



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the John White
Alexander Papers, 1775-1968, bulk
1870-1915, in the Archives of American Art

Megan McShea

Funding for the processing and digitization of this collection was provided by the Terra Foundation for American Art. Glass plate negatives in this collection were digitized in 2019 with funding provided by the Smithsonian Women's Committee.

September 06, 2007

Archives of American Art
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<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	John White Alexander papers
Identifier:	AAA.alexjohn
Date:	1775-1968 (bulk 1870-1915)
Extent:	11.9 Linear feet
Creator:	Alexander, John White, 1856-1915
Language:	English
Summary:	The papers of the painter, muralist, and illustrator John White Alexander measure 11.9 linear feet and date from 1775 to 1968, with the bulk of materials dating from 1870 to 1915. Papers document Alexander's artistic career and many connections to figures in the art world through biographical documentation, correspondence (some illustrated), writings, 14 sketchbooks, additional artwork and loose sketches, scrapbooks, photographs, awards and medals, artifacts, and other records. Also found is a souvenir engraving of a Mark Twain self-portrait.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Papers were donated in 1978 and 1981 by Irina Reed, Alexander's granddaughter and in 2017 by Elizabeth Reed, Alexander's great granddaughter.

Available Formats

The papers of **John White Alexander** in the Archives of American Art were digitized in 2009-2010, and total 5,592 images.

Processing Information

The papers were arranged and microfilmed upon receipt on reels 1727-1731, 1807, and 3483. The accessions were merged, re-processed, and fully described in this finding aid in 2007 by Megan McShea with funding from the Terra Foundation for American Art. Glass plate negatives were re-housed in 2015 with a grant from the Smithsonian Collections Care and Preservation Fund.

Preferred Citation

John White Alexander papers, 1775-1968, bulk 1870-1915. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

Use of the original papers requires an appointment. Glass plate negatives are housed separately and closed to researchers.

Conditions Governing Use

The John White Alexander papers are owned by the Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution. Literary rights as possessed by the donor have been dedicated to public use for research, study, and scholarship. The collection is subject to all copyright laws.

Biographical / Historical

John White Alexander was born in 1856 in Allegheny City, Pennsylvania. He was orphaned at age five and taken in by relatives of limited means. When Alexander left school and began working at a telegraph company, the company's vice-president, former civil war Colonel Edward Jay Allen, took an interest in his welfare. Allen became his legal guardian, brought him into the Allen household, and saw that he finished Pittsburgh High School. At eighteen, he moved to New York City and was hired by Harper and Brothers as an office boy in the art department. He was soon promoted to apprentice illustrator under staff artists such as Edwin A. Abbey and Charles Reinhart. During his time at Harpers, Alexander was sent out on assignment to illustrate events such as the Philadelphia Centennial celebration in 1876 and the Pittsburgh Railroad Strike in 1877, which erupted in violence.

Alexander carefully saved money from his illustration work and traveled to Europe in 1877 for further art training. He first enrolled in the Royal Art Academy of Munich, Germany, but soon moved to the village of Polling, where a colony of American artists was at its peak in the late 1870s. Alexander established a painting studio there and stayed for about a year. Despite his absence from the Munich Academy, he won the medal of the drawing class for 1878, the first of many honors. While in Polling, he became acquainted with J. Frank Currier, Frank Duveneck, William Merritt Chase, and other regular visitors to the colony. He later shared a studio and taught a painting class in Florence with Duveneck and traveled to Venice, where he met James Abbott McNeill Whistler.

Alexander returned to New York in 1881 and resumed his commercial artwork for Harpers and Century. Harpers sent him down the Mississippi river to complete a series of sketches. He also began to receive commissions for portraits, and in the 1880s painted Charles Dewitt Bridgman, a daughter of one of the Harper brothers, Parke Godwin, Thurlow Weed, Walt Whitman, and Oliver Wendell Holmes. Alexander met his wife Elizabeth, whose maiden name was also Alexander, through her father, James W. Alexander, who was sometimes mistaken for the artist. Elizabeth and John White Alexander married in 1887 and had a son, James, in 1888.

Alexander and his family sailed for France in 1890, where they became a part of the lively literary and artistic scene in Paris at the time. Among their many contacts there were Puvis de Chavannes, Auguste Rodin, and Whistler, who arrived in Paris shortly thereafter. Alexander absorbed the new aesthetic ideas around him such as those of the symbolists and the decorative style of art nouveau. Critics often note how such ideas are reflected in his boldly composed paintings of women from this period, who titles drew attention to the sensual and natural elements of the paintings. His first exhibition in Paris was three paintings at the Société Nationale des Beaux Arts in 1893, and by 1895 he has become a full member of the Société.

Independent and secession artist societies emerged throughout Europe during this period, and Alexander exhibited with several of them, including the Société Nouvelle in Paris, the Munich Secession, and the Vienna Secession. He was also elected an honorary member of the Royal Society of Belgian Artists and the Royal Society of British Painters in London. His exhibited works sold well, and his influence began to

be felt back in the United States. Andrew Carnegie and John Beatty of the Carnegie Institute consulted closely with Alexander in the planning and execution of the first Carnegie International Exhibitions. Alexander also became active in supporting younger American artists who wanted to exhibit in Europe, a stance which resulted in his resignation from the Society of American Artists in Paris, which he felt had become a barrier to younger artists. His promotion of American art became an central aspect of his career for the remainder of his life, most visibly through his presidency of the National Academy of Design from 1909 until shortly before his death in 1915. He also served frequently on juries for high-profile exhibitions, and was a trustee at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the New York Public Library, and the national Institute of Arts and Letters. Around 1912, he helped to form the School Art League in New York, which provided art instruction to high school students.

Alexander returned to the United States nearly every summer while based in Paris, and among his commissioned paintings were murals for the newly-constructed Library of Congress, completed around 1896. In 1901, the Alexanders returned to New York permanently. The demand for portraits continued, and he had his first solo exhibition at the Durand-Ruel Galleries in 1902. Around 1905 he received a commission for murals at the new Carnegie Institute building in Pittsburgh for the astounding sum of \$175,000. He created 48 panels there through 1908. During this period, the Alexanders spent summers in Onteora, New York, where Alexander painted his well-known "Sunlight" paintings. There they became friends and collaborators with the actress Maude Adams, with Alexander designing lighting and stage sets, and Elizabeth Alexander designing costumes for Adams' productions such as *Peter Pan*, the *Maid of Orleans*, and *Chanticleer*. The couple became known for their "theatricals" or tableaux, staged at the MacDowell Club and elsewhere, and Elizabeth Alexander continued her design career when her husband died in 1915.

Alexander left several commissions unfinished upon his death at age 59, including murals in Wisconsin, Ohio, and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Elizabeth Alexander held a memorial exhibition at Arden Galleries a few months after his death, and a larger memorial exhibition was held by the Carnegie Institute in 1916. Alexander won dozens of awards for artwork in his lifetime, including the Lippincott Prize at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts in 1899, the Gold Medal of Honor at the Paris Exposition Universelle in 1900, the Gold Medal at the Panama Pacific Exposition of 1901, and the Medal of the First Class at the Carnegie Institute International Exhibition in 1911. In 1923, the Alexander Memorial Studio was built at the MacDowell colony in New Hampshire to honor his memory.

Scope and Contents

The papers of the painter, muralist, and illustrator John White Alexander measure 11.9 linear feet and date from 1775 to 1968, with the bulk of materials dating from 1870 to 1915. Papers document Alexander's artistic career and many connections to figures in the art world through biographical documentation, correspondence (some illustrated), writings, 14 sketchbooks, additional artwork and loose sketches, scrapbooks, photographs, awards and medals, artifacts, and other records. Also found is a souvenir engraving of a Mark Twain self-portrait.

Biographical Information includes multiple essays related to Alexander, his family, and others in his circle. Also found is an extensive oral history of Alexander's wife Elizabeth conducted in 1928. Correspondence includes letters written by Alexander to his family from New York and Europe at the start of his career, and later letters from fellow artists, art world leaders, and portrait sitters of Alexander's. Significant correspondents include Charles Dana Gibson, Florence Levy, Frederick Remington, Robert Louis Stevenson, Henry James, John La Farge, Francis Davis Millet, and Andrew Carnegie. Correspondence includes some small sketches as enclosures and illustrated letters.

Certificates and records related to Alexander's career are found in Associations and Memberships, Legal and Financial Records, and Notes and Writings, which contain documentation of Alexander's paintings

and exhibitions. Scattered documentation of Alexander's memberships in various arts association exists for the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the American Academy in Rome, the National Academy of Design, the Onteora Club in New York, the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Munich, Germany, the Ministère de L'Instruction Publique et des Beaux-Arts, the Union Internationale des Beaux Arts et des Lettres, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Notes and Writings include speeches written by Alexander, short stories and essays written by his wife, and articles by various authors about Alexander. Extensive documentation of the planning and construction of the Alexander Memorial Studio by the MacDowell Club is found, along with other awards, medals, and memorial resolutions adopted by arts organizations after Alexander's death.

Artwork includes fourteen sketchbooks with sketches related to Alexander's commercial illustration and cartooning, murals, paintings, and travels. Dozens of loose drawings and sketches are also found, along with two volumes and several dozen loose reproductions of artwork, among which are found fine prints by named printmakers. Many sketches are also interspersed throughout the correspondence. Eight Scrapbooks contain mostly clippings, but also scattered letters, exhibition catalogs, announcements, invitations, and photographs related to Alexander's career between 1877 and 1915. Additional Exhibition Catalogs and later clippings, as well as clippings related to the career of his wife and other subjects, are found in Printed Materials.

Photographs include many portraits of Alexander taken by accomplished photographers such as Zaida Ben-Yusuf, Aimé Dupont, Curtis Bell, Elizabeth Buehrmann, and several signed Miss Huggins, who may have been Estelle Huntington Huggins, a New York painter and photographer. Portraits of others include Alexander's friends William Merritt Chase and Edward Austin Abbey. Also found are photographs of groups, juries, family, friends, and studios in New York, Paris, and New Jersey, and a handful of scenic photographs of Polling, Bavaria, where Alexander had an early studio. A large number of photographs of works of art are found, many with annotations. Among the photographs of murals are a small collection of snapshots of the Carnegie Institute murals in progress. Miscellaneous artifacts include a palette, several printing plates, and an inscribed souvenir engraving of a self-portrait caricature of Mark Twain.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into 11 series. Glass plate negatives are housed separately and closed to researchers.

- Series 1: Biographical Information, circa 1887-1968 (Box 1, OV 23; 0.1 linear feet)
- Series 2: Correspondence, circa 1870-1942 (Box 1; 0.7 linear feet)
- Series 3: Associations and Memberships, circa 1897-1918 (Box 1; 2 folders)
- Series 4: Legal and Financial Records, 1775, 1896-1923 (Box 1; 5 folders)
- Series 5: Notes and Writings, circa 1875-1943 (Boxes 1-2; 0.3 linear feet)
- Series 6: Awards and Memorials, circa 1870-1944 (Box 2, OV 24; 0.8 linear feet)
- Series 7: Artwork, circa 1875-1915 (Boxes 2-3, 6, 14-16, OV 23; 1.5 linear feet)
- Series 8: Scrapbooks, circa 1877-1915 (Boxes 17-22; 1.8 linear feet)
- Series 9: Printed Materials, circa 1891-1945 (Boxes 3-4, OV 23; 1.5 linear feet)
- Series 10: Photographs, circa 1870-1915 (Boxes 4-8, MGP 1-2, OV 25-43, RD 44-45; 4.2 linear feet)
- Series 11: Artifacts, circa 1899-1915 (Box 6, artifact cabinet; 0.4 linear feet)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Illustrators -- New York (State) -- New York
Muralists -- New York (State) -- New York
Portrait painters -- New York (State) -- New York
Portrait painting -- 19th century
Portrait painting -- 20th century
Portrait painting, American
Works of art

Types of Materials:

Awards
Interviews
Medals
Photographs
Scrapbooks
Sketchbooks

Names:

Abbey, Edwin Austin, 1852-1911
Alexander, Elizabeth A., d. 1947
Carnegie, Andrew, 1835-1919
Chase, William Merritt, 1849-1916
Gibson, Charles Dana, 1867-1944
James McNeill Whistler, 1834-1903
James, Henry, 1843-1916
La Farge, John, 1835-1910
Levy, Florence N. (Florence Nightingale), 1870-1947
MacDowell Club of New York
Millet, Francis Davis, 1846-1912
Remington, Frederic, 1861-1909
Stevenson, Robert Louis, 1850-1894

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Information, circa 1887-1968

0.1 Linear feet (Box 1, OV 23)

This series contains notes, writings, and printed materials that describe the life of John White Alexander, as well as ephemera and personal documents related to specific life events.

Notes and narratives include biographical essays about Alexander and his guardian, Colonel Edward Jay Allen, taken from published reference works, and notes made by Elizabeth Alexander in preparation of those entries. Personal documents and ephemera include a wedding invitation, an identity card issued for the Paris International Exposition of 1900, a calling card, a circular about an artist named Jacques Alexander, examples of Alexander's signature, and a French visa. Also found are drafts of essays by Elizabeth Alexander about her husband and others in their circle, and an oral history interview of Elizabeth Alexander in three parts taken by DeWitt M. Lockman, a later president of the National Academy of Design.

This series has been scanned in its entirety.

Box 1, Folder 1	Biographical Notes and Essays, circa 1913-1968 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 2	Personal Documents and Ephemera, circa 1887-1900 Image(s) (Oversized items housed in OV 23)
Box 1, Folder 3	Essays by Elizabeth Alexander about John White Alexander, after 1915 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 4	Essays by Elizabeth Alexander about John White Alexander, after 1915 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 5	Essays by Elizabeth Alexander about John White Alexander, after 1915 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 6	Essays by Elizabeth Alexander about Others in their Circle, undated Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 7	Oral History Interview of Elizabeth Alexander by DeWitt M. Lockman, 1928 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 8	Oral History Interview of Elizabeth Alexander by DeWitt M. Lockman, 1928 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 9	Oral History Interview of Elizabeth Alexander by DeWitt M. Lockman, 1928

[Image\(s\)](#)

Box OV 23

Oversized Personal Documents and Ephemera, circa 1887-1900
Items scanned with Box 1, f2

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Series 2: Correspondence, circa 1870-1942

0.7 Linear feet (Box 1)

This series contains personal and business correspondence of John White Alexander and his wife, Elizabeth Alexander. Correspondence from the 1870s and 1880s consists primarily of Alexander's letters home to his guardian, Colonel Edward Jay Allen, the Allen family, and his friend, E.E. Phelps, all in Pittsburgh, written from New York and Europe. 1876 letters detail his visit to the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia. Many of these letters are found with typed transcriptions which contain scattered annotations which appear to be in Elizabeth Alexander's handwriting. In a couple of cases, transcripts exist for letters which are no longer found in the collection.

The remainder of correspondence consists of letters to Alexander from fellow artists, patrons, museums, arts organizations, and friends. Significant correspondents include Charles Dana Gibson, Florence Levy, Frederick Remington, Robert Louis Stevenson, Henry James, John La Farge, Francis Davis Millet, and Andrew Carnegie. These and other significant correspondents are noted in the folder listing. Letters dated after Alexander's death in 1915 are addressed to Elizabeth Alexander, with a single letter addressed to the Alexanders' son James.

