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Archives of American Art

Robert Koehler letters

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Robert Koehler letters
Date:	1888-1927 (bulk 1888-1890 dates)
Identifier:	AAA.koehrobe
Creator:	Koehler, Robert, 1850-1917
Extent:	36 Items ((on 1 microfilm reel))
Language:	Three letters are in French.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The letters were donated to the Minnesota Historical Society by Helen Jones in 1957. Mrs. Jones is the wife of Karl W. Jones, a former student of Koehler. The microfilm was purchased from the Minnesota Historical Society.

Location of Originals

Originals in the Division of Library and Archives, Minnesota Historical Society.

Available Formats

35mm microfilm reel 4308 available for use only in the Archives of American Art office in Washington, D. C., through interlibrary loan, and at the Minnesota Historical Society (reel MN 512).

Reproduction Note

Microfilmed by the Division of Library and Archives, Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, Minnesota, 1986 (1 reel).

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Biographical / Historical

Robert Koehler was born in Hamburg, Germany, in 1850 and settled with his family in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1854. He learned the trade of lithography which he practiced in Milwaukee, Pittsburgh, and New York City. He studied painting for two years in Munich, Germany, until lack of funds forced him to return in 1875 to New York where he continued his studies at the National Academy and the Art Students League. In 1879 Koehler returned to Munich where he taught art and organized the American department of 2 international art exhibitions, held in 1883 and 1888. His most famous work "The Strike" (1886) was based on industrial conflicts in Pittsburgh. He returned to New York in 1892 and served as director of the Minnesota School of Fine Arts from 1893 to 1914. He died Apr. 24, 1917.

Scope and Contents

Thirty-four letters (1888-1890) pertain to the Milwaukee Industrial Exposition Association's attempt to raise funds to purchase Koehler's painting "The Strike" for the Layton Art Gallery in Milwaukee. At the time, the painting was on exhibit in the American section of the Exposition Universelle of 1889 in Paris and the letters reflect Koehler's efforts to persuade the officials to permit the painting's removal from the exhibition. One letter (1916) written by George E. Vincent of the University of Minnesota, confirms Koehler's appointment as a lecturer on art history. One letter (1927) written by Marie Koehler to Karl W. Jones, explains why she is sending her husband's correspondence to Mr. Jones.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Occupations:

Painters