



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

Robert Blum letters to Alexander Drake

Archives of American Art  
750 9th Street, NW  
Victor Building, Suite 2200  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>  
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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Robert Blum letters to Alexander Drake
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.drakalex
<b>Date:</b>	1879-1890
<b>Creator:</b>	Drake, Alexander, 1843-1916
<b>Extent:</b>	8 Items
<b>Language:</b>	English .

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Donated by Dr. Paul Hart, who had purchased them from Lewis A. Shepard. Shepard had purchased the letters from Drake's granddaughter, Hilah (?) Wheeler Remaily (?).

### Location of Originals

Originals in the possession of Paul Hart 7 Dunanderry Drive, Paxton, Massachusetts 01612

### Available Formats

35mm microfilm reel 3582 available at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

### Reproduction Note

Three letters are photocopies.

### Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C., Research Center. Microfilmed materials must be consulted on microfilm. Contact Reference Services for more information.

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## Biographical / Historical

Blum was a painter, illustrator, and muralist in New York City. He worked for SCRIBNER'S in 1879, and in 1890 he traveled to Japan. Alexander Drake was a wood engraver, art editor, and patron in New York City. From 1881-1912, he was director of the Art Department and art editor of CENTURY magazine.

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## Scope and Contents

Eight letters from Robert Frederick Blum to Alexander Drake concerning Blum's travels in Venice, Madrid, Tokyo, and Alexandria, Virginia. Blum describes his surroundings and briefly mentions his art work, such as

in a letter introducing "Mr. Hodges, a gentleman from St. Louis" for whom he plans to illustrate an article on Venetian life. Some of the letters have small illustrations.

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## Names and Subject Terms

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

Names:

Blum, Robert Frederick, 1857-1903

Occupations:

Illustrators