



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Thomas B. Brumbaugh
research material on Abbott Handerson
Thayer and other artists, 1876-1994 (bulk
1960s-1994), in the Archives of American Art

Erin Corley

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

April 06, 2007

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	
Administrative Information	1
Biographical Note	2
Scope and Content Note	2
Arrangement	2
Names and Subjects	
Container Listing	
Series 1: Research material on Abbott Handerson Thayer, 1876-1994 (bulk 1960s-1994)	4
Series 2: Artists' Files, 1923-1994	8

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Thomas B. Brumbaugh research material on Abbott Handerson Thayer and other artists
Date:	1876-1994 (bulk 1960-1994)
Identifier:	AAA.brumthom
Creator:	Brumbaugh, Thomas B. (Thomas Brendle), 1921-
Extent:	1.4 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	Thomas B. Brumbaugh's research material on Abbott Handerson Thayer and other artists dates from 1876 to 1994 (bulk 1960s-1994) and measures 1.4 linear feet. Brumbaugh, an art historian and educator, wrote several articles on Thayer, and these papers contain related correspondence, photocopies and transcripts of Abbott Handerson Thayer's correspondence, research files, and photographs. Also found are Brumbaugh's research files on various artists compiled during his career.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The collection was donated in by Thomas B. Brumbaugh in 1995 and 2004.

Related Material

The Archives of American Art also houses several collections related to Abbott Handerson Thayer. These include the Abbott Handerson Thayer and Thayer Family papers, 1851-1999; the Abbott Handerson Thayer letter and drawings to Caroline Peddle Ball, circa 1890-1893; "The Drawings of Abbott Thayer," by Elizabeth Robins Pennell, circa 1921; and the Nelson and Henry C. White research material, 1898-1978, which includes many original letters, photographs, and other material originally belonging to the Thayer family.

Processing Information

A portion of the Thomas B. Brumbaugh research material on Abbott Handerson Thayer and other artists received a preliminary level of processing after donation. The collection was fully processed by Erin Corley in 2007 with funding provided by the Terra Foundation for American Art.

Preferred Citation

Thomas B. Brumbaugh research material on Abbott Handerson Thayer and other artists, 1876-1994 (bulk 1960s-1994). Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions on Access

The collection is open for research. Use requires an appointment.

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Biographical Note

Art historian and educator Thomas Brendle Brumbaugh was born in 1921. He spent most of his career as a professor of fine arts at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, and has published many articles on American painting, sculpture, and architecture. He was co-editor of *Architecture of Middle Tennessee: The Historic American Buildings Survey* and co-author of *The Art of Gerald Brockhurst*. Brumbaugh spent several years doing research for a book on Abbott Handerson Thayer that was never realized, and published several articles on Thayer, including "An Artist and His Model: Abbott H. Thayer and Clara May," *The American Art Journal*, vol. 10 (May 1978).

Scope and Content Note

Thomas B. Brumbaugh's research material on Abbott Handerson Thayer and other artists dates from 1876 to 1994 (bulk 1960s-1994) and measures 1.4 linear feet. Brumbaugh, an art historian and educator, wrote several articles on Thayer, and these papers contain related correspondence, photocopies and transcripts of Abbott Handerson Thayer's correspondence, research files, and copyprint photographs. Also found are Brumbaugh's research files on various other artists compiled during his career.

Brumbaugh's research material on Abbott Handerson Thayer includes his correspondence with people who knew the Thayer family, other researchers, and museums, organizations, and individuals who owned works by Thayer. Also found are photocopies and transcripts of Abbott Thayer's personal correspondence with family, friends, and patrons. Brumbaugh also maintained research files on people who were friends or worked with Thayer that include correspondence, printed material, and notes. Photographs (all copyprints) that Brumbaugh gathered are of Thayer, his family and friends, models, his home and studio, and his artwork. Brumbaugh conducted most of his research beginning in 1966 in order to write a biography of Thayer, and though the book was never realized, much of this material was used for several scholarly articles about Thayer.

Brumbaugh's documentation on various additional artists, mostly contemporary, were compiled during his career as an art historian and professor at Vanderbilt University. The files include his correspondence, news clippings, exhibition catalogs and announcements, reproductions of artwork, and notes.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into 2 series:

- Series 1: Research material on Abbott Handerson Thayer, 1876-1994 (bulk 1960s-1994)(Box 1; 0.9 linear feet)
- Series 2: Artists' Files, 1923-1994 (Box 1-2; 0.5 linear feet)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Types of Materials:

Photographs

Names:

Thayer, Abbott Handerson, 1849-1921
Vanderbilt University -- Faculty

Occupations:

Art historians -- Tennessee -- Nashville

Container Listing

Series 1: Research material on Abbott Handerson Thayer, 1876-1994 (bulk 1960s-1994)

0.9 Linear feet (Box 1)

Arrangement: Thomas Brumbaugh's research material on Abbott Handerson Thayer series is arranged into 4 subseries:

- Subseries 1.1: Thomas B. Brumbaugh Correspondence, 1966-1990
- Subseries 1.2: Copies and Transcripts of Abbott Handerson Thayer Correspondence, 1876-1924
- Subseries 1.3: Research Files, 1882-1992
- Subseries 1.4: Photographs, circa 1877-1978

Scope and Contents: Brumbaugh's research material on Abbott Handerson Thayer includes his correspondence regarding Thayer; photocopies and transcripts of Abbott Thayer's personal correspondence; research files on people who were friends or worked with Thayer; and photographs (all copyprints) that Brumbaugh gathered for his research.

Subseries 1.1: Thomas B. Brumbaugh Correspondence, 1966-1990

Scope and Contents: Thomas Brumbaugh's correspondence documents his research on Abbott Handerson Thayer and consists primarily of incoming letters answering his requests for reproductions or photographs of Thayer's artwork from museums and private collections, as well as his attempts to locate additional works by Thayer. Also found are letters from people who knew the Thayer family and could share their memories with Brumbaugh, and letters from other researchers requesting information from Brumbaugh about Thayer. Items of note are letters from Nelson White who wrote a biography of Thayer in 1951, and many letters from the National Collection of Fine Arts (now the Smithsonian American Art Museum) which has several Thayer paintings in its collection. Correspondence with Elliott Allison discusses Allison's possession of photographs of models posing for paintings in Thayer's studio which were taken by his father, Henry Allison. Allison also discusses the Thayer family and his memories of the people who were friends with the Thayers in Dublin, New Hampshire. Correspondence is arranged chronologically.

Box 1, Folder 1-4	Correspondence, 1966-1983, 1990 (4 folders)
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Box 1, Folder 5	Correspondence with Elliott Allison, 1968-1980
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Subseries 1.2: Copies and Transcripts of Abbott Handerson Thayer Correspondence, 1876-1924

Scope and Contents: This subseries contains photocopies and transcripts of Abbott Handerson Thayer's correspondence, gathered by Thomas Brumbaugh, documenting Thayer's personal life and family relationships, career as an artist, and his work as an amateur naturalist. Found here are copies of Thayer's personal letters to family members, including his daughter Gladys (known as Galla), his son Gerald (known as Gra), and his wife Emma Beach Thayer (also known as Addie), as well as Emma's relatives in the Beach family. Also included are copies of correspondence with his

patrons Charles L. Freer and John Gellatly, as well as correspondence with friends, including his student Rutledge Bate, the prominent writer Samuel Clemens, and the George de Forest Brush Family. Additional correspondence is with his model Clara May, his friend Dr. Partz, and the Van Loon family. Copies of Thayer's correspondence with Franklin D. Roosevelt, then the Assistant Secretary of the Navy, about his theory on using concealing coloration for warships. Miscellaneous Thayer letters are to Gertrude Bloede, Mr. Montross, Mrs. Thomas Dewing, and Dr. King. As all of the correspondence is either photocopied or a transcript, folder heading dates are those of the original letter/s.

