



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Elizabeth Gardner Bouguereau Papers, 1853-1977, in the Archives of American Art

Judy Ng

Funding for the processing of this collection was
provided by the Terra Foundation for American Art.

2014 May 29

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Elizabeth Gardner Bouguereau papers
Date:	1853-1977
Identifier:	AAA.bougeliz
Creator:	Gardner, Elizabeth Jane, 1837-1922
Extent:	0.4 Linear feet
Language:	The collection is in English.
Summary:	<p>The papers of painter Elizabeth Gardner Bouguereau measure 0.4 linear feet and date from 1853 to 1977, with the bulk of the material dating from 1864 to 1920. Found within the papers are correspondence written to Bouguereau's immediate family; clippings and miscellaneous printed material; and photographs of Bouguereau and her husband Adolphe.</p> <p>Also in the Archives are papers lent for microfilming on reel 3135 and returned to Bouguereau's grandniece, Miriam Dunnan. These papers are not described in the container listing of this finding aid and are available only on microfilm. Included are photographs of Elizabeth and Adolphe Bouguereau and Imogene Robinson Morrell.</p>

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The Elizabeth Gardner Bouguereau papers were donated between 1983 and 1986 by Bouguereau's grandniece, Miriam Gardner Dunnan. She also lent photographs for microfilming in 1984.

Separated Materials

The Archives of American Art also holds microfilm of material lent for microfilming (reel 3135) including photographs. Loaned materials were returned to the lender and are not described in the collection container inventory.

Available Formats

Portions of this collection are available on 35 mm microfilm reels 3135, 3464 and 3967 at the Archives of American Art offices, and through interlibrary loan. Researchers should note that the arrangement of the papers as described in this finding aid does not reflect the order of the collection on microfilm due to reprocessing.

Processing Information

Materials received a preliminary level of arrangement at some point after donation and were later microfilmed on reels 3464 and 3967. The collection was processed to a minimal level and a finding aid prepared by Judy Ng in 2014, with funding provided by the Terra Foundation for American Art. The

Archives of American Art has implemented minimal processing tactics when possible in order to increase information about and access to more of our collections.

Minimal processing included arrangement to the series and folder levels. Generally, items within folders were simply verified with folder titles, but not arranged further. The collection was rehoused in archival containers and folders.

Preferred Citation

Elizabeth Gardner Bouguereau papers, 1853-1977, bulk 1864-1920. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C. Research Center.

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Biographical / Historical

Painter Elizabeth Gardner Bouguereau (1837-1922) lived and worked in Paris, France. Bouguereau was born in Exeter, New Hampshire, graduated from the Lasell Female Seminary in Auburndale, Massachusetts, in 1856, and taught French at the Worcester School of Design and Fine Arts. In the summer of 1864, she travelled to Paris with a former art instructor, Imogene Robinson, with the intention of furthering her art studies. Upon arrival, they copied paintings at the Luxembourg Museum and Bouguereau studied in a number of studios, including the studio of Jean-Baptiste Tissier, a cooperative women's studio, and the École Jardin des Plantes. In 1868, she gained entry to the Paris Salon, one of only six women invited to participate before 1870.

Bouguereau painted in the academic French style, which depicted popular subjects such as country life, biblical scenes, and children and animals. In 1873, she gained entry to the acclaimed Académie Julian, where her instructors included Jules-Joseph Lefebvre and Adolphe William Bouguereau, whom she would later marry in 1896. Bouguereau was the first American woman to be awarded a medal by the Salon, winning a bronze medal in 1887 for *The Farmer's Daughter*. She also won medals at the 1876 Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition and the 1889 Paris Universal Exposition. After her marriage to Adolphe Bouguereau, she ceased painting to care for her husband and resumed only after his death in 1905. She continued to produce works until 1914, when her failing eyesight forced her to stop, and died in her country home in St. Cloud, France in 1922.

Scope and Contents

The papers of painter Elizabeth Gardner Bouguereau measure 0.4 linear feet and date from 1853 to 1977, with the bulk of the material dating from 1864 to 1920. Found within the papers are correspondence written to Bouguereau's immediate family; clippings and miscellaneous printed material; and photographs of Bouguereau and her husband Adolphe.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 1 series.

- Series 1: Elizabeth Gardner Bouguereau papers, 1853-1977 (0.4 linear feet; Box 1)
-

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Painting, Modern -- 19th century -- France -- Paris
Women artists
Women painters

Types of Materials:

Photographs

Names:

Bouguereau, William Adolphe, 1825-1905

Occupations:

Painters -- France -- Paris

Container Listing

Series 1: Elizabeth Gardner Bouguereau Papers, 1853-1977

0.4 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: The papers of painter Elizabeth Gardner Bouguereau consist of correspondence written by Bouguereau to her immediate family, including her mother, Jane Lowell Gardner, her sister, Maria (Ria) P. Gardner, her brother, John Edward Gardner, her sister-in-law, Miriam Gardner, and her nephews, Perley and John Jr. In these letters, Bouguereau covers topics ranging from the progress of her work to life in France, European travels, updates on friends and family, and commentary on contemporary historical and political events. The papers also include copies of clippings, an invitation, an exhibition announcement, and photographs of Bouguereau and her husband Adolphe.

Arrangement: Materials are minimally arranged by document type.

Box 1, Folder 1	Correspondence, Bouguereau, Elizabeth Gardner, circa 1885-1910
Box 1, Folder 2	Correspondence, Gardner, Jane Lowell (mother), 1866, 1884
Box 1, Folder 3-7	Correspondence, Gardner, Maria "Ria" P. (sister), 1865-1914
Box 1, Folder 8	Correspondence, Gardner, John Edward (brother), 1864-1899
Box 1, Folder 9	Correspondence, Gardner, Miriam (sister in law), 1878-1919
Box 1, Folder 10-11	Correspondence, Gardner, Perley (nephew), 1881-1920
Box 1, Folder 12	Correspondence, Gardner, John (nephew), 1888-1909
Box 1, Folder 13	Writings, Article and Poem, circa 1885-1910
Box 1, Folder 14	Printed Material, Invitation, Exhibition Announcement, and Clippings, 1896-1977
Box 1, Folder 15	Photographs of Elizabeth Gardner Bouguereau, circa 1858-1911
Box 1, Folder 16	Photograph of Elizabeth and Adolphe Bouguereau, circa 1900

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