



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the F. Edwin Church Papers,
circa 1882-2012, in the Archives of American Art

Ricky Gomez

2022 November 7

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	
Administrative Information	1
Biographical / Historical	2
Scope and Contents	2
Arrangement	2
Names and Subjects	
Container Listing	
Series 1: F. Edwin Church papers, circa 1882-2012	3

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	F. Edwin Church papers
Date:	circa 1882-2012
Identifier:	AAA.churfedw
Creator:	Church, Frederic Edwin, 1876-1975
Extent:	0.7 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of painter F. Edwin Church (1876-1975) measure 0.7 linear feet and date from circa 1882-2012. The papers include correspondence relating primarily to loans and sales of Church's Japanese art collection and his own artwork, sketches and a study on panel for a painting, and biographical information including genealogical information and photos of Church and his family.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated in 2022 by Jan Wiley, scholar and authorized representative of the Church family. Wiley worked with Mary Grothe, F. Edwin Church's granddaughter, to organize and compile the material.

Related Materials

Also found in the Archives of American Art are the Frederic Edwin Church letters to Charles F. Olney, 1891-1896.

Processing Information

The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Ricky Gomez in 2022.

Preferred Citation

F. Edwin Church papers, circa 1882-2012. 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.

Terms of Use

The Archives of American Art makes its archival collections available for non-commercial, educational and personal use unless restricted by copyright and/or donor restrictions, including but not limited to access and publication restrictions. AAA makes no representations concerning such rights and restrictions and it is the user's responsibility to determine whether rights or restrictions exist and to obtain

any necessary permission to access, use, reproduce and publish the collections. Please refer to the Smithsonian's Terms of Use for additional information.

Biographical / Historical

F. (Frederic) Edwin Church (1876-1975) was a painter in New York, New York, best known for his portraits.

Church attended the Art Students League and the Académie Julien in Paris and was awarded the Clark Prize in 1916 by the National Academy of Design for best figurative composition.

His works included gilded-age portraits, impressionist landscapes, and still lifes. He used botanical and bird motifs in many of his backgrounds, indicative of the Japanese influence in his work.

Church signed his works F. Edwin Church in order to distinguish himself from the unrelated Hudson River School artist Frederic Edwin Church (1826-1900).

Scope and Contents

The papers of painter F. Edwin Church (1876-1975) measure 0.7 linear feet and date from circa 1882-2012. The papers include correspondence relating primarily to loans and sales of Church's Japanese art collection and his own artwork, sketches and a study on panel for a painting, and biographical information including photos of Church and his family. Also found is correspondence relating to family genealogy, which is especially significant since Church had the same name as Hudson River School artist Frederic Edwin Church (1826-1900).

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as one series.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Occupations:

Painters -- New York (State) -- New York

Container Listing

Series 1: F. Edwin Church papers, circa 1882-2012

0.7 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2, OV 3)

Scope and Contents: Correspondence relates to loans and sales from Church's Japanese art collection, as well as loans and sales of his own artwork, and includes invoices and receipts. Additional correspondence clarifies family genealogical details which is especially significant considering the tendency for Church to be confused with Hudson River School artist Frederic Edwin Church (1826-1900). Artwork includes sketches and a study on panel for a painting. Biographical material includes documents related to Church's membership in the Zoological Society and Union Club, and a certificate related to his service in World War I, as well as photographs of Church and his family. Also found are posthumous records generated by managers of Church's estate.

Arrangement: Records are housed primarily in binders according to the original arrangement of the collection.

Box 1, Folder 1	Binder #1, 1897-2009 Notes: Binder consists of correspondence related to family history inquiries and family history materials such as clippings, awards, and a family tree.
-----------------	---

Box 1, Folder 2	Binder #2, 1921-2012 Notes: Binder consists primarily of correspondence and invoices and receipts for artwork.
-----------------	---

Box 1, Folder 3	Binder #3, 1923-1945 Notes: Binder consists of correspondence (primarily holiday cards) and prints of artwork.
-----------------	---

Box 2, Folder 1	Binder #4, circa 1882-1975 Notes: Binder consists of photographs of Church as a child, Church with his wife and children, and of Church's children and grandchildren.
-----------------	--

Box 2, Folder 2	Binder #5, 1905-1969 Notes: Binder consists of sketches of artwork, correspondence, receipts and price lists, and awards.
-----------------	--

Box 2, Folder 3	Study for "A Game of Pelote, Urrunge" Artwork, circa 1927
-----------------	---

Oversize 3, Folder 1	Locust Valley Cemetery Map, 1931
----------------------	----------------------------------

Oversize 3, Folder 2	Sketch, Wildlife Sanctuary, undated
----------------------	-------------------------------------

Oversize 3, Folder 3	World War I Certificate, 1921
----------------------	-------------------------------

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

