



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Anna Richards Brewster Papers, 1887-1961, in the Archives of American Art

Jayna M. Josefson

Processing of this collection received support from
the Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative.

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Anna Richards Brewster papers
Date:	1887-1961
Identifier:	AAA.brewanna
Creator:	Brewster, Anna Richards, 1870-1952
Extent:	0.8 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of illustrator Anna Richards Brewster measure 0.8 linear feet and date from 1887 to 1961. The papers include material on Brewster's career, and that of her parents William Trost Richards and Anna Matlock Richards. Found are artworks including sketchbooks, biographical material, correspondence, a photo album, printed material, writings, and a scrapbook.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The collection was donated by Susan Brewster McClatchy, Brewster's grandniece, in 1985 and in 1986 by Susan Brewster McClatchy's aunt, Martha Santiago.

Separated Materials

Material lent for microfilming on reel 3796, frames 5-75, was returned to Susan Brewster McClatchy after microfilming and is not described in the collection container inventory.

Related Materials

The Archives of American Art also holds the William Trost Richards papers, 1848-1920.

Available Formats

Portions of the collection are available on 35mm microfilm reel D3796 at the Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan. Researchers should note that the arrangement of material described in the container inventory does not reflect the arrangement of the collection on microfilm.

Material lent for microfilming is available on 35mm microfilm reel 3796 at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

Processing Information

The collection was arranged upon receipt and partially microfilmed on reel 3796. The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Jayna Josefson in 2022 with support from the Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative.

Preferred Citation

Anna Richards Brewster papers, 1887-1961. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

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

Anna Richards Brewster (1870-1952) was a painter, author, and illustrator active in New York and Pennsylvania.

Brewster studied at the Cowles Art School in Boston, the Art Students League, and Académie Julian. Brewster often collaborated as an illustrator with her mother, poet and author Anna Matlock Richards. Brewster's father, William Trost Richards, was a well-known marine painter. Her brother Theodore William Richards was a professor of chemistry at Harvard and a Nobel Prize winner, and another brother, Herbert Maule Richards, was a professor of botany at Barnard College, Columbia University. Brewster lived nine years in London. She married professor William Tenney Brewster.

Anna Richards Brewster died in Scarsdale, New York in 1952.

Scope and Contents

The papers of illustrator Anna Richards Brewster measure 0.8 linear feet and date from 1887 to 1961. The papers include material on Brewster's career, and that of her parents William Trost Richards and Anna Matlock Richards. Found are artworks including sketchbooks, biographical material, correspondence, a photo album, printed material, writings, and a scrapbook.

Arrangement

Due to the small size of this collection the papers are arranged as one series.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Illustration of books
- Marine painting, American
- Women artists
- Women authors
- Women painters

Types of Materials:

Scrapbooks
Sketchbooks

Names:

Brewster, W. T. (William Tenney), 1869-1961
Richards, Anna M. (Anna Matlock)
Richards, William Trost, 1833-1905

Occupations:

Authors -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia
Illustrators -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia
Painters -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia

Container Listing

Series 1: Anna Richards Brewster Papers, 1887-1961

Scope and Contents: Artwork consists of pencil drawings by Anna Richards Brewster and an unsigned original print. Subjects include portraits of children, holiday cards, and illustrations for stories. Two sketchbooks contain pencil sketches of people, nautical scenes, boarder decorations, and animals. Some works may be by Anna Matlock Richards.

Biographical materials include awards, the marriage certificate of William Brewster and Anna Richards, an affidavit for a passport, and material on the will and estate of William Brewster. Also found are unlabeled photographs of a young woman, possibly Anna Richards Brewster, and a man.

Correspondence is with Brewster's parents Anna Matlock Richards and William Trost Richards, her husband William and brother-in-law Edwin, and other family members. Other letters are from institutions and colleagues regarding her career and that of her father. Also found are letters from President Dwight Eisenhower to William Brewster. In his letters, William Trost Richards discusses his lodgings in Germany, Anna's paintings, the publication of *A New Alice in Wonderland*, illustrated by Brewster and written by her mother Anna Matlock Richards, and other matters.

A photo album includes family photos of Herbert Richards Brewster as a small child, likely taken in New York City.

Writings and notes contain lists of places and individuals to receive Brewster's books of published sketches, lists of works of art, price lists, and critiques of exhibitions of works by Brewster and her father. Works by Anna Richards Brewster include a work entitled "Arab Hunting Song." Also found are two notebooks with thoughts and poems by Anna Matlock Richards.

Printed materials include clippings and reproductions of works of art.

A scrapbook entitled *Liber Pokeri* was created for Brewster by her brother Herbert and her husband, and contains a drawing and clippings about poker.

Box 1, Folder 1	Artwork, circa 1890s-1914
Oversize 3, Folder 1	Artwork, Oversized, circa 1900
Box 1, Folder 2	Artwork, Sketchbooks, circa 1900
Box 1, Folder 3	Biographical Material, 1905-1961
Oversize 3, Folder 2	Biographical Material, Oversized, 1920
Oversize 4	Biographical Material, Oversized, 1908-1920
Box 1, Folder 4-5	Correspondence, 1887-1958
Box 1, Folder 6	Photographs, Album, 1906-1910

Box 1, Folder 7	Printed Material, Clippings, 1898-1961
Box 1, Folder 8	Printed Material, Reproductions of Works of Art, 1895-circa 1950s
Box 1, Folder 9	Scrapbook, circa 1910
Box 2, Folder 1	Writings, "Arab Hunting Song", circa 1900
Box 2, Folder 2-3	Writings, Notebooks by Anna Matlock Richards, circa 1885-1892
Box 2, Folder 4	Writings, General, circa 1920-1958

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