



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Ednah Dow Littlehale Cheney papers relating
to Seth Wells Cheney and John Cheney

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

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Ednah Dow Littlehale Cheney papers relating to Seth Wells Cheney and John Cheney
Date:	1848-1897
Identifier:	AAA.chenedna
Creator:	Cheney, Ednah Dow Littlehale, 1824-1904
Extent:	125 Items ((on partial microfilm reel))
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated 1960 by Alice Williams (married to Corcoran Gallery of Art director Hermann Warner Williams, Jr.), who inherited the Cheney's studio remains.

Available Formats

35mm microfilm reel 284 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.

Biographical / Historical

Seth Wells Cheney was an engraver, as was his brother John Cheney, of Manchester, Connecticut. Ednah Cheney wrote *Memoirs of Seth Wells Cheney*, 1881, and *Memoirs of John Cheney*, 1889.

Scope and Contents

Papers gathered by Ednah Cheney, wife of Seth Wells Cheney, for her memoirs of the two brothers, Seth and John Cheney, prominent 19th century engravers, composed of correspondence, clippings, notes, lists, a diary, and family photographs.

Scope and Contents

Included are 89 letters to Ednah Dow Cheney, 1873-1897, most from authorities on engraving, chiefly, Sylvester Rosa Koehler and Charles Henry Hart concerning the location and identification of engravings pursuant to compilation of a Cheney catalog; a letter describing an 1892 meeting of the National Suffrage

Association; 2 lists of casts for a sculpture collection; a diary, August 1848, kept by Anna Cabot Lowell during Seth Cheney's stay while executing family portraits, describing his activities and character; a phrenological study of Cheney; 33 family photographs and daguerrotypes of John Cheney's drawings (not microfilmed); and miscellany.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Art -- Collectors and collecting
- Cataloging of engravings
- Engraving -- 19th century -- Connecticut
- Engraving -- American -- Connecticut
- Phrenology -- Case studies -- Connecticut
- Women authors

Names:

- Cheney, John, 1801-1885
- Cheney, Seth Wells, 1810-1856
- Hart, Charles Henry, 1847-1918
- Koehler, S. R. (Sylvester Rosa), 1837-1900
- Lowell, Anna C. (Anna Cabot), 1811-1874

Occupations:

- Art historians
- Authors -- Connecticut
- Biographers -- Connecticut
- Engravers -- Connecticut