



Smithsonian  
*Archives of American Art*

A Finding Aid to the Abbott Handerson Thayer  
and Thayer Family Papers, 1851-1999(bulk  
1881-1950), in the Archives of American Art

Erin Corley

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

March 22, 2007

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/>

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## Collection Overview

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| <b>Repository:</b> | Archives of American Art  |
| <b>Title:</b>      | Abbott Handerson Thayer and Thayer Family papers  |
| <b>Identifier:</b> | AAA.thayabbo  |
| <b>Date:</b>       | 1851-1999<br>(bulk 1881-1950)   |
| <b>Extent:</b>     | 4.9 linear feet   |
| <b>Creator:</b>    | Thayer, Abbott Handerson, 1849-1921   |
| <b>Language:</b>   | English   |
| <b>Summary:</b>    | The papers of painter and naturalist, Abbott Handerson Thayer, and the Thayer family date from 1851 to 1999, with the bulk of the material dating from 1881 to 1950, and measure 4.9 linear feet. Thayer's painting career, interest in concealing coloration (camouflage) in nature, and relationships with artists, patrons, family, and friends are documented through correspondence, writings, scattered legal and financial records, printed materials, and a scrapbook. Photographs are of Thayer, his family, studio, and friends, including artists. The collection also contains family papers created by his second wife, Emma Beach Thayer, his son Gerald, his daughters Mary and Gladys, and Gladys' husband David Reasoner, who managed Thayer's estate after his death. |

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## Administrative Information

### Provenance

The Abbott Handerson Thayer and Thayer Family papers were donated in 1999 by Abbott Thayer's great-grandson, John Plunket, who received the papers from his mother Jean Reasoner Plunket. In 2005 Bruce Gimelson donated additional material purchased from relatives of Emma Beach Thayer.

### Separated Material

Anne Whiting, a niece of Abbott Handerson Thayer, loaned a diary kept by Thayer, a "Family Record" written by William Henry Thayer, correspondence, printed material, and photographs for microfilming in 1971. These items were returned to Whiting after microfilming and are available to researchers on reel 48. In 1985 Jean Reasoner Plunket, Thayer's granddaughter, loaned original artwork by Thayer which was returned to her after microfilming on reel 3417. These materials are not included in the container listing of this finding aid.

### Related Material

The Archives of American Art holds several collections related to Abbott Handerson Thayer. These include research material on Abbott Handerson Thayer and other artists, 1895-1990,

donated by Thomas B. Brumbaugh; the Abbott Handerson Thayer letter and drawings to Caroline Peddle Ball, circa 1890-1893; "The Drawings of Abbott Thayer", by Elizabeth Robins Pennell, circa 1921; and the Nelson and Henry C. White research material, 1898-1978, which includes many letters, photographs, and other material originally belonging to the Thayer family.

## Alternative Forms Available

The papers of **Abbott Handerson Thayer** and the Thayer family in the Archives of American Art were digitized in 2007. The bulk of the papers have been scanned and total 10,074 images.

Types of materials that have not been digitized include certain printed materials and financial records, unidentified photographs and photographs of artwork, and certain items related to others, as noted in the folder lists for each series.

## Processing Information

Portions of the collection received a preliminary level of processing after donation. The entire collection was fully processed, arranged, and described by Erin Corley and digitized in 2007 with funding provided by the Terra Foundation for American Art. Glass plate negative re-housed in 2015 with a grant provided by the Smithsonian Collections Care and Preservation Fund.

## Preferred Citation

Abbott Handerson Thayer and Thayer Family papers, 1851-1999 (bulk 1881-1950). Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

## Restrictions on Access

The collection has been digitized and is available online via AAA's website. Glass plate negative is housed separately and closed to researchers.

## Ownership and Literary Rights

The Abbott Handerson Thayer and Thayer Family papers are owned by the Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution. Literary rights as possessed by the donor have been dedicated to public use for research, study, and scholarship. The collection is subject to all copyright laws.

