



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Richard Watson and Helena de Kay Gilder papers

Archives of American Art
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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:	Richard Watson and Helena de Kay Gilder papers
Date:	1874-1878
Identifier:	AAA.gildrich
Creator:	Gilder, Richard Watson, 1844-1909 Gilder, Helena de Kay, d. 1916
Extent:	41 Items ((on partial microfilm reel))
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Lent for microfilming 1971 by Rosamond Gilder, the daughter of Richard Watson Gilder and Helena de Kay Gilder. She was contacted about lending the journal by Lloyd Goodrich, who had seen the journal while visiting Gilder to see a portrait of Winslow Homer painted by her mother.

Location of Originals

Journal, reel 285: Originals located at Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana.

Related Materials

Richard Watson Gilder papers also located at: New York Public Library and the University of Virginia, Richmond.

Available Formats

35mm microfilm reel 285 available at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

Restrictions

The Archives of American art does not own the original papers. Use is limited to the microfilm copy.

Biographical / Historical

Richard Watson Gilder was a poet and editor of the periodicals *Scribner's* and *Century*. Helena de Kay ("H. de K.G." and: deKay, De Kay, DeKay) Gilder was a portrait, still-life, ideal figure, and flower painter, and writer; born 1846 or 8; died 1916. Helena Gilder studied art with John La Farge and Winslow Homer. Professionally, she is often referred to by her maiden name. The Gilders played a central role in the founding of the Society of American Artists. Charles de Kay, an art writer, and founder of the National Sculpture Society and National Arts Club, is Helena de Kay Gilder's brother.

Scope and Contents

Journal kept by Richard Watson Gilder and Helena de Kay Gilder, beginning at the start of their marriage in June 1874 and spanning four years, including poems and verses, drawings by Helena de Kay Gilder, many of her husband, entries concerning the founding of American Art Association (later the Society of American Artists), and entries reflecting daily occurrences, clippings, and telegrams; and ca. 40 letters from Charles de Kay, primarily to his brother-in-law, Richard Watson Gilder.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Women painters

Names:

American Art Association (Society)
De Kay, Charles
Society of American Artists

Occupations:

Portrait painters -- New York (State) -- New York
Still-life painters -- New York (State) -- New York