



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Selected art related papers
from the Simon Gratz Collection

Archives of American Art
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Selected art related papers from the Simon Gratz Collection
Identifier:	AAA.gratsimo
Date:	[ca. 1770-1921]
Creator:	Gratz, Simon (Collector)
Extent:	3 Reels (ca. 500 items (on 3 partial microfilm reels))
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Lent for microfilming 1955 by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

Location of Originals

Originals in: Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Simon Gratz Collection.

Other Finding Aids

Microfilm inventory available at all Archives of American Art offices.

Available Formats

35mm microfilm reels P21 (fr. 773-813), P22 (entire), and P23 (1-84) available for use 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.

Scope and Contents

Selected letters, sketches, writings, clippings and printed material collected by Simon Gratz, primarily from the "Painters, sculptors, and engravers" section (ca. 400 items) of the Cultural life, arts and sciences autograph series. Other sections filmed include Benjamin West correspondence; Charles Thomson correspondence; Joshua Humphreys letters; and one or more letters from the following categories: American miscellaneous, European painters and sculptors, Chaplains colonial wars and revolution, Roman Catholic prelates, British Authors, British literary misc., European explorers and antiquaries, American poets, Univ. presidents, American scientists, American authors, American prose, American literary misc., U.S. Senators, and others.

Scope and Contents

The Painters, sculptors, and engravers section contains ca. 400 items, primarily letters, of prominent eighteenth, nineteenth, and early twentieth century American artists, such as Albert Bierstadt, William Merritt Chase, Thomas Cole, John Singleton Copley, Asher B. Durand, Charles Willson Peale, John Singer Sargent, Gilbert Stuart, Thomas Sully, John Trumbull, and others. Many of the letters are addressed to Albert Rosenthal. Also included are sketches, writings, clippings, and printed material pertaining to the artists. The Benjamin West papers, 1877-1819, (reel P23, fr. 1-85) include letters to West, letters from and about West, and cards, a certificate, and engraving of him.

Scope and Contents

The Charles Thomson papers (reels P21, fr. 800-813 and P22, fr. 1-7) include material relating to craftsmen in New York and Philadelphia, 1784-1787; correspondence with Joseph Delaplaine, 1816-1817, concerning Delaplaine's having a portrait of Thomson painted by Bass Otis; a letter to Thomson from G.P. Norris, Jr., Jan. 26, 1819, referring to Trumbull's painting of the signing of the Declaration of Independence; and bills from cabinetmaker Alexander Anderson. The Humphreys' letters are from Charles Willson Peale, Mar. 4, 1795, and William Rush, Apr. 30, 1795.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Art, Modern -- 17th-18th centuries -- United States
- Art, Modern -- 19th century -- United States
- Art, Modern -- 20th century -- United States

Names:

- Bierstadt, Albert, 1830-1902
- Chase, William Merritt, 1849-1916
- Cole, Thomas, 1801-1848
- Copley, John Singleton, 1738-1815
- Delaplaine, Joseph, 1777-1824
- Durand, Asher Brown, 1796-1886
- Humphreys, Joshua, 1751-1838
- Otis, Bass, 1784-1861
- Peale, Charles Willson, 1741-1827
- Rosenthal, Albert, 1863-1939
- Sargent, John Singer, 1856-1925
- Stuart, Gilbert, 1755-1828
- Sully, Thomas, 1783-1872
- Thomson, Charles, 1729-1824
- Trumbull, John, 1756-1843

Occupations:

- Artists -- United States