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## Biographical Note

Abbott Handerson Thayer (1849-1921) was born in Boston to Dr. William Henry Thayer and Ellen Handerson Thayer. After his birth his family moved to Woodstock, Vermont, and in 1855 settled in Keene, New Hampshire. As a child Thayer developed a love of nature that was encouraged by his close family, which included three sisters, Ellen, Margaret, and Susan. At the age of fifteen he was sent to the Chauncy Hall School in Boston, and while there he met Henry D. Morse, an amateur animal painter. Under Morse's instruction Abbott developed his skill in painting birds and other wildlife and began painting animal portraits on commission. In 1867 he moved to Brooklyn, New York and attended the Brooklyn Academy of Design where he studied under J. B. Whittaker for two years. In 1868 he began showing his work at the National Academy of Design and enrolled there in 1870, studying under Lemuel Wilmarth. He met many emerging artists during this period, including his future first wife, Kate Bloede and his close friend, Daniel

Chester French. Thayer became part of progressive art circles, showing his work at the newly formed Society of American Artists, while continuing to develop his skill as an animal and landscape painter.

Thayer and Kate Bloede were married in 1875. They moved to Paris and he studied at the École des Beaux-Arts, first under Henri Lehmann, and then with Jean-Léon Gérôme. While in Europe he befriended fellow artists Everton Sainsbury, Thomas Millie Dow, George de Forest Brush, and Dwight Tryon. His daughter Mary was born in 1876 and his son William Henry in 1878. The family returned to America in 1879 and settled in his parent's home in Brooklyn, where he changed his focus to portraits. After the tragic deaths of William Henry in 1880 and of their second son, Ralph Waldo, in 1881, the family led a migratory existence living in various parts of New England. In 1881 while living in Nantucket they met Emmeline (Emma) Beach (1850-1924) who would become close friends with Abbott and Kate and would be known as "Addie" to the family. In 1883 their son Gerald was born and in 1886 their daughter Gladys was born. In 1887 Thayer settled his family in Keene, New Hampshire, and began teaching a small group of students. Around this time his wife began suffering from severe depression and went to a sanatorium in 1888. She died in 1891 and that fall Thayer married Emma Beach who had helped to care for him and his children during his wife's illness.

Despite family tragedies, Thayer became a leader in the New York art world during the 1880s and 1890s. He was a successful portraitist and painted allegorical figures of angels, women, and children, which were popular among collectors of this period, including his patrons Charles Lang Freer and John Gellatly. He often used his children as models, especially his eldest daughter, Mary.

In the late 1880s one of Thayer's students, Mary Amory Greene, built a house and studio for the Thayer family on her land in Dublin, New Hampshire, and in 1901 the family settled there permanently. Many of Thayer's artist friends lived nearby, such as Richard Meryman and George de Forest Brush, and the Thayer family frequently entertained prominent visitors such as Edward Waldo Emerson and Samuel Clemens. Abbott Thayer taught painting to his children, and Gerald and Gladys both became artists and art educators. Gladys married David Reasoner, a student of Abbott Thayer who later became his assistant. Other students of Thayer included Rockwell Kent, Ben Foster, Barry Faulkner, and Louis Agassiz Furtess.

Greatly influenced by transcendentalism and the spirituality of nature, Thayer again began to paint landscapes, especially of nearby Mount Monadnock. He was very interested in the study of protective coloration in the wild, and was an advocate for nature conservation and bird sanctuaries. He published the book *Concealing Coloration in the Animal Kingdom* in 1909 with his son Gerald, but encountered much resistance to his theories. Thayer also wrote about how his camouflage theories could be applied to military warships and uniforms. These theories failed to gain widespread government interest and after suffering from nervous exhaustion, he spent the rest of his life painting landscapes at his home in Dublin, until his death in 1921.

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## Scope and Content Note

The papers of painter and naturalist, Abbott Handerson Thayer, and the Thayer family date from 1851 to 1999, with the bulk of the material dating from 1881 to 1950, and measure 4.9 linear feet. Thayer's painting career, interest in concealing coloration in nature, and relationships with artists, patrons, family, and friends are documented through correspondence, writings, scattered legal and financial records, printed materials, and a scrapbook. Photographs are of Thayer, his family, studio, and friends, including artists. The collection also contains family papers created by his second wife, Emma Beach Thayer, his son Gerald, his daughters Mary and Gladys, and Gladys' husband David Reasoner, who managed Thayer's estate after his death.

