



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the J. Eastman Chase Papers, 1866-1917, in the Archives of American Art

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Archives of American Art
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	J. Eastman Chase papers
Date:	1866-1917
Identifier:	AAA.chasj
Creator:	Chase, J. Eastman
Extent:	0.2 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The scattered papers of art dealer J. Eastman Chase measure 0.2 linear feet and date from 1866 to 1917. Found is an autobiographical sketch, letters from prominent late 19th and early 20th century artists, printed material, and a scrapbook.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The papers were given to the Archives of American Art in 1975 through Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Robbins, innkeepers, who owned the house once occupied by J. Eastman Chase, and found the collection in the attic.

Available Formats

35mm microfilm reel 996 available at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

Processing Information

The papers were arranged upon receipt and partially microfilmed onto reel 996. The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Jayna Josefson in 2022.

Preferred Citation

J. Eastman Chase papers, 1866-1917. 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.

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Biographical / Historical

J. Eastman Chase (1840-1923) was an art dealer based in Boston, Massachusetts. He worked at Doll and Richards, Inc. and later began his own framing business and art gallery. Among the artists Chase handled were Christopher Cranch, Winslow Homer, John La Farge, and Francis D. Millet.

Scope and Contents

The scattered papers of art dealer J. Eastman Chase measure 0.2 linear feet and date from 1866 to 1917. Found is an autobiographical sketch, letters from prominent late 19th and early 20th century artists, printed material, and a scrapbook. Notable correspondence include Winslow Homer and John La Farge.

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:

Art -- Massachusetts -- Boston -- 19th century

Types of Materials:

Scrapbooks

Names:

Cranch, Christopher Pearse, 1813-1892

Homer, Winslow, 1836-1910

La Farge, John, 1835-1910

Millet, Francis Davis, 1846-1912

Occupations:

Art dealers -- Massachusetts -- Boston

Container Listing

Series 1: J. Eastman Chase Papers, 1866-1917

0.2 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Found are forty-nine letters, primarily from artists handled by Chase. Often letters concern business affairs, but may also include anecdotal accounts. Included are seven letters from Winslow Homer (1881-1882 and 1888); four from John La Farge (1885 and 1888); and eight illustrated letters from painter George H. Clements (1887). Among the other correspondents are Gelett Burgess, C. P. Cranch, Edward Everett Hale, Thomas Wentworth Higginson, William James, John B. Johnston, F. D. Millet, and C. E. Norton.

A fragment of an autobiographical sketch recounts Chase's Maine boyhood in the 1850s. Also found are scattered printed materials including two announcements, one of which describes Chase beginning his own business after a decade of service with Doll and Richards, Inc. and a fragment of a scrapbook containing newspaper clippings on cultural events in Boston in the 1860s to 1880s.

Box 1, Folder 1	Autobiographical Sketch, circa 1910
Box 1, Folder 2	Correspondence, 1867-1898
Box 1, Folder 3	Correspondence, 1900-1917
Box 1, Folder 4	Correspondence, circa 1880s
Box 1, Folder 5	Printed Material, circa 1880
Box 1, Folder 6	Scrapbook, 1866-circa 1880

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