



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Stearns-Ames collection

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

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Stearns-Ames collection
Date:	[ca. 1838-1894]
Identifier:	AAA.amesmanu
Creator:	Ames Manufacturing Company. Bronze Foundry
Extent:	0.2 Linear feet ((on partial microfilm reel))
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated 1986 by Malcolm Stearns, Jr., who purchased them from Parke Bernet, New York, in the 1960s. There are numerous notations on the backs of letters and photographs. It is not known who added this information.

Available Formats

35mm microfilm reel 3828 available at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C., Research Center. Microfilmed materials must be consulted on microfilm. Contact Reference Services for more information.

Biographical / Historical

The Ames Manufacturing Company, Chicopee, Massachusetts, was founded in 1835 by James Tyler Ames and his brother, Nathan Peabody Ames. The company manufactured small tools, cotton machinery, swords, cannons, and did casting of bells. It began manufacturing large bronze statuary circa 1850.

Scope and Contents

Correspondence, castings record, financial materials, photographs and printed materials relating primarily to the work of the Bronze Division of the Ames Manufacturing Company.

Scope and Contents

Professional and personal correspondence, chiefly of James Tyler Ames, with sculptors, architects, government officials, and colleagues, including his brother, Nathan Peabody Ames, Henry Kirke Brown,

Randolph Rogers, and Thomas Ustick Walter. A castings record (16 p.) contains expenses and final prices of bronze castings, a printed list of "Bronze Works Executed by the Ames Manufacturing Company," and photographs of completed work. There are also an expense account for the Lincoln National Monument artillery and cavalry groups, lists of expenses relating to "Bronze Castings for Washington and his Horse," the (Benjamin) "Franklin Statue," and other works. Photographs are of works cast by the Ames Company and of unidentified works, of Ames' artisans, of a room in James Ames' house with framed medallions of Washington and Franklin on the wall, and of a head of Washington and a head of his horse in Thomas Ball's studio; reports by the architect of the Capitol extension, and the U.S. Art Commission (1860); Ames Company promotional items; a printed narrative of the incidents connected with the statue of Washington in Union Square by Henry Kirke Brown; and clippings relating to various statues.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Bronze founding -- Massachusetts -- Chicopee
- Bronze sculpture, American
- Decorative arts
- Metal-workers

Names:

- Ames, James Tyler, 1810-1883
- Ames, Nathan Peabody, 1803-1847
- Ball, Thomas, 1819-1911
- Brown, Henry Kirke, 1814-1886
- Franklin, Benjamin, 1706-1790
- Greenough, Horatio, 1805-1852
- Rogers, Randolph, 1825-1892
- United States Capitol (Washington, D.C.)
- Walter, Thomas Ustick, 1804-1887
- Washington, George, 1732-1799

Occupations:

- Sculptors

Functions:

- Memorials -- United States