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
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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

Restrictions

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

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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 a 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.

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**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, 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
- Whistler, James McNeill, 1834-1903
Series 1: Biographical Information, circa 1887-1968

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
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
Box 1, Folder 31  Correspondence, 1878 February-March
  Image(s)
  (sketches found)

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

Box 1, Folder 45  Correspondence, 1893-1895

Box 1, Folder 46  Correspondence, 1896-1897

Box 1, Folder 47  Correspondence, 1898-1900

Box 1, Folder 48  Correspondence, 1901-1903

Box 1, Folder 49  Correspondence, 1904

Box 1, Folder 50  Correspondence, 1905

Box 1, Folder 51  Correspondence, 1906-1908

Box 1, Folder 52  Correspondence, 1909

(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)
(Respondents 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)
(Respondents 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)
(Respondents 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)
(Respondents 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
Box 1, Folder 61  Correspondence, 1915 June

Box 1, Folder 62  Correspondence, 1915 June-December

Box 1, Folder 63  Correspondence, 1916

(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

(Correspondents include Carroll Beckwith, whose letter includes a photographer 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

(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

(Correspondents include William Barclay Parsons, Gertrude Herdle Moore, Norbert Heerman, Horace Moran, and Edwin Blashfield)

Box 1, Folder 67  Correspondence, 1937-1939

(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

(Correspondents include Homer Saint Gaudens, Carnegie Magazine, John O'Connor, C. Bernard Shea, and Hobart Nichols.)

Box 1, Folder 69  Correspondence, Envelopes, 1874-1904

Box 1, Folder 70  Typescript Copies of Selected Correspondence (1912-1916), undated
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)
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 Addision, 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 exhibitions 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)
Box 2, Folder 2  
Short Stories by Elizabeth Alexander, undated

Box 2, Folder 3  
Short Stories by Elizabeth Alexander, undated

Box 2, Folder 4  
Short Stories by Elizabeth Alexander, Tear Sheets of Published Stories with Illustrations by John White Alexander, 1896-1897

Box 2, Folder 5  
Essays and Speeches by Elizabeth Alexander, undated

Box 2, Folder 6  
Articles about John White Alexander, 1900-1901, undated

Box 2, Folder 7  
Articles about John White Alexander, 1900-1901

Box 2, Folder 8  
Poems Removed from Sketchbook, circa 1875

Box 2, Folder 9  
Poems Written for and to John White Alexander, circa 1897-1912

Box 2, Folder 10  
Registers of Paintings and Exhibitions, circa 1887-1913

Box 2, Folder 11  
Registers of Paintings and Exhibitions, circa 1887-1913

Box 2, Folder 12  
Lists of Paintings, circa 1893-1943

Box 2, Folder 13  
Lists of Paintings, circa 1893-1943

Box 2, Folder 14  
Lists of Paintings, circa 1893-1943

Box 2, Folder 15  
Lists of Paintings, circa 1893-1943
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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date Range</th>
<th>Image(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 23</td>
<td>Images, circa 1910-1944</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 24</td>
<td>Studio Book, circa 1925-1941</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 25</td>
<td>Memorial Resolutions, circa 1915</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 26</td>
<td>Memorial Resolutions, circa 1915</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 27</td>
<td>Memorial Resolutions, circa 1915</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 28</td>
<td>Memorial Resolutions, circa 1915</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 29</td>
<td>Memorial Resolutions, circa 1915</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 30</td>
<td>Commemorative Lecture by Edwin Blashfield, 1917</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box OV 24</td>
<td>Oversized Award Certificates, circa 1878-1915</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box OV 24</td>
<td>Oversized Blueprint of Alexander's Tomb, 1915</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box OV 24</td>
<td>Oversized Memorial Resolution, circa 1915</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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

Sketchbook, circa 1873-1899

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 2, Folder 32

Sketchbook, circa 1873-1899

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 2, Folder 33

Sketchbook, circa 1873-1899
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)
(covers 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)
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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 4, Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Exhibition Catalogs, 1915-1916</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Exhibition Catalogs, 1917-1918</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Exhibition Catalogs, 1937-1940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Exhibition Catalogs, 1942-1944</td>
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<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Exhibition Catalogs, 1945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Exhibition Poster and Wall Text, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oversized items housed in OV 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Circulars, circa 1908, 1921</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Memorial Essay by William Laurel Harris, circa 1915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Magazines, circa 1914-1933</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Articles in Box 4, folders 28-33, include &quot;A Visit to Mr. Alexander's Summer Studio,&quot; by Elbert F. Baldwin (page proof); &quot;Is Our Art Distinctively American,&quot; by JWA in Century, various obituaries and memorials; &quot;The JWA Murals&quot; in Carnegie Magazine; &quot;The Portrait Work of John W. Alexander&quot; by John V. Sears.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Magazines, 1914</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Magazines, 1915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Magazines, 1915-1916</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Magazines, 1913, 1921</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 Whitridge, 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 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.
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

Box 5, Folder 12  Photograph by Otto Reitmayer (Photography Studio, Munich), 1877

Box 5, Folder 13  Photographs by Rockwood (Photography Studio, New York), circa 1888-1896

Box 5, Folder 14  Photographs by Sarony (Photography Studio, New York), circa 1879-1885

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

Box 5, Folder 17  Photographer Unknown, before 1880

Box 5, Folder 18  Photographer Unknown, circa 1890-1909

(1 glass plate negative housed in Box 7)

Box 5, Folder 19  Photographer Unknown, circa 1890-1915

(2 glass plate negatives housed in MGP 1)

Portraits of Others

Box 5, Folder 20  Edward Austin Abbey, circa 1880-1889

Box 5, Folder 21  William Merritt Chase, circa 1870-1879

Oversized items housed in OV 26

Box 5, Folder 22  Robert Louis Stevenson, circa 1880-1894

Box 5, Folder 23  Ruth McEnery Stuart, undated
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
2 Glass negatives
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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box OV 41</th>
<th>Oversized Photographs of Paintings, Vintage Prints, circa 1900-1915</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box OV 42</td>
<td>Oversized Photographs of Paintings, Vintage Prints, circa 1900-1915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box OV 43</td>
<td>Oversized Photographs of Drawings and Poster not scanned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box OV 43</td>
<td>Oversized Photographs of Works of Art by Others not scanned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 44</td>
<td>Photographs of Rodin Sculptures not scanned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 45</td>
<td>Photographs of Rodin Sculptures</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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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, LL.D.

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)

Box 46  Laurel Wreath, undated

Box 46  Palette, undated

Box 6, Folder 34-36  Printing Plates, circa 1915, undated
3 Folders ((not scanned))

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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