Scattered Biographical Material includes a brief autobiographical statement and chronology by Abbott Thayer, lists of artworks by Abbott Thayer and Gladys Thayer Reasoner, and biographical information about Thayer's granddaughter, Jean Reasoner Plunket. Two linear feet of family correspondence includes Abbott Thayer's correspondence with patrons Charles L. Freer and John Gellatly; with many artists, several of whom were close friends, including Samuel Colman, Thomas Millie Dow, Daniel Chester French, Richard Meryman, Everton Sainsbury, Louis Agassiz Fuertes, and E. M. Taber; and former students, such as Ben Foster and Barry Faulkner; and with other friends, many of them prominent members of society, such as Samuel Clemens, Royal Cortissoz, Edward Waldo Emerson, and Stanford White. Also found is Thayer's correspondence with scientists and naturalists discussing his theories on protective coloration in nature. Correspondence of his second wife Emma Beach Thayer, his first wife, Kate Bloede Thayer, his daughter, Gladys Thayer Reasoner, her husband and executor of Thayer's estate, David Reasoner, and other family members are also included in the papers.

Writings and notes by Thayer record his thoughts on concealing coloration, nature, restoration of artwork, and other topics. Writings by others include those by Emma Beach Thayer, daughters Mary and Gladys, and Thayer scholars. The collection also contains correspondence of David Reasoner and other family members, as well as financial and legal documents regarding the estate of Abbott Handerson Thayer and Emma Beach Thayer. Additional financial and legal material includes ledgers, accounts statements, bills, a patent granted to Thayer and Gerome Brush, legal agreements, property deeds, and a map of Thayer's property.

Printed material include books, including one written by Theodore Roosevelt in response to Thayer's book on concealing coloration. Also found are newspaper and magazine clippings, and exhibition announcements and catalogs. Photographs are of Abbott Thayer, his wife Emma; his studio and home in Dublin, New Hampshire; friends, including Rockwell Kent and Ralph Waldo Emerson; and of unidentified people. Artwork includes a few drawings by Thayer, drawings and paintings by his children, and sketchbooks belonging to David Reasoner and Jean Reasoner Plunket. The collection also includes one large scrapbook kept by David Reasoner documenting Abbott Thayer's artwork.

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## Arrangement

The collection is arranged into 10 series. Glass plate negative is housed separately and closed to researchers.

- Series 1: Biographical Material, 1878 - circa 1966 (Box 1; 7 folders)
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1867-1987 (Box 1-3; 2.0 linear feet)
- Series 3: Writings, 1888-1945 (Box 3; 0.8 linear feet)
- Series 4: Estate Papers, 1921-1954 (Box 3-4; 0.5 linear feet)
- Series 5: Other Financial Records, 1889-1957 (Box 4; 7 folders)
- Series 6: Legal Records, 1891-1927 (Box 4; 4 folders)
- Series 7: Printed Material, 1851, 1896-1999 (Box 4-5; 0.4 linear feet)
- Series 8: Photographs, circa 1861-1933 (Box 5, MGP 2; 0.2 linear feet)
- Series 9: Artwork, 1887 - circa 1940s (Box 5-6, 8; 8 folders)
- Series 10: Scrapbook, circa 1910-1920 (Box 7; 0.3 linear feet)

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## Names and Subject Terms

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

Cultures:

Art and camouflage  
Camouflage (Biology)  
Naturalists  
Painters -- New Hampshire -- Dublin

Types of Materials:

Photographs  
Scrapbooks

Names:

Clemens, Samuel Langhorne, 1835-1910  
Colman, Samuel, 1832-1920  
Cortissoz, Royal, 1869-1948  
Dow, Thomas Millie  
Emerson, Edward Waldo, 1844-1930  
Emerson, Ralph Waldo, 1803-1882  
Faulkner, Barry, 1881-1966  
Foster, Ben, 1852-1926  
Freer, Charles Lang, 1856-1919  
French, Daniel Chester, 1850-1931  
Fuertes, Louis Agassiz, 1874-1927  
Gellatly, John, 1853-1931  
Kent, Rockwell, 1882-1971  
Meryman, Richard Sumner, 1881-1963  
Plunket, Jean Reasoner  
Reasoner, David  
Roosevelt, Theodore, 1858-1919  
Sainsbury, Everton  
Taber, E. M.  
Thayer, Emma B., 1850-1924  
Thayer, Gerald Handerson, 1883-1939  
Thayer, Gladys, 1886 or 7-1945  
Thayer, Kate Bloede  
Thayer, Mary  
White, Stanford, 1853-1906

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Biographical Material, 1878-circa 1966

*(Box 1; 9 folders)*

Biographical material includes a brief autobiographical statement by Abbott Thayer and a chronology of his artwork and family activities from 1880 to 1921. Also found is the French birth certificate for Thayer's son William Henry Thayer, newspaper obituaries for Emma Beach Thayer, and lists of artworks by Abbott Thayer and Gladys Thayer Reasoner. A biographical sketch written by David Reasoner about the early life of his daughter, Jean Reasoner Plunket, and Jean's genealogy research on the Thayer and Plunket families are filed here.

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Box 1, Folder 1 | Abbott Handerson Thayer Autobiographical Summary and Chronology, 1907, 1921<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a> |
| Box 1, Folder 2 | Abbott Handerson Thayer, Exhibition Tickets, 1897, 1908<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a>                     |
| Box 1, Folder 3 | Emma Beach Thayer Obituaries, 1924<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a>  |
| Box 1, Folder 4 | Birth Certificate for William Henry Thayer, 1878<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a>                            |
| Box 1, Folder 5 | Lists of Artwork by Abbott Handerson Thayer, circa 1922<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a>                     |
| Box 1, Folder 6 | Lists of Portraits Painted by Gladys Thayer Reasoner, circa 1930<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a>            |
| Box 1, Folder 7 | Gladys Thayer Reasoner's Address Book, circa 1905<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a>                           |
| Box 1, Folder 8 | Jean Reasoner Plunket Biographical Sketches, circa 1943<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a>                     |
| Box 1, Folder 9 | Genealogy for Thayer and Plunket Families, circa 1966<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a>                       |

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## Series 2: Correspondence, 1867-1987

(Box 1-3; 2.0 linear feet)

Personal and professional correspondence of the Thayer family is found in this series. The bulk of the correspondence belongs to Abbott Handerson Thayer and his second wife Emma Beach Thayer, although several folders are for Thayer's first wife Kate Bloede Thayer. Correspondence is also found for Thayer's daughter Gladys Thayer Reasoner and her husband David Reasoner and other family members, including Mary Thayer Birch, Gerald Thayer, and Jean Reasoner Plunket.

The Correspondence series has been arranged primarily by individual family member or general correspondence into 6 subseries:

- Subseries 2.1: Abbott Handerson Thayer Correspondence, 1881-1921
- Subseries 2.2: Emma Beach Thayer Correspondence, 1865-1924
- Subseries 2.3: Kate Bloede Thayer Correspondence, 1881-1889
- Subseries 2.4: Gladys Thayer Reasoner Correspondence, 1907-1943
- Subseries 2.5: David Reasoner Correspondence, 1918-1954
- Subseries 2.6: General Correspondence, 1883-1987

