



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Alexander family papers relating to Henry Ossawa Tanner

Archives of American Art
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Alexander family papers relating to Henry Ossawa Tanner
Date:	1912-1985
Identifier:	AAA.alexande
Creator:	Alexander family
Extent:	1 Microfilm reel
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Microfilmed in 1990 as part of AAA's Philadelphia Arts Documentation Project. Only those parts of the Alexander family papers relating to Henry Ossawa Tanner were filmed; the entire collection is available at the University of Pennsylvania Archives and Records Center (Alexander Family Papers, 1817-2005).

Location of Originals

Originals in University of Pennsylvania Archives.

Related Materials

The Archives of American Art also holds the Henry Ossawa Tanner papers, 1860s-1978; the Henry O. Tanner letters to the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, 1885-1909; and the Marcia M. Mathews papers relating to Henry Ossawa Tanner, 1937-1969. The Atlanta University Center, Robert W. Woodruff Library holds the Henry Ossawa Tanner collection, 1907-1937.

Other Finding Aids

A finding aid to the Alexander family papers prepared by the lender is available on microfilm reel 4399 and at the University of Pennsylvania Archives.

Available Formats

35mm microfilm reel 4399 available at Archives of American Art offices, through interlibrary loan and at the Free Library of Philadelphia.

Restrictions

The Archives of American art does not own the original papers. Use is limited to the microfilm copy.

Biographical / Historical

Raymond Pace Alexander (1897-1974) and Sadie Tanner Mossell Alexander (1898-1989) were prominent African American lawyers in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Sadie Alexander was Henry Ossawa Tanner's

niece. Raymond Alexander represented Tanner in his legal suit against the Mother Bethel A.M.E. Church in Philadelphia regarding nonpayment for a bust of Richard Allen.

Scope and Contents

This microfilm collection consists of the Alexander family papers relating to African American painter Henry Ossawa Tanner. The collection includes correspondence between Tanner and Raymond Alexander (1924-1937) and court documents concerning Tanner's legal action against the Bethel A.M.E Church. Included in the Sadie Aleander materials are personal letters from Tanner; correspondence from museums discussing exhibition loans and the discovery of Tanner paintings; printed material, including catalogs and clippings; and materials related to the Tanner commemorative stamp.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- African American artists
- Artists' contracts
- Expatriate painters -- France -- Paris

Names:

- Alexander, Raymond Pace, 1898-1974
- Alexander, Sadie Tanner Mossell, 1898-1989
- Mother Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church (Philadelphia, Pa.)
- Tanner, Henry Ossawa, 1859-1937

Occupations:

- Lawyers -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia