



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

A Finding Aid to the American Academy  
of Arts and Letters Records, 1864-1942,  
in the Archives of American Art

Archives of American Art  
750 9th Street, NW  
Victor Building, Suite 2200  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>  
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/>

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	American Academy of Arts and Letters records
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.ameracaa2
<b>Date:</b>	1864-1942
<b>Creator:</b>	American Academy of Arts and Letters
<b>Extent:</b>	5 Microfilm reels (800 items on 5 microfilm reels)
<b>Language:</b>	English .

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Lent to the Archives of American Art for microfilming in 1965. This is a collection of miscellaneous papers representing a gathering over the years of unsolicited documentary resources on American art given or addressed to the Academy.

### Location of Originals

Originals in American Academy of Arts and Letters, New York, N.Y.

### Available Formats

35mm microfilm reels NAA 1 through NAA 5 available at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

### Restrictions

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

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## Biographical / Historical

The American Academy of Arts and Letters is an honor society in New York comprised of artists, writers, architects, and composers. The Academy was created in 1904 by members of the National Institute of Arts and modeled on the Académie française. The Academy of Arts and Letters and the National Institute of Arts and Letters merged on December 30, 1976.

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## Scope and Contents

The microfilmed American Academy of Arts and Letters records consist of artists' papers containing correspondence, notes, biographical material, exhibition catalogs, and other published material. Included is a volume of notes, drawings, and calculations made by George Bellows for a study of Jay Hambidge's theory of Dynamic Symmetry, as well as correspondence and biographical and critical material on George de Forest Brush, Childe Hassam, Francis D. Millet, Joseph Pennell, Elihu Vedder, and J. Q. A. Ward. The Hassam

papers include letters from John Taylor arms, E. H. Blashfield, William Merritt Chase, Royal Cortissoz, J. Alden Weir, and Charles Erskine Scott Wood. All groups contain official Academy correspondence from its secretary Robert Underwood Johnson.

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## Names and Subject Terms

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

### Names:

Arms, John Taylor, 1887-1953  
Bellows, George, 1882-1925  
Blashfield, Edwin Howland, 1848-1936  
Brush, George de Forest, 1855-1941  
Chase, William Merritt, 1849-1916  
Cortissoz, Royal, 1869-1948  
Hambidge, Jay, 1867-1924  
Hassam, Childe, 1859-1935  
Johnson, Robert Underwood, 1853-1937  
Millet, Francis Davis, 1846-1912  
Pennell, Joseph, 1857-1926  
Vedder, Elihu, 1836-1923  
Ward, John Quincy Adams, 1830-1910  
Weir, Julian Alden, 1852-1919  
Wood, Charles Erskine Scott, 1852-1944  
Zigrosser, Carl, 1891-

### Functions:

Arts organizations -- New York (State)  
Learned institutions and societies -- United States

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: American Academy of Arts and Letters records

Reel NAA01, Reel 1-3	George Bellows Documents relating to "the Ten"
Reel NAA01, Reel 4-34	Articles from the Century magazine by John Alexander, Jay Hambidge, Edwin Blashfield, Ernest Blumenschein, Walter Pach
Reel NAA01, Reel 35-85	Dynamic Symmetry by Jay Hambidge
Reel NAA01, Reel 35-85	Notes on Hambidge's "The Symmetry of the Parthenon"
Reel NAA01, Reel 86-195	Explication of "The Diagonal"
Reel NAA01, Reel 196-480	George de Forest Brush: correspondence & papers, 1903-1941
Reel NAA01, Reel 481-687	Childe Hassam: papers & correspondence, newspaper clippings, 1883-1936
Reel NAA01, Reel 691-699	The Hassam Family by John T. Hassam, reprint from New England Historical & Genealogical Register for October 1870, 1870
Reel NAA01, Reel 705-737	Childe Hassam by Carl Zigrosser, catalogue raisonné
Reel NAA01, Reel 738-757	Autobiographical and biographical material
Reel NAA01, Reel 763-769	Childe Hassam, Etcher of Light by John Taylor Arms
Reel NAA01, Reel 791	List of principal works of Hassam and their location
Reel NAA01, Reel 814	Last Will and Testament
Reel NAA02, Reel 1-65	Letters and sonnets to Childe Hassam, 1890-1927

Reel NAA02, Reel 66-369	Correspondence of Mr. and Mrs. Hassam, 1920s-1941
Reel NAA02, Reel 77-82	C. Hassam on Gari Melchers
Reel NAA02, Reel 227-229	Autobiography of C. Hassam
Reel NAA02, Reel 259-265	Vita information and list of principal works for Milch Galleries
Reel NAA02, Reel 266	Tribute to Gari Melchers
Reel NAA02, Reel 271-274	Tribute to Gari Melchers
Reel NAA02, Reel 310	Last Will and Testament
Reel NAA02, Reel 370-429	Exhibition catalogues
Reel NAA02, Reel 431-776	Francis Davis Millet: correspondence, 1888-1912
Reel NAA02, Reel 431-605	Francis Davis Millet: biography
Reel NAA02, Reel 452-543	Francis Davis Millet: biography
Reel NAA02, Reel 623-631	List of paintings, drawings, mural decorations and designs, and literary works
Reel NAA02, Reel 632-678	Memorial meeting of Amer[ican] Fed[eration] of Arts
Reel NAA02, Reel 682-700	Biography of James Hunt
Reel NAA02, Reel 728-732	Biography of James Hunt
Reel NAA02, Reel 745-753	Millet Collection, list of works
Reel NAA03, Reel 1-288	Joseph Pennell: correspondence and miscellaneous papers, 1908-1926

Reel NAA03, Reel 289-488	Elihu Vedder: correspondence and poetry dedicated to E. Vedder
Reel NAA03, Reel 489-827	Elihu Vedder: notebooks, journals of visitors to the artist in Rome. March 7, 1897 to December 29, 1906, 1877-1914
Reel NAA04, Reel 1-502	Elihu Vedder: notebooks, journals of visitors to the artist in Rome. December 29, 1906-1914, 1877-1914
Reel NAA04, Reel 503-742	Poems and other miscellany
Reel NAA04, Reel 743-766	Reminiscences of An American Painter in Review of Digressions of V, 1910
Reel NAA04, Reel 773-796	Reviews of Elihu Vedder and illustrations from Magazine of Art, 1885
Reel NAA04, Reel 797-824	English press notices, 1899
Reel NAA05, Reel 1-249	Poems, writings, and newspaper clippings relating to Elihu Vedder
Reel NAA05, Reel 250-520	Manuscripts, papers, and correspondence of John Quincy Adams Ward, 1852-1909
Reel NAA05, Reel 521-659	Memorial tribute by National Sculpture Society, 1910
Reel NAA05, Reel 660-725	Elihu Vedder: miscellaneous papers

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