Box 1, Folder 6	Letters to Rutledge Bate, 1918-1920
Box 1, Folder 7-8	Correspondence between the Thayer and Beach Families, 1882-1924 (2 folders)
Box 1, Folder 9	Correspondence between the Thayer and Brush Families, 1903-1909
Box 1, Folder 10	Letters to and from Samuel Clemens, 1904-1909
Box 1, Folder 11	Letters to Charles L. Freer, 1893-1908
Box 1, Folder 12-13	Letters from Abbott Handerson and Emma Beach Thayer to John Gellatly, 1903-1923 (2 folders)
Box 1, Folder 14	Letters to Clara May, 1894-1899
Box 1, Folder 15	Letters to and from Dr. & Mrs. A. Partz, 1876-1878, 1896-1897
Box 1, Folder 16	Letters to and from Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1914-1918
Box 1, Folder 17	Letters to the Van Loon Family, 1913-1922
Box 1, Folder 18	Miscellaneous letters to others, 1891-1901

Subseries 1.3: Research Files, 1882-1992

Scope and Contents: Found here are research files created by Brumbaugh during his research on Abbott Handerson Thayer. Brumbaugh kept files on many people who were friends of or worked with Thayer, including his friend and writer Samuel Clemens; former students Barry Faulkner and Rockwell Kent; his models Clara May, Bessie Price, and Alma Wollerman (who married his son Gerald); studio assistant Grace Reasoner Clark; and family friends, the George de Forest Brush family and the Alexander James family. Materials in these folders include Brumbaugh's correspondence with people about the subject, notes, magazine articles, and other printed material. Also found is a file on the John Gellatly art collection which contains many works by Thayer and was given to the Smithsonian Institution. Other files kept by Brumbaugh include journal and magazine articles on Abbott Handerson Thayer, Dublin, New Hampshire, and other topics related to Thayer or his artwork, as well as a file containing a few handwritten notes kept by Brumbaugh. Items are arranged in chronological order within each folder.

Box 1, Folder 19	Brush Family, 1923-1979
Box 1, Folder 20	Grace Reasoner Clark, 1920-1921, 1968-1970
Box 1, Folder 21	Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain), 1882-1983
Box 1, Folder 22	Barry Faulkner, 1917, 1966-1968
Box 1, Folder 23	John Gellatly Collection, 1921-1978
Box 1, Folder 24	Rockwell Kent, 1966-1977
Box 1, Folder 25	James Family, 1917-1920
Box 1, Folder 26	Clara May, 1921-1978
Box 1, Folder 27	Bessie Price, 1917-1974
Box 1, Folder 28	Alma Wollerman (Thayer), 1935-1992
Box 1, Folder 29-30	Articles about Abbott Handerson Thayer, 1894-1982 (2 folders)
Box 1, Folder 31	Articles about Dublin, New Hampshire, 1908-1982
Box 1, Folder 32	Articles about various topics, 1924-1975
Box 1, Folder 33	Miscellaneous printed material, 1886-1986
Box 1, Folder 34	Notes, circa 1970s

Subseries 1.4: Photographs, circa 1877-1978

Scope and Contents: This subseries contains copy prints (no originals) of photographs of Abbott Handerson Thayer, his family, home, studio, and artwork. Included are a portrait of Thayer as a young man, photographs of Thayer at his home and in his studio in Dublin, New Hampshire, and photographs of him with his family, including his wife Emma Beach Thayer, and his children Mary, Gladys, and Gerald. Also found are many photographs taken by Henry Allison of the Thayer family and of models, such as Alma Wollerman, posing in Thayer's studio. Photographs of artwork were gathered by Brumbaugh from many museum collections, including the large collection of Thayer work in the National Collection of Fine Arts, now known as the Smithsonian American Art Museum.

