



Smithsonian  
*Archives of American Art*

A Finding Aid to the F.W. Sargent  
Papers, 1854-1960, bulk 1854-1888,  
in the Archives of American Art

Judy Ng

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

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	F.W. Sargent papers
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.sargf
<b>Date:</b>	1854-1960 (bulk 1854-1888)
<b>Extent:</b>	0.4 Linear feet
<b>Creator:</b>	Sargent, F.W., 1820-1889
<b>Language:</b>	The collection is in English.
<b>Summary:</b>	The papers of medical doctor F.W. Sargent measure 0.4 linear feet and date from 1854 to 1960. Found within the papers are letters to his family with references to his son, John Singer Sargent. Also included are letters and photographs of works of art by John Singer Sargent.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

The F.W. Sargent papers were donated in 1963 by Sargent's great-nephew, Winthrop Sargent.

### Available Formats

This collection was digitized in its entirety in 2016 and is available on the Archives of American Art's website.

### Processing Information

Materials received a preliminary level of arrangement after donation and the collection was microfilmed onto reel D317. The collection was prepared for digitization and described by Judy Ng in 2016, with funding provided by the Terra Foundation for American Art.

### Preferred Citation

F.W. Sargent papers, 1854-1960, bulk 1854-1888. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

### Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C. Research Center. Contact Reference Services for more information.

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## Biographical / Historical

Medical doctor F.W. (FitzWilliam) Sargent (1820-1889) lived and worked in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania until 1854, whereupon he and his wife, Mary Newbold Singer, traveled to Europe and eventually settled in Paris. The Sargents traveled seasonally with their children to sea and mountain resorts in Germany, France, Italy, and Switzerland. His eldest child is the painter John Singer Sargent.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers of medical doctor F.W. Sargent measure 0.4 linear feet and date from 1854 to 1960. Found within the papers are letters to his family with references to his son, John Singer Sargent. Also included are letters and photographs of works of art by John Singer Sargent.

Correspondence by F.W. Sargent to his parents, siblings, and aunt provide updates on the Sargent family's travels, activities, and health; commentary on current events in America and Europe; and inquiries into the health and well being of family members in America. There are also two original letters, three transcribed letters, and 2 photographs of paintings by John Singer Sargent.

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## Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 1 series.

- Series 1: F.W. Sargent Papers, 1854-1960 (0.4 linear feet; Box 1)
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## Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Portrait painting

Types of Materials:

Photographs

Names:

Sargent, John Singer, 1856-1925

Occupations:

Portrait painters

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: F.W. Sargent Papers, 1854-1960

#### *0.4 Linear feet (Box 1)*

Correspondence by F.W. Sargent to his parents, siblings, and aunt provides updates on the Sargent family's activities and health during their seasonal travels to France, England, Switzerland, Italy, and Germany. In the letters, Sargent responds to news of the health and well being of family members in America and also offers commentary on European politics and America's Civil War. The majority of letters have partial or complete typewritten transcriptions.

Portions of Sargent's letters that mention John Singer Sargent, which were used as the source material for informal talks, remain grouped together. These excerpts describe events, accomplishments, and artistic interests during the younger Sargent's childhood and adolescence.

There are two original letters and three transcribed letters from John Singer Sargent. There are also two photographs of portraits of F.W. and Mary Singer Sargent painted by their son.

Materials are arranged by document type. Correspondence is arranged chronologically by sender.

This series has been scanned in its entirety.

Box 1, Folder 1	Correspondence, Sargent, F.W., circa 1865-1880 <a href="#">Image(s): Correspondence, Sargent, F.W.: circa 1865-1880</a> Fragments and originally undated letters.
Box 1, Folder 2	Correspondence, Sargent, F.W., 1854-1860 <a href="#">Image(s): Correspondence, Sargent, F.W.: 1854-1864</a>
Box 1, Folder 3	Correspondence, Sargent, F.W., 1861-1863 <a href="#">Image(s): Correspondence, Sargent, F.W.: 1861-1863</a>
Box 1, Folder 4	Correspondence, Sargent, F.W., 1864 <a href="#">Image(s): Correspondence, Sargent, F.W.: 1864</a>
Box 1, Folder 5	Correspondence, Sargent, F.W., 1865 <a href="#">Image(s): Correspondence, Sargent, F.W.: 1865</a>
Box 1, Folder 6	Correspondence, Sargent, F.W., 1866-1867 <a href="#">Image(s): Correspondence, Sargent, F.W.: 1866-1867</a>
Box 1, Folder 7	Correspondence, Sargent, F.W., 1868 <a href="#">Image(s): Correspondence, Sargent, F.W.: 1868</a>
Box 1, Folder 8	Correspondence, Sargent, F.W., 1869

	<a href="#">Image(s): Correspondence, Sargent, F.W.: 1869</a>
Box 1, Folder 9	Correspondence, Sargent, F.W., 1870 <a href="#">Image(s): Correspondence, Sargent, F.W.: 1870</a>
Box 1, Folder 10	Correspondence, Sargent, F.W., 1871 <a href="#">Image(s): Correspondence, Sargent, F.W.: 1871</a>
Box 1, Folder 11	Correspondence, Sargent, F.W., 1872 <a href="#">Image(s): Correspondence, Sargent, F.W.: 1872</a>
Box 1, Folder 12	Correspondence, Sargent, F.W., 1873 <a href="#">Image(s): Correspondence, Sargent, F.W.: 1873</a>
Box 1, Folder 13	Correspondence, Sargent, F.W., 1874-1875 <a href="#">Image(s): Correspondence, Sargent, F.W.: 1874-1875</a>
Box 1, Folder 14	Correspondence, Sargent, F.W., 1876 <a href="#">Image(s): Correspondence, Sargent, F.W.: 1876</a>
Box 1, Folder 15	Correspondence, Sargent, F.W., 1877-1882 <a href="#">Image(s): Correspondence, Sargent, F.W.: 1877-1882</a>
Box 1, Folder 16	Correspondence, Sargent, F.W., 1883-1888 <a href="#">Image(s): Correspondence, Sargent, F.W.: 1883-1888</a>
Box 1, Folder 17	Correspondence, Sargent, F.W., On John Singer Sargent, 1860-1884, circa 1940-1960 <a href="#">Image(s): Correspondence, Sargent, F.W., On John Singer Sargent, 1860-1884: circa 1940-1960</a> Typescript excerpts.
Box 1, Folder 18	Correspondence, Sargent, F.W., Miscellaneous, circa 1870-1880 <a href="#">Image(s): Correspondence, Sargent, F.W., Miscellaneous: circa 1870-1880</a>
Box 1, Folder 19	Correspondence, Sargent, John Singer, 1880-1906 <a href="#">Image(s): Correspondence, Sargent, John Singer: 1880-1906</a>
Box 1, Folder 20	Photographs, circa 1940-1960 <a href="#">Image(s): Photographs: circa 1940-1960</a>

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