



Smithsonian  
*Archives of American Art*

Thomas Ball guestbook

Archives of American Art  
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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Thomas Ball guestbook
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.ballthom
<b>Date:</b>	1874-1932
<b>Extent:</b>	1 Microfilm reel (1 volume on 1 partial microfilm reel)
<b>Creator:</b>	Ball, Thomas, 1819-1911
<b>Language:</b>	English .

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Lent for microfilming 1988 by Greta Couper, Thomas Ball's great great granddaughter.

### Location of Originals

Original returned to the lender, Greta Couper, after microfilming.

### Related Materials

The Archives of American Art also holds the microfilmed Thomas Ball letter to Stilson Hutchins, 1888 March 30. The Massachusetts Historical Society holds the Thomas Ball letters, 1869-1882.

### Other Finding Aids

Index of signers prepared by the lender is on the microfilm.

### Available Formats

35mm microfilm reel 4039 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

Thomas Ball (1819-1911) was a sculptor, miniaturist, portrait painter, and musician in Boston, Massachusetts, Florence, Italy, and Montclair, New Jersey. His most well-known work is a statue of

George Washington in the Boston Public Garden. Ball maintained a studio in Boston until he moved to Italy in 1854, where he studied sculpture. He made frequent visits to the United States, but remained an expatriate until 1897, when he moved to Montclair, New Jersey.

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## Scope and Contents

The microfilmed Thomas Ball guestbook/scrapbook includes signatures, poems, sketches, musical notations of European and American artists, writers, poets, musicians, and other dignitaries who visited Thomas Ball's studio or villa in Florence, Italy, Montclair, New Jersey, New York City, and Boston from 1874 to 1932. Among the many prominent signers are Ralph Waldo Emerson, Richard Wagner, Henry Longfellow, Franz Liszt, Christina Rossetti. An introduction by the lender, Ball's great great granddaughter, states that some insertions from earlier correspondence and later insertions from musicians visiting the family in Santa Barbara were added to the book.

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## Names and Subject Terms

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

Types of Materials:

- Autograph albums
- Scrapbooks

Names:

- Davis, Charles H. (Charles Harold), 1856-1933

Occupations:

- Musicians
- Painters
- Sculptors