



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the C. B. Owen Letters, 1880-1881, in the Archives of American Art

Jayna M. Josefson

Processing of this collection received support from
the Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative.

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	C. B. Owen letters
Date:	1880-1881
Identifier:	AAA.owenc
Creator:	Owen, C. B. (Clara Belle), 1854-1955
Extent:	0.2 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The letters of painter C. B. Owen measure 0.2 linear feet and date from 1880 to 1881. Owen's journal contains twenty-six letters to her family describing a trip to Europe. Owen writes of her time in London and Paris with her art teacher, Susan Healy St. John, her husband, and son James, the illustrator of Edgar Rice Burroughs' Tarzan books.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated in 1998 by Maudelle Hoy Woodruff, Owen's niece-in-law.

Processing Information

The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Jayna Josefson in 2023 with support from the Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative.

Preferred Citation

C. B. Owen letters, 1880-1881. 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

Painter C. B. Owen (1854-1955) was active in New York City and Los Angeles and Pasadena, California. She was born in McHenry, Illinois, and spent two years studying in Europe. Her works include portraits of

Lillian Russell and Nevada Senator John Percival Jones. She also painted landscapes of New England, Florida, Nevada, and California.

Scope and Contents

The letters of painter C. B. Owen measure 0.2 linear feet and date from 1880 to 1881. Owen's journal contains twenty-six letters to her family describing a trip to Europe. She describes her time in London and Paris with her art teacher, Susan Healy St. John, her husband, and son James, the illustrator of Edgar Rice Burroughs' Tarzan books.

Arrangement

Due to the small size of this collection the papers are arranged as one series.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Women artists
Women painters

Occupations:

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

Places:

France -- description and travel

Container Listing

Series 1: Letters, 1880-1881

0.2 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Series comprises a journal containing twenty-six letters written by C.B. Owen to her mother and sister, Grace Owen. The letters were written during Owen's journey from Chicago to London and Paris. Letters discuss her transatlantic trip, her arrival, and sightseeing in London and Paris. Later letters detail her travels visiting and painting in Paris museums and the French countryside.

Box 1, Folder 1 Letters, 1880-1881

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