A number of sketches by Alexander are found in his letters from Europe dated from 1877 to 1880. There are also scattered illustrated letters and an illustrated letter from Ivan P. Pranishnikoff is found from 1898. Additional types of records found include scattered receipts and clippings.

Correspondence is arranged chronologically, with undated correspondence filed at the beginning of the series. Additional correspondence is found in Scrapbooks. See Scrapbook series description and folder listing for more details. This series has been scanned in its entirety.

Box 1, Folder 10	Undated Correspondence, Adams to Garland, undated Image(s) (Correspondents include John White Alexander, W.K. Austin, Charles Curran, M.K. Gage, Charles Dana Gibson, and H. Garland)
Box 1, Folder 11	Undated Correspondence, Johnston to Whistler, undated Image(s) (Correspondents include Ella Bond Johnston, O. Latrobe, Florence Levy, E.L. Ryerson, Ebin R. Smith, Robert Louis Stevenson, Harry Watrous, and James McNeill Whistler)
Box 1, Folder 12	Correspondence, 1870-1874 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 13	Correspondence, 1875 February-March Image(s) Includes ink drawing
Box 1, Folder 14	Correspondence, 1875 March Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 15	Correspondence, 1875 March-April

	Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 16	Correspondence, 1875 April-May Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 17	Correspondence, 1875 May-June Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 18	Correspondence, 1875 June-September Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 19	Correspondence, 1875 September-November Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 20	Correspondence, 1875 November-1876 January Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 21	Correspondence, 1876 January-February Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 22	Correspondence, 1876 February-March Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 23	Correspondence, 1876 April-May Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 24	Correspondence, 1876 June-July Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 25	Correspondence, 1876 July-November Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 26	Correspondence, 1877 February-April Image(s) Includes sketches
Box 1, Folder 27	Correspondence, 1877 September Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 28	Correspondence, 1877 September-October Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 29	Correspondence, 1877 November-December Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 30	Correspondence, 1878 January-February

	Image(s) (sketches found)
Box 1, Folder 31	Correspondence, 1878 February-March Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 32	Correspondence, 1878 April-May Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 33	Correspondence, 1878 June-September Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 34	Correspondence, 1878 October-December Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 35	Correspondence, 1879 Image(s) (sketches found)
Box 1, Folder 36	Correspondence, 1880-1882 Image(s) (sketches found)
Box 1, Folder 37	Correspondence, 1883-1886 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 38	Correspondence, 1887 January-February Image(s) (Correspondents include Harry Alexander, John Burroughs, and Henry James)
Box 1, Folder 39	Correspondence, 1887 April Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 40	Correspondence, 1887 May Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 41	Correspondence, 1887 May-August Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 42	Correspondence, 1887 September-November Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 43	Correspondence, 1888-1889 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 44	Correspondence, 1891-1892

[Image\(s\): correspondence](#)

(Correspondents include Ministry of Art Education in France and Elizabeth Alexander)

- Box 1, Folder 45 Correspondence, 1893-1895
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 46 Correspondence, 1896-1897
[Image\(s\)](#)
(Correspondents include M.R. Blair, J.J. Cowan, Lydia E. Grosvenor Davis, Mayor F. Grimani of Venice, William Turner Dannat, and Puvis de Chavannes)
- Box 1, Folder 47 Correspondence, 1898-1900
[Image\(s\)](#)
(Correspondents include Frantz Jourdain, Fr. Linley Sanbourne, and Cowan family members)
- Box 1, Folder 48 Correspondence, 1901-1903
[Image\(s\)](#)
(Correspondents include Samuel Huey, Andrew Carnegie, John La Farge, the Pan American Exposition of 1901, Princeton University, Mabel Carleton Gage, Homer Gage, Hester Knowles, and Harper Brothers to Elizabeth Alexander)
- Box 1, Folder 49 Correspondence, 1904
[Image\(s\)](#)
(Includes many letters from John White Alexander written in Boston; also letters from Anne Bradley)
- Box 1, Folder 50 Correspondence, 1905
[Image\(s\)](#)
(Correspondents include Anne Bradley, R.D. Alexander, Carnegie Library, H.N. Matzen, F.D. Millet, and D. Webster King)
- Box 1, Folder 51 Correspondence, 1906-1908
[Image\(s\)](#)
(Correspondents include Stanford White, Charles Dana Gibson, Joseph Pennell, Alfred East, and John La Farge)
- Box 1, Folder 52 Correspondence, 1909
[Image\(s\)](#)
(Includes many letters of congratulations written to Alexander on his election as president of the National Academy of Design. Also contains a note indicating that several letters in this folder were removed from Alexander's scrapbook of 1909. See Scrapbooks for more information. Correspondents include Albert Sternan, John W. Beatty, Charles Dana Gibson, Florence (probably Levy), Elbert Baldwin, Edward Robsinon, Samuel Swift, Edwin Howland Blashfield, Anna M. Clarke, William Laurel Harris, Harrison S. Morris, Thomas Hastings, Frank D.

Millet, C. Russell, Jeannette Gilder, Robert Underwood Johnson, John La Farge, Fred Crowninshield, Leon Dabo, Henri Martin, and Edward Bok.)

- Box 1, Folder 53 Correspondence, 1909
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 54 Correspondence, 1910-1911
[Image\(s\)](#)
(Correspondents include Andrew Carnegie, Houston Lowe, Birge Harrison, William Hyde, M.A. Dixon, Yale University regarding an honorary degree, Alfred East, John F. Weir, and DeWitt Parshall)
- Box 1, Folder 55 Correspondence, 1912
[Image\(s\)](#)
(Correspondents include Edward Redfield, W.D. Howells, Potter Palmer, Geo. Dudley Seymour, Mary Hearn Greims, Josephine L. Goodyear, Geo. Peabody Wetmore, and Leslie J. Skelton.)
- Box 1, Folder 56 Correspondence, 1913
[Image\(s\)](#)
(Correspondents include George Hearn, Hugo Reisinger, C. Grant La Farge, Leslie Skelton, Trinity Church, Fred Crowninshield, Geo. Dudley Seymour, the Panama-Pacific Exposition, Timothy Cole, and Edward Redfield)
- Box 1, Folder 57 Correspondence, 1914
[Image\(s\)](#)
(Correspondents include Francis Newton, George Hopkins, Cass Gilbert, H.C. Mansfield, Robert Underwood Johnson, and Woodrow Wilson)
- Box 1, Folder 58 Correspondence, 1915 April-May
[Image\(s\)](#)
(Letters to Alexander are found from Campbell Cooper, Carl Becker, Henry B. Snell, and Douglas Volk. Letters of condolence to the Alexanders are found from Charles Dana Gibson, E.J. Allen, E.A.S. Clarke, Maude (probably Adams), Ernest Peix (probably Peixotto), Geo. Wharton Edwards, Edward Woods, Robert Abbe, Robert Underwood Johnson, Franklin Babbitt, Edwin H. Blashfield, Harrison Morris, J. Alden Weir, Janet Van Buskirk, Edwin Baldwin, J. Henry Harper, William Laurel Harris, Adolph Lewisohn, Earl Stetson Crawford, Ernest T. Rosen, C.H. Russell, Frances M. Ward, S.H. Church, Robert De Forest, John H. Finley, John F. Weir, Ben Foster, William Bailey Faxon, William Walton, Charles H. Caffin, Bruce Crane, Herbert Adams, Ed Phelps, Elizabeth W. Roberts, Augusta H.S. Gaudens, Frederic Allen Whiting, Florence Levy, John Beatty, Harry Watrous, and C. Powell Minnigerode.)
- Box 1, Folder 59 Correspondence, 1915 June
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 60 Correspondence, 1915 June

