



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the John M. Donaldson papers, 1873-1938, in the Archives of American Art

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2020/12/17

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

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	John M. Donaldson papers
Identifier:	AAA.donajohn
Date:	1873-1938
Creator:	Donaldson, John M., 1854-1941
Extent:	0.11 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of Detroit-based architect John M. Donaldson measures 0.11 linear feet and consists of 31 items that date from 1873 to 1938. The papers include a letter from Frank Duveneck, 1877; a sketch of Donaldson, ca. 1876, by [James] Carroll Beckwith, alongside a note from Beckwith, 1913; letters from Gari Melchers, some of which are illustrated; obituary clippings on Melchers; photographs in the form of carte de visites, mostly of fellow art students in Munich, 1873-1877, including Francis Davis Millet and Frank Duveneck; and miscellany. Also included are several letters from Gari Melchers's wife Corrine to Donaldson's son, Bruce.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The John M. Donaldson papers were donated to the Archives of American Art in 1963 by Mrs. Alex G. Donaldson.

Related Materials

Also found in the Archives of American Art are the Bruce M. Donaldson letters from Gari Melchers, 1928 May 9 and May 22.

Available Formats

Portions of the collection are available on 35mm microfilm reel D160 at the Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan. Researchers should note that the arrangement of material described in the container inventory does not reflect the arrangement of the collection on microfilm.

Processing Information

The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Rihoko Ueno in 2020.

Preferred Citation

John M. Donaldson papers, 1873-1938. 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.

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Biographical / Historical

John M. Donaldson (1854-1941) was an architect based in Detroit, Michigan. Donaldson was a friend of painter Gari Melchers. Donaldson's son Bruce (d. 1940) was chairman of the Art History Department at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor.

Scope and Contents

The papers of Detroit-based architect John M. Donaldson measures 0.11 linear feet and consists of 31 items that date from 1873 to 1938. The papers include a letter from Frank Duveneck, 1877; a sketch of Donaldson, ca. 1876, by [James] Carroll Beckwith, alongside a note from Beckwith, 1913; letters from Gari Melchers, some of which are illustrated; obituary clippings on Melchers; photographs in the form of carte de visites, mostly of fellow art students in Munich, 1873-1877, including Francis Davis Millet and Frank Duveneck; and miscellany. Also included are several letters from Gari Melchers's wife Corrine to Donaldson's son, Bruce.

Arrangement

Due to the small size of this collection the papers are arranged as one series.

- Series 1: John M. Donaldson papers, 1873-1938 (Folder 1, OV 2; 31 items)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Names:

Beckwith, J. Carroll (James Carroll), 1852-1917
Donaldson, Bruce M., d. 1940
Duveneck, Frank, 1848-1919
Melchers, Corinne, 1880-1955
Melchers, Gari, 1860-1932

Occupations:

Architects -- Michigan -- Detroit
Painters

Container Listing

Series 1: John M. Donaldson papers, 1873-1938

31 Items ((Folder 1, OV 2))

Scope and Contents: The papers of Detroit-based architect John M. Donaldson measures 0.11 linear feet and consists of 31 items that date from 1873 to 1938. The papers include a letter from Frank Duveneck, 1877; a sketch of Donaldson, ca. 1876, by [James] Carroll Beckwith, alongside a note from Beckwith, 1913; letters from Gari Melchers, some of which are illustrated; obituary clippings on Melchers; photographs in the form of carte de visites, mostly of fellow art students in Munich, 1873-1877, including Francis Davis Millet and Frank Duveneck; and miscellany. Also included are several letters from Gari Melchers's wife Corrine to Donaldson's son, Bruce.

Folder 1 John M. Donaldson papers, 1873-1938

Oversize 2 Letter from Frank Duveneck, 1877

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