



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
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Edward Gay and Gay family papers
Date:	1852-1983
Identifier:	AAA.gayedwap
Creator:	Gay, Edward, 1837-1928 Gay, Duncan, 1865-1948
Extent:	2.6 Linear feet
Language:	The collection is in English.
Summary:	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.

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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)
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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:

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

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	Engraving, circa 1860-1920
Box 1, Folder 31	Sketchbook, circa 1860-1920
Box 1, Folder 32	Sketch, Graphite and Ink, 1878
Box 1, Folder 33	Sketches, Oils, circa 1860-1920
Box 1	Photographs
Box 1, Folder 34	Gay, Edward and Martha , circa 1852-1970
Box 1, Folder 35	Gay, Edward at Work and in Studios, 1910-1937
Box 1, Folder 36	Family Home, Cragmoor, circa 1914
Box 1, Folder 37	Family Home, Mount Vernon, circa 1920
Box 1, Folder 38	Family Home, Stoneridge, circa 1920
Box 1, Folder 39	Works of Art (1856-1910), circa 1970
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

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

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

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

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