



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Joseph Sill selected diaries

Archives of American Art
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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Scope and Contents.....	1
Scope and Contents.....	2
Biographical / Historical.....	1
Names and Subjects	2
Container Listing	

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Joseph Sill selected diaries
Identifier:	AAA.silljose
Date:	1832-1854
Creator:	Sill, Joseph, 1801-1854
Extent:	2 Items (partial microfilm reels)
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Microfilmed for the Archives of American Art in 1955 by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. Diaries donated to the Society by Edward Madiera.

Location of Originals

Originals in Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Joseph Sill diaries, Mss. collection # 600.

Available Formats

35mm microfilm reels P29-P30 available for use 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

Collector, amateur painter; Philadelphia, Pa.

Scope and Contents

Ca. 850 pages of selected art related excerpts from Sill's diaries. The diaries date from 1832 to 1854 and document his own painting activities, his association with the Artists and Amateurs Association, Artists' Fund Society, and Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. He gives his reactions to the work of other artists as seen in exhibitions in Philadelphia and New York, especially at the National Academy of Design, as well as in private collections. He writes about panoramas shown in Philadelphia, purchases of works of art for himself and others, commissions to artists to paint pictures for him, etc. In particular he writes frequently of his friend, the collector and patron Edward L. Carey, and of Carey's collection. He often mentions John Sartain, James R. Lambdin, Peter F. Rothermel, Daniel Huntington, Thomas Sully, William H. Furness, Emanuel Leutze, George L. Saunders, Samuel B. Waugh, Paul Weber, William J. Hubard, Monachesi, and

John Neagle. He tells of the founding and subsequent activities of the Art-Union of Philadelphia; the sale of Joshua Shaw's paintings and his misfortunes; the work and ill natured personality of William Page; meeting with and a drawing and description of John J. Audubon; a controversy between Robert W. Weir and Samuel F. B. Morse about who will paint the Mayflower Compact; V. G. Audubon's efforts to get subscribers for his father's book; and Bowen's lithographic shop.

Scope and Contents

He characterizes Edward Watmough and William E. Winner.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Art -- Collectors and collecting -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia -- Diaries
Art, American -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia

Names:

Art-Union of Philadelphia
Artists' Fund Society
Audubon, John James, 1785-1851
Audubon, Victor Gifford, 1809-1860
Carey, Edward L., 1806-1845
Furness, William Henry, 1802-1896
Hubard, William James, 1807-1862
Huntington, Daniel, 1816-1906
Lambdin, James Reid, 1807-1889
Leutze, Emanuel, 1816-1868
Morse, Samuel Finley Breese, 1791-1872
National Academy of Design (U.S.)
Neagle, John, 1796-1865
Page, William, 1811-1885
Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts
Rothermel, Peter Frederick, 1812-1895
Sartain, John, 1808-1897
Saunders, George Lethbridge, 1807-1863
Shaw, Joshua, 1776-1860
Sully, Thomas, 1783-1872
Watmough, Edward
Waugh, Samuel Bell, 1814-1885
Weber, Paul, 1823-1916
Weir, Robert Walter, 1803-1889
Winner, W. E. (William E), -1883

Occupations:

Art patrons -- Pennsylvania
Painters -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia