



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Thomas Wilmer Dewing and Dewing family papers, 1876-1963, bulk 1890-1930, in the Archives of American Art

Judy Ng

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:	Thomas Wilmer Dewing and Dewing family papers
Identifier:	AAA.dewithom
Date:	1876-1963 (bulk 1890-1930)
Creator:	Dewing, Thomas Wilmer, 1851-1938
Extent:	0.3 Linear feet
Language:	The collection is in English.
Summary:	The papers of Thomas Wilmer Dewing and the Dewing family measure 0.3 linear feet and date from 1876-1963. Found within the papers are biographical materials on Thomas Dewing; personal correspondence from Dewing, his wife Maria Oakey, and other family members; writings; printed materials; and photographs of Dewing, his family, and his work.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Thomas and Maria Dewing's daughter, Elizabeth Dewing Kaup, donated the papers in separate accessions beginning in 1959. In 1979-1980, ten additional letters were given by Mary Morain, the Dewings' granddaughter, through Susan Hobbs. Material was lent for microfilming by Mrs. Pete A. Gunther in 1980 and by Hugh Franklin in 1981. In 2009, an additional handful of correspondence and photographs were anonymously donated to the Archives.

Separated Materials

The Archives of American Art also holds microfilm of material lent for microfilming (reels 1818, 2077, and 2083) including correspondence, writings and diaries, sketchbooks, and photograph albums. Loaned materials were returned to the lender and are not described in the collection container inventory.

Available Formats

The bulk of the collection was digitized in 2016 and is available on the Archives of American Art's website. Materials which have not been scanned include blank pages, blank versos of photographs, and duplicates. In some cases, publications have had their covers and relevant pages scanned.

Materials lent for microfilming are available on microfilm reels 1818, 2077, and 2083 at the Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

Processing Information

Materials received a preliminary level of arrangement after donation and the collection was microfilmed onto reels D22 and 2803. All previously filmed and unfiled accessions were merged

and the collection was described and prepared for digitization by Judy Ng in 2016, with funding provided by the Terra Foundation for American Art.

Preferred Citation

Thomas Wilmer Dewing and Dewing family papers, 1876-1963, bulk 1890-1930. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C. Research Center. Contact Reference Services for more information.

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Biographical / Historical

Painters Thomas Wilmer Dewing (1851-1938) and Maria Oakey Dewing (1855-1927) lived and worked in New York, N.Y. and Cornish, New Hampshire. A native of Boston, Thomas Dewing began his art studies at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts and traveled to Paris in 1876 to study at the Académie Julian under Gustave Boulanger and Jules Lefebvre. He returned to Boston in 1877 and moved to New York City in 1880 where he met and married his wife, Maria Oakey, in 1881. Known for his tonalist style, Dewing taught at the Art Students League from 1881 to 1888, and was elected to the National Academy of Design in 1888. Dewing was also a member of the Ten American Painters, an exhibiting group that included Childe Hassam and William Merritt Chase. Prominent patrons of his work include the architect Stanford White and the art collectors Charles Lang Freer and John Gellatly.

An artist in her own right, Maria Oakey Dewing began her studies at Cooper Union in 1866 and continued at the National Academy of Fine Arts in 1881. She was also a founding member of the Art Students League and a member of the Society of American Artists. Maria Dewing exhibited works at the National Academy of Design and continued to exhibit still life paintings after her marriage to Dewing, receiving awards at the 1893 Columbian Exposition and the 1901 Pan American Exposition. From 1885 to 1905, the Dewings summered at the artist colony in Cornish, New Hampshire and had one child, Elizabeth Dewing Kaup. Maria died at her home in New York in 1927 and Thomas died in New York in 1938.

Scope and Contents

The papers of Thomas Wilmer Dewing and the Dewing family measure 0.3 linear feet and date from 1876-1963. Found within the papers are biographical materials on Thomas Dewing; personal correspondence from Dewing, his wife Maria Oakey, and other family members; writings; printed materials; and photographs of Dewing, his family, and his work.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 1 series:

Missing Title:

- Series 1: Thomas Wilmer Dewing and Dewing Family Papers, 1876-1963 (0.3 linear feet; Box 1, OV 2)
-

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Painters -- New York (State) -- New York
Painting, American -- New York (State) -- New York
Women artists
Women painters

Types of Materials:

Photographs

Names:

Dewing, M. O. (Maria Oakey), 1855-1927

Occupations:

Painters -- New Hampshire

Container Listing

Series 1: Thomas Wilmer Dewing and Dewing Family Papers, 1876-1963

0.3 Linear feet (Box 1, OV 2)

Scope and Contents: Biographical materials include Thomas Dewing's curriculum vitae, citizenship certificate, and an award from the Carnegie Institute.

Correspondence includes letters from Dewing to his wife, Maria Oakey, in which he writes of accounting matters, travel, and the construction of a new house in the Green Hill section of East Conway, N.H.; to his brother, [Charles] Homer Dewing, in which he writes of his intention to spend the summer in South Hampton, Long Island; and to his nephew, Arthur Stone Dewing, in which he writes about the coloration, habits and range of birds he has observed. Maria Oakey Dewing's correspondence includes two to her niece; one to Mr. Perry (possibly Oliver Hazard Perry); and a copy of a letter to Elizabeth Dewing discussing house plans, family matters and painting projects (the copy was made by Charles). Also found are three letters to Thomas Dewing from S.Y., letters from the Dewings' daughter, Elizabeth Dewing Kaup, and letters of invitation to the Dewings from the White House.

There is one typescript essay on Dewing by Kenyon Cox and a description of the 17 paintings displayed in the Dewing Room at the Freer Gallery. Printed material consists of an exhibition catalog for the Ten American Painters' first exhibition in 1898, and clippings, reproductions of artwork, and articles from various sources regarding Thomas Dewing's work. Photographs are of Thomas Dewing in various stages of his life; a cabinet photograph of Maria Oakey; and four copy photographs of Thomas, Maria, and others. There are also photographic reproductions of a mural and paintings by Thomas Dewing.

Arrangement: Materials are arranged by document type.

Available Formats: The bulk of this series has been scanned. In some cases publications have had their covers, title pages, and relevant pages scanned.

Box 1, Folder 1	Biographical Material, Dewing, Thomas Wilmer, circa 1915-1939
Box 1, Folder 2	Biographical Material, Dewing, Thomas Wilmer, Award, 1908
Box 1, Folder 3	Biographical Material, Dewing, Thomas Wilmer, Citizenship Certificate, 1876
Box 1, Folder 4	Correspondence, Dewing, Thomas Wilmer to [Charles] Homer and Arthur Dewing, circa 1900-1914
Box 1, Folder 5	Correspondence, Dewing, Thomas Wilmer to Maria Oakey Dewing, circa 1890-1920
Box 1, Folder 6	Correspondence, Dewing, Maria Oakey, circa 1910-1926
Box 1, Folder 7	Correspondence, Dewing Family, circa 1900-1920
Box 1, Folder 8	Correspondence, Kaup, Elizabeth Dewing, 1959
Box 1, Folder 9	Correspondence, Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1935

Box 1, Folder 10	Correspondence, S.Y., 1929-1972
Box 1, Folder 11	Correspondence, White House, 1903
Box 1, Folder 12	Writings, Cox, Kenyon, "Thomas W. Dewing", circa 1915-1930
Box 1, Folder 13	Writings, Freer Gallery, "In Dewing Room", 1924
Box 1, Folder 14	Printed Materials, Clippings, 1892-1956 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV 2.
Box 1, Folder 15	Printed Materials, Exhibition Announcement and Catalog, 1898, 1963
Box 1, Folder 16	Printed Materials, Reproductions of Artwork, circa 1910-1930
Box 1, Folder 17	Printed Materials, Reproductions of Artwork, circa 1915-1930
Box 1, Folder 18	Photographs, Dewing, Thomas Wilmer, circa 1890-1930 Notes: Includes platinum portrait and albumen studio shots.
Box 1, Folder 19	Photographs, Dewing, Maria Oakey, 1880-1910
Box 1, Folder 20	Photographs, Reproductions of Artwork, circa 1920-1935
Box OV 2	Oversized Clippings scanned with Box 1, Folder 14, 1892-1956

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