



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the John Gellatly Letters
Received from Artists, 1887-1931

Judy Ng

Funding for the processing and digitization of this collection
was provided by the Terra Foundation for American Art.

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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

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	John Gellatly letters received from artists
Identifier:	AAA.gelljohn
Date:	1887-1931
Extent:	0.2 Linear feet
Creator:	Gellatly, John, 1853-1931
Language:	The collection is in English.
Summary:	The John Gellatly letters received from artists measure 0.2 linear feet and date from 1887 to 1931. Found within the collection are 120 letters to Gellatly from Emma and Abbott H. Thayer, Frederick S. Church, Irving Wiles, Albert Pinkham Ryder, C. E. S. Wood, and George Grey Barnard. Some of the letters contain sketches, particularly those from Church. Topics include the price and progress of artworks, requests for commissions, mutual friendships, and daily events. There are also two copies of the poem "The Flying Dutchman" by Albert P. Ryder.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The collection was initially bought by art historian Thomas Brumbaugh of Vanderbilt University from Walter R. Benjamin Autographs of Madison Avenue, and subsequently acquired in 1978 by the National Collection of Fine Arts, now the Smithsonian American Art Museum. Shortly thereafter, the letters were transferred to the Archives of American Art.

Other Finding Aids

List of letters available at Archives of American Art offices.

Available Formats

The collection was digitized in its entirety in 2016 and is available on the Archives of American Art's website.

Processing Information

Materials received a preliminary level of arrangement after donation and the collection was microfilmed onto reel 2041. The collection was prepared for digitization and described by Judy Ng in 2016, with funding provided by the Terra Foundation for American Art.

Preferred Citation

John Gellatly letters received from artists, 1887-1931. 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

Art collector John Gellatly (1853-1931) lived in New York City, N.Y. and established a real estate and insurance business in 1885. An art enthusiast, Gellatly furthered his interests by enrolling in classes. There, he would meet his future wife, the heiress Edith Rogers, whom he married in 1886. Together, they began collecting decorative art objects and contemporary paintings, including works by Albert P. Ryder, Abbott Thayer, and Childe Hassam. After Edith's death in 1917, Gellatly continued to collect art and eventually gifted the 1,640 objects and paintings in his collection to the Smithsonian in 1929. He died of complications from pneumonia in 1931.

Scope and Contents

The John Gellatly letters received from artists measure 0.2 linear feet and date from 1887 to 1931. Found within the collection are 120 letters to Gellatly from Emma and Abbott H. Thayer, Frederick S. Church, Irving Wiles, Albert Pinkham Ryder, C. E. S. Wood, and George Grey Barnard. Some of the letters contain sketches, particularly those from Church. Topics include the price and progress of artworks, requests for commissions, mutual friendships, and daily events. There are also two copies of the poem "The Flying Dutchman" by Albert P. Ryder.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 1 series.

- Series 1: John Gellatly Letters Received from Artists, 1887-1931 (0.2 linear feet; Box 1)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Art -- Collectors and collecting -- New York (State) -- New York

Types of Materials:

Illustrated letters
Sketches

Names:

Barnard, George Grey, 1863-1938
Church, Frederick S. (Frederick Stuart), 1842-1924
Ryder, Albert Pinkham, 1847-1917
Thayer, Abbott Handerson, 1849-1921
Thayer, Emma B., 1850-1924
Wiles, Irving Ramsay, 1861-1948
Wood, Charles Erskine Scott, 1852-1944

Container Listing

Series 1: John Gellatly Letters Received from Artists, 1887-1931

0.2 Linear feet (Box 1)

The John Gellatly letters received from artists measure 0.2 linear feet and date from 1887 to 1931. Found within the collection are 120 letters to Gellatly from Emma and Abbott H. Thayer, Frederick S. Church, Irving Wiles, Albert Pinkham Ryder, C. E. S. Wood, and George Grey Barnard. Some of the letters contain sketches, particularly those from Church. Topics range from the price and progress of artworks and requests for commissions to mutual friendships and daily events. There are also two copies of the poem "The Flying Dutchman" by Albert P. Ryder.

Correspondence is arranged alphabetically by surname of the artist.

This series has been scanned in its entirety.

Box 1, Folder 1	Correspondence, Barnard, George Grey, 1925 Image(s): Correspondence, Barnard, George Grey: 1925
Box 1, Folder 2	Correspondence, Church, Frederick S., 1887-1919 Image(s): Correspondence, Church, Frederick S.: 1887-1919
Box 1, Folder 3	Correspondence, Church, Frederick S., 1920 January-July Image(s): Correspondence, Church, Frederick S.: 1920
Box 1, Folder 4	Correspondence, Church, Frederick S., 1920 August-December Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 5	Correspondence, Church, Frederick S., 1923 Image(s): Correspondence, Church, Frederick S.: 1923
Box 1, Folder 6	Correspondence, Ryder, Albert Pinkham, 1897-1910 Image(s): Correspondence, Ryder, Albert Pinkham: 1897-1910
Box 1, Folder 7	Correspondence, Thayer, Abbott and Emma, circa 1903-1923 Image(s): Correspondence, Thayer, Abbott and Emma: circa 1903-1923
Box 1, Folder 8	Correspondence, Thayer, Abbott and Emma, 1903 Image(s): Correspondence, Thayer, Abbott and Emma: 1903
Box 1, Folder 9	Correspondence, Thayer, Abbott and Emma, 1905 Image(s): Correspondence, Thayer, Abbott and Emma: 1905
Box 1, Folder 10	Correspondence, Thayer, Abbott and Emma, 1907-1908

- [Image\(s\): Correspondence, Thayer, Abbott and Emma: 1907-1908](#)
- Box 1, Folder 11 Correspondence, Thayer, Abbott and Emma, 1912-1923
[Image\(s\): Correspondence, Thayer, Abbott and Emma: 1912-1923](#)
- Box 1, Folder 12 Correspondence, Wiles, Irving R., 1929-1931
[Image\(s\): Correspondence, Wiles, Irving R.: 1929-1931](#)
- Box 1, Folder 13 Correspondence, Wood, C.E.S., 1919
[Image\(s\): Correspondence, Wood, C.E.S.: 1919](#)
- Box 1, Folder 14 Correspondence, Miscellaneous, circa 1885-1930
[Image\(s\): Correspondence, Miscellaneous: circa 1885-1930](#)

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