
Stephanie Ashley

Glass plate negatives in this collection were digitized in 2019 with funding provided by the Smithsonian Women's Committee.

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Collection Overview

Repository: Archives of American Art
Title: William Edward Norton glass plate negatives
Identifier: AAA.nortwill
Date: circa 1880
          circa 1990
Extent: 0.42 Linear feet
Creator: Norton, William Edward, 1843-1916
Language: English
Summary: The sixty-nine glass plate negatives of marine painter William Edward Norton (1843-1916) measure 0.42 linear feet and date from circa 1880 and include one image of Norton, and images of unidentified women and children, presumably members of Norton's family. Other negatives are of boats and sailing ships or show buildings and river and street scenes; two images are of paintings of ships. Also found is a folder of contact sheets, circa 1990, made from sixty-five of the negatives.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The collection was donated to the Archives of American Art in 1990 by Vose Galleries of Boston, who received them from William Welcome, a descendant of Norton.

Available Formats

All of the glass plate negatives, were digitized in 2019 and are available on the Archives of American Art website. Contact sheets were not digitized.

Processing Information

The glass plate negatives were re-housed in 2015 with a grant from the Smithsonian Collections Care and Preservation Fund. The collection was processed and described in a finding aid by Stephanie Ashley in 2018 and the glass plate negatives were digitized in 2019 with funding provided by the Smithsonian Institution Women's Committee.

Preferred Citation

Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C., Research Center.

Conditions Governing Use

The William Edward Norton glass plate negatives are owned by the Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution. Literary rights as possessed by the donor have been dedicated to public use for research, study, and scholarship. The collection is subject to all copyright laws.

Biographical / Historical

William Edward Norton (1843-1916) was a Boston born marine painter who studied in France, and settled in London. Norton had two paintings accepted by the Paris Salon, and exhibited at the Royal Academy. He also represented the United States at the International Exposition.

Norton, who was born into a family of shipbuilders, worked as a sailor in his youth and would sketch ships, crew, and seascapes during his free time. He later attended the Lowell Institute and studied under George Inness. Sales of his paintings funded his trip to France where he studied with Antoine Vollon and painted the Normandy coast.

After living in London with his wife, Norton returned to the United States in the early 1890s and lived and worked in New York City until his death.

Scope and Contents

The sixty-nine glass plate negatives of marine painter William Edward Norton (1843-1916) measure 0.42 linear feet and date from circa 1880 and include one image of Norton, and images of unidentified women and children, presumably members of Norton's family. Other negatives are of boats and sailing ships or show buildings and river and street scenes; two images are of paintings of ships. Also found is a folder of contact sheets, circa 1990, made from sixty-five of the negatives.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as one series.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Occupations:
- Marine painters -- (England)
- Marine painters -- New York (State) -- New York
Container Listing


0.4 Linear feet (Box 1, MMs 55)

Glass plates are arranged roughly by subject.

The glass plate negatives have been digitized in entirety. Contact sheets have not been digitized.

Box 1, Folder 1  
Of Norton and Others, circa 1880
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 2  
Of Buildings and River and Street Scenes, circa 1880
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 3  
Of Boats and Ships, circa 1880
Image(s)

Folder 2  
Contact Sheets of Negatives, circa 1990

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