



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

John Rettig papers

Archives of American Art
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	John Rettig papers
Date:	[ca. 1840-1965]
Identifier:	AAA.rettjohn
Creator:	Rettig, John, 1858-1932
Extent:	900 Items ((on 1 microfilm reel))
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Lent for microfilming 1985 by Elizabeth Youssef, niece of Rettig.

Location of Originals

Originals returned to the lender Elizabeth Youssef after microfilming.

Available Formats

35mm microfilm reel 3614 available at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

Restrictions

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

Biographical / Historical

Painter, set designer; Cincinnati, Ohio. Best known for his elaborate set designs and Dutch paintings. Attended the Cincinnati Art School receiving a diploma in decorative design in 1875. Traveled widely and utilized knowledge gained abroad for the creation of his historical shows, such as "The Fall of Babylon" and "Montezuma or the Conquest of Mexico." Some were produced under contract with Barnum and Bailey. During the latter part of his life, he and his wife frequently visited Volendam, Holland; sights there figure in his paintings of the period. After years of collecting Dutch artifacts, the Rettigs created an authentic Dutch room in their home in Ohio.

Scope and Contents

Biographical materials including passport, business card, and membership cards; correspondence, ca. 1887-1965, including letters from Frank Duveneck and Auguste Rodin; writings; inventories of works of art; lists of picture owners and exhibition visitors; list of contents of his Dutch room in Ohio; one painting by Rettig and a sketch of Rettig by Edward Henry Potthast; 2 sketchbooks; financial records, ca. 1902-1909;

exhibition catalogs, ca. 1896-1965; 15 reproductions of his art works; 5 theater programs featuring Rettig's set designs; newspaper clippings and magazine articles featuring Rettig and others, ca. 1840-1957; printed miscellany; and photographs of Rettig in his studios, in Holland with his models, and of his art work.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Names:

Duveneck, Frank, 1848-1919
Potthast, Edward, 1857-1927
Rodin, Auguste, 1840-1917

Occupations:

Designers -- Ohio -- Cincinnati
Painters -- Ohio -- Cincinnati