



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Xanthus Smith diaries

Archives of American Art
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Xanthus Smith diaries
Date:	1883-1892
Identifier:	AAA.smitxant
Creator:	Smith, Xanthus, 1839-1929
Extent:	2 Volumes ((on partial microfilm reel))
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Microfilmed by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania for the Archives of American Art, 1955.

Available Formats

35mm microfilm reel P23 (fr. 234-331) 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

Marine and landscape painter, photographer; Philadelphia, Pa.

Scope and Contents

Handwritten diary, January 1-December 31, 1883, and July 1, 1891-May 14, 1892. The entries detail the daily events of Smith, who painted in his studio almost every day, usually finishing a painting in one to three days. The entries also record his domestic life, living with his wife, children, and father, painter Russell Smith, outside of Philadelphia, Pa. He writes of his numerous paintings, often referring to his materials and techniques; of trading pictures for frames; critiques an exhibition of etchings in Philadelphia in 1883; records his investments in stocks and bonds, transactions with his dealers Haseltine and Davis & Harvey; paintings on sea shells that he sold in Atlantic City; photographing of outdoor scenes that he later used as subjects for his paintings; developing photographs; making prints; family illnesses and visits from Dr. Paxton; use of Devoe paints and canvas; a trip to Southwest Harbor, Maine, in 1883, where he made numerous outdoor studies and sketches; and numerous and futile attempts to color glass lantern slides. [This reel is mislabeled Russell Smith].

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Painting, Modern -- 19th century -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia
Photography -- History -- 19th century

Names:

Smith, Russell, 1812-1896

Occupations:

Painters -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia
Photographers -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia