



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Robert Henri papers

Archives of American Art
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Robert Henri papers
Date:	1870-1954
Identifier:	AAA.henrobe
Creator:	Henri, Robert, 1865-1929
Extent:	4 Microfilm reels
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Material on reels 885-887 was lent by Mrs. Janet LeClair, the widow of John LeClair, nephew of Henri's sister-in-law, Violet Organ. Organ inherited these papers and planned on using them in a biography of Henri which was never written. The papers passed to John LeClair upon Organ's death in 1959 and subsequently donated to Yale University. Organ donated other Henri papers, including correspondence, notes, notebooks, photographs and other manuscript material to Yale University's Beinecke Library in the 1960s. The diary on reel 1654 was lent by Dr. Robert Gatewood, a cousin of Robert Henri, who reported that he had at one time possessed several of Henri's illustrated boyhood stories and other diaries which were all destroyed in a fire.

Location of Originals

REELS 885-887: Originals in: Beinecke Library, Yale University (MSS 100).

Location of Originals

REEL 1654: Original diary returned to the lender, Dr. Robert Gatewood, Las Vegas, Nevada, after microfilming, and is now located at the Sheldon Museum of Art, University of Nebraska, Lincoln.

Available Formats

35mm microfilm reels 885-887 and 1654 available for use at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan. Researchers should note that the originals of materials on reels 885-887 are in Yale University's Beinecke Library along with additional Henri papers, and that the arrangement of the papers on the microfilm does not match their finding aid.

Restrictions

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

Biographical / Historical

Robert Henri (1865-1929) was a painter and instructor in New York, N.Y.

Scope and Contents

The Robert Henri papers date from 1880 to 1954. included are 26 diaries, dating from 1880 to 1928. The collection also includes writings, scrapbooks, printed material, and miscellany.

Scope and Contents

Reels 885-887: 25 diaries kept by Robert Henri, August 15, 1881 to October 20, 1928 (some entries with illustrations). Henri writes about his studies at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts and in Paris; his instructors Thomas Anshutz, Thomas Hovenden, and Adolphe Bouguereau, and fellow students Alexander Stirling Calder, Edward Redfield, Charles Grafly, and others; his opposition to the National Academy of Design and academic painting between 1902 and 1912; the exhibition of The Eight in 1908; the 1910 Exhibition of Independent Artists; the MacDowell Club; the founding of the Association of American Painters and Sculptors; and other topics. Also included are typescripts of 4 plays; scrapbooks of clippings, 1888-1954 and loose clippings; 82 photographs of Henri, including a group photo of Henri, Elmer MacRae, Maxfield Parrish, and four unidentified women, classes, and models; a letter and receipt from John Sloan; clippings regarding The Eight; and a copy of *Memoirs of My Dead Life*, by George Moore, annotated by Henri.

Scope and Contents

Reel 1654: Robert Henri diary, May to November 1880. Henri writes about his daily activities as a 15-year-old boy growing up on the Platte River, including entries on family events, playing with his brothers and friends, fishing, celebrating July 4th, bailing hay for his father, a dance and fair, and houses in Cozad, Nebraska (122 pages).

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Eight (Group of American artists)

Types of Materials:

Sketchbooks

Names:

Anshutz, Thomas Pollock, 1851-1912
Bouguereau, William Adolphe, 1825-1905
Calder, Alexander Stirling, 1870-1945
Grafly, Charles, 1862-1929
Hovenden, Thomas, 1840-1895
MacRae, Elmer Livingston, 1875-1953 -- Photographs
Parrish, Maxfield, 1870-1966 -- Photographs
Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts
Redfield, Edward Willis, 1869-1965
Sloan, John, 1871-1951

Occupations:

Art teachers
Painters