



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## A Finding Aid to the Charles Hopkinson Papers, 1892-1993, in the Archives of American Art

Jayna M. Josefson

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

2013 October 10

Archives of American Art  
750 9th Street, NW  
Victor Building, Suite 2200  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>  
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/>

# Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	1
Administrative Information .....	1
Arrangement.....	2
Biographical / Historical.....	2
Scope and Contents.....	2
Names and Subjects .....	3
Container Listing .....	4
Series 1: Writings and Notes, 1987-1993.....	4
Series 2: Printed Material, 1988-1991.....	5
Series 3: Photographs, 1938-1961.....	6
Series 4: Sketchbooks and Artwork, 1892-1957.....	7

## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Charles Hopkinson papers
<b>Date:</b>	1892-1993
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.hopkchar
<b>Creator:</b>	Hopkinson, Charles, 1869-1962
<b>Extent:</b>	1.4 Linear feet
<b>Language:</b>	The collection is in English.
<b>Summary:</b>	<p>The papers of Massachusetts portrait painter and watercolorist Charles Hopkinson date from 1892 to 1993 and measure 1.4 linear feet. The papers are comprised primarily of 17 sketchbooks and loose sketches. Also found are printed materials and three photographs of Hopkinson, as well as writings about Hopkinson written by his daughter Joan Hopkinson Shurcliff and her husband William Shurcliff.</p> <p>Also found at the Archives is a small miscellaneous manuscript collection of five letters to Chauncey Stillman from Charles Hopkinson.</p>

---

## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Portions of the collection were loaned for microfilming between 1969-1973. Charles Hopkinson's daughters and granddaughters, Joan Hopkinson Shurcliff, Harriot Rive, Elinor Barr, Mrs. John M. Clarke and Mrs. James Masek, donated additional material in 1973 and 1992.

### Separated Materials

The Archives of American Art also holds microfilm of material lent for microfilming (reels N-68-106, 482, 486, 515, 634-639) including biographical material, family correspondence, writings, business records, printed materials, and 96 sketchbooks. While six of the sketchbooks were later donated, all other loaned materials was returned to the lender and are not described in the collection container inventory.

### Available Formats

Material lent for microfilming is available on 35mm microfilm reels N-68-106, 482, 486, 515, 634-639 at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

### Processing Information

Portions of the Charles Hopkinson and Hopkinson family papers were arranged upon receipt and microfilmed onto reel 4782. Later, the collection was donated along with six additional sketchbooks in 1992. In 2013, Jayna Josefson processed the papers with funding provided by the Archives of American Art.

## Preferred Citation

Charles Hopkinson and Hopkinson family papers, 1892-1993. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

## Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C. research center. Please contact reference services for more information.

## Terms of Use

The Archives of American Art makes its archival collections available for non-commercial, educational and personal use unless restricted by copyright and/or donor restrictions, including but not limited to access and publication restrictions. AAA makes no representations concerning such rights and restrictions and it is the user's responsibility to determine whether rights or restrictions exist and to obtain any necessary permission to access, use, reproduce and publish the collections. Please refer to the [Smithsonian's Terms of Use](#) for additional information.

---

## Biographical / Historical

Portrait and watercolor painter Charles Hopkinson (1869-1962) was active in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Charles Hopkinson was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts to Mary Watson and John Prentiss Hopkinson. He attended his father's school, Hopkinson School and later Harvard University. As a result of summers spent sailing and sketching boats in Northeast Harbor, Maine, he developed a love of art. After drawing cartoons for the *Harvard Lampoon*, Hopkinson decided to pursue a career as an artist. He studied at the Art Student's League and Académie Julian. Charles Hopkinson was noted for his oil portraits but showed his watercolors with the "Boston Five." He exhibited his works in Boston and New York City.

Hopkinson married fellow art student Angelica Rathbone in 1893. The pair divorced by 1899 while living in France. Afterwards, Hopkinson travelled to Roscoff, Brittany where he produced many watercolor and oil paintings. He returned to Massachusetts and married Elinor Curtis in 1903. Together, they had five daughters, Harriot (Mrs. Alfred Rive), Mary (Mrs. John Heysham Gibbon, Jr. later Mrs. Lovell Thompson), Isabella (Mrs. James Addison Halsted), Elinor (Mrs. James Henderson Barr), and Joan (Mrs. William Asahel Shurcliff).

---

## Scope and Contents

The papers of Massachusetts portrait painter and watercolorist Charles Hopkinson date from 1892 to 1993 and measure 1.4 linear feet. The papers are comprised primarily of 17 sketchbooks and loose sketches. Also found are printed materials and three photographs of Hopkinson, as well as writings about Hopkinson written by his daughter Joan Hopkinson Shurcliff and her husband William Shurcliff.

---

## Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 4 series.

Missing Title:

- Series 1: Writings and Notes, 1987-1993 (0.2 linear feet; Box 1)
- Series 2: Printed Material, 1988-1991 (2 folders; Box 1)
- Series 3: Photographs, 1938-1961 (1 folder; Box 1)
- Series 4: Sketchbooks and Artwork, 1892-1957 (1.2 linear feet; Box 1-3)

## Names and Subject Terms

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

### Types of Materials:

- Photographs
- Sketchbooks
- Sketches

### Names:

- Shurcliff, Joan Hopkinson
- Shurcliff, William A.