Box 1, Folder 35	Photographs of Abbott Handerson Thayer, circa 1877, 1905-1921
Box 1, Folder 36	Photographs of Thayer family and others, 1897-circa 1925
Box 1, Folder 37	Photographs by Henry D. Allison of Thayer family & models, circa 1890s

Box 1, Folder 38	Photographs of Thayer Home & Studio in Dublin, NH, circa 1921
Box 1, Folder 39	Photographs of artwork by Thayer, Self-portraits, 1970s
Box 1, Folder 40-41	Photographs of artwork by Thayer, Portraits, 1970s (2 folders)
Box 1, Folder 42-43	Photographs of artwork by Thayer, Angels and female figures, 1970s (2 folders)
Box 1, Folder 44-45	Photographs of artwork by Thayer, Still lifes & landscapes, 1970s (2 folders)
Box 1, Folder 46	Photographs of artwork by Thayer, owned by National Collection of Fine Arts, circa 1978
Box 1, Folder 47	Photographs of artwork by others, 1970s

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 2: Artists' Files, 1923-1994

0.5 Linear feet (Box 1-2)

Scope and Contents: This series contains Brumbaugh's files on various artists, mostly contemporary, compiled during his career as an art historian and professor at Vanderbilt University. The files include his correspondence with many of the artists, as well as with curators and family members about the artists. Besides research about the artists and their work, topics of correspondence include arranging interviews, lectures, and exhibitions. Also found within the files are news clippings, exhibition catalogs and announcements, reproductions of artwork, and notes.

Arrangement: Folders are arranged alphabetically by artist name and items are arranged chronologically within each folder.

Box 1, Folder 48	Burliuk, David, 1951
Box 1, Folder 49-51	Cadmus, Paul, 1937-1944 (3 folders)
Box 1, Folder 52	Cassill, H. C., 1967-1968
Box 2, Folder 1	Chafetz, Sidney, 1964-1981
Box 2, Folder 2	Chester, Rachel, 1950s
Box 2, Folder 3	Church, Frederick S., 1977-1981
Box 2, Folder 4	Colangelo, Angelo, 1954
Box 2, Folder 5	Crumbo, Woody, 1952
Box 2, Folder 6	Dickinson, Edwin W., 1923-1990
Box 2, Folder 7	Dodd, Lamar, 1960-1993
Box 2, Folder 8	Ellis, Fred, 1927
Box 2, Folder 9	Fausett, Dean, 1976-1988
Box 2, Folder 10	Horn, Milton, circa 1968-1978
Box 2, Folder 11-12	Jimenez, Luis, 1987-1994 (2 folders)
Box 2, Folder 13	Kirschenbaum, Jules, 1967-1972
Box 2, Folder 14	Knight, Daniel Ridgeway, 1981
Box 2, Folder 15	Kottler, Howard, 1979

Box 2, Folder 16	Kramer, Reuben, circa 1992-1994
Box 2, Folder 17	Lasansky, Mauricio, 1948-1961
Box 2, Folder 18	Lopez, Felix, 1990-1991
Box 2, Folder 19	Marx, Evelyn, 1958
Box 2, Folder 20	Moser, James Henry, circa 1975-1981
Box 2, Folder 21	Mount, Charles M., 1967-1971
Box 2, Folder 22	Patrick, Joseph Alexander, 1965
Box 2, Folder 23	Read, Thomas Buchanan, 1937-1978
Box 2, Folder 24	Rossiter, Thomas Pritchard, 1972-1973
Box 2, Folder 25	Salerno, Charles, 1988
Box 2, Folder 26	Takaezu, Toshiko, 1924, 1965-1989
Box 2, Folder 27	Waud, Alfred R., 1981
Box 2, Folder 27	Yvon, Adolphe, 1876-1986
Box 2, Folder 28	Miscellaneous research material on artists, 1950s

[Return to Table of Contents](#)