



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the William Cushing Loring Papers, 1899-1961, in the Archives of American Art

Megan Bean

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	William Cushing Loring papers
Identifier:	AAA.loriwill
Date:	1899-1961
Creator:	Loring, William Cushing, 1879-
Extent:	0.7 Linear feet
Language:	Collection is in English.
Summary:	The papers of American portrait painter William Cushing Loring (1897-1959) measure 0.7 linear feet and date from 1899-1961. The majority of the collection consists of correspondence, including letters which document Loring's artistic education in Paris and London 1900-1904. Also found within the collection are letters from other Loring family members, printed materials which document Loring's artistic career, and photographs of the artist and his work.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The collection was donated by William Loring Cushing, Jr., son of the artist, in 1985.

Available Formats

The collection was digitized in its entirety 2016 and is available via the Archives of American Art's website.

Processing Information

Materials received a preliminary level of processing at some point after donation and were microfiled to reel 3589. The entire collection was fully processed, arranged, and described by Megan Bean and digitized in 2016.

Preferred Citation

William Cushing Loring papers, 1899-1961. 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. Contact Reference Services for more information.

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Biographical / Historical

William Cushing Loring (1897-1959) was an American painter and teacher born in Newton Center, MA. He studied at Boston Museum of Fine Arts, Chase's Art School in New York, Academie Colarossi and Academie Delecluse in Paris, and for two years in Holland and London. Loring was best known for his portraiture. He was appointed head of the painting and drawing department at the Rhode Island School of Design in 1905, and taught at La Salle Junior College in Auburn, Massachusetts from 1921 to 1939.

Scope and Contents

The William Cushing Loring papers measure 0.7 linear feet and date from 1899-1961. The collection documents Loring's artistic education in Paris and London and his career as an artist and instructor through correspondence, printed materials, and photographs.

Correspondence consists primarily of letters from William Cushing Loring to other Loring family members, including Stanton D. Loring, his father; Mrs. Stanton D. Loring, his mother; Robert Loring, his brother; and Elizabeth and Helen Loring, his sisters. Letters document Loring's life as an artist living abroad in Paris and London. He writes of visits to the studios of John Singer Sargent, Francis David Millet, and Lawrence Alma-Tadema; trips to museums and galleries; excursions to copy paintings in the Louvre and the London National Gallery; evening entertainment; and accounts of daily expenses. Some letters addressed to his parents include illustrations, sketches in ink and graphite, as well as miniature paintings. Letters from Helen Loring and Robert Loring to their parents, as well as unidentified letters, are also present. Envelopes are for the most part matched to letters, but fragment envelopes and letters are integrated within collection.

Printed materials include exhibition catalogs, newspaper obituary clippings for William Cushing Loring, bulletins for Rhode Island School of Design alumni, a holiday card for Loring's studio, and business cards.

Photographic material includes photographs of works of art by William Cushing Loring and photographs of the artist. Photographs of the artist include portraits and photographs of Loring with his family. Included among photographs of works of art are photos by Elmer Chickering.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as three series.

Missing Title:

- Series 1: Correspondence, 1899-1904 (0.5 linear feet; Box 1-2)
 - Series 2: Printed Material, circa 1905-1961(4 folders; Box 2)
 - Series 3: Photographic Material, circa 1905 (4 folders; Box 2, OV 3)
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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 -- Study and teaching -- England -- London
Art -- Study and teaching -- France -- Paris

Educators -- United States
Expatriate artists -- England -- London
Expatriate painters -- France -- Paris

Types of Materials:

Illustrated letters
Paintings
Photographs
Sketches

Names:

Alma-Tadema, Lawrence, Sir, 1836-1912
Chickering, Elmer
Loring, Elizabeth
Loring, Helen
Loring, Robert
Loring, Stanton D.
Millet, Francis Davis, 1846-1912
Musée du Louvre
National Gallery (Great Britain)
Rhode Island School of Design
Sargent, John Singer, 1856-1925

Occupations:

Painters -- Massachusetts

Functions:

Artists' studios -- France

Container Listing

Series 1: Correspondence, 1899-1904

0.5 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2)

Scope and Contents: This series, which makes up the bulk of the collection, documents William Cushing Loring's time spent living and studying in Paris and London from 1900-1904. Letters to his parents document Loring's visits to the studios of John Singer Sargent, Francis Davis Millet, and Lawrence Alma-Tadema; painting excursions; painting copies at the Louvre; studies at the Academie Colarossi and the Academie Delecluse; entertainment and nightlife; and daily expenses. Letters addressed to both of his parents and to his mother, Mrs. Stanton D. Loring, include illustrations and sketches in ink and graphite, as well as miniature watercolors. The illustrations often show depictions of Loring's daily life, thumbnail sketches of works in progress, and portraits.

