



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## A Finding Aid to the Robert Lee MacCameron Papers, 1896-1913, in the Archives of American Art

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Robert Lee MacCameron papers
<b>Date:</b>	1896-1913
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.maccrobe
<b>Creator:</b>	MacCameron, Robert Lee, 1866-1912
<b>Extent:</b>	0.4 Linear feet
<b>Language:</b>	Materials are in English and French
<b>Summary:</b>	The papers of painter Robert Lee MacCameron measure 0.4 linear feet and date from 1896 to 1913. The papers document MacCameron's career as a painter through correspondence and writings.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Donated 2004 by Robert MacCameron, the grandson of Robert Lee MacCameron.

### Processing Information

The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Ricky Gomez in 2023.

### Preferred Citation

Robert Lee MacCameron papers, 1896-1913. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

### Restrictions

This collection is open for research. Access to original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C. Research Center.

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## Biographical / Historical

Chicago-born, New York City based painter Robert Lee MacCameron (1866-1912) was a sought after portrait artist who received commissions from Presidents McKinley and Taft, Auguste Rodin, and many others.

MacCameron began his artistic career as an illustrator in Chicago. Encouraged to pursue art he moved to New York City and then studied in Paris with Jean-Léon Gérôme and James Abbott McNeill Whistler at the École des Beaux-Arts. By 1912 he had returned to New York City and focused primarily on society portraits of the upper class.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers of painter Robert Lee MacCameron measure 0.4 linear feet and date from 1896 to 1913. The papers document MacCameron's career as a painter through correspondence and writings.

Correspondence consists primarily of letters with clients concerning portrait commissions and letters from museum directors and curators. Also included are three letters from artist Charles Dana Gibson, letters from MacCameron to his wife Louise, and drafts of other letters.

MacCameron's writings include two journals, writings by MacCameron on religion and photography, and typescripts of writings on Rodin and other subjects.

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## Arrangement

The collection is arranged into two series.

- Series 1: Correspondence, 1897-1913 (0.2 linear feet; Box 1)
  - Series 2: Writings, 1896-1912 (0.2 linear feet; Box 1)
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## Names and Subject Terms

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

Names:

Rodin, Auguste, 1840-1917

Occupations:

Painters -- New York (State) -- New York

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Correspondence, 1897-1913

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

Scope and Contents: Correspondence consists of letters with clients John W. Harrop, Robert L. Gerry, Cornelia H. Gerry, Robert Goelet, the Duchess of Rutland, Nina Eustis, and others concerning portrait commissions; and letters from museum directors and curators John W. Beatty (Carnegie Institute), R. A. Holland (City Art Museum, St. Louis), and E. Rimbault Dibdin (Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool), and others. Also included are three letters from artist Charles Dana Gibson; letters from MacCameron to his wife Louise; drafts of letters to the Duchess of Rutland, John Astor, Mrs. Benjamin Guinness, and Henry Clews, Jr. incorporating his account of his visit to Rodin's museum at Meudon in June 1909; and a carbon copy of MacCameron's 1910 letter of introduction, in French.

Box 1, Folder 1-3          Correspondence, 1897-1913

Box 1, Folder 4          Henry Clews, Jr., circa 1912

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## Series 2: Writings, 1896-1912

### 0.2 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Writings include two bound journals (23 December 1896-29 November 1912 and 16 April 1901-4 June 1905) concerning MacCameron's European travels and portraits painted. Other writings by MacCameron include handwritten notes on religion and photography and typescripts such as "Art and Criticism," "The Art of Raphael Collin" (his teacher), "A Criticism on the Art of Mr. Henry Clews, Jr.," and "Rodin" (notes gathered while painting the portrait of Auguste Rodin). Also found are writings by and about Rodin and miscellany.

Box 1, Folder 5	"A Visit to Rodin's . . . ", 1909 June
Box 1, Folder 6	Emile Antoine Bourdelle Address to Rodin, 1910
Box 1, Folder 7	"Chartres" by Auguste Rodin, 1910 June 16
Box 1, Folder 8	"Around the Cathedral" by Auguste Rodin, 1910 July 13
Box 1, Folder 9	"Art and Criticism", 1912
Box 1, Folder 10	"L 'Art de Raphael Collin", 1912
Box 1, Folder 11	"A Criticism on the Art of Mr. Henry Clews, Jr.", undated
Box 1, Folder 12	"Art and Electricity", undated
Box 1, Folder 13	"Photography Thoughts", undated
Box 1, Folder 14	"Rodin", undated
Box 1, Folder 15	Journal, 1896-1912
Box 1, Folder 16	Journal, 1901-1905

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