Square brackets to denote context:

22 [page number]

25 [artwork number]

Square brackets to explain orientation of imagery:

[illustration on right]

Maintain case and punctuation:

oil.

DESTROYED

Transcription considerations (Part 2)

Square brackets to expand abbreviations and correct misspellings:

Chicago Art Inst [Institute] 1914

Square brackets and inserted text replace offensive language:

[slur]

Square brackets and inserted text replace PII*:

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

*PII is also redacted in images for public or the record is private.

Statistics

778

All Records Created

679

Public Records
harvested by DPLA

99

Hidden Records that are only
accessible by DC admins and
RBML

Transcription resources

- Minnesota Historical Society, *Transcribing Manuscripts: Rules Worked Out by the Minnesota Historical Society*, 2004, http://www2.mnhs.org/library/findaids/CMToolkit/BestPractices/transcribing_manuscripts.pdf
- State Archives of North Carolina, TranscribeNC Transcription Guides, <https://archives.ncdcr.gov/researchers/transcribenc/transcribenc-transcription-guides>

Thank you!

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