



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## Samuel Putnam Avery papers

Archives of American Art  
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Washington, D.C. 20001  
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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Samuel Putnam Avery papers
<b>Date:</b>	1857-1902
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.aversamu
<b>Creator:</b>	Avery, Samuel Putnam, 1822-1904
<b>Extent:</b>	3 Microfilm reels (800 items on 3 microfilm reels)
<b>Language:</b>	English .

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Lent for microfilming 1964 by the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

### Location of Originals

Originals in Metropolitan Museum of Art.

### Related Materials

The New York Public Library Manuscripts and Archives Division holds the Samuel Putnam Avery papers, 1822-1904. The New York Historical Society holds the Samuel Putnam Avery letters to William D. Murphy, 1902-1903. The Metropolitan Museum of Art Thomas J. Watson Library holds the Samuel Putnam Avery Papers, ca. 1850-1905.

### Available Formats

35mm microfilm reels NMM26, NMM26a, NMM27 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

Samuel Putnam Avery (1822-1904) was a wood engraver, art dealer, and collector in New York, New York. He was a founder and trustee of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Avery took annual trips to Europe in the 1870s during which he commissioned art for clients. Avery also founded the Avery Architectural Library at Columbia University and donated his collection of etchings and lithographs to the New York Public Library.

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## Scope and Contents

The microfilmed Samuel Putnam Avery papers contain correspondence, including letters, calling cards, and sketches from American and European artists, among them Albert F. Bellows, Eugene Benson, Edwin H. Blashfield, Rosa Bonheur, Adolph W. Bouguereau, Samuel Colman, Clarence Cook, Jasper F. Cropsey, F. O. C. Darley, Charles F. Daubigny, John Durand, Sanford R. Gifford, E. D. E. Greene, Augustus Hoppin, Victor Hugo, John La Farge, Jules Lefebvre, Jervis McEntee, Charles H. Moore, William S. Mount, Thomas A. Richards, Launt Thompson, Henry T. Tuckerman, and James McNeill Whistler; five diaries (1871-1882) detailing annual buying trips to Europe; catalogs; clippings; and miscellaneous publications pertaining to the Avery Art Gallery.

The travel diaries were written exclusively during the summers of 1871-1882 while in Europe (circa 780 pages). Avery visited England, France, Germany, Denmark, the Netherlands, Belgium, Austria, and Italy, visiting galleries and studios, and attending sales in the major cities. In his entries, Avery lists the works that he sees and art he purchases, detailing prices, sizes, and frame requirements. Avery spent most of his time visiting dealers, making shipping arrangements, and commissioning work from a variety of artists. He visited auction houses such as Christie's in London, and "bric a brac shops" where he purchased paintings, as well as furniture, tapestries, and jewelry. He mentions several dealers throughout Europe, especially the P.L. Everard Company and Mr. Boughton in London, and Mr. Van Hinsberg in Belgium. His social engagements included gallery exhibitions, concerts, trips to the opera, and dinners. He describes the French city of Écouen and the Italian countryside vividly. Avery also records his meeting with the Spanish artist Cutazzi, and describes in detail the finery of the Makart studio in Vienna. Throughout the diaries, he corresponds and meets with Mr. Everard, Mr. Boughton, James McNeill Whistler, Vincent Van Gogh, and people he refers to only as Sam and Mary. Avery writes often of his occasional traveling companion, Mr. Lucas. Beginning in 1873, he mentions his wife, letters to her, and gifts that he buys her. At the end of the diary, he lists his accounts during these years.