### Occupations:

- Painters -- Massachusetts
- Portrait painters -- Massachusetts
- Watercolorists -- Massachusetts

---

## Container Listing

### Series 1: Writings and Notes, 1987-1993

#### *0.2 Linear feet (Box 1)*

Scope and Contents: Writings are by Charles Hopkinson's daughter Joan Hopkinson Shurcliff and her husband William Shurcliff. They include two catalogs of Charles Hopkinson's works of art, a writing concerning family history, and a transcript of one of Hopkinson's journals describing the sale of paintings which also includes commentary.

Box 1, Folder 1 "The Extended Family of the Five Hopkinson Daughters," by Joan Hopkinson Shurcliff and William Shurcliff, 1987

Box 1, Folder 2 "Explanatory Version of Mrs. Charles Hopkinson's Journal, Pages Recording Payments Received from Charles Hopkinson's Painting Activity," by Joan Hopkinson Shurcliff and William Shurcliff, 1990

Box 1, Folder 3 "Portraits by Charles Hopkinson--An Informal Catalog," Draft, by Joan Hopkinson Shurcliff and William Shurcliff, 1991

Box 1, Folder 4 "Landscape Paintings by Charles Hopkinson," by Joan Hopkinson Shurcliff and William Shurcliff, 1993

*[Return to Table of Contents](#)*

## Series 2: Printed Material, 1988-1991

### *2 Folders (Box 1)*

Scope and Contents: Found are exhibition catalogs for Charles Hopkinson exhibitions at Vose Gallery and the Danforth Museum of Art and one magazine clipping about Hopkinson from the *Harvard Magazine*.

Box 1, Folder 5	Clipping, 1990
Box 1, Folder 6	Exhibition Catalogs, 1988-1991

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Series 3: Photographs, 1938-1961

### *1 Folder (Box 1)*

Scope and Contents: Found are three photographs of Charles Hopkinson, including one photograph with Hopkinson and his art.

Box 1, Folder 7      Portraits of Charles Hopkinson, 1938-1961

*[Return to Table of Contents](#)*



## Series 4: Sketchbooks and Artwork, 1892-1957

### 1.2 Linear feet (Box 1-3)

Scope and Contents: Found are seventeen sketchbooks and loose sketches by Charles Hopkinson. Mostly, sketches are in pencil but some watercolors are found. Sketchbooks and loose sketches are of family members, figure studies, horses, boats, and landscapes. Also found are preliminary sketches for portraits.

Joan Hopkinson Shurcliff annotated many of the sketchbooks and sketches in 1992. These notes are found within the folders, however the works of art include dates from their creation and not from the annotated notes.

Box 1, Folder 8	Sketchbook 1, 1892 Notes: Included is a sketch of Elinor Curtis, Boston scenes, and babies.
Box 1, Folder 9	Sketchbook 2, circa 1900-1910 Notes: Included are sketches of Elinor, Harriot, and Margaret Curtis
Box 1, Folder 10	Sketchbook 3, circa 1900-circa 1920 Notes: Included are sketches of babies, unidentified portraits, and landscapes.
Box 1, Folder 11	Sketchbook 4, circa 1903-1907 Notes: Includes sketches of ships, Mrs. Hopkinson, self-portraits, and some notes.
Box 1, Folder 12	Sketchbook 5, circa 1903-1907 Notes: Included are sketches of Mrs. Hopkinson, babies and relatives.
Box 1, Folder 13	Sketchbook 6, circa 1915-circa 1950 Notes: Includes sketches of babies and landscapes.
Box 1, Folder 14	Sketchbook 7, 1920-1925 Notes: Includes sketches of Hopkinson daughters and a watercolor.
Box 1, Folder 15	Sketchbook 8, circa 1924-1937 Notes: Included are sketches of Italy in pencil and watercolor.
Box 1, Folder 16	Sketchbook 9, circa 1925-1935 Notes: Included are sketches of ships, buildings, and the Hopkinson daughters.
Box 1, Folder 17	Sketchbook 10, circa 1935 Notes: Included are sketches from England.
Box 1, Folder 18	Sketchbook 11, circa 1930 Notes: Included are watercolor and pencil sketches of landscapes.
Box 1, Folder 19	Sketchbook 12, circa 1930 Notes: Included are sketches of portraits and boats.

Box 1, Folder 20	Sketchbook 13, circa 1940 Notes: Included are sketches of family, figures, and boats. Joan Hopkinson Shurcliff annotated the sketchbook in 1992.
Box 1, Folder 21	Sketchbook 14, circa 1940 Notes: Included are sketches of buildings, landscapes, and babies.
Box 1, Folder 22	Sketchbook 15, circa 1948-1952 Notes: Included are sketches of family and travel scenes. Joan Hopkinson Shurcliff annotated the sketchbook in 1992.
Box 1, Folder 23	Sketchbook 16, 1952 Notes: Included are sketches of children and landscapes.
Box 1, Folder 24	Sketchbook 17, circa 1955-circa 1957 Notes: Included are sketches from Ireland.
Box 1, Folder 25-32	Loose Sketches, circa 1892-1957 Notes: Includes sketches of Roscoff, Brittany, family members, portrait sketches, boats, and horses.
Box 2, Folder 1-5	Oversized Loose Sketches, circa 1892-1957
Box OV 3	Oversized Loose Sketches, circa 1892-1957

*[Return to Table of Contents](#)*