



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Alice Barber Stephens Papers, 1884-1986, in the Archives of American Art

Caroline Donadio

2018/12/21

Archives of American Art
750 9th Street, NW
Victor Building, Suite 2200
Washington, D.C. 20001
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/>

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Arrangement.....	2
Biographical / Historical.....	1
Scope and Contents.....	2
Names and Subjects	2
Container Listing	3
Series 1: Alice Barber Stephens, 1884-1986.....	3

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Alice Barber Stephens papers
Date:	1884-1986
Identifier:	AAA.stepalic
Creator:	Stephens, Alice Barber, 1858-1932
Extent:	0.3 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of engraver and illustrator Alice Barber Stephens measure 0.3 linear feet and date from 1884 to 1986. The collection includes letters, photographs, printed material, and miscellaneous items.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The Alice Barber Stephens papers were donated in 1988 by Stephen's granddaughter and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Starr.

Available Formats

The collection is available on 35mm microfilm reel 4152 at the Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan. Researchers should note that the arrangement of material described in the container inventory may not reflect the arrangement of the collection on microfilm.

Processing Information

The collection was processed by Marina Pacini in 1988. A finding aid was written by Caroline Donadio in 2018.

Preferred Citation

Alice Barber Stephens papers, 1884-1986. 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.

Biographical / Historical

Alice Barber Stephens (1858-1931) was an engraver and illustrator active in the arts and crafts community established by William Price in 1901. She studied at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts under Thomas Eakins, the Drexel Academy under Howard Pyle, the Pennsylvania Academy of Design for Women, and at the Julian and Colarossi Academies in Paris. Stephens is primarily known for her illustrations in *Harper's*,

Century, and *Scribner's* magazines. She was married to the illustrator Charles H. Stephens and lived in a barn remodeled by William Price in Rose Valley, Pennsylvania.

Scope and Contents

The papers of engraver and illustrator Alice Barber Stephens measure 0.3 linear feet and date from 1884 to 1986. The collection includes letters, photographs, printed material, and miscellaneous items.

Letters are from publishers discussing projects and fees, and by writers complimenting her work. Correspondents include Edward Bok, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Hamlin Garland, Ella Higginson, Herbert Hoover, Thornton Oakley, Howard Pyle, and Jessie Willcox Smith.

Photographs contain pictures of Stephens, her husband, and their house Thunderbird Lodge in Rose Valley, Pennsylvania. There are also photographs of amateur theatrical productions and of the dedication ceremony for Albert Laessle's monument "The Beaver."

Printed material consists of clippings concerning Stephens' work and her husband's collection of Native American artifacts, reproductions of Stephens' illustrations, exhibition catalogs, and a booklet about Stephens.

Miscellaneous items includes a manuscript "The Artist's Masque" by Charles H. Stephens, various notes, an inventory of furniture, Library of Congress receipts for works of art, and award certificates.

Arrangement

Due to the small size of this collection the papers are arranged as one series.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Arts and crafts movement
- Women artists
- Women illustrators

Names:

- Laessle, Albert, 1877-1954
- Oakley, Thornton, 1881-1953
- Pyle, Howard, 1853-1911
- Smith, Jessie Willcox, 1863-1935
- Stephens, Charles H., 1851-1931

Occupations:

- Illustrators -- Pennsylvania -- Rose Valley

Container Listing

Series 1: Alice Barber Stephens, 1884-1986

Scope and Contents: Letters are from publishers discussing projects and fees, and by writers complimenting her work. Correspondents include Edward Bok, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Hamlin Garland, Ella Higginson, Herbert Hoover, Thornton Oakley, Howard Pyle, and Jessie Willcox Smith.

Photographs contain pictures of Stephens, her husband, and their house Thunderbird Lodge in Rose Valley, Pennsylvania. There are also photographs of amateur theatrical productions and of the dedication ceremony for Albert Laessle's monument "The Beaver."

Printed material consists of clippings concerning Stephens' work and her husband's collection of Native American artifacts, reproductions of Stephens' illustrations, exhibition catalogs, and a booklet about Stephens.

Miscellaneous items includes a manuscript "The Artist's Masque" by Charles H. Stephens, various notes, an inventory of furniture, Library of Congress receipts for works of art, and award certificates.

Box 1, Folder 1-6	Letters, 1889-1974
Box 1, Folder 7	Photographs of the Stephens Family, circa 1910-1918
Box 1, Folder 8	Photographs of Thunderbird Lodge, circa 1910s
Box 1, Folder 9	Photographs of Amateur Theatrical Productions, 1915-1917
Box 1, Folder 10	Photographs of Dedication Ceremony for The Beaver by Albert Laessle, circa 1920
Box 1, Folder 11-12	Printed Material, Clippings, 1893-1986
Box 1, Folder 13	Printed Material, undated
Box 1, Folder 14	Miscellaneous, undated
Oversize 2	Certificates, 1884-1885

[Return to Table of Contents](#)