



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Henry Kirke Brown Papers, 1836-1893, in the Archives of American Art

Caroline Donadio

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Archives of American Art
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<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/>

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Henry Kirke Brown papers
Date:	1836-1893
Identifier:	AAA.browhenr
Creator:	Brown, Henry Kirke, 1814-1886
Extent:	1 Linear foot
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of sculptor and portrait painter Henry Kirke Brown measure 1 linear feet and date from 1836 to 1893. The collection includes Brown's correspondence with his wife, Lydia Louise Udall, his nephew, Henry Kirke Bush-Brown, and other family members. Also included are letters from artists George Catlin, George Fuller, Sanford R. Gifford, James Reid Lambdin, Louis Lang, Erastus Dow Palmer, Hiram Powers, Horatio Stone, and others; five news clippings; and miscellaneous notes.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The Henry Kirke Brown papers were donated to the Archives of American in 1981 by Dorothy Young, who acquired the papers from her husband, an art dealer.

Available Formats

This collection is available on 35 mm microfilm reels 2770 and 2771 at the Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan. Researchers should note that the arrangement of the material described in the container inventory does not reflect the arrangement of the collection on microfilm.

Processing Information

The collection was processed to a minimal level after donation. A finding aid was created by Caroline Donadio in 2018.

Preferred Citation

Henry Kirke Brown papers, 1836-1893. 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.

Biographical / Historical

Henry Kirke Brown (1814-1886) was an American sculptor and portrait painter born in Leyden, Massachusetts and died in Newburgh, New York.

Scope and Contents

The papers of sculptor and portrait painter Henry Kirke Brown measure 1 linear feet and date from 1836 to 1893. The collection includes Brown's correspondence with his wife, Lydia Louise Udall, his nephew, Henry Kirke Bush-Brown, and other family members. Also included are letters from artists George Catlin, George Fuller, Sanford R. Gifford, James Reid Lambdin, Louis Lang, Erastus Dow Palmer, Hiram Powers, Horatio Stone, and others; five news clippings; and miscellaneous notes.

Brown's lengthy letters to his wife reveal his devotion to her and the conflict he felt between his art and his personal life. He discusses his work, including progress on his statue of George Washington, located in Union Square, New York City. Letters to his family from Rome and Florence allude to his awe of Italy's monuments. Also included are letters from Washington, D.C. during Brown's tenure as a member of the U.S. Art Commission in the 1860s.

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:

Sculpture, Modern--19th century

Names:

Bush-Brown, Henry Kirke, 1857-1935
Catlin, George, 1796-1872
Fuller, George, 1822-1884
Gifford, Sanford Robinson, 1823-1880
Lambdin, James Reid, 1807-1889
Lang, Louis, 1814-1893
Palmer, Erastus Dow, 1817-1904
Powers, Hiram, 1805-1873
Stone, Horatio, 1808-1875
Udall, Lydia Louise
United States.. Art Commission

Occupations:

Portrait painters -- Massachusetts
Sculptors -- Massachusetts

Places:

Italy -- description and travel

Container Listing

Series 1: Henry Kirke Brown Papers, 1836-1893

0.8 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2)

Language: English.

Scope and Contents: The collection includes Brown's correspondence with his wife, Lydia Louise Udall, his nephew, Henry Kirke Bush-Brown, and other family members. Also included are letters from artists George Catlin, George Fuller, Sanford R. Gifford, James Reid Lambdin, Louis Lang, Erastus Dow Palmer, Hiram Powers, Horatio Stone, and others; five news clippings; and miscellaneous notes.

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Box 1, Folder 1	Correspondence, 1836
Box 1, Folder 2	Correspondence, 1837
Box 1, Folder 3	Correspondence, 1838
Box 1, Folder 4	Correspondence, 1839
Box 1, Folder 5-8	Correspondence, 1840
Box 1, Folder 9-10	Correspondence, 1841-1842
Box 1, Folder 11	Correspondence, 1843
Box 1, Folder 12	Correspondence, 1844
Box 1, Folder 13	Correspondence, 1845
Box 1, Folder 14	Correspondence, 1846
Box 1, Folder 15	Correspondence, 1848-1849
Box 1, Folder 16	Correspondence, 1850
Box 1, Folder 17	Correspondence, 1851
Box 1, Folder 18	Correspondence, 1852-1853
Box 1, Folder 19	Correspondence, 1854

Box 1, Folder 20	Correspondence, 1855
Box 1, Folder 21	Correspondence, 1856
Box 1, Folder 22	Correspondence, 1857
Box 1, Folder 23-25	Correspondence, 1858
Box 1, Folder 26	Correspondence, 1859-1861
Box 1, Folder 27-37	Correspondence, 1862
Box 2, Folder 1-5	Correspondence, 1862-1863
Box 2, Folder 6	Correspondence, 1864-1865
Box 2, Folder 7-10	Correspondence, 1866-1869
Box 2, Folder 11	Correspondence, 1870
Box 2, Folder 12	Correspondence, 1871
Box 2, Folder 13	Correspondence, 1872-1873
Box 2, Folder 14-21	Correspondence, 1874
Box 2, Folder 22-24	Correspondence, 1875
Box 2, Folder 25-26	Correspondence, 1876
Box 2, Folder 27-28	Correspondence, 1877
Box 2, Folder 29-33	Correspondence, 1878-1882
Box 2, Folder 34	Correspondence, 1883-1893
Box 2, Folder 35-36	Clippings, 1862, undated
Box 2, Folder 37	Miscellaneous, undated

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