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## Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Art -- Collectors and collecting

Names:

Bellows, A. F. (Albert Fitch), 1829-1883  
Benson, Eugene, 1837-1908  
Blashfield, Edwin Howland, 1848-1936  
Bonheur, Rosa, 1822-1899  
Bouguereau, William Adolphe, 1825-1905  
Colman, Samuel, 1832-1920  
Cook, Clarence, 1828-1900  
Cropsey, Jasper Francis, 1823-1900  
Darley, Felix Octavius Carr, 1822-1888  
Daubigny, Charles François, 1817-1878  
Durand, John, 1822-1908  
Gifford, Sanford Robinson, 1823-1880  
Greene, Edward D. E., 1823-1879  
Hoppin, Augustus, 1828-1896  
Hugo, Victor, 1802-1885  
La Farge, John, 1835-1910

Lefebvre, Jules, 1836-1911  
McEntee, Jervis, 1828-1891  
Moore, Charles Herbert, 1840-1930  
Mount, William Sidney, 1807-1868  
Richards, T. Addison (Thomas Addison), 1820-1900  
Thompson, Launt, 1833-1894  
Tuckerman, Henry T. (Henry Theodore), 1813-1871  
Whistler, James McNeill, 1834-1903

Occupations:

Art dealers -- New York (State) -- New York  
Engravers -- New York (State) -- New York

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Samuel Putnam Avery papers

Reel NMM26.avery	Avery Art Gallery — art notes and exhibition notices, clippings
Reel NMM26a.avery, Frame 1-395	Avery diaries. Covering European business travels, 1871-1882
	Letters from American and European artists, calling cards, sketches, etc.
Reel NMM26a.avery, Frame 470-471	Bellows, Albert Fitch, 1860 December 22
Reel NMM26a.avery, Frame 452	Benson, Eugene, 1862 December
Reel NMM26a.avery, Frame 552	Blashfield, Edwin H. Pencil sketch
Reel NMM26a.avery, Frame 505-529	Bonheur, Rosa, 1872-1897 October 8
Reel NMM26a.avery, Frame 430	Bouguereau, Adolph Wm., 1867 October 5-1888 February 18
Reel NMM26a.avery, Frame 532-537	Bouguereau, Adolph Wm., 1867 October 5-1888 February 18
Reel NMM26a.avery, Frame 444-445	Colman, Samuel, 1859 July 30
Reel NMM26a.avery, Frame 725-727	Colman, Samuel, 1869 February 15
Reel NMM26a.avery, Frame 430-431	Cook, Clarence C., 1862 February 7

Reel NMM26a.avery, Frame 474-475	Cook, Clarence C., 1862 March 12
Reel NMM26a.avery, Frame 572	Cropsey, Jasper Francis, 1856 March 27
Reel NMM26a.avery, Frame 423-425	Darley, Felix Octavius Carr, 1863 January 25
Reel NMM26a.avery, Frame 479-481	Darley, Felix Octavius Carr, 1863 June 24
Reel NMM26a.avery, Frame 587-593	Daubigny, Charles F., 1864 October 30-1874 February 8
Reel NMM26a.avery, Frame 605-607	Durand, John, 1899 July 12
Reel NMM26a.avery, Frame 453-454	Gifford, Sanford Robinson, 1867 January 22
Reel NMM26a.avery, Frame 459-463	Greene, E. D. E., 1862 March 5
Reel NMM26a.avery, Frame 455-457	Hoppin, Augustus, 1869 September 10
Reel NMM26a.avery, Frame 695-701	Hugo, Victor, 1854 February 25, undated
Reel NMM27.avery, Frame 83-134	Lefebvre, Jules J., 1880 January-1886 July 15
Reel NMM27.avery, Frame 154-155	McEntee, Jervis, 1858 September 6
Reel NMM26a.avery, Frame 469	Moore, Charles H., 1861 March 18

Reel  
NMM26a.avery,  
Frame 429

Mount, William Sidney, 1862 March 26

Reel  
NMM26a.avery,  
Frame 464

Richards, Thomas A., 1867 January 30

Reel  
NMM26a.avery,  
Frame 484-485

Thompson, Launt, 1862 June 19

Reel  
NMM26a.avery,  
Frame 472-473

Tuckerman, Henry Theodore, 1863 January 13

Reel NMM27.avery,  
Frame 294-307

Whistler, James A. M., undated

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