



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## A Finding Aid to the Edward Gay and Gay family papers, 1852-1983, in the Archives of American Art

Judy Ng

Funding for digitization of the Edward Gay and Gay Family Papers was made possible by a gift from Edward Gay's descendants Gay Fort Boswell, Wickie Fort Bridgforth, Melanie Fort Christian, Caleb Fort, Edward Fort, Hamlet Fort, James Fort, William Fort, Claudia Fort Heath, Jack Linville, and Jim Linville, in memory of Daniel Wilkins Fort

2016 July 1

Archives of American Art  
750 9th Street, NW  
Victor Building, Suite 2200  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
Business Number: Phone: 202-633-7950  
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>  
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/>

# Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	1
Administrative Information .....	1
Biographical / Historical.....	2
Scope and Contents.....	2
Arrangement.....	3
Names and Subjects .....	3
Container Listing .....	4
Series 1: Edward Gay Papers, 1852-1983.....	4
Series 2: Duncan Gay Papers, 1870-1983.....	7
Series 3: Gay Family Papers, 1888-1970.....	9

## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Edward Gay and Gay family papers
<b>Date:</b>	1852-1983
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.gayedwap
<b>Creator:</b>	Gay, Edward, 1837-1928 Gay, Duncan, 1865-1948
<b>Extent:</b>	2.6 Linear feet
<b>Language:</b>	The collection is in English.
<b>Summary:</b>	The papers of Edward Gay and the Gay family measure 2.6 linear feet and date from 1852 to 1983. Found within the papers are biographical materials on Edward and Duncan Gay; personal correspondence from Edward Gay, his wife Martha Feary Gay, and other family members; artwork by Edward and Duncan Gay; writings; printed materials; and photographs of Edward and Duncan Gay, their family, and their work.

---

## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

The papers were donated in separate accessions beginning in 1959 by Edward Gay's daughter, Dorothy Gay Gordon. Additional materials on Edward Gay were donated by Gay's grandson, Richard G. Coker, in 1974. From 1983 to 1995, materials on Edward and Duncan Gay and the Gay family were donated by Susanne G. Linville, Duncan Gay's daughter.

### 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, exhibition catalogs and other publications have had their covers, title pages, and relevant pages scanned.

### Processing Information

Materials received a preliminary level of arrangement after receipt and portions of the collection were microfilmed onto reels D30 and 866. All accessions were merged and the collection was described and prepared for digitization by Judy Ng in 2016, with funding provided by Edward Gay's descendants: Gay Fort Boswell, Wickie Fort Bridgforth, Melanie Fort Christian, Caleb Fort, Edward Fort, Hamlet Fort, James Fort, William Fort, Claudia Fort Heath, Jack Linville, and Jim Linville, in memory of Daniel Wilkins Fort.

### Preferred Citation

Edward Gay and Gay family papers, 1852-1983. 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.

## Terms of Use

The Archives of American Art makes its archival collections available for non-commercial, educational and personal use unless restricted by copyright and/or donor restrictions, including but not limited to access and publication restrictions. AAA makes no representations concerning such rights and restrictions and it is the user's responsibility to determine whether rights or restrictions exist and to obtain any necessary permission to access, use, reproduce and publish the collections. Please refer to the [Smithsonian's Terms of Use](#) for additional information.

---

## Biographical / Historical

Landscape painter Edward Gay (1837-1928) lived and worked in Mount Vernon and Cragmoor, New York and was known for his works depicting the local countryside of upstate New York and the Hudson River Valley.

Born in Mullingar, Ireland to Richard and Ellen Gay, his family immigrated to Albany, New York in 1848. After showing an early affinity for art, Gay began his studies in the studio of local landscape painters William and James Hart. Under the Harts' advisement, Gay traveled to Karlsruhe, Germany in 1862 to continue his studies with Johann Wilhelm Schirmer and Karl Friedrich Lessing. After returning to America in 1864, Gay married the art critic Martha Feary and lived for a short time in New York City before moving his family to Mount Vernon and eventually purchasing a home there in 1870. He exhibited in museums and galleries throughout America and painted murals for public libraries in Mount Vernon and Bronxville, New York. Gay was a member of the National Academy of Design, New York Artists' Fund Society, and Lotus Club, and was a recipient of the National Academy's George Inness Gold Medal and the Society of American Artists' Shaw Prize.

