



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## A Finding Aid to the Gabrielle de Veaux Clements Papers, 1860-1948, in the Archives of American Art

Judy Ng

Processing of this collection was funded by the Terra Foundation for American Art

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

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Gabrielle de Veaux Clements papers
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.clemgabr
<b>Date:</b>	1860-1948
<b>Creator:</b>	Clements, Gabrielle de Veaux, 1858-1948
<b>Extent:</b>	1 Linear foot
<b>Language:</b>	The collection is in English.
<b>Summary:</b>	The papers of painter, etcher, printer, muralist, and art teacher Gabrielle de Veaux Clements measure 1 linear foot and date from 1860 to 1948. Found within the papers are biographical material; personal and professional correspondence, including extensive correspondence from Clements to her mother; writings, including notes and essays on art history and etching techniques; printed material; artwork; eight sketchbooks; and photographs of Clements, her family and friends, and her work.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

The Gabrielle de Veaux Clements papers were donated by Mrs. Harlan Starr, Jr. in 1983.

### Available Formats

Portions of this collection are available on 35 mm microfilm reels 4212-4213 at the 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

Portions of the papers were microfilmed onto reels 4212-4213 shortly receipt. All materials were fully processed and described by Judy Ng in 2013 with funding provided by the Terra Foundation for American Art.

### Preferred Citation

Gabrielle de Veaux Clements papers, 1860-1948. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

### Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment.

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## Biographical / Historical

Painter, printer, and art teacher Gabrielle de Veaux Clements (1858-1948) lived and worked in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Baltimore, Maryland; and Folly Cove near Gloucester, Massachusetts. She was known for her etchings and her commissioned murals for the cities of Baltimore and Washington, D.C.

Clements was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to physician Richard Clements and his wife, Gabrielle De Vaux. Her interest in art was supported by her family and, at the age of seventeen, she began studying lithography with the designer Charles Page at the Philadelphia School of Design for Women. After graduating in 1880 from Cornell University, where she had produced a number of scientific drawings and lithographs, Clements studied with painter Thomas Eakins at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts and won the school's Toppan Prize. In 1883, Clements was introduced to etching techniques by the artist Stephen Parrish and began exhibiting and printing her works professionally.

In 1884, Clements traveled abroad to Paris to study at the Academie Julian where she was joined in 1885 by fellow painter and future lifelong companion Ellen Day Hale. Upon returning to her Philadelphia studio in 1885, Clements taught other female artists, including Margaret Bush-Brown, and exhibited in numerous institutions, including the National Academy of Design and the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. In 1895, Clements moved to Baltimore to teach art at the newly established Bryn Mawr School, where she remained until 1908. During her tenure in Baltimore, she was commissioned by the Bendann Galleries to etch nine views of Baltimore and also painted five church murals in Washington, D.C., which led to subsequent murals in Detroit, Philadelphia, and Chicago.

Clements and Hale frequently traveled abroad, visiting France, Italy, Egypt, Syria, and Palestine, and spent summers at "The Thickets," the house they purchased in the artists' colony at Folly Cove. During World War I, they wintered in Charleston, South Carolina where they opened their studios to young female artists and taught innovative etching, painting, and color printmaking techniques. After the war, they again opened their studios in Folly Cove to young artists and continued to teach and experiment with soft-ground etching and aquatints in color. This work was highlighted in special exhibitions at the J.B. Speed Art Museum and the Smithsonian Institution. Clements died in Rockport, Massachusetts in 1948.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers of painter, etcher, printer, muralist, and art teacher Gabrielle de Veaux Clements measure 1 linear foot and date from 1860 to 1948. Found within the papers are biographical material; personal and professional correspondence, including extensive correspondence from Clements to her mother; writings, including notes and essays on art history and etching techniques; printed material; artwork; 8 sketchbooks; and photographs of Clements, her family and friends, and her work.

Biographical material consists of an address book, artwork sales and price lists, and autobiographical notes.

Correspondence is primarily with Clements' family, friends, and business associates. The series includes significant correspondence from Clements to her mother during her college years at Cornell University.

Writings include notes and essays on art history and etching techniques, 2 notebooks of poetry, and a travel diary chronicling a trip to Egypt with Ellen Day Hale.

Printed material includes clippings, exhibition catalogs, a map of the artists' colony at Rockport, Folly Cove in Massachusetts, and a copy of the book *Suggestions for Illuminating* by W. Randle Harrison.