### 2.1: Abbott Handerson Thayer Correspondence, 1881-1921

Abbott Handerson Thayer's correspondence consists primarily of letters to Thayer, but includes a few handwritten copies or drafts of his outgoing letters. Found here are numerous personal letters to and from family members, including his daughters Mary and Gladys (Galla), his son Gerald (Gra), and his wife Emma (also known as Addie), as well as nephews, nieces, sisters, cousins, and other extended family. There is correspondence with his patrons Charles L. Freer and John Gellatly; with many artists, several of whom were close friends, including Samuel Colman, Thomas Millie Dow, Daniel Chester French, Richard Meryman, Everton Sainsbury, Louis Agassiz Fuertes, and E. M. Taber; and former students, such as Ben Foster and Barry Faulkner; with other friends, many of them prominent members of society, such as Samuel Clemens, Royal Cortissoz, Edward Waldo Emerson, and Stanford White. A large amount of Thayer's correspondence concerns his research on protective coloration in nature and the publication of his book *Concealing Coloration in the Animal Kingdom*. To pursue and defend his theories on concealing coloration, especially as applied to birds, he corresponded with many notable naturalists, biologists, ornithologists, and collection curators. Most notable is his extensive correspondence with Sir Edwin Bagnall Poulton, a British zoologist, and draft letters to Theodore Roosevelt, in defense and promotion of his work. He corresponded with many, including Franklin D. Roosevelt, then the Assistant Secretary of the Navy, and the War Office in London, promoting his theory on the value of concealing coloration for warships and the military. Correspondence is arranged alphabetically by last name of correspondent and chronologically within each folder.

Box 1, Folder 10            Allen, Francis, 1909-1915

[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 1, Folder 11            A, 1904-1918

[Image\(s\)](#)

- Adams, Charles C.
- Adams, Jenny S.
- Allen, John E.
- American Academy of Arts and Letters

Box 1, Folder 12            Bartsch, Paul, 1914-1917

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
|                  | <a href="#">Image(s)</a>  |
| Box 1, Folder 13 | Beach, Ella, circa 1891-1914<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a>  |
| Box 1, Folder 14 | Beach, Moses S. & Chloe, 1882-circa 1890<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a>  |
| Box 1, Folder 15 | Beach, Violet, 1890-circa 1915<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a>  |
| Box 1, Folder 16 | Birch, Fred & Mary Thayer, 1897-1914<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a>  |
| Box 1, Folder 17 | Bowditch, Vincent Y., 1883, 1915-1916<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a>   |
| Box 1, Folder 18 | Brewster, William, 1902-1911<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a>  |
| Box 1, Folder 19 | Ba-Be, 1890s-1918<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Baird, J. A.</li><li>• Barton, C. Vanderbilt</li><li>• Battin, Benjamin</li><li>• Bayard, Fairfax</li><li>• Beach, Charles</li><li>• Beatty, John W.</li><li>• Bell, Arthur G.</li><li>• Bell, F. Jeffrey</li><li>• Benson, Frank</li></ul>   |
| Box 1, Folder 20 | Bi-Bu, 1902-1921<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Birch, Elsie</li><li>• Birch, Mrs. (Fred Birch's mother)</li><li>• Blashfield, Edwin Howland</li><li>• Bloede, Victor G.</li><li>• Bonnat, Mr.</li><li>• Braun, John F.</li><li>• Brenton, Albert G.</li><li>• Brown, H. S.</li><li>• Bruce, Charles M.</li><li>• Buffalo Fine Arts Academy</li><li>• Bureau des Inventions, Ministere de l'Armement</li><li>• Burlingham, L. L.</li><li>• Burroughs, John</li></ul> |
| Box 1, Folder 21 | Clemens, Samuel L., 1905-1909<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a>   |
| Box 1, Folder 22 | Colman, Samuel, 1913, 1915  |

[Image\(s\)](#)

- Box 1, Folder 23      Cortissoz, Royal, 1916-1917  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 24      Ca-CI, 1897-1918  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Cabot, Mrs. Arthur (Susie)
  - Cabot, Elise Pumpelly
  - Cabot, W. B.
  - Calkins, Professor
  - Carnegie, Andrew
  - Carr, Albert
  - Cattell, J.
  - Channing, Anna K.
  - Cheney, Frederick E.
  - Churchill, Winston
  - Clark, Austin H.
  - Clark, Edgar
  - Clark, John S.
  - Clarke, Samuel F.
- Box 1, Folder 25      Co-Cu, 1911-1918  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Cockerell, Theo. D. A.
  - Codair, Ernest W.
  - Coffin, William A.
  - Contant, R. B.
  - Coolidge, Dr. A.
  - Coolidge, John T.
  - Cooper, Susan Fenimore
  - Crandall, L. S.
  - Cunard S. S. Line
- Box 1, Folder 26-27      Dow, Thomas Millie, 1883-1896  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 28      D, 1910-1918  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Davis, Livingston
  - Dewing, Thomas Wilmer
  - Dwight, Daniel A.
- Box 1, Folder 29      Eckstorm, Fannie, 1906-1917  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 30      Emerson, Edward Waldo, 1910-1914  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 31      E, 1897-1915