Letters from Helen Loring and Robert Loring to their parents document their trips abroad to visit their brother in Paris and London. General correspondence addressed to Stanton D. Loring and unidentified correspondence is also included.

Available Formats: This series has been digitized in its entirety.

Arrangement: This series is arranged by correspondent, ordered as letters from William Cushing Loring to his family members, followed by letters written by other family members.

Box 1, Folder 1	Letters to Parents, 1899-1901
Box 1, Folder 2	Letters to Parents, 1901
Box 1, Folder 3	Letters to Parents, 1902
Box 1, Folder 4	Letters to Parents, 1903
Box 1, Folder 5	Letters to Parents, 1904
Box 1, Folder 6	Letters to Stanton D. Loring, 1901
Box 1, Folder 7	Letters to Stanton D. Loring, 1902
Box 1, Folder 8	Letters to Stanton D. Loring, 1903
Box 1, Folder 9	Letters to Stanton D. Loring, 1904 Notes: Folder includes typed excerpt from diary of Elizabeth Frost "My trip abroad" 1904 found with letters.
Box 1, Folder 10	Letters to Mrs. Stanton D. Loring, 1899-1901
Box 1, Folder 11	Letters to Mrs. Stanton D. Loring, 1901
Box 1, Folder 12	Letters to Mrs. Stanton D. Loring, 1902

Box 1, Folder 13	Letters to Mrs. Stanton D. Loring, 1903
Box 1, Folder 14	Letters to Mrs. Stanton D. Loring, 1904
Box 2, Folder 1	Letters to Helen Loring and Elizabeth Loring, 1901-1902
Box 2, Folder 2	Letters from Helen Loring to Parents, 1903
Box 2, Folder 3	Letters from Robert Loring to Parents, 1901
Box 2, Folder 4	Letters from Others to Stanton D. Loring, 1900-1902
Box 2, Folder 5	Unidentified Correspondence, 1901-1903
Box 2, Folder 6	Illustrations from Letters, circa 1905 Notes: These illustrations were separated from their associated correspondence before processing.

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Series 2: Printed Material, circa 1905-1961

4 Folders (Box 2)

Scope and Contents: Found in this series are photocopies of newspaper clippings of obituaries for William Cushing Loring, business cards, a studio card, and originals and photocopies of catalogs from exhibitions at Providence, Rhode Island, and at the Corcoran Gallery. Also included are Rhode Island School of Design alumni bulletins, which show an obituary for Loring, as well as a reproduction of a portrait by Loring.

Arrangement: Materials are arranged by document type.

Available: This series has been scanned in its entirety.

Formats:

Box 2, Folder 7	Business Cards and Holiday Card, circa 1905-circa 1915
Box 2, Folder 8	Exhibition Catalogs, 1916-circa 1940
Box 2, Folder 9	Obituary Clippings, 1959
Box 2, Folder 10	Rhode Island School of Design Alumni Bulletins, 1959-1961

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Series 3: Photographic Material , circa 1905

4 Folders (Box 2, OV 3)

Scope and Contents: Included in this series are photographs of William Cushing Loring and his work. Photographs of the artist include studio portraits taken in Paris and photographs of Loring with his family. Photographs of works of art include photographs by Elmer Chickering. Photographic types include silver gelatin, copy prints, and an acetate negative.

Arrangement: Materials are arranged by subject and document type.

Available Formats: This series has been scanned in its entirety.

Box 2, Folder 11	Photographs of William Cushing Loring, circa 1905 Notes: Oversized materials housed in OV 3.
Box 2, Folder 12	Photographic Negative of William Cushing Loring, circa 1905 Notes: Negative is a duplicate image of photograph of William Cushing Loring from Box 2 folder 11.
Box 2, Folder 13	Photographs of Paintings by the Artist, circa 1905 Notes: Oversized materials housed in OV 3.
Box OV 3	Oversized photographic material scanned with Box 2, Folders 25 and 27

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