- [Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 61 Correspondence, 1915 June
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 62 Correspondence, 1915 June-December
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 63 Correspondence, 1916
[Image\(s\)](#)
(Correspondents include Howard Mansfield, Jane Potter Russell, J. Howland Hunt, Robert Underwood Johnson, John Beatty, John H. Finley, May Allen, Cooper Union, National Arts Club, M. MacDowell, N. H. Carpenter, and S.H. Church)
- Box 1, Folder 64 Correspondence, 1917-1923
[Image\(s\)](#)
(Correspondents include Carroll Beckwith, whose letter includes a photograph of her portrait by Alexander, Francis Wilson, Leila Mechlin, Edward Bok, Jean MacLane, Julian Clarence Levi, and W.H. Holmes)
- Box 1, Folder 65 Correspondence, 1924-1929
[Image\(s\)](#)
(Correspondents include R.M. MacIntyre, Alex Simpson, Edwin Blashfield, DuBon and Dorothy, L.M. Lockhart, E.C. Babcock, Homer Saint Gaudens, Grace Vanamee, Walter Crittenden, and William Henry Fox.)
- Box 1, Folder 66 Correspondence, 1930-1936
[Image\(s\)](#)
(Correspondents include William Barclay Parsons, Gertrude Herdle Moore, Norbert Heerman, Horace Moran, and Edwin Blashfield)
- Box 1, Folder 67 Correspondence, 1937-1939
[Image\(s\)](#)
(Correspondents include William Weldon, Norbert Heerman, Harrison Morris, Agnes Holden, and the Museum of the City of New York.)
- Box 1, Folder 68 Correspondence, circa 1940-1942
[Image\(s\)](#)
(Correspondents include Homer Saint Gaudens, Carnegie Magazine, John O'Connor, C. Bernard Shea, and Hobart Nichols.)
- Box 1, Folder 69 Correspondence, Envelopes, 1874-1904
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 70 Typescript Copies of Selected Correspondence (1912-1916), undated

[Image\(s\)](#)

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Series 3: Associations and Memberships, circa 1897-1918

2 Folders (Box 1)

This series contains membership certificates, cards, circulars, rosters, and other records associated with European and American art organizations in which Alexander participated, or which solicited his participation. Organizations represented in this series include the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the American Academy in Rome, the National Academy of Design, the Onteora Club (New York), the Royal Academy of Fine Arts (Munich, Germany), the Ministère de L'Instruction Publique et des Beaux-Arts, the Union Internationale des Beaux Arts et des Lettres, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Items in this series are arranged chronologically. This series has been scanned in its entirety.

Box 1, Folder 71 Associations and Memberships, circa 1897-1918
[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 1, Folder 72 Associations and Memberships, circa 1897-1918
[Image\(s\)](#)

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Series 4: Legal and Financial Records, 1775, 1896-1923

5 Folders (Box 1)

This series includes an 18th century road report, copyright forms, a contract, royalty statements, and receipts. Among receipts are insurance payments, membership dues, and financial transactions. Scattered receipts are also found among Correspondence.

Additional records documenting Alexander's artwork are found in Notes and Writings.

This series has been scanned in its entirety.

Box 1, Folder 73	Virginia Road Report Signed by a John Alexander, 1775 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 74	Copyright Forms for Library of Congress Murals, 1896 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 75	Contract for Carnegie Institute Murals, 1905 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 76	Royalties of the Detroit Publishing Company, 1923 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 77	Miscellaneous Receipts, circa 1906-1917 Image(s)

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Series 5: Notes and Writings, circa 1875-1943

0.3 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2)

This series contains notes, essays, speeches, short stories, news articles, poems, and records of artwork written by John White Alexander, his wife Elizabeth Alexander, and others.

Notes appear to be fragments of essays or speeches, typed and handwritten. A few rough sketches are found among the notes. Speeches by John White Alexander are mainly on art subjects. These include a 1901 talk for New York City's founder's Day entitled "Our Tariff on Art," and a 1912 address to the Onteora Club on the formation of the School Art League.

Short stories by Elizabeth Alexander are found in typescript and handwritten form. Tear sheets for several of her published stories illustrated by John White Alexander are also found. Original drawings of some of these illustrations are found in Artwork.

Articles about Alexander include typescripts of two critical essays by his contemporaries Sadakichi Hartmann and Anne Webb Kamaghan, a catalog description by Julia deWolf Addison, and a collection of transcribed news stories and editorials about his resignation from the Society of American Painters in Paris.

Records of artwork include two bound volumes with information about paintings and many lists of paintings related to exhibitions and storage. The second folder of lists appears to be related to a memorial exhibition held for Alexander in 1916, and the fourth contains a small notebook with the heading "List of Portraits and Paintings by Alexander painted before 1887."

This series has been scanned in its entirety.

Box 1, Folder 78	Notes, undated Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 79	Notes, undated Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 80	Speeches by John White Alexander, circa 1901-1912 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 81	Speeches by John White Alexander, circa 1901-1912 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 82	Speeches by John White Alexander, circa 1901-1912 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 83	Speeches by John White Alexander, circa 1901-1912 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 84	Speeches by John White Alexander, circa 1901-1912 Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 1	Short Stories by Elizabeth Alexander, undated Image(s)

	Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 2	Short Stories by Elizabeth Alexander, undated Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 3	Short Stories by Elizabeth Alexander, undated Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 4	Short Stories by Elizabeth Alexander, Tear Sheets of Published Stories with Illustrations by John White Alexander, 1896-1897 Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 5	Essays and Speeches by Elizabeth Alexander, undated Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 6	Articles about John White Alexander, 1900-1901, undated Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 7	Articles about John White Alexander, 1900-1901 Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 8	Poems Removed from Sketchbook, circa 1875 Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 9	Poems Written for and to John White Alexander, circa 1897-1912 Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 10	Registers of Paintings and Exhibitions, circa 1887-1913 Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 11	Registers of Paintings and Exhibitions, circa 1887-1913 Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 12	Lists of Paintings, circa 1893-1943 Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 13	Lists of Paintings, circa 1893-1943 Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 14	Lists of Paintings, circa 1893-1943 Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 15	Lists of Paintings, circa 1893-1943 Image(s)

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Series 6: Awards and Memorials, circa 1870-1944

0.8 Linear feet (Box 2, OV 24)

This series contains award certificates and medals awarded to Alexander during his lifetime, and memorial resolutions and projects carried out after his death in 1915.

Award certificates and medals are found from the Royal Academy of Art in Munich, the Carnegie Institute, and the Panama Pacific Exposition. Additional medals awarded for Alexander's artwork are found from the Société National des Beaux-Arts, the Paris Exposition of 1900, the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, the Pan American Exposition, the Saint Louis Exposition, the Buenos Aires Exposition, and the School Arts League. Additional medals from civic organizations are also found.

Extensive materials are found documenting the creation of the Alexander Memorial Studio at the McDowell Colony in New Hampshire, including published reports of the McDowell Club and Colony, images in the form of photo postcards and engravings, and a studio book containing photographs of the studio's construction, a history of the studio, and the signatures of resident artists. Notes and correspondence concerning the history of the studio are found tucked in the book.

Over a dozen memorial resolutions issued upon Alexander's death by arts organizations to which he contributed during his lifetime are found. Several of these resolutions exist in ornate, calligraphic, bound volumes.

Additional photographs of the Alexander Memorial Studio are found in Photographs. This series has been scanned in its entirety.

