



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## A Finding Aid to the Robert C. Graham Collection of Artists' Letters, 1783-1935(bulk 1804-1877), in the Archives of American Art

Erin Corley

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

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Robert C. Graham collection of artists' letters
<b>Date:</b>	1783-1935 (bulk 1804-1877)
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.grahrobe
<b>Creator:</b>	Graham, Robert Claverhouse, 1913-1994
<b>Extent:</b>	0.2 Linear feet
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	The Robert C. Graham collection of artists' letters measure 0.2 linear feet and dates from 1783 to 1935, with the bulk of the letters dating from 1804 to 1877. Graham, an art dealer and collector, compiled the unrelated letters of several late eighteenth-century and nineteenth-century painters such as Thomas Biddle, Thomas Doughty, G. P. A. Healy, Daniel Huntington, Henry Inman, Emanuel Leutze, Samuel F. B. Morse, Rembrandt Peale, John Singer Sargent, Thomas Sully, John Trumbull, Benjamin West, and others.

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## Administrative Information

### Provenance

The collection was donated in 1961 by Robert C. Graham.

### Related Material

Related material found in the Archives includes the recording and transcript of a 1976 interview of Robert Claverhouse Graham conducted by Paul Cummings for the Archives of American Art. The Archives also holds numerous collections of papers related to or created by the artists who wrote these letters.

### Alternative Forms Available

The **Robert Claverhouse Graham** collection of artists' letters in the Archives of American Art were digitized in 2007, and total 100 images.

### Processing Information

The Archives microfilmed the collection on reels D23, D294 and 1236, mostly upon receipt in 1961. The collection was fully processed by Erin Corley in 2006 and digitized in 2007 with funding provided by the Terra Foundation for American Art.

### Preferred Citation

Robert C. Graham collection of artists' letters, 1783-1935. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

## Restrictions on Access

The collection has been digitized and is available online via AAA's website.

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## Biographical Note

Robert Claverhouse Graham (1913-1994) was the director of the Graham Gallery in New York City. He and his brother James were fourth generation owners of the gallery which specialized in nineteenth- and twentieth-century American art.

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## Scope and Content Note

The Robert C. Graham collection of artists' letters measure 0.2 linear feet dates from 1783 to 1935, with the bulk of the letters dating from 1804 to 1877. Graham, an art dealer and collector, compiled the unrelated letters of several late eighteenth-century and nineteenth-century painters such as Thomas Doughty, G. P. A. Healy, Daniel Huntington, Henry Inman, Emanuel Leutze, Samuel F. B. Morse, Rembrandt Peale, John Singer Sargent, Thomas Sully, John Trumbull, Benjamin West, and others.

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## Arrangement

Folders are arranged alphabetically by the author of the letter. Multiple letters within folders are arranged chronologically.

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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:

Art -- Collectors and collecting  
Art dealers -- New York (State) -- New York  
Artists' writings

### Types of Materials:

Letters

### Names:

Doughty, Thomas, 1793-1856  
Healy, G.P.A. (George Peter Alexander), 1813-1894  
Huntington, Daniel, 1816-1906  
Inman, Henry, 1801-1846

Leutze, Emanuel, 1816-1868  
Morse, Samuel Finley Breese, 1791-1872  
Peale, Rembrandt, 1778-1860  
Sargent, John Singer, 1856-1925  
Sully, Thomas, 1783-1872  
Trumbull, John, 1756-1843  
West, Benjamin, 1738-1820

Occupations:

Painters -- 19th century

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Robert C. Graham Collection of Artists' Letters, circa 1783 - circa 1935

#### 0.2 Linear feet (Box 1)

**Scope and Contents:** Robert Graham's collection of forty artist's letters includes letters to and from numerous significant American artists, primarily from the mid- to late- nineteenth century. Found are letters from John Brown, Thomas Biddle, Thomas Doughty, G. P. A. Healy, Daniel Huntington, Henry Inman, Emanuel Leutze, Samuel F. B. Morse, Rembrandt Peale, Luigi Persico, John Singer Sargent, Benjamin West, Joseph Wood, and other artists.

