Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Alice Brown Chittenden Papers, 1860-1974, in the Archives of American Art

Jayna M. Josefson

Processing of this collection received support from
the Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative.

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Alice Brown Chittenden papers
Date:	1860-1974
Identifier:	AAA.chitalic
Creator:	Chittenden, Alice Brown, 1859 or 60-1944
Extent:	1.1 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The scattered papers of painter Alice Brown Chittenden measure 1.1 linear feet and date from 1860 to 1974. Found are biographical material, correspondence, drawings by Chittenden and others, an inventory of works of art, photographs and albums, printed material, and a clippings scrapbook.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated 1974 by Virginia Larribeau, granddaughter of Alice B. Chittenden.

Available Formats

The collection is available on 35mm microfilm reels 919 and 950 at 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 papers were microfilmed on reels 919 and 950 after receipt. The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Jayna Josefson in 2022 with support from the Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative.

Preferred Citation

Alice Brown Chittenden papers, 1860-1974. 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.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

Alice Brown Chittenden (1859-1944) was a painter active in San Francisco, California. She is known for her paintings of flowers and California wildflowers. Additionally, she taught painting at the Hopkins Art School (later the California School of Design) and the California School of Fine Arts.

Scope and Contents

The scattered papers of painter Alice Brown Chittenden measure 1.1 linear feet and date from 1860 to 1974. Found are biographical material, correspondence, drawings by Chittenden and others, an inventory of works of art, photographs and albums, printed material, and a clippings scrapbook.

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:

Scrapbooks
Women artists
Women painters

Occupations:

Painters -- California -- San Francisco

Container Listing

Series 1: Alice Brown Chittenden Papers, 1860-1974

1.1 Linear feet (Boxes 1-3, OVs 4-5)

Scope and Contents: Biographical materials include a marriage certificate for Chittenden to Charles P. Overton; a Chittenden genealogy written by Chittenden's sister Carrie Taylor; personal business records including loan forms and sales information and a financial log book kept by Alice Chittenden and her daughter Miriam. Also found are two composition books with essays and notes by Chittenden.

Correspondence is with the California School of Fine Arts, Gump's San Francisco, and Virginia Larribeau (Chittenden's granddaughter). Posthumous correspondence is between Miriam Cronier and Virginia Larribeau with various buyers and institutions. Also found are undated letters of admiration and appreciation written to Chittenden.

About twenty drawings by Chittenden are signed and dated between 1880 and 1903 and depict people, homes, and landscapes. Unsigned sketches are by Chittenden's student Marjorie Mills. Also found are two sketches by Solly Walter. Additional sketches are of Mexican motifs and patterns with notes on early civilizations.

A 1964 inventory lists Chittenden's wildflower paintings with owner details.

Photographs depict the Chrittenden family including portraits of Alice Chittenden as a child and an adult, her mother Ann Marie Green Chittenden, and other family and friends. Of note are two cased ambrotypes and one cased tintype of Chittenden as a child and one cased ambrotype and one cased tintype of her mother. A photo album assembled by Alice Chittenden contains 125 photos of family and friends in California, New York, and Europe.

Clippings and scattered exhibition material concern Chittenden and her works. Also found is an obituary for Daisy Bell Overton, Chittenden's stepdaughter.

A scrapbook contains clippings regarding a wide range of subjects found to have been of interest to Chittenden including archaeology, art, evolution, flowers, geology, government, history, the role of women in society, royalty, and science. Later, the scrapbook was used to collect articles about Chittenden concerning her career as a painter and teacher and about family events including marriages and deaths.

Box 1, Folder 1	Biographical Material, Personal Business Records, circa 1865-1967
Box 1, Folder 2	Biographical Material, School Composition Books, circa 1865
Box 1, Folder 3	Correspondence, 1915-1971
Box 1, Folder 4-5	Drawings and Sketches, 1880-1903
Oversize 4	Drawings and Sketches, Oversized, circa 1890s-1910
Oversize 5	Drawings and Sketches, Oversized, circa 1890s-1910
Box 1, Folder 6	Inventory, 1965

Box 1, Folder 7	Photographs, Album, circa 1880-1974
Box 1, Folder 8	Photographs, Family, 1877-1900
Item 1	Photographs, Alice Chittenden as a Young Girl, 1860s
Item 2	Photographs, Alice Chittenden as a Young Girl, 1860s
Item 3	Photographs, Ann Miriam Green Chittenden, 1860
Item 4	Photographs, Ann Miriam Green Chittenden, 1860s
Item 5	Photographs, Alice Chittenden as a Baby, 1860
Box 2, Folder 1	Photographs, Works of Art, circa 1930-1940
Box 2, Folder 2	Printed Material, 1897-1964
Box 3	Scrapbook, 1867-circa 1930

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