Box 2, Folder 16	Award Certificates, circa 1878-1915 Image(s) Oversized items housed in OV 24
Box 2, Folder 17	Medals, circa 1870-1922 Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 18	Medals, circa 1870-1922 Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 19	Medals, circa 1870-1922 Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 20	Notes, undated Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 21	Blueprint of Alexander's Tomb, 1915 Image(s) Oversized items housed in OV 24 Alexander Fund and Studio at MacDowell Colony
Box 2, Folder 22	Reports, circa 1915-1926

	Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 23	Images, circa 1910-1944 Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 24	Studio Book, circa 1925-1941 Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 25	Memorial Resolutions, circa 1915 Image(s) Oversized items housed in OV 24
Box 2, Folder 26	Memorial Resolutions, circa 1915 Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 27	Memorial Resolutions, circa 1915 Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 28	Memorial Resolutions, circa 1915 Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 29	Memorial Resolutions, circa 1915 Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 30	Commemorative Lecture by Edwin Blashfield, 1917 Image(s)
Box OV 24	Oversized Award Certificates, circa 1878-1915 Items scanned with Box 2, f16
Box OV 24	Oversized Blueprint of Alexander's Tomb, 1915 Item scanned with Box 2, f21
Box OV 24	Oversized Memorial Resolution, circa 1915 Item scanned with Box 2, f25

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Series 7: Artwork, circa 1875-1915

1.5 Linear feet (Boxes 2-3, 6, 14-16, OV 23)

This series contains 14 sketchbooks, sketches and drawings on loose paper, and reproductions of John White Alexander's artwork in a variety of print media, including fine prints by various printmakers. An engraved portrait of Alexander by Arthur G. Learned is also found at the end of the series.

Sketchbooks contain drawings, sketches, cartoons, and illustrations in pencil, ink, wash, and gouache. A few are dated in the original. Others have been assigned dates during processing based on their content: cartoons and illustrations are dated to Alexander's main period of newspaper and magazine work (1873-1899), and sketches related to murals are dated to the murals' years of execution (Library of Congress, 1896; Carnegie Institute, 1905-1908). Additional notes on sketchbook content are found in the folder listing.

Loose sketches are filed by media, including charcoal, pencil, wash, and ink. Most of the pencil sketches are preliminary studies of allegorical figures and appear to relate to mural projects. Wash and ink drawings are more finished in appearance and were executed on Bristol board, and may have been published illustrations.

Reproductions of artwork consist of halftone prints, etchings, and engravings of Alexander's cartoons, paintings, murals, and illustrations. Reproductions are found on loose pages and in two oversized volumes. Many of the reproductions are fine prints and are signed by the printmaker. Names include George Bartle, John William Evans, Thomas Heard, William Fowler Hopson, Thomas Johnson, Frederick Juengling, W.H. Morse, Caroline A. Powell, Harry Elliott Sylvester, John H.E. Whitney, and Henry Wolf.

The second volume of reproductions also contains other types of materials, including six photographs of artwork, one sketched caricature of Alexander dated 1885, and five photographs picturing Alexander around 1903 to 1913. Among the loose reproductions are two large color prints are signed by Alexander, and installation views of the 1915 memorial exhibition at Arden Galleries.

Additional sketches and illustrated letters are found in Correspondence and Notes and Writings series, and additional art reproductions are found in Scrapbooks and Photographs. This series has been scanned in its entirety except for one sketchbook from 1882 which was donated in 2017 and added to the collection.

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| Box 2, Folder 31 | <p>Sketchbook, circa 1873-1899</p> <p>Image(s): Sketchbooks</p> <p>Sketchbook contains primarily cartoons and illustrations and is dated to Alexander's main years of newspaper and magazine work; oversized material housed in Box 14.</p> |
| Box 2, Folder 32 | <p>Sketchbook , circa 1873-1899</p> <p>Image(s): Sketchbooks</p> <p>Sketchbook contains primarily cartoons and illustrations and is dated to Alexander's main years of newspaper and magazine work; oversized material housed in Box 14.</p> |
| Box 2, Folder 33 | <p>Sketchbook, circa 1873-1899</p> |

- [Image\(s\): Sketchbooks](#)
Sketchbook contains primarily cartoons and illustrations and is dated to Alexander's main years of newspaper and magazine work; oversized material housed in Box 14.
- Box 6, Folder 41 Sketchbook, 1882
(contains six sketches, July 31-August 5, 1882, Port Jefferson, Long Island)
- Box 3, Folder 1 Sketchbook, circa 1880-1881
[Image\(s\)](#)
(inscribed July 1880; contains sketches from life; also contains sketches of illustrations depicting African Americans)
- Box 3, Folder 2 Sketchbook, 1884
[Image\(s\)](#)
(travel sketchbook with dated sketches, one of which is labeled "Tangier")
- Box 3, Folder 3 Sketchbook, circa 1891
[Image\(s\)](#)
(cover reads "B. Alexander, 1891"; may have belonged to Elizabeth Alexander, who went by the name Betsy or Bessie; contains seascapes, figures and a page of text)
- Box 3, Folder 4 Sketchbook, circa 1896
[Image\(s\): Sketchbooks](#)
Pencil sketches of figures, landscapes, and several lunettes that appear to be related to Alexander's Library of Congress murals, executed 1896
- Box 3, Folder 5 Sketchbook, circa 1896
[Image\(s\): Sketchbooks](#)
Pencil sketches of figures, landscapes, and several lunettes that appear to be related to Alexander's Library of Congress murals, executed 1896
- Box 3, Folder 6 Sketchbook, circa 1905-1908
[Image\(s\)](#)
Among the work in this volume are sketches from Alexander's murals at the Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh, executed 1905-1908; oversized items housed in Box 14.
- Box 3, Folder 7 Sketchbook, undated
[Image\(s\): Sketchbooks](#)
Five undated volumes in Box 3, folders 7-10, contain a variety of work in pencil, wash, gouache, and ink; two volumes were purchased in Europe.
- Box 3, Folder 8 Sketchbook, undated

[Image\(s\): Sketchbooks](#)

- Box 3, Folder 9 Sketchbook, undated
[Image\(s\): Sketchbooks](#)
- Box 3, Folder 10 Sketchbook, undated
[Image\(s\): Sketchbooks](#)
- Box 3, Folder 11 Charcoal Sketch, undated
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 3, Folder 12 Pencil Sketches, circa 1896-1909
[Image\(s\)](#)
Loose sketches in Box 3, folders 12-16 are mainly of allegorical figures; many are recognizable from Alexander's murals at the Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh, executed 1905-1908; a few cartoons are found; folders are dated to the period of Alexander's mural projects.
- Box 3, Folder 13 Pencil Sketches, circa 1896-1909
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 3, Folder 14 Pencil Sketches, circa 1896-1909
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 3, Folder 15 Pencil Sketches, (bulk circa 1896-1909)
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 3, Folder 16 Pencil Sketches, circa 1896-1909
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 3, Folder 17 Wash and Ink Drawings, circa 1873-1899
[Image\(s\)](#)
(contains a series of maritime scenes in wash and gouache on Bristol board, and a single figure in period costume; assuming these are illustrations, they are dated to Alexander's main period of illustration.)

Etchings, Engravings, and Reproductions of Artwork

- Box 3, Folder 18 Bound Volume 1, circa 1886-1894
[Image\(s\)](#)
Oversized items housed in Box 15
- Box 3, Folder 19 Items Removed from Bound Volume 1, circa 1886-1894
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 3, Folder 20 Bound Volume 2, circa 1885-1996

	Image(s) Oversized items housed in Box 16, sol
Box 3, Folder 21	Loose Items, circa 1886-1915 Image(s) Oversized material housed in OV 23
Box 3, Folder 22	Loose Items, circa 1886-1915 Image(s)
Box 3, Folder 23	Loose Items, circa 1886-1915 Image(s)
Box 3, Folder 24	Loose Items, circa 1886-1915 Image(s)
Box 3, Folder 25	Etched Portrait of John White Alexander by A.G. Learned, undated Image(s) Oversized items housed in OV 23
Box 14	Oversized Sketchbooks, circa 1873-1908 Items scanned with Box 2, folders 31-32 and Box 3, folder 6
Box 15	Bound Volume 1 of Art Reproductions, circa 1896-1909 Items scanned with Box 3, folder 18
Box 16	Bound Volume 2 of Art Reproductions, circa 1886-1894 Items scanned with Box 3, folder 20
Box OV 23	Oversized Sketch, circa 1885-1896 Item scanned with box 3, f12
Box OV 23	Oversized Etchings, Engravings, and Reproductions of Artwork, Loose Items, circa 1886-1915 Items scanned with Box 3, folder 21
Box OV 23	Oversized Etched Portrait of Alexander by A.G. Learned, undated Item scanned with Box 3, f25

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Series 8: Scrapbooks, circa 1877-1915

1.8 Linear feet (Boxes 17-22)

Eight scrapbooks date primarily from 1888 to 1915, with some earlier clippings in the first volume from Alexander's first trip to Europe in the late 1870s. Scrapbooks begin shortly after his marriage to Elizabeth Alexander and contain annotations that appear to be in her handwriting. Thus, the scrapbooks may have been created by her.