[Image\(s\)](#)

- Endicott, William
- Ewart, Professor

Box 1, Folder 32 Forbes, Alexander, 1914-1916

[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 1, Folder 33 Foster, Ben, 1915

[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 1, Folder 34 Freer, Charles L., 1893-1916

[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 1, Folder 35 French, Daniel Chester, 1916-1918

[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 1, Folder 36 Fa-Fi, 1904-1921

[Image\(s\)](#)

- Farmborough, Percy W.
- Faulkner, Barry
- Fenn, Roger
- Fischer, Dr. Martin H.
- Fisher, Ned

Box 1, Folder 37 Fo-Fu, 1907-1916

[Image\(s\)](#)

- Forbush, Edward Howe
- *Forest and Stream*
- Franck, Peter
- Fuertes, Louis Agassiz

Box 1, Folder 38 Gellatly, John, 1910-1918

[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 1, Folder 39 G, 1893-1917

[Image\(s\)](#)

- Gérôme, Jean-Léon
- Grave, Caswell
- Green, H. S.
- Greene, Mary Amory
- Grovenor, Gilbert H.
- Guthrie, W. N.

Box 1, Folder 40 Handerson, Esther, 1889-1895

[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 1, Folder 41 H, 1911-1919

[Image\(s\)](#)

- Hardy, Walter M.
- Hatch, Rob
- Hawthorne, Charles W.

- Hazen, John D.
  - Hemenway, Mr.
  - Hill, Mrs.
  - Hodge, C. F.
  - Holbrook, Mrs. Frederick
  - Hutchins, Professor
- Box 1, Folder 42 James, William & Alice, 1910-1920  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 43 J-K, 1903, 1914-1916  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- James, Angela?
  - Johnson, R. U.
  - Kurtz, W. M.
- Box 1, Folder 44 Longley, W. H., 1916-1918  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 45 L, 1899-1920  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Lankester, Edwin Ray
  - Latham, Mrs. C. F.
  - Lay, Wilfrid
  - Leicester
  - Library of Congress
  - *Life* magazine
  - Lillie, Frank R.
  - Lucas, Frederic A.
- Box 1, Folder 46 Meryman, Richard (Wig), 1916-1919  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 47 Ma, 1892, 1908-1919  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Macbeth Galleries
  - Mackintosh, Henry S.
  - Macmillan Company
  - MacVeagh, Franklin
  - Manship, Paul
  - Marshall, Guy A. K.
  - Masfield, John
  - Mathewson, Dr.
  - Mayer, Alfred G.
  - Mayor's Committee on Cultivation of Vacant Lots by the Unemployed
- Box 1, Folder 48 Me-Mu, 1896-1924  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Mead, Teddy
  - Mercur, Dr. William H.

- Merriam, Clinton Hart
  - Minnigerode, C. Powell
  - Moloney, Governor
  - Momber, E. A.
  - Morris, Mr.
- Box 1, Folder 49      N-O, 1913-1921  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- National Academy of Design
  - Olcott, Adeline Cheney
  - Old Colony Trust Company
  - Oldys, Henry
- Box 1, Folder 50-51      Poulton, Sir Edward Bagnall, 1898-1915  
(2 folders)  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 52-54      Poulton, Sir Edward Bagnall, Undated Letters, circa 1898-1915  
(3 folders)  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 55      P, 1902-1915  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Packard, Alpheus Spring
  - Parker, G. H.
  - Patten, Mary C.
  - Peabody, Francis Greenwood
  - Pepper, Charles H.
  - Perabo, Ernst
  - Perkins, Katrine C.
  - Pocock, R. I.
  - Psychological Laboratory, Cornell University
  - Putnam, A. P.
- Box 1, Folder 56      Reasoner, Gladys Thayer, 1897-1919  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 57      Roosevelt, Franklin D., 1917-1918  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 58      Roosevelt, Theodore, circa 1910  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 59      Q-R, 1903-1917  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Quelch, Joe
  - Rand, Mr.
  - Reusch, Hans & Helga

