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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Collection Overview

Repository: Archives of American Art
Title: John Gellatly letters received from artists
Date: 1887-1931
Identifier: AAA.gelljohn
Creator: Gellatly, John, 1853-1931
Extent: 0.2 Linear feet
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.
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

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Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 1 series.

Missing Title:
• 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)

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 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.

Arrangement: Correspondence is arranged alphabetically by surname of the artist.

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

| Box 1, Folder 1 | Correspondence, Barnard, George Grey, 1925 |
| Box 1, Folder 2 | 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 |
| Box 1, Folder 5 | Correspondence, Church, Frederick S., 1923 |
| Box 1, Folder 6 | Correspondence, Ryder, Albert Pinkham, 1897-1910 |
| Box 1, Folder 7 | Correspondence, Thayer, Abbott and Emma, circa 1903-1923 |
| Box 1, Folder 8 | Correspondence, Thayer, Abbott and Emma, 1903 |
| Box 1, Folder 9 | Correspondence, Thayer, Abbott and Emma, 1905 |
| Box 1, Folder 10 | Correspondence, Thayer, Abbott and Emma, 1907-1908 |
| Box 1, Folder 11 | Correspondence, Thayer, Abbott and Emma, 1912-1923 |
| Box 1, Folder 12 | Correspondence, Wiles, Irving R., 1929-1931 |
| Box 1, Folder 13 | Correspondence, Wood, C.E.S., 1919 |
| Box 1, Folder 14 | Correspondence, Miscellaneous, circa 1885-1930 |

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