Duncan Gay (1865-1948), Edward Gay's eldest son, was also an artist. Duncan worked as a draftsman and designer for Louis Comfort Tiffany, where he remained employed prior to becoming a self-employed artist and stained glass designer.

---

## Scope and Contents

The papers of Edward Gay and the Gay family measure 2.6 linear feet and date from 1852 to 1983. Found within the papers are biographical materials on Edward and Duncan Gay; personal correspondence from Edward Gay, his wife Martha Feary Gay, and other family members; artwork by Edward and Duncan Gay; writings; printed materials; and photographic materials of Edward and Duncan Gay, their family, and their work.

Papers of Edward Gay include legal documents; family and business correspondence, including correspondence from fellow artists; writings, including reminiscences by Martha Gay; printed materials; artwork, including one sketchbook; a small selection of business papers related to the Artists' Fund Society; and photographs of Edward and Martha Gay, their homes, and Gay's artwork.

Papers of Duncan Gay include biographical materials; family correspondence; printed material; artwork, including three sketchbooks and sketches of house plans; and photographic materials of Duncan Gay, his travels, and his artwork.

Gay family papers consist primarily of correspondence to Ingovar Gay and Helen Gay Learned, and photographs of the Gay family, extended family members, and friends.

## Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 3 series.

Missing Title:

- Series 1: Edward Gay Papers, 1852-1983 (0.8 linear feet; Box 1, OV 4-5)
  - Series 2: Duncan Gay Papers, 1870-1983 (0.5 linear feet; Boxes 1-2)
  - Series 3: Gay Family Papers, 1888-1970 (1.3 linear feet; Boxes 2-3)
- 

## Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Landscape painters -- New York (State)  
Landscape painting -- 19th century -- New York (State)  
Landscape painting -- 20th century -- New York (State)

Types of Materials:

Photographs  
Sketchbooks  
Sketches

Names:

Artists' Fund Society  
Gay, Ingovar  
Gay, Martha Feary  
Learned, Helen Gay

Occupations:

Painters -- New York (State)

---

## Container Listing

### Series 1: Edward Gay Papers, 1852-1983

#### 0.8 Linear feet (Box 1, OV 4-5)

**Scope and Contents:** Papers of Edward Gay include biographical materials, including a marriage certificate and property deeds. Correspondence is with his wife, Martha Feary, and his children, as well as business correspondence with collectors, artists, museums, and galleries. Artists of note include George Inness, Thomas Moran, and Eastman Johnson. Correspondence with William Arkell includes mention of the Artists' Fund Society's 1880 boat trip in Canajoharie, New York.

Writings include a biography on Gay, a poem, and an untitled manuscript by Martha Feary. Materials related to the Artists' Fund Society relate to membership accounts and a petition signed by artists.

Printed materials include clippings, exhibition announcements and catalogs, and a pamphlet on the history of Mount Vernon, New York written by Gay's daughter, Dorothy Gay Gordon. Artwork consists of one sketchbook, an engraving, and sketches in oils and in graphite and ink. Photographs are of Edward and Martha Gay; their homes in Mount Vernon, Cragsmoor, and Stoneridge; and Gay's artwork.

**Arrangement:** Materials are arranged by document type.

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

Box 1	Biographical Materials
Box 1, Folder 1	<a href="#">Biographical Information, circa 1912-1970</a>
Box 1, Folder 2	<a href="#">Legal Documents, 1864-1889</a> Notes: Oversized material housed in OV 4.
Box 1, Folder 3	<a href="#">Legal Documents, 1890-1915</a>
Box 1	Correspondence
Box 1, Folder 4	<a href="#">Gay, Edward to Martha Feary Gay (wife), circa 1861-1890</a>
Box 1, Folder 5	<a href="#">Gay, Edward to Family, 1878-1916</a>
Box 1, Folder 6	<a href="#">Gay, Martha Feary to Edward Gay (family), 1863-1883</a>
Box 1, Folder 7	<a href="#">Coker, Richard G., 1965-1974</a>
Box 1, Folder 8	<a href="#">Gay, Ingovar, 1965-1974</a>
Box 1, Folder 9	<a href="#">Gordon, Dorothy Gay, 1959-1967</a>
Box 1, Folder 10	<a href="#">A, circa 1865-1920</a>