Artwork consists of sketches and original etchings by Clements and artwork by others.

There are 8 sketchbooks consisting primarily of cityscapes, landscapes, and figure and portrait studies. Photographs are of Clements, her family and friends, artists models, and work by Clements and others.

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## Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 7 series.

Missing Title:

- Series 1: Biographical materials, circa 1920-1944 (3 folders; Box 1)
  - Series 2: Correspondence, circa 1875-1945 (0.3 linear feet; Box 1)
  - Series 3: Writings, circa 1885-1940 (8 folders; Box 1)
  - Series 4: Printed material, circa 1860-1948 (5 folders; Box 1)
  - Series 5: Artwork, circa 1895-1940 (3 folders; Box 1)
  - Series 6: Sketchbooks, circa 1884-1940 (0.3 linear feet; Box 1)
  - Series 7: Photographs, circa 1875-1940 (0.2 linear feet; Box 1)
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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 -- History  
Etching -- Technique  
Women artists  
Women educators  
Women painters  
Women printmakers

Types of Materials:

Diaries  
Photographs  
Prints  
Sketchbooks  
Sketches

Names:

Cornell University. -- Students  
Hale, Ellen Day, 1855-1940

Occupations:

Art teachers -- Massachusetts  
Etchers -- Massachusetts  
Muralists -- Massachusetts  
Printmakers -- Massachusetts

Places:

Egypt -- description and travel

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Biographical Materials, circa 1920-1944

#### *3 Folders (Box 1)*

Scope and Contents: Biographical material consists of an address book, artwork sales and price lists, and autobiographical notes.

Arrangement: Materials are arranged by document type.

Box 1, Folder 1	Address Book, circa 1930-1937
Box 1, Folder 2	Artwork Sales and Price Lists, 1929-1944
Box 1, Folder 3	Autobiographical Notes, circa 1920-1941

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## Series 2: Correspondence, circa 1875-1945

### 0.3 Linear feet (Box 1)

**Scope and Contents:** Correspondence is primarily with Clements' family, friends, and business associates. The series includes significant correspondence from Clements to her mother during her college years at Cornell University, as well as correspondence from the printer and publisher Charles W. Ames. There is also a carbon copy of a 1945 letter from the sculptor Walker Hancock to his father describing the retrieval of art works confiscated by the Nazis.

**Arrangement:** Correspondence is arranged alphabetically by correspondent.

Box 1, Folder 4	A-Z Miscellaneous, circa 1885-1940
Box 1, Folder 5	Ames, Charles W., 1879-1884
Box 1, Folder 6	Clements, Gabrielle de Veaux, circa 1875-1935
Box 1, Folder 7-11	de Vaux, Gabrielle (mother), circa 1877-1880
Box 1, Folder 12	Hale, Ellen Day, 1912-1927, 1945
Box 1, Folder 13	Head, Louisa, circa 1875-1885
Box 1, Folder 14	Hicks, Margaret, circa 1875-1885
Box 1, Folder 15	K., Florence, 1881-1884
Box 1, Folder 16	Library of Congress, 1929-1933
Box 1, Folder 17	Mills, Hattie May, 1877-1878
Box 1, Folder 18	Peggy, 1879-1882
Box 1, Folder 19	Polly ("Rubbie"), 1879-1884
Box 1, Folder 20	Christmas Cards, circa 1895-1925
Box 1, Folder 21	Unknown and Illegible, circa 1885-1940

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## Series 3: Writings, circa 1885-1940

### 8 Folders (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Writings include notes and essays on art history and etching techniques, 2 notebooks of poetry by Clements and Ellen Day Hale, and a 1930 travel diary chronicling a trip to Egypt with Ellen Day Hale.

Arrangement: Materials are arranged by document type and subject matter.

Box 1, Folder 22	Diary, 1930
Box 1, Folder 23-24	Notebook of Poetry, circa 1886-1940
Box 1, Folder 25	On Art History, circa 1895-1940
Box 1, Folder 26	On Artworks, circa 1895-1940
Box 1, Folder 27	On Etching Techniques, circa 1895-1940
Box 1, Folder 28	Poem, "Christmas", circa 1895-1940
Box 1, Folder 29	Writings by Others, circa 1885-1940

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## Series 4: Printed Material, 1860-1948

### 5 Folders (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Printed material consists of clippings; exhibition catalogs; a map of the artists' colony at Rockport, Folly Cove in Massachusetts; a copy of the book *Suggestions for Illuminating* by W. Randle Harrison; and a postcard of St. Philip's Church.

Arrangement: Materials are arranged by document type.

Box 1, Folder 30	Book, <i>Suggestions for Illuminating</i> by W. Randle Harrison, 1860
Box 1, Folder 31	Clippings, 1893-1948
Box 1, Folder 32	Exhibition Catalogs, 1923, 1935
Box 1, Folder 33	Map, Rockport, Massachusetts Artist Colony, circa 1930-1940
Box 1, Folder 34	Postcard, circa 1895-1940

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## Series 5: Artwork, circa 1895-1940

### 3 Folders (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Artwork consists of sketches and original etchings by Clements, a copy of Durer's "St. Jerome in His Study," and a print, possibly by Lilian Westcott Hale.

Arrangement: Materials are arranged by document type and subject matter.

Box 1, Folder 35	Sketches and Original Etchings, circa 1895-1940
Box 1, Folder 36	By Others, Etching, "St. Jerome in His Study", 1939
Box 1, Folder 37	By Others, Sketch (possibly by Lilian Wescott Hale), circa 1895-1940

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## Series 6: Sketchbooks, 1884-1940

### 0.3 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: There are 8 sketchbooks consisting of cityscapes, landscapes, figure and portrait studies, animal and nature studies, and mural designs.

Arrangement: Materials are arranged by subject matter.

Box 1, Folder 38	Sketchbook #1, Cityscapes, Portrait Studies, and Ships, 1884
Box 1, Folder 39	Sketchbook #2, Cityscape, Figure and Decorative Studies, 1885-1912
Box 1, Folder 40	Sketchbook #3, Landscapes, Cityscapes, and Figure Studies, 1926-1927
Box 1, Folder 41	Sketchbook #4, Landscapes, Cityscapes, and Figure Studies, circa 1930-1938
Box 1, Folder 42	Sketchbook #5, Landscape and Portrait Studies, circa 1895-1940
Box 1, Folder 43	Sketchbook #6, Mural Designs, circa 1895-1940
Box 1, Folder 44	Sketchbook #7, Nature and Figure Studies, circa 1913-1922
Box 1, Folder 45	Sketchbook #8, Nature, Figure, and Animal Studies, 1919-1935

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## Series 7: Photographs, circa 1875-1940

### 0.2 Linear feet (Box 1)

**Scope and Contents:** Photographs are of Clements and her family and friends, including travel snapshots from the Black Oaks neighborhood in Charleston, South Carolina, and travel photographs from Egypt, France, and Italy. The series also includes snapshots of artist models and scenes, photographs of artwork by Clements, and photographs of 45 paintings and sketches by Lilian Westcott Hale.

**Arrangement:** Materials are arranged by subject matter.

Box 1, Folder 46	<a href="#">Photographs of Clements, Family, and Friends, circa 1875-1940</a>
Box 1, Folder 47	Photographs of Homes and Buildings, circa 1875-1940
Box 1, Folder 48-51	Travel, Charleston, South Carolina, 1918
Box 1, Folder 52	Travel, Egypt, circa 1930
Box 1, Folder 53	Travel, France, circa 1930
Box 1, Folder 54	Travel, Italy, circa 1922
Box 1, Folder 55	Photographs of Artwork by Clements, circa 1920-1940
Box 1, Folder 56	Photographs of Artwork by Lilian Westcott Hale, Females, circa 1920-1940
Box 1, Folder 57	Photographs of Artwork by Lilian Westcott Hale, Girls, circa 1920-1940
Box 1, Folder 58	Photographs of Artwork by Lilian Westcott Hale, Males, circa 1920-1940
Box 1, Folder 59	Photographs of Artwork by Lilian Westcott Hale, Still Lifes, circa 1920-1940
Box 1, Folder 60	Reference Photographs of Animals, circa 1920-1940
Box 1, Folder 61	Reference Photographs of Buildings, circa 1920-1940
Box 1, Folder 62	Reference Photographs of Cityscapes, circa 1920-1940
Box 1, Folder 63	Reference Photographs of Fences and Brickwork, circa 1920-1940
Box 1, Folder 64	Reference Photographs of Figure Models, circa 1920-1940
Box 1, Folder 65	Reference Photographs of Seascapes, circa 1920-1940

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