



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Charles H. Woodbury and
Elizabeth Ward Perkins 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:	Charles H. Woodbury and Elizabeth Ward Perkins papers
Identifier:	AAA.perkeliz
Date:	1878-1959
Creator:	Perkins, Elizabeth Ward, 1873-1954 Woodbury, Charles H. (Charles Herbert), 1864-1940
Extent:	2.4 Linear feet
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Most of the papers were in Perkins' possession at the time of Woodbury's death. The card file on reel 2788 was donated in 1957 from the American Art Research Council, Whitney Museum of American Art, which had received it from Perkins' heirs. Material on reel 268 was owned jointly by Perkins' heirs, and donated in 1957 with the assistance of Giovanni Castano (Castano Galleries, Boston, Mass.), along with Charles C. Perkins' (Elizabeth Perkins' father-in-law) diary and art works, and Samuel Gray Ward's (her grandfather) art works and photographs, each described and housed separately. The scrapbook (unmicrofilmed) probably came at the same time. The remainder of the unmicrofilmed material was donated in 1989 by Perkins' daughters, Anna W. Perkins and Mary Perkins Ryan, in 2009 by John H. Mansfield, Perkins' grandson, and in 2018 by Maria Luisa F. Mansfield, Mansfield's wife.

Acquisition Information

Also found in the Archives are the Charles H. Woodbury papers.

Available Formats

23 letters received by Perkins concerning the disposition of Woodbury's paintings; writings; sixty-two drawings, one etching, and two paintings by Woodbury; lists of art work and card file available on microfilm reels 268 and 2788 at the 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

Elizabeth Ward Perkins (1873-1959) was an artist and art patron who studied, worked and collaborated with Charles H. Woodbury.

Scope and Contents

The papers of Charles H. Woodbury and Elizabeth Ward Perkins measure 2.4 linear feet and date from 1878-1959. Included are correspondence, writings, exhibition files, inventories, art work, photographs and printed material.

Scope and Contents

Correspondence includes circa 340 letters from Woodbury to Perkins written from Maine, Massachusetts, and various locales; circa 40 letters from Woodbury to his mother, mostly written from Holland with notes about the letters. Other letters are to Woodbury from Edward Filene, John B. Paine, and Thomas Allen, regarding the painting Mid-Ocean; a letter from Sam Houghton regarding his purchase of a watercolor; letters to Woodbury from William Merrit Post, Charles C. Curran (of the National Academy of Design), Benjamin Kimball, Malvina Hoffman, George W. Eggers (of the Art Institute of Chicago), and Leila Mechlin (of Southern Art Projects); letters to Woodbury from Arthur Wesley Dow, John C. Pierson, Hughes Mearns, Philip R.V. Carol, Ruth E. Hutchins, Charles W. Eliot, and Vernon M. Cady regarding Woodbury's manuscripts, "The Art of Seeing and Observation: Visual Training Through Drawing"; letters to Woodbury and Elizabeth Perkins from Charles J. Connick, various institutions, and the Assistant Secretary of State regarding Woodbury's art; legal correspondence to Perkins regarding Woodbury's estate taxes and disposition of paintings; and letters to Anna Perkins, daughter of Elizabeth Perkins, from Castano Galleries.

Scope and Contents

Writings consist of notes and essays by Woodbury on the technique and philosophy of drawing, painting and etching, and a paper by Woodbury and Perkins "The Modern School and Its Sources". Exhibition files include exhibition price lists, venue lists and typescripts of reviews for Woodbury's traveling exhibition with the Federation of Arts. Inventories consist of price lists and a card file (circa 900 cards) of watercolors and oil paintings by Woodbury, 1886-1942, containing title of the work, the date painted, the size, and the disposition of the work. Artwork includes 63 drawings (one dedicated to Perkins), two etchings, and two paintings by Woodbury. Photographs are of works of art by Woodbury.

Scope and Contents

Printed material includes a scrapbook of clippings relating to Woodbury and Perkins and the Woodbury Training School in Applied Observation and their other art education endeavors; a book, "Descendants of Alexander Robinson and Angelica Peale," owned by Perkins; exhibition price lists; venue lists and typescripts of reviews for Woodbury's traveling exhibition with the Federation of Arts. Photographs are of Woodbury's artwork.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Art -- Technique

Types of Materials:

Scrapbooks

Occupations:

Art teachers

Painters -- Massachusetts

Functions:

Art Schools -- Maine -- Ogunquit