Box 1, Folder 11	B-G, circa 1865-1920
Box 1, Folder 12	H-Q, circa 1865-1920
Box 1, Folder 13	R-Z, circa 1865-1920
Box 1	Writings
Box 1, Folder 14	Gay, Martha Feary, "Late Spring" (poem), 1928
Box 1, Folder 15	Gay, Martha Feary, "Life of Edward Gay as Recorded By His Wife", circa 1925
Box 1, Folder 16	Gay, Martha Feary, Untitled Manuscript, circa 1910-1925
Box 1, Folder 17	Warnshuis, Margaret C., "Runaway", 1970
Box 1	Subject File, circa 1881-1889
Box 1, Folder 18	Artists' Fund Society, circa 1881-1889
Box 1	Printed Materials
Box 1, Folder 19	Book, Celebration of Westchester, 1983
Box 1, Folder 20	Clippings, circa 1880-1930
Box 1, Folder 21	Clippings, 1872-1900
Box 1, Folder 22	Clippings, 1901-1974
Box 1, Folder 23	Clippings, Reproductions of Artwork, 1887-1912 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV 5.
Box 1, Folder 24	Clippings, By Martha Feary Gay in Albany Evening Journal, 1884-1887
Box 1, Folder 25	Clippings, Martha Feary Gay, 1928-1934
Box 1, Folder 26	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, circa 1881-1975
Box 1, Folder 27	Pamphlet, Social and Cultural Development of Mount Vernon, New York, 1951 Notes: By Dorothy Gay Gordon
Box 1, Folder 28	Periodicals, 1964, 1974
Box 1, Folder 29	Miscellaneous, circa 1920-1970 Notes: Includes the pamphlet <i>Nomination to the Presidency of Peter Cooper</i> .

Box 1	Artwork
Box 1, Folder 30	<a href="#">Engraving, circa 1860-1920</a>
Box 1, Folder 31	<a href="#">Sketchbook, circa 1860-1920</a>
Box 1, Folder 32	<a href="#">Sketch, Graphite and Ink, 1878</a>
Box 1, Folder 33	<a href="#">Sketches, Oils, circa 1860-1920</a>
Box 1	Photographs
Box 1, Folder 34	<a href="#">Gay, Edward and Martha, circa 1852-1970</a>
Box 1, Folder 35	<a href="#">Gay, Edward at Work and in Studios, 1910-1937</a>
Box 1, Folder 36	<a href="#">Family Home, Cragmoor, circa 1914</a>
Box 1, Folder 37	<a href="#">Family Home, Mount Vernon, circa 1920</a>
Box 1, Folder 38	<a href="#">Family Home, Stoneridge, circa 1920</a>
Box 1, Folder 39	<a href="#">Works of Art (1856-1910), circa 1970</a>
Box OV 4	Oversized Legal Documents scanned with Box 1, Folder 2-3, 1864-1890
Box OV 5	Oversized Clippings, Reproductions of Artwork scanned with Box 1, Folder 23, 1887-1912

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



## Series 2: Duncan Gay Papers, 1870-1983

## 0.5 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2)

**Scope and Contents:** Papers of Duncan Gay include biographical materials, a letter from Louis C. Tiffany, family correspondence between Duncan and his parents, and miscellaneous printed material. There is also artwork consisting of three travel sketchbooks documenting trips to Japan, China, Indonesia, and St. Augustine, Florida. Sketches are for stained glass and lamp projects, as well as architectural house plans. Photographic materials are of Duncan Gay, his travels, and slides of artwork inspired by his travels at home and abroad. There are also photographs dating from the Kit Kat Club's 1895 Hudson Canal boat trip.

**Arrangement:** Materials are arranged by document type.

**Available:** This series has been scanned in its entirety.

**Formats:**

Box 1	Biographical Materials
Box 1, Folder 40	<a href="#">Biography, 1983</a> Notes: By Susanne Gay Linville
Box 1, Folder 41	<a href="#">Certificate, 1909</a>
Box 1, Folder 42	<a href="#">Passport, 1934</a>
Box 1	Correspondence
Box 1, Folder 43	<a href="#">Gay, Duncan to Martha Feary and Edward Gay (parents), 1882-1888</a>
Box 1, Folder 44	<a href="#">Gay, Edward and Martha, 1881-1921</a>
Box 1, Folder 45	<a href="#">Miscellaneous, 1891-1916</a> Notes: Includes letter from Louis Comfort Tiffany.
Box 1	Printed Material
Box 1, Folder 46	<a href="#">Clippings, 1885, 1948</a>
Box 1, Folder 47	<a href="#">Periodical, 1913</a> Notes: Excerpt, "Sigiriya" by Jennie Coker Gay, illustrated by Duncan Gay; from <i>Century Magazine</i> .
Box 1, Folder 48	<a href="#">Miscellaneous, circa 1940-1970</a>
Box 1	Artwork
Box 1, Folder 49	<a href="#">Sketchbook, Florida, 1882-1884</a>
Box 1, Folder 50	<a href="#">Sketchbook, Japan, China, Indonesia, 1909</a>
Box 1, Folder 51	<a href="#">Sketchbook, Travels, circa 1885-1940</a>

Box 1, Folder 52	<a href="#">Sketches, House Plans, circa 1900-1940</a>
Box 1, Folder 53	<a href="#">Sketches, House Plans, circa 1900-1940</a>
Box 1, Folder 54	<a href="#">Sketches, circa 1900-1925</a> Notes: Includes stained glass and lamp designs.
Box 1	Photographic Materials
Box 1, Folder 55	<a href="#">Gay, Duncan, circa 1870-1940</a>
Box 1, Folder 56	<a href="#">Kit Kat Club Hudson Canal Boat Trip, 1895</a>
Box 1, Folder 57	<a href="#">Travel, circa 1925-1940</a>
Box 1, Folder 58	<a href="#">Slide Inventory, circa 1981-1983</a>
Box 1, Folder 59	<a href="#">Slides of Artwork, circa 1981-1983</a> Notes: Sculpture and travels, including Panama Canal; Cuba; Trinidad; Florida; Redding, Connecticut; Mexico; Hawaii; Japan; China; and Ceylon
Box 2, Folder 1	<a href="#">Slides of Artwork, circa 1981-1983</a> Notes: Travels including: Philippines; Java; Malasia; Middle East; Mediterranean; and Egypt
Box 2, Folder 2	<a href="#">Slides of Artwork, circa 1981-1983</a> Notes: Travels including: Spain; Greece; and Portugal

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

## Series 3: Gay Family Papers, 1888-1970

### 1.3 Linear feet (Boxes 2-3)

**Scope and Contents:** Gay family papers consists primarily of correspondence to Ingovar Gay and Helen Gay Learned from their mother, Martha Feary Gay, relating to family updates and daily activities. Photographs are of the Gay family, extended family members, and friends at home and on family trips around the East Coast and to Canada and Italy.

**Arrangement:** Materials are arranged by document type.

**Available:** This series has been scanned in its entirety.

**Formats:**

Box 2	Biographical Materials, circa 1897-1950
Box 2, Folder 3	Biographical Materials, Address Book, circa 1930-1950
Box 2, Folder 4	Biographical Materials, Gay, Ingovar, 1897-1901
Box 2	Correspondence
Box 2, Folder 5	Cotes, Vivian Gay, circa 1920
Box 2, Folder 6	Gay, Ingovar, 1905-1931
Box 2, Folder 7	Gay, Ingovar (from mother, Martha Feary Gay), circa 1890-1930
Box 2, Folder 8	Gay, Ingovar (from mother), 1888-1901
Box 2, Folder 9	Gay, Ingovar (from mother), 1902
Box 2, Folder 10	Gay, Ingovar (from mother), 1902
Box 2, Folder 11	Gay, Ingovar (from mother), 1903
Box 2, Folder 12	Gay, Ingovar (from mother), 1903
Box 2, Folder 13	Gay, Ingovar (from mother), 1904
Box 2, Folder 14	Gay, Ingovar (from mother), 1904
Box 2, Folder 15	Gay, Ingovar (from mother), 1905
Box 2, Folder 16	Gay, Ingovar (from mother), 1905
Box 2, Folder 17	Gay, Ingovar (from mother), 1906 Image(s): Gay, Ingovar (from mother): 1906-1907
Box 2, Folder 18	Gay, Ingovar (from mother), 1907

Box 2, Folder 19	Gay, Ingovar (from mother), 1908
Box 2, Folder 20	Gay, Ingovar (from mother), 1908
Box 2, Folder 21	Gay, Ingovar (from mother), 1909 Image(s): Gay, Ingovar (from mother): 1909-1911
Box 2, Folder 22	Gay, Ingovar (from mother), 1910-1911
Box 2, Folder 23	Gay, Ingovar (from mother), 1912
Box 2, Folder 24	Gay, Ingovar (from mother), 1912
Box 2, Folder 25	Gay, Ingovar (from mother), 1913
Box 2, Folder 26	Gay, Ingovar (from mother), 1914
Box 2, Folder 27	Gay, Ingovar (from mother), 1914
Box 2, Folder 28	Gay, Ingovar (from mother), 1915-1916
Box 2, Folder 29	Gay, Ingovar (from mother), 1923 Image(s): Gay, Ingovar (from mother): 1923-1925
Box 2, Folder 30	Gay, Ingovar (from mother), 1924
Box 2, Folder 31	Gay, Ingovar (from mother), 1925
Box 2, Folder 32	Gay, Ingovar (from mother), 1926
Box 2, Folder 33	Gay, Ingovar (from mother), 1926
Box 3, Folder 1	Gay, Ingovar (from mother), 1927
Box 3, Folder 2	Gay, Ingovar (from mother), 1927
Box 3, Folder 3	Gay, Ingovar (from mother), 1928-1931
Box 3, Folder 4	Gay, Martha Feary, 1890
Box 3, Folder 5	Gay, Martha Feary (to family), circa 1890-1930
Box 3, Folder 6	Gay, Nellie, circa 1920
Box 3, Folder 7	Gay, William, 1914-1923
Box 3, Folder 8	Gay, William (from family), 1905-1921

Box 3, Folder 9	<a href="#">Learned, Helen Gay, 1923</a>
Box 3, Folder 10	<a href="#">Learned, Helen Gay (from mother, Martha Feary Gay), circa 1922-1926</a>
Box 3, Folder 11	<a href="#">Learned, Helen Gay (from mother), 1922-1925</a> <a href="#">Image(s): Learned, Helen Gay (from mother): 1922-1926</a>
Box 3, Folder 12	<a href="#">Learned, Helen Gay (from mother), 1926</a>
Box 3, Folder 13	<a href="#">Reitzenstein, H. August, circa 1935</a>
Box 3	<a href="#">Writings, 1964-1970</a>
Box 3, Folder 14	<a href="#">Writings, Gordon, Dorothy Gay, "Potatoes and Point", 1964</a>
Box 3, Folder 15	<a href="#">Writings, Warnshuis, Margaret C., "Stanley Steamer", 1970</a>
Box 3	<a href="#">Photographs</a>
Box 3, Folder 16	<a href="#">Dorothy, Helen, Ingovar, Ruth, and William Gay, circa 1890-1920</a>
Box 3, Folder 17	<a href="#">Family Snapshots, Men and Women, circa 1890-1901</a>
Box 3, Folder 18	<a href="#">Family Snapshots, Women, Men, and Children, circa 1890-1901</a>
Box 3, Folder 19	<a href="#">Family Snapshots, Activities, circa 1890-1901</a>
Box 3, Folder 20	<a href="#">Family Snapshots, Outdoors, circa 1890-1901</a>
Box 3, Folder 21	<a href="#">Travel, Connecticut and Vermont, circa 1890-1920</a> Notes: <a href="#">New London, Groton Library, and University of Vermont</a>
Box 3, Folder 22	<a href="#">Travel, New York, circa 1890-1920</a> Notes: <a href="#">Lakewood, Lake Chautauqua, West Point</a>
Box 3, Folder 23	<a href="#">Travel, East Coast, circa 1902</a> <a href="#">Image(s): Travel, East Coast: circa 1890-1920</a> Notes: <a href="#">Yale Harvard Race Day, Sound Beach</a>
Box 3, Folder 24	<a href="#">Travel, Canada, circa 1900-1901</a> <a href="#">Image(s): Travel, Canada: circa 1890-1901</a>
Box 3, Folder 25	<a href="#">Travel, Italy, circa 1890-1920</a>

[Return to Table of Contents](#)