



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Marcia M. Mathews papers
relating to Henry Ossawa Tanner

Archives of American Art
750 9th Street, NW
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Washington, D.C. 20001
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Marcia M. Mathews papers relating to Henry Ossawa Tanner
Date:	1937-1969 (bulk, 1963-1969)
Identifier:	AAA.mathmarc
Creator:	Mathews, Marcia M.
Extent:	54 Items
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated 1969 and 1976 by Marcia Mathews.

Related Materials

The Archives of American Art also holds the Henry Ossawa Tanner papers, 1860s-1978; the Henry O. Tanner letters to the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, 1885-1909; and the Alexander family papers relating to Henry Ossawa Tanner, 1912-1985. The Atlanta University Center, Robert W. Woodruff Library holds the Henry Ossawa Tanner collection, 1907-1937.

Available Formats

35mm microfilm reels 64 and 3268 available for use at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C., Research Center. Microfilmed materials must be consulted on microfilm. Contact Reference Services for more information.

Biographical / Historical

Marcia M. Mathews is a writer and art historian in Durham, North Carolina.

Henry Ossawa Tanner (1859-1937) was an African American painter born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania who spent much of his life in Paris, France. His work often depicts biblical scenes. Tanner trained at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts under Thomas Eakins. In 1891, Tanner traveled to Europe and settled in Paris, where he remained for the rest of his life.

Scope and Contents

The Marcia M. Mathews papers relating to Henry Ossawa Tanner consist of 54 items and date from 1937 to 1969, with the bulk of the materials dating from 1963 to 1969. The collection primarily consists of correspondence preceding Mathew's 1969 book *Henry O. Tanner, American Artist* and related printed material.

REEL 64: 26 letters, January 21, 1966 through March 5, 1968, to Mathews from Jesse O. Tanner, son of Henry Ossawa Tanner, conveying information about his father and particular art works; as well as a letter from Edith D. [Mrs. William] Glackens, August 7, 1937, to Charles C. Tough, Jesse O. Tanner's uncle, advising with regard to Tough's plans of selling Henry O. Tanner's paintings. Also included is a biographical questionnaire completed by Henry O. Tanner for the Art League Publishing Company.

REEL 3268: 23 letters to Mathews regarding her book and exhibitions of Tanner's work; and printed material, 1968-1969. Correspondents include Jesse O. Tanner, Erwin S. Barrie, Romare H. Bearden, George Biddle, Mrs. Samuel M. Bryant, Benjamin Mays, James A. Porter, and Warren Robbins.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- African American artists
- Expatriate painters -- France -- Paris
- Women art historians
- Women artists
- Women authors

Names:

- Glackens, Edith
- Tanner, Henry Ossawa, 1859-1937
- Tanner, Jesse O., 1903-
- Tough, Charles C.

Occupations:

- Art historians -- North Carolina -- Durham
- Authors -- North Carolina -- Durham