- Rice, James Henry
- Richards, Patty
- Robbins, Reginald C.
- Robinson, B. L.
- Robinson, Scott

Box 1, Folder 60

Sainsbury, Everton, 1876-1882

[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 1, Folder 61

Sa-Sl, 1896-1922

[Image\(s\)](#)

- Sackett, Edith S.
- Sainsbury, Harrington
- Sears, Sara C.
- Secretary of the Admiralty
- Sheldon, C. S.
- Shurtleff, Roswell Morse
- Shurtleff, William H.
- Slack, Julia L.
- Sloane, William M.

Box 1, Folder 62

Sm-St, 1899-1919

[Image\(s\)](#)

- Smith, William Lord
- Southwick, E. B.
- Stephens, T. C.
- Stillman, Clara

Box 1, Folder 63-65

Taber, E. M. & Frances F. Holt (Taber's sister), 1890-1913  
(3 folders)[Image\(s\)](#)[Image\(s\)](#)[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 1, Folder 66-67

Thayer, Emma Beach, 1881-1919  
(2 folders)[Image\(s\)](#)[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 1, Folder 68

Thayer, Emma Beach, Undated Letters, circa 1881-1919

[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 1, Folder 69

T-V, 1890, 1907-1916

[Image\(s\)](#)

- Thayer, David
- Thayer, Gerald
- Tiffany, Louis Comfort
- Tryon, Dwight W.
- Van Norden, Ottomar H.
- Von Wittenburg, Marie

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Box 1, Folder 70 | War Office, London, 1916-1917<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a>   |
| Box 1, Folder 71 | Whelpley, Jay & Philip, 1904-1917<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a>   |
| Box 1, Folder 72 | Wa-We, 1896-1918<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Walker, H. O.</li> <li>• Wallace, Alfred R.</li> <li>• Walton, Blanche W.</li> <li>• Warren, Gretchen</li> <li>• Watkins &amp; Doncaster</li> <li>• Webster, Arthur Gordon</li> <li>• Weigels, Mrs.</li> <li>• Weld, George F.</li> <li>• Wellesley College</li> <li>• Wentworth, N.</li> </ul> |
| Box 1, Folder 73 | Wh-Wy, 1882-1917<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• White, Stanford</li> <li>• Wilcox, W. D.</li> <li>• Wild Life Protection League of America</li> <li>• Wilson, Woodrow</li> <li>• Wyeth, N. C.</li> <li>• Wylie, J. E.</li> </ul>  |
| Box 1, Folder 74 | Y-Z, 1889, 1916<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yale University</li> <li>• Zuler?, H. Morris</li> </ul>  |
| Box 1, Folder 75 | Unidentified Correspondents, 1891-1918<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a>  |
| Box 1, Folder 76 | Unidentified Correspondents, Fragments, circa 1880-1920<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a>   |

## 2.2: Emma Beach Thayer Correspondence, 1865-1924

This subseries contains the correspondence of Emma Beach Thayer, also known as Addie by her family, and document her personal life, family relationships, and management of Abbott Thayer's legacy. Found here is a large amount of correspondence with family members, including her step-daughters Mary and Gladys, her step-son Gerald, as well as her parents, sisters, nephews, nieces, and other extended family. Also found is extensive correspondence with her friend, and Thayer's first wife, Kate Bloede Thayer. Much of her correspondence is with the same people who corresponded with Abbott Thayer, but also includes other friends, most notably, Henry Ward Beecher.

After 1916 Emma managed much of Abbott Thayer's correspondence due to his poor health, and included here are a few letters regarding the sale or exhibition of his artwork. Many of the letters found here are condolences to Emma after Abbott's death in 1921, including many letters