



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Edward Mitchell Bannister Scrapbook, 1866-1901, in the Archives of American Art

Stephanie Ashley

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Edward Mitchell Bannister scrapbook
Date:	1866-1901
Identifier:	AAA.bannedwa
Creator:	Bannister, Edward Mitchell, 1828-1901
Extent:	0.6 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The Edward Mitchell Bannister scrapbook measures 0.6 linear feet and dates from 1866-1901. The scrapbook contains approximately 102 pencil, charcoal, and watercolor drawings by Bannister, newspaper clippings and writings about Bannister and his exhibitions, a poem, and an exhibition catalog.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The scrapbook was donated to the Archives of America Art in 1984 by Alan and Melvin S. Frank. The scrapbook was previously on loan to the National Museum of American Art.

Available Formats

The collection was digitized in 2022 and is available on the Archives of American Art website.

Processing Information

The collection was microfilmed on Reel 3118 after donation. Contents were removed from the original commercial binding and received conservation treatment in 2019. The collection was processed and a finding aid prepared by Stephanie Ashley in 2022 and the scrapbook was digitized in 2022.

Restrictions

This collection is open for research. Access to original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C. Research Center.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

Edward Mitchell Bannister (1828-1901) was a Canadian-born African American landscape and portrait painter in Boston, Massachusetts and Providence, Rhode Island. He was among Providence's leading painters during the 1870s and 1880s and was one of the few African American painters of the nineteenth century to win significant recognition.

Bannister moved to Boston in 1848 where he enrolled in evening classes at the Lowell Institute and learned to paint. He settled in Rhode Island with his wife in 1870 and in 1876 won the first-prize bronze medal at the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition. Subsequently his growing reputation resulted in many commissions which allowed him to devote himself full-time to painting.

Bannister was an original board member of the Rhode Island School of Design and a respected art critic. Following his death in 1901 the Providence Art Club, of which he was a founding member, held a memorial exhibition of his paintings owned by Providence collectors.

Scope and Contents

The Edward Mitchell Bannister scrapbook measures 0.6 linear feet and dates from 1866-1901. The scrapbook contains approximately 102 pencil, charcoal, and watercolor drawings depicting landscapes with cattle, trees, brambles, rolling clouds, a few figure studies, seascapes, and Biblical scenes, by Bannister. The scrapbook also includes newspaper clippings and writings about Bannister including reviews of his exhibitions and tributes by George W. Whitaker, John Nelson Arnold, and T. Thomas Fortune; a 1901 poem about Bannister written by William E. Smith; and an exhibition catalog of the Edward Mitchell Bannister Memorial exhibition held at the Providence Art Club in May 1901.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as one series. The scrapbook has been disbound but contents remain in their original order and are arranged in three parts.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

African American artists
African American painters

Types of Materials:

Scrapbooks

Names:

Providence Art Club
Whittaker, George W.

Occupations:

Landscape painters -- Massachusetts -- Boston
Landscape painters -- Rhode Island -- Providence
Portrait painters -- Massachusetts -- Boston
Portrait painters -- Rhode Island -- Providence

Container Listing

Series 1: Edward Mitchell Bannister Scrapbook, 1866-1901

Box 1	Scrapbook, Part 1, 1866-1901 Notes: Original cover and exhibition catalog
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Box 2	Scrapbook, Part 2, 1866-1901
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Box 3	Scrapbook, Part 3, 1866-1901
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