



Smithsonian  
*Archives of American Art*

Howard Russell Butler papers

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

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Howard Russell Butler papers
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.butlhowa
<b>Date:</b>	1874-1936
<b>Extent:</b>	3 Linear feet
<b>Creator:</b>	Butler, Howard Russell, 1856-1934
<b>Language:</b>	English .

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Donated and lent 1970-1975 by H. Russell Butler, Jr., Butler's son.

### Location of Originals

Reels 89 and 93: Originals returned to lender, H. Russell Butler, Jr., after microfilming.

### Other Finding Aids

Finding aid to microfilm reels 347-349 available at Archives of American Art offices.

### Available Formats

35mm microfilm reels 89, 93, 347-349, and 1189-1190 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. Contact Reference Services for more information.

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## Biographical / Historical

Howard Russell Butler (1856-1934) was a businessman, lawyer, and landscape painter from New York, N.Y. Founded the American Society of Fine Arts.

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## Scope and Contents

Writings, journals, organizational papers, correspondence, biographical information, printed matter, art works, and diaries.

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## Scope and Contents

Circa 1700 letters concerning Butler's art work, his interest in astronomy, support for the League of Nations and the World Court, his investigation of the Lincoln statue controversy, his management of the Andrew Carnegie house and property, and extensive correspondence about the various activities of the National Academy of Design and the American Fine Arts Society. Also includes biographical information, addresses, and articles by Butler; miscellaneous printed materials; clippings; exhibition catalogs; and sketches.

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## Scope and Contents

Letters from Howard Russell Butler to family and friends written from Princeton University, Cuba, Mexico, California, Colorado, and Europe; five diaries, 1876-1877; one drawing; and two oil sketches after a painting by Titian.

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## Scope and Contents

A book, "Howard Russell Butler," of Butler's works, including an appreciation by F. Newlin Price.

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## Scope and Contents

An unpublished autobiography written from a journal kept by Butler. In it, he records travel impressions in Canada and the U.S. Northwest, Mexico, and Cuba; experiences as agent and executive in the telegraph business; thoughts on acquaintances as an art student in Paris, and artist in New York, including memories of William A. Coffin, Kenyon Cox, George de Forrest Brush, and others; work as founder of the American Fine Arts Society, which introduced him to George Vanderbilt and Andrew Carnegie; and his 10-year association with Carnegie, including various business dealings.

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## Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Art -- Societies, etc. -- United States  
Landscape painting  
Painting, American -- New York (State) -- New York

Names:

American Fine Arts Society  
Brush, George de Forest, 1855-1941  
Carnegie, Andrew, 1835-1919  
Coffin, William A. (William Anderson), 1855-1925  
Cox, Kenyon, 1856-1919  
National Academy of Design (U.S.)

Occupations:

Landscape painters -- New York (State) -- New York