A Finding Aid to the Kenyon and Louise Cox Papers, 1876-1977, in the Archives of American Art

Erin Corley

Funding for the processing and digitization of this collection was provided by the Terra Foundation for American Art.

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Collection Overview

Repository: Archives of American Art
Title: Kenyon and Louise Cox papers
Identifier: AAA.coxkenyl
Date: 1876-1977
Extent: 0.3 Linear feet
Creator: Cox, Kenyon, 1856-1919
Language: English

Summary: The papers of Kenyon and Louise Cox measure 0.3 linear feet and date from 1876 to 1977. Included are Kenyon and Louise's Certificate of Marriage, autobiographical notes by Louise focusing on her time at the National Academy of Design, writings, and correspondence, primarily from Kenyon Cox, including several illustrated letters. Also found is artwork by Kenyon and others, including Julian Alden Weir, biographical material on Jacob Dolson Cox, Kenyon's Father, photographs and printed reproductions of artwork, magazine and newspaper clippings, an unpublished bibliography on Kenyon Cox, and a handwritten list of Kenyon Cox paintings in the National Academy of Design permanent collection.

Administrative Information

Provenance
The collection was donated by Charles E. Feinberg, 1955-1968, the National Museum of American Art in 1967 and 1984, and the Cooper Hewitt Museum in 1983. The material was microfilmed upon receipt as two separate manuscript collections.

Related Material
Also found in the Archives of American Art are the Allyn Cox papers, 1870-1982. His papers contain correspondence, biographies, photographs, sketchbooks, writings, and printed material, some of it relating to his father, Kenyon Cox.

Alternative Forms Available
The papers of Kenyon and Louise Cox were digitized in 2006 by the Archives of American Art, and total 168 images.

Processing Information
The collection was microfilmed upon receipt as two separate manuscript collections on reels 3060, D8, 2803 and 3134. It was fully merged, arranged, and described by Erin Corley in 2005,
and the bulk of it was scanned, with funding provided by the Terra Foundation for American Art.

**Preferred Citation**

**Restrictions on Access**
The bulk of this collection has been digitized and is available online via AAA's website. Use of material not digitized requires an appointment.

**Ownership and Literary Rights**
The Kenyon and Louise Cox papers are owned by the Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution. Literary rights as possessed by the donor have been dedicated to public use for research, study, and scholarship. The collection is subject to all copyright laws.

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**Biographical Note**

Kenyon Cox was a prominent American painter, lecturer, and art critic. He was born in 1856, in Warren, Ohio, and he studied painting at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts and in Paris, where he befriended artist Augustus Saint-Gaudens. Cox returned to the United States and made a living illustrating magazines and books, and teaching at the Art Students League in New York. In 1892 he married his student Louise Howland King, born in San Francisco in 1865. Together they became prominent painters and were responsible for the murals that decorated the Liberal Arts Building at the 1893 Columbian Exposition in Chicago. During his career, Cox contributed articles and essays on art subjects to various magazines. He was a member of the Society of American Artists, the National Academy of Design, and the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Kenyon Cox died in 1919 and Louise in 1945. Their son, Allyn, born in 1896, became a successful muralist.

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**Arrangement**

Due to the small size of this collection, items are categorized into one series. Items are arranged chronologically within each folder.
Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:
- Art critics
- Muralists -- New York (State) -- New York
- Painting, American
- Works of art

Types of Materials:
- Illustrated letters
- Photographs

Names:
- Cox, Louise Howland King, 1865-1945
Container Listing

Series 1: Kenyon and Louise Cox papers, 1876-1977

0.3 Linear feet (Box 1, OV 2)

Box 1, Folder 1  Certificate of Marriage, 1892
                 Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 2  Correspondence, 1876-1877, 1882
                 (See Also OV 2)
                 Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 3  Correspondence, 1893-1929
                 Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 4  Autobiographical Notes by Louise Cox, 1945
                 Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 5  Speech by Kenyon Cox, 1915
                 Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 6  Writings, "Artist and Public" by Kenyon Cox, undated
                 Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 7  Writings, Miscellaneous, 1892, 1933, 1967
                 Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 8  Drawings, 1876, undated
                 (See Also OV 2)
                 Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 9  Biographical Material on Jacob Dolson Cox, circa 1929
                 Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 10 Photographs of Artwork, 1888-1922, undated
                 (not scanned)

Box 1, Folder 11 Printed Material, Reproductions of Artwork, undated
                 (Not scanned; see Also OV 2)

Box 1, Folder 12 Printed Material, Clippings, 1884-1977, undated
                 (See Also OV 2)
                 Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 13 Printed Material, Miscellaneous, 1901-1923
(not scanned)

Box 1, Folder 14  Bibliography on Kenyon Cox, circa 1954
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 15  List of Paintings by Kenyon Cox in the N.A.D. Permanent Collection, undated
Image(s)

Box OV 2  Oversize Correspondence
(See Box 1, F2)

Box OV 2  Oversize Drawings
(See Box 1, F8)

Box OV 2  Oversize Printed Material, Reproductions of Artwork
(Not scanned; see Box 1, F11)

Box OV 2  Oversize Printed Material, Clippings
(See Box 1, F12)

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