



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Thornton Oakley papers

Archives of American Art
750 9th Street, NW
Victor Building, Suite 2200
Washington, D.C. 20001
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Thornton Oakley papers
Date:	1906-1953
Identifier:	AAA.oaklthor
Creator:	Oakley, Thornton, 1881-1953
Extent:	3 Linear feet ((on 4 microfilm reels))
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Microfilmed in 1990 as part of AAA's Philadelphia Arts Documentation Project. The papers were donated to the Brandywine River Museum by Oakley's daughter, Lansdale Oakley Humphreys. Unfilmed portions of the papers relate to publications, the First Unitarian Church of Philadelphia, the National Geographic Society, French and Scandinavian organizations, and war relief efforts, among other topics.

Location of Originals

Originals in Brandywine River Museum.

Available Formats

35mm microfilm reels 4394-4397 available at Archives of American Art offices, through interlibrary loan, at the Free Library of Philadelphia, and the Brandywine River Museum.

Restrictions

The Archives of American art does not own the original papers. Use is limited to the microfilm copy.

Biographical / Historical

Watercolorist and illustrator; Philadelphia, Pa.

Scope and Contents

Correspondence, artist files and subject files relate to Oakley's activities as an artist and illustrator, and his involvement with numerous art organizations, including the Philadelphia Art Alliance, the Philadelphia Water Color Club, the Artists' War Relief Committee of Philadelphia, and the Exposition of Indian Tribal Arts. Artist files on Cecilia Beaux, Florence Este, John Taylor Arms, John McLure Hamilton, Christian Brinton, George Morrow, Leila Mechlin, John Harkrider, Alexander Robinson, and Joseph Pennell, among others, primarily contain letters. Some also include photographs and printed matter. Four inches of letters from Beaux discuss

working habits, portrait commissions, life in Paris, and personal matters. Letters from Este discuss life in France during the war, French artists, exhibitions at the Philadelphia Water Color Club, and Cecilia Beaux. Other material relates to Oakley's mural for the Franklin Institute.

Arrangement

I.Finding aid. II.Cecilia Beaux correspondence, 1907-1942. III.Research materials for Oakley's biography of Beaux. IV.Florence Este correspondence, 1914-1925. V.Subject files, 1918-1952. VI.Artist files, 1906-1953.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Expatriate painters -- France

Names:

Arms, John Taylor, 1887-1953
Artists' War Relief Committee of Philadelphia
Beaux, Cecilia, 1855-1942
Brinton, Christian, 1870-1942
Century Association (New York, N.Y.)
Council of Art Organizations of Philadelphia
Este, Florence, 1860-1926
Exposition of Indian Tribal Arts, inc.
Franklin Institute (Philadelphia, Pa.)
Hamilton, John McLure, 1853-1936
Harkrider, John, 1900-
Mechlin, Leila, 1874-1949
Morrow, George, 1869-1955
Pennell, Joseph, 1857-1926
Philadelphia Art Alliance
Philadelphia Water Color Club
Robinson, Alexander, 1867-1952

Occupations:

Illustrators -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia
Painters -- United States
Watercolorists -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia

Functions:

Arts organizations -- Pennsylvania