Most of the contents of the scrapbooks are newspaper and magazine clippings, with articles about Alexander's art activities and reproductions of his paintings. Also found are scattered letters from patrons and organizations announcing honors and thanking Alexander for commissioned portraits. Other types of items in the scrapbooks include exhibition invitations and catalogs, invitations to club events, programs for speaking engagements, and a few photographs.

Exhibition catalogs in the scrapbooks include Alexander's one-man show at Durand-Ruel Galleries (1901-1902), Pratt Institute (1905), the National Arts Club retrospective (1909), the Albright Knox gallery retrospective (1909), and the Art Institute of Chicago (1913). Other special contents of individual scrapbooks are noted in the folder listing.

Contents of scrapbooks are in loose chronological order, with each volume covering three to five years. Scattered items fall outside of the date ranges indicated for each volume. Additional volumes containing art reproductions, engravings, and photographs are found in the artwork series. Additional exhibition catalogs and clippings are found in the Printed Materials series.

This series has been scanned in its entirety.

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| Box 17, Folder 1 | Scrapbook, circa 1877-1895
Image(s)
(contains 1893 letter from Puvis de Chavannes re: membership in the Societe Nationale des Beaux-Arts, 1896 letter from Prince Eugene of Sweeden and Norway inviting Alexander to exhibit) |
| Box 17, Folder 2 | Scrapbook, 1895-1900
Image(s) |
| Box 18, Folder 1 | Scrapbook, 1900-1904
Image(s)
(contains photograph of the jury of Etchings and Engravings, Paris Exposition, 1900, on which Alexander served; 1901 letter from Emile Loubet, president of France, and a notice of the same year of his honor of Crois de Chevalier de L'Ordre Nationale de la Legion d'Honneur; 1904 letter from Edward Coates awarding him the Gold Medal of Honor by the Pennsylvania Academy) |
| Box 18, Folder 2 | Scrapbook, 1904-1907
Image(s)
(contains letters from Henry van Dyke, V. van Syckel, Jane Potter Russell, Walter Gunnison, and K.M., possibly Katherine Mackay; also, telegram from JWA to EA informing her of the Carnegie mural contract for \$175,000) |
| Box 19, Folder 1 | Scrapbook, 1907-1909 |

[Image\(s\)](#)

(Contains program for MacDowell club event with tableaux by Alexander; extensive publicity for the Carnegie Institute murals; and a 1908 note from H. W. Mabie)

Box 20, Folder 1

Scrapbook, 1909-1911

[Image\(s\)](#)

(contains letter from George A. Hearn; programs and publicity for Maude Adams productions of John of Arc and Chanticler)

Box 21, Folder 1

Scrapbook, 1910-1913

[Image\(s\)](#)

(contains note from Florence Levy re: honors from the School Art League; letter from Robert Underwood Johnson re: membership in the American Academy of Arts and Letters; 1912 photograph of the Pittsburgh International Jury, of which Alexander was a member; an invitation to a dinner honoring Alexander Drake, reproducing a cartoon by Alexander)

Box 22, Folder 1

Scrapbook, 1914-1915

[Image\(s\)](#)

(contains annotations related to publicity over Alexander's failure to complete the Carnegie murals)

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Series 9: Printed Materials, circa 1891-1945

1.5 Linear feet (Boxes 3-4, OV 23)

This series contains magazine and newspaper clippings, exhibition catalogs, circulars, bulletins, reports, books, pamphlets, and brochures.

Clippings in this series are often duplicated in Scrapbooks, especially those dating to Alexander's lifetime. Later clippings are unique to this series. The scope of subjects found in this series is also greater, including not only stories about Alexander's career, but also about other artists, family matters, and Elizabeth Alexander's career before and after her husband's death.

Exhibition catalogs are found for Alexander's solo exhibitions, before and after his death. Scattered catalogs for other artists' exhibitions are also found. The 1905 catalog of a Pratt Institute exhibition contains prices, and a 1915 catalog for his memorial exhibition is marked with scattered corrections and sales. Additional exhibition catalogs are found in Scrapbooks.

Circulars include an unsigned, printed letter of protest to the Metropolitan Museum of Art related to an exhibition of European modernists. Entire issues of a variety of magazines are found, several of which contain major articles related to Alexander and his artwork. See details in the folder listing. Bulletins and reports relate to organizations in which Alexander was involved or exhibited. Miscellaneous printed materials include calling cards, a magazine subscription, and a civil defense poster.

Additional printed materials are found throughout the collection, especially in Artwork and Scrapbooks. See series descriptions for more details. The bulk of this series has been scanned. Items not scanned include newspaper and magazine clippings, and for some published items, only the covers have been scanned.

Box 3, Folder 26-27	Magazine Clippings, circa 1896-1922 Oversized items housed in OV 23
Box 3, Folder 28-30	Newspaper Clippings, undated
Box 3, Folder 31-38	Newspaper Clippings, 1900-1914
Box 3, Folder 39-48	Newspaper Clippings, 1915
Box 3, Folder 49-51	Newspaper Clippings, 1916
Box 4, Folder 1-9	Newspaper Clippings, 1916
Box 4, Folder 10-16	Newspaper Clippings, 1917-1918
Box 4, Folder 17	Newspaper Clippings, 1924-1940 not scanned
Box 4, Folder 18	Exhibition Catalogs, 1902-1905, undated Image(s)
Box 4, Folder 19	Exhibition Catalogs, 1915

	Image(s)
Box 4, Folder 20	Exhibition Catalogs, 1915-1916 Image(s)
Box 4, Folder 21	Exhibition Catalogs, 1917-1918 Image(s)
Box 4, Folder 22	Exhibition Catalogs, 1937-1940 Image(s)
Box 4, Folder 23	Exhibition Catalogs, 1942-1944 Image(s)
Box 4, Folder 24	Exhibition Catalogs, 1945 Image(s)
Box 4, Folder 25	Exhibition Poster and Wall Text, undated Image(s) Oversized items housed in OV 23
Box 4, Folder 26	Circulars, circa 1908, 1921 Image(s)
Box 4, Folder 27	Memorial Essay by William Laurel Harris, circa 1915 Image(s)
Box 4, Folder 28	Magazines, circa 1914-1933 Image(s) Articles in Box 4, folders 28-33, include "A Visit to Mr. Alexander's Summer Studio," by Elbert F. Baldwin (page proof); "Is Our Art Distinctively American," by JWA in Century, various obituaries and memorials; "The JWA Murals" in Carnegie Magazine; "The Portrait Work of John W. Alexander" by John V. Sears.
Box 4, Folder 29	Magazines, 1914 Image(s)
Box 4, Folder 30	Magazines, 1915 Image(s)
Box 4, Folder 31	Magazines, 1915-1916 Image(s)
Box 4, Folder 32	Magazines, 1913, 1921

[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 4, Folder 33 Magazines, 1933
[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 4, Folder 34 Bulletins, 1913, 1937
[Image\(s\)](#)
(School Art League, Mint Museum of Art)

Reports

Box 4, Folder 35 Société Royale Des Beaux-Arts (Brussels, Belgium), 1908, 1911
[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 4, Folder 36 New York City Improvement Commission, 1907
[Image\(s\)](#)

Books

Box 4, Folder 37 Autobiography of Worthington Whittridge, after 1941
[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 4, Folder 38 American Academy of Arts and Letters *Book of Record*, 1922
[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 4, Folder 39 Smithsonian Institution National Gallery of Art, 1922
[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 4, Folder 40 Pamphlets, Brochures, and Mailings, 1926, undated
[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 4, Folder 41 Miscellaneous Printed Materials, circa 1891-1945
[Image\(s\)](#)
Oversized item housed in OV 23

Box OV 23 Oversized Magazine Clippings, circa 1896-1922
not scanned

Box OV 23 Oversized Exhibition Poster and Wall Text, undated
Items scanned with Box 4, f25

Box OV 23 Oversized Miscellaneous Printed Materials, circa 1891-1945
Item scanned with Box 4, f41

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Series 10: Photographs, circa 1870-1915

5.8 Linear feet (Boxes 4-8, MGP 1-2, OV 25-43, RD 44-45)

This series contains photographs of John White Alexander, friends and associates, family members, studios, places, exhibitions, and works of art.

Dozens of formal portraits are found depicting Alexander, many taken by notable photographers, including Zaida Ben-Yusuf, Aimé Dupont, Curtis Bell, Elizabeth Buehrmann, and several signed Miss Huggins, who may have been Estelle Huntington Huggins, a New York painter and photographer. Also found are photographs made in the well-known studios of Pach, Sarony, and George Rockwood. Portraits of others include Alexander's friends William Merritt Chase and Edward Austin Abbey.

Groups portraits depict Carnegie Founders' Day, the Metro Club, and the National Academy of Design. Juries include the Carnegie International Exhibition, the National Academy of Design, and one group identified as both the Academy jury and the last meeting of the Paris Society of American Artists.

Annotations are found throughout the series, in what appears to be either John White Alexander's or Elizabeth Alexander's handwriting. Mrs. Alexander's annotations in particular sometimes contradict information found in the photograph itself, or on other photographs of the same subjects. Contradictory annotations are particularly common among jury, studio, and personal photographs, and photographs of works of art.

Photographs of Alexander's studios include spaces in New York City; Paris; Sea Bright, New Jersey; and Onteora, New York; Alexander is pictured in some of the studios. Also found are photographs of the Alexander Memorial Studio built at the MacDowell Colony in New Hampshire after Alexander's death, several of which were taken by photographer Jesse Tarbox Beals. See Awards and Memorials for more images and documentation of the MacDowell studio.

Individuals identified in personal photographs include Alexander, Katherine Beatty, Ed Moran, Thomas S. Clarke, and Alexander's son, James. Also pictured here is Alexander with portraits painted at the Cowan residence in Scotland circa 1900, and Alexander in a mummy costume circa 1903-1904. Numerous photographs of unidentified children appear to have been taken in Alexander's Paris studio. Photographs of Polling, Bavaria show scenic views and architectural details.

Photographs of works of art span Alexander's career and are sometimes annotated with titles, dates of execution, and often owners. Note that annotations are sometimes contradictory. Photographs of paintings are arranged in broad chronological groups, with approximate dates noted in parentheses in the folder listing. These dates have not been verified, however, and many paintings are undated.

Original glass negatives are found for several personal photographs, photographs of studios, and photographs of works of art. Several of the negatives of works of art are retouched and numbered in the original. Recent prints have been made from the original negatives and are filed along with vintage prints. Note that recent prints of paintings have been cropped to the picture frame and do not show the negative images in their entirety.

Additional photographs are found in Awards and Memorials, Artwork, and Scrapbooks. The bulk of this series has been scanned. Items not scanned include photographs of artwork, and duplicate photographs. Glass plate negatives are housed separately and closed to researchers.

Glass plate negatives have been digitized.

Portraits of John White Alexander

Box 4, Folder 42

Photographs by Curtis Bell, circa 1900-1915

	Image(s) Oversized items housed in OV 25
Box 4, Folder 43	Photographs by Curtis Bell, Copies, circa 1900-1915 Not scanned
Box 4, Folder 44	Photographs by Zaida Ben-Yusuf, circa 1900-1915 Image(s) Oversized items housed in OV 25
Box 4, Folder 45	Photographs by Zaida Ben-Yusuf, Copies, circa 1900-1915 Not scanned
Box 5, Folder 1	Photographs by Bradley, circa 1913 Image(s) Oversized items housed in OV 25
Box 5, Folder 2	Photographs by Elizabeth Buehrman, circa 1909-1912 Image(s) Oversized items housed in OV 25
Box 5, Folder 3	Photographs by Elizabeth Buehrman, Copies, circa 1909-1912 Not scanned
Box 5, Folder 4	Photograph by Dana (Photography Studio; Brooklyn, NY), circa 1870-1879 Image(s)
Box 5, Folder 5	Photographs by Davis and Sanford, circa 1911 Image(s) Oversized items housed in OV 25
Box 5, Folder 6	Photographs by Aimé Dupont, 1915 Image(s) Oversized items housed in OV 25
Box 5, Folder 7	Photographs by Davis Garber, undated Image(s)
Box 5, Folder 8	Photographs by Miss Huggins, circa 1903-1913 Image(s) Oversized items housed in OV 25
Box 5, Folder 9	Photographs by Miss Huggins, Copies, circa 1903-1913 Not scanned
Box 5, Folder 10	Photographs by Chester Abbott Lawrence, circa 1904

- [Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 5, Folder 11 Photographs by Pach (Photography Studio, New York), circa 1912
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 5, Folder 12 Photograph by Otto Reitmayer (Photography Studio, Munich), 1877
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 5, Folder 13 Photographs by Rockwood (Photography Studio, New York), circa 1888-1896
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 5, Folder 14 Photographs by Sarony (Photography Studio, New York), circa 1879-1885
[Image\(s\)](#)
Oversized items housed in OV 25
- Box 5, Folder 15 Photographs by Sarony (Photography Studio, New York), Copies, circa 1879-1885
Not scanned
- Box 5, Folder 16 Photographs by E. Syms, undated
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 5, Folder 17 Photographer Unknown, before 1880
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 5, Folder 18 Photographer Unknown, circa 1890-1909
[Image\(s\)](#)
(1 glass plate negative housed in Box 7)
- Box 5, Folder 19 Photographer Unknown, circa 1890-1915
[Image\(s\)](#)
(2 glass plate negatives housed in MGP 1)

Portraits of Others

- Box 5, Folder 20 Edward Austin Abbey, circa 1880-1889
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 5, Folder 21 William Merritt Chase, circa 1870-1879
[Image\(s\)](#)
Oversized items housed in OV 26
- Box 5, Folder 22 Robert Louis Stevenson, circa 1880-1894
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 5, Folder 23 Ruth McEnergy Stuart, undated

