



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

Martin Brimmer letters

Archives of American Art  
750 9th Street, NW  
Victor Building, Suite 2200  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>  
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## Collection Overview

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| <b>Repository:</b> | Archives of American Art                               |
| <b>Title:</b>      | Martin Brimmer letters                                 |
| <b>Date:</b>       | 1880-1896  |
| <b>Identifier:</b> | AAA.brimmart   |
| <b>Creator:</b>    | Brimmer, Martin, 1829-1896                             |
| <b>Extent:</b>     | 0.4 Linear feet ((45 items on partial microfilm reel)) |
| <b>Language:</b>   | English .  |

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Donated 1956 by the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston via Mrs. Haven Parker, an Assistant in the Department of Paintings. The Museum owns several paintings by Whitman.

### Available Formats

35mm microfilm reel D32 available at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

### Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C., Research Center. Microfilmed materials must be consulted on microfilm. Contact Reference Services for more information.

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## Biographical / Historical

Brimmer was a collector and first president of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Sarah Wyman Whitman was a Boston painter and patron of the arts, born in Baltimore in 1842. She died in Boston in 1904.

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## Scope and Contents

Primarily letters written by Brimmer to Sarah Wyman Whitman, written from London, Paris, Rome, and elsewhere, and referring to the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and to contemporary artists such as George Fuller, John LaFarge, William Morris Hunt, John Singer Sargent, and James A. McNeill Whistler. In addition, there are letters from Henry Lee Higginson, Owen Wister, and other friends of Brimmer, referring to Brimmer's death; and a letter from Phillips Brooks to Sarah Wyman Whitman.

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## Names and Subject Terms

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

Names:

Fuller, George, 1822-1884  
Higginson, Henry Lee, 1834-1919  
Hunt, William Morris, 1824-1879  
La Farge, John, 1835-1910  
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston  
Sargent, John Singer, 1856-1925  
Whistler, James McNeill, 1834-1903  
Whitman, Sarah  
Wister, Owen, 1860-1938

Occupations:

Painters