



Smithsonian  
*Archives of American Art*

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

# Table of Contents

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Collection Overview .....                              | 1 |
| Administrative Information .....                       | 1 |
| Biographical Note.....                                 | 2 |
| Scope and Content Note.....                            | 2 |
| Arrangement.....                                       | 3 |
| Names and Subjects .....                               | 3 |
| Container Listing .....                                | 4 |
| Series 1: Kenyon and Louise Cox papers, 1876-1977..... | 4 |

## Collection Overview

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| <b>Repository:</b> | Archives of American Art   |
| <b>Title:</b>      | Kenyon and Louise Cox papers   |
| <b>Identifier:</b> | AAA.coxkenyl   |
| <b>Date:</b>       | 1876-1977  |
| <b>Extent:</b>     | 0.3 Linear feet  |
| <b>Creator:</b>    | Cox, Kenyon, 1856-1919   |
| <b>Language:</b>   | English .  |
| <b>Summary:</b>    | <p>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Dolson Cox, Kenyon's Father, photographs and printed reproductions of artwork, magazine and newspaper clippings, an unpublished bibliography on Kenyon Cox, and a handwritten list of Kenyon Cox paintings in the National Academy of Design permanent collection.</p> |

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## 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

Kenyon and Louise Cox papers, 1876-1977. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

## 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.

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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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## Scope and Content Note

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, Keyon'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.

## Arrangement

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

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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:

Muralists -- New York (State) -- New York  
Painting, American  
Works of art

Types of Materials:

Illustrated letters  
Photographs

Names:

Cox, Louise Howland King, 1865-1945

Occupations:

Art critics

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## 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<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a>   |
| Box 1, Folder 2  | Correspondence, 1876-1877, 1882<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a><br>Oversize material housed in OV 2                 |
| Box 1, Folder 3  | Correspondence, 1893-1929<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a>   |
| Box 1, Folder 4  | Autobiographical Notes by Louise Cox, 1945<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a>  |
| Box 1, Folder 5  | Speech by Kenyon Cox, 1915<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a>  |
| Box 1, Folder 6  | Writings, "Artist and Public" by Kenyon Cox, undated<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a>                                |
| Box 1, Folder 7  | Writings, Miscellaneous, 1892, 1933, 1967<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a>   |
| Box 1, Folder 8  | Drawings, 1876, undated<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a><br>Oversize material housed in OV 2                         |
| Box 1, Folder 9  | Biographical Material on Jacob Dolson Cox, circa 1929<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a>                               |
| Box 1, Folder 10 | Photographs of Artwork, 1888-1922, undated  |
| Box 1, Folder 11 | Printed Material, Reproductions of Artwork, undated<br>Oversize material housed in OV 2                         |
| Box 1, Folder 12 | Printed Material, Clippings, 1884-1977, undated<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a><br>Oversize material housed in OV 2 |
| Box 1, Folder 13 | Printed Material, Miscellaneous, 1901-1923  |

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Box 1, Folder 14 | Bibliography on Kenyon Cox, circa 1954<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a>                                      |
| Box 1, Folder 15 | List of Paintings by Kenyon Cox in the N.A.D. Permanent Collection, undated<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a> |
| Box OV 2         | Oversize Correspondence<br>Oversize material scanned with Box 1, Folder 2                               |
| Box OV 2         | Oversize Drawings<br>Oversize material scanned with Box 1, Folder 8                                     |
| Box OV 2         | Oversize Printed Material, Reproductions of Artwork<br>Oversize material from Box 1, Folder 11          |
| Box OV 2         | Oversize Printed Material, Clippings<br>Oversize material scanned with Box 1, Folder 12                 |

*[Return to Table of Contents](#)*