



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the William Ordway Partridge Papers, 1879-1920, 1957, in the Archives of American Art

Stephanie Ashley

Funding for the processing and digitization of this collection
was provided by the Terra Foundation for American Art.

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

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	William Ordway Partridge papers
Date:	1879-1920 1957
Identifier:	AAA.partwill
Creator:	Partridge, William Ordway, 1861-1930
Extent:	0.2 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of sculptor, author, and poet, William Ordway Partridge, who was active in New York City and Washington, D.C., measure 0.2 linear feet and date from 1879-1920, and 1957. This small collection consists primarily of letters to Partridge from artists, political figures, art historians, and authors; drafts and typescripts of Partridge's poems; and two clippings about Partridge's sculpture.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The collection was donated in 1965 by Mrs. Jacob B. Shohan, and in 2019 by Mary K. McGuigan and John F. McGuigan Jr., art historians and collectors in Milford, Pennsylvania.

Available Formats

The collection was digitized in 2019 and is available on the Archives of American Art website.

Processing Information

The 1965 and 2019 accessions of the William Ordway Partridge papers were merged in 2019, and the collection was processed and a finding aid prepared by Stephanie Ashley. The collection was digitized in 2019 with funding from the Terra Foundation for American Art.

Preferred Citation

William Ordway Partridge papers, 1879-1920, 1957. 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

Parisian-born sculptor, author, and poet, William Ordway Partridge (1861-1930) was known for his sculptures of famous writers, artists, political figures, and poets.

Partridge attended Adelphi Academy and Columbia College in New York and then traveled abroad to study in Florence, Rome, and Paris. He exhibited at the Paris Salon in his early twenties before returning to New York to focus on sculpture, lecturing, poetry reading, and writing and publishing his own poetry and articles on art. In addition to busts of writers and artists and many distinguished New York figures, he executed a large bronze of Alexander Hamilton in Prospect Park, Brooklyn.

Scope and Contents

The papers of sculptor, author, and poet, William Ordway Partridge, who was active in New York City and Washington, D.C., measure 0.2 linear feet and date from 1879-1920, and 1957. This small collection consists primarily of letters to Partridge from artists, political figures, art historians, and authors; drafts and typescripts of Partridge's poems; and two clippings about Partridge's sculpture.

Arrangement

Due to the small size of the 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:

Names:

McGuigan, John F., Jr. (John Fuller)
McGuigan, Mary K.

Occupations:

Authors -- New York (State) -- New York
Poets -- New York (State) -- New York
Sculptors -- New York (State) -- New York
Sculptors -- Washington (D.C.)

Container Listing

Series 1: William Ordway Partridge Papers, 1879-1920, 1957

0.2 Linear feet

Arrangement: The papers are arranged by material type. Letters to Partridge are arranged alphabetically. Unless otherwise noted, all senders wrote 1 letter each.

Scope and Contents: Letters to Partridge mainly relate to Partridge's sculpture, invitations to events, and responses to invitations sent by Partridge. They include requests to visit his studio and view works in progress. Also found are two letters from Robert C. Winthrop, and Samuel Timmins to others which were probably collected by Partridge for the autographs of Winthrop and Timmins. Additional correspondents are noted in the container listing.

Writings by Partridge include loose drafts of his poems and a typescript for a book of a collection of his poems. Writings by others include a draft of an essay "The Actor's Profession" and galley proofs of an untitled poem by Henry Austin, dedicated to James Gillespie Blaine. One news clipping from 1891 relates to Partridge's statue of Alexander Hamilton; another from 1957 recounts the discovery of two busts by Partridge during the demolition of the Manhattan Storage and Warehouse building.

Box 1, Folder 1 [Egyptian Passport, circa 1890](#)

Box 1, Folder 2 [Letters Collected by Partridge, 1879, 1885](#)

Box 1, Folder 3 [Letters to Partridge, A-C, 1882-1919](#)

Notes: Includes letters from Abraham Archibald Anderson, Paul Wayland Bartlett, Edwin Howland Blashfield, Cyrus Townsend Brady, Edward C. Caswell (illustrated), Franklin B. Clark, Thomas Shields Clarke, and Royal Cortissoz.

Box 1, Folder 4 [Letters to Partridge, D-F, 1902-1913](#)

Notes: Includes letters from Frank Edwin Elwell and Daniel Chester French.

Box 1, Folder 5 [Letters to Partridge, G-L, 1894-1915](#)

Notes: Includes letters from Leandro-Ramon Garrido, Jennie D. Garrison of the Pocahontas Memorial Association, John La Farge, and George Thomas Little regarding the purchase of Partridge's bronze *Bust of Admiral Perry*.

Box 1, Folder 6 [Letters to Partridge, M-P, 1896-1916](#)

Notes: Includes letters from Henry Mosler, National Academy of Design, and National Arts Club.

Box 1, Folder 7 [Letters to Partridge, R-W, 1894-1920](#)

Notes: Includes 2 letters from Corinne Roosevelt Robinson regarding *Bust of Theodore Roosevelt* (her brother), Charles H. Sherrill, Marie Peary Stafford regarding bust of her father and discoverer of the North Pole *Admiral Robert E. Peary*, Edmund Clarence

Stedman, and Tertius Van Dyke regarding Partridge's bust of
Henry van Dyke.

Box 1, Folder 8	Manuscripts by Partridge, circa 1893
Box 1, Folder 9	Manuscripts by Partridge, Book of Poems, 1883-1893
Box 1, Folder 10	Writings by Other, 1893, undated
Box 1, Folder 11	News Clippings, 1891-1894, 1957

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