The letters discuss a wide variety of unrelated scattered topics, but are primarily about current work and commissions. Items of note include three letters from Thomas Doughty and one letter from William M. Hart, both Hudson River School painters, to Uriah Levison, discussing paintings Levison commissioned from them. Also found is a letter from sculptor Luigi Persico to the Library of Congress concerning a possible commission for an equestrian statue of George Washington. Letters from Rembrandt Peale concern a portrait of George Washington, and a letter from Thomas Sully to Asher B. Durand requests etchings of two paintings. Also of note are letters from artist John Trumbull, including one to Andrew Robertson in which he discusses many general issues such as the British economy's effect on arts patronage and the engraving of one of his paintings. The collection contains three letters from Benjamin West, including a letter from West to Charles Willson Peale in which he inquires about a painting of George Washington, and a letter to Trumbull congratulating him on the opening of an "Academy of Art."

The collection contains a few additional items, including an engraved bookplate signed by John Callender, receipts signed by Francis Bicknell Carpenter and William Miller, Thomas Biddle's stock certificate for a share in the Philadelphia Academy of the Fine Arts, and G. P. A. Healy's portrait price list.

Box 1, Folder 1	<a href="#">Biddle, Thomas, 1809</a>
Box 1, Folder 2	<a href="#">Brown, John H., 1877</a>
Box 1, Folder 3	<a href="#">Callender, John, undated</a>
Box 1, Folder 4	<a href="#">Carpenter, Francis Bicknell, 1854</a>
Box 1, Folder 5	<a href="#">Clark, Aaron, 1836</a>
Box 1, Folder 6	<a href="#">Doughty, Thomas, 1852-1853</a>
Box 1, Folder 7	<a href="#">Dreer, Ferdinand J., 1860</a>
Box 1, Folder 8	<a href="#">Durand, John, 1857</a>
Box 1, Folder 9	<a href="#">Hart, William M., 1855</a>
Box 1, Folder 10	<a href="#">Healy, G. P. A., 1857-1873</a>

Box 1, Folder 11	<a href="#">Hinshelwood, Robert, 1839</a>
Box 1, Folder 12	<a href="#">Huntington, Daniel, 1874</a>
Box 1, Folder 13	<a href="#">Inman, Henry, 1837, 1851</a>
Box 1, Folder 14	<a href="#">Kane, Philip Schuyler, 1935</a>
Box 1, Folder 15	<a href="#">Lambdin, James R., 1858</a>
Box 1, Folder 16	<a href="#">Leutze, Emanuel, 1845</a>
Box 1, Folder 17	<a href="#">Miller, William R., 1849</a>
Box 1, Folder 18	<a href="#">Morse, Samuel F. B., 1845</a>
Box 1, Folder 19	<a href="#">Neagle, John, 1838</a>
Box 1, Folder 20	<a href="#">Peale, Rembrandt, 1839, 1853-1854, undated</a>
Box 1, Folder 21	<a href="#">Persico, Luigi, 1845</a>
Box 1, Folder 22	<a href="#">Pine, John, 1846</a>
Box 1, Folder 23	<a href="#">Renault, John Francis, 1804</a>
Box 1, Folder 24	<a href="#">Sargent, John Singer, undated</a>
Box 1, Folder 25	<a href="#">Sully, Thomas, 1825-1840</a>
Box 1, Folder 26	<a href="#">Trumbull, John, 1816, 1835</a>
Box 1, Folder 27	<a href="#">West, Benjamin, 1783, 1808, 1817</a>
Box 1, Folder 28	<a href="#">Wood, Joseph, 1807</a>
Box 1, Folder 29	<a href="#">List of Miniature Painters, undated</a>

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