

Gerald Foster

Dates: 1900-1987

Residency: Westfield, New Jersey. Orangeburg, South Carolina.

Bio: Born in Westfield, New Jersey, Gerald Sarget Foster was a painter and illustrator. He attended the American Academy in Rome, Princeton University, and the National Academy of Design in New York. The artist was associated with the American Artists League, where he exhibited work. Foster also showed his work at the Art Institute of Chicago, the Macbeth Gallery of New York, and at the Whitney Museum of American Art. Foster was known for his extensive studies of the Revolutionary War period, which made him a perfect candidate for FDR's Works Projects Administration. The artist was known for his paintings of boats, which may be why he was favored by FDR and chosen without much competition for the Poughkeepsie project. The artist had already painted a post office mural in Freehold, New Jersey before he was chosen to paint three murals in the Poughkeepsie post office in 1938. The three paintings are titled *Poughkeepsie circa 1692*, *Hamlet of Poughkeepsie c 1750*, and *July 26, 1788 New York State Ratifies the US Constitution in the Dutchess county Court House in Poughkeepsie*. Foster received \$8,000 for the three murals, which is the highest fee paid to an artist in the public buildings program. The artist died in Orangeburg, South Carolina in 1987.

Major Accomplishments: Post Office murals in Poughkeepsie, New York, Freehold, Cranford, and Millburn, New Jersey.

More Info: <http://www.etc.net/njarts/details.cfm?ID=1073>