- [Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 5, Folder 24 Unidentified Sitters, undated
[Image\(s\)](#)
Probably subjects of portrait paintings by JWA; 2 glass plate negatives housed in MGP 1-2
- Box 5, Folder 25 Unidentified Sitters, undated
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 5, Folder 26 Group Portraits and Juries, circa 1900-1915
[Image\(s\)](#)
Oversized items housed in OV 26
- Box 5, Folder 27 Studio, Alexander Memorial Studio at the MacDowell Colony, after 1915
[Image\(s\)](#)
Box 5, folders 27-30, include photographs taken by Jesse Tarbox Beals and Favor Davis; additional photographs and images are found in Awards and Memorials. Oversized materials are housed in OV 27.
- Box 5, Folder 28 Studio, Alexander Memorial Studio at the MacDowell Colony, after 1915
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 5, Folder 29 Studio, Alexander Memorial Studio at the MacDowell Colony, after 1915
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 5, Folder 30 Studio, Alexander Memorial Studio at the MacDowell Colony, after 1915
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 5, Folder 31 Studio, New York City, circa 1898-1915
[Image\(s\)](#)
J.W. Alexander pictured; oversized items housed in OV 27; 3 glass plate negatives housed in Box 7.
- Box 5, Folder 32 Studio; Onteora, New York, circa 1913
[Image\(s\)](#)
J.W. Alexander pictured; oversized items housed in OV 27
- Box 5, Folder 33 Studio, Paris, circa 1892-1898
[Image\(s\)](#)
J.W. Alexander pictured; oversized items housed in OV 27.
- Box 5, Folder 34 Studio; Sea Bright, New Jersey, circa 1888-1908
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 5, Folder 35 Personal Photographs, circa 1882-1912

[Image\(s\)](#)

Oversized items from Box 5, folders 35-37, housed in OV 27; 1 glass plate negative housed in MGP 2.

Box 5, Folder 36

Personal Photographs, circa 1882-1912

[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 5, Folder 37

Personal Photographs, circa 1882-1912

[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 5, Folder 38

Personal Photographs, Copies, circa 1882-1912
Not scanned

Box 5, Folder 39

Polling, Bavaria, circa 1878-1886

[Image\(s\)](#)

includes negatives

Photographs of Works of Art

Box 5, Folder 40

Installation Views, Art Institute of Chicago, circa 1903, 1907

[Image\(s\)](#)

Oversized items housed in OV 28

Murals

Box 5, Folder 41

Library of Congress Murals (1896), undated
Not scanned

Box 5, Folder 42

Carnegie Institute Murals In Progress, circa 1905-1908

[Image\(s\)](#)

(snapshots with workers pictured)

Box 5, Folder 43

Carnegie Institute Murals, Preliminary Drawings, circa 1905-1908
Not scanned

Box 5, Folder 44-47

Carnegie Institute Murals (1905-1908), undated
Oversized items housed in OV 28-36

Box 5, Folder 48

Carnegie Institute Murals, Lantern Slides, circa 1908-1915

8 lantern slides made by Charles Beseler of New York and identified in what appears to be JWA's handwriting; 8 lantern slides housed in Box 8; not scanned.

Box 5, Folder 49

Unidentified Mural, undated
Not scanned

Box 5, Folder 50-59	Paintings (circa 1879-1899), Vintage Prints, undated
Box 6, Folder 1-6	Paintings (circa 1879-1899), Vintage Prints, undated Oversized items housed in OV 37-39; not scanned
Box 6, Folder 7-25	Paintings (circa 1900-1915), Vintage Prints, 1906, undated Oversized items housed in OV 40-42; not scanned
Box 6, Folder 26	Paintings (circa 1898-1904), Recent Prints from Glass Negatives, undated not scanned
Box 6, Folder 27	Poster, Sculpture, and Drawing (circa 1880-1915), undated not scanned
Box 6, Folder 28	Photographs of Works of Art by Others (circa 1880-1899), undated Includes a portrait of John White Alexander by Frank Duveneck, a portrait of P.W. Bartlett by Charles Sprague Pearce, and around 20 rolled and fragile prints of Rodin sculptures with the note "Given to JWA and EA in Paris circa 1899"; oversized items housed in OV 43, rolled documents 44-45; not scanned.
Box 6, Folder 29	Photo Lab Envelopes, 1921, 1910, undated not scanned
Box 7	Glass Plate Negatives Image(s) 45 glass negatives include a portrait of John White Alexander, his New York City studio, and paintings.
Box MGP 1	Glass Plate Negatives Image(s) 3 glass negatives include portraits of John White Alexander and unidentified sitters.
Box MGP 2	Glass Plate Negatives <i>2 glass negatives</i> Image(s) Includes unidentified sitters.
Box 8	Lantern Slides, Carnegie Institute Murals, Lantern Slides not scanned
Box OV 25	Oversized Portraits of John White Alexander by Curtis Bell, Zaida Ben-Yusuf, Bradley, Elizabeth Buehrman, Davis and Sanford, Aimé Dupont, Miss Huggins, and Sarony Scanned with Box 4, f42 and 44, Box 5, f1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 14

Box OV 26	Oversized Portrait of William Merritt Chase Scanned with Box 5, f21
Box OV 26	Oversized Group Portraits and Juries Scanned with Box 5, f26
Box OV 27	Oversized Photographs of Studios Scanned with Box 5, f28, 31-33
Box OV 27	Oversized Personal Photographs Scanned with Box 5, f38
Box OV 28	Oversized Photographs of Works of Art, Installation Views Scanned with Box 5, f40
Box OV 28	Oversized Photographs of Carnegie Institute Murals not scanned
Box OV 29	Oversized Photographs of Carnegie Institute Murals
Box OV 30	Oversized Photographs of Carnegie Institute Murals
Box OV 31	Oversized Photographs of Carnegie Institute Murals
Box OV 32	Oversized Photographs of Carnegie Institute Murals
Box OV 33	Oversized Photographs of Carnegie Institute Murals
Box OV 34	Oversized Photographs of Carnegie Institute Murals
Box OV 35	Oversized Photographs of Carnegie Institute Murals
Box OV 36	Oversized Photographs of Carnegie Institute Murals
Box OV 37	Oversized Photographs of Paintings, Vintage Prints, circa 1879-1899 not scanned
Box OV 38	Oversized Photographs of Paintings, Vintage Prints, circa 1879-1899
Box OV 39	Oversized Photographs of Paintings, Vintage Prints, circa 1879-1899
Box OV 40	Oversized Photographs of Paintings, Vintage Prints, circa 1900-1915 not scanned

Box OV 41	Oversized Photographs of Paintings, Vintage Prints, circa 1900-1915
Box OV 42	Oversized Photographs of Paintings, Vintage Prints, circa 1900-1915
Box OV 43	Oversized Photographs of Drawings and Poster not scanned
Box OV 43	Oversized Photographs of Works of Art by Others not scanned
Box 44	Photographs of Rodin Sculptures not scanned
Box 45	Photographs of Rodin Sculptures

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Series 11: Artifacts, circa 1899-1915

0.4 Linear feet (Box 6 and artifact cabinet)

This series contains a variety of objects found among Alexander's papers. The metal door plate reads "J.W. Alexander, Artist" and is signed J.C. Michel and Son. Printing plates are for an ex-libris engraving and two newspaper photographs. Souvenir pendants are from dedications of the Carnegie Institute in 1907 and the New York Public Library in 1911. Title plates from exhibited paintings include one for "Sunlight" and another for a portrait of Mercer Beasley, LLD.

The bulk of this series has been scanned.

Box 6, Folder 30	Door Plate, undated Image(s)
Box 6, Folder 31	Hand-sewn Book Cover, undated Image(s)
Object Artifact	Laurel Wreath, undated
Object Artifact	Palette, undated
Box 6, Folder 34-36	Printing Plates, circa 1915, undated <i>3 Folders ((not scanned))</i>
Box 6, Folder 37	Relief Model for Pendant, undated Image(s)
Box 6, Folder 38	Souvenir Engraving of Mark Twain Self-Portrait, 1902 Not scanned
Box 6, Folder 39	Souvenir Pendants, 1907, 1911 Image(s) (made for School Art League award; see Awards and Memorials for Alexander's award medal dated 1911)
Box 6, Folder 40	Title Plates from Paintings, circa 1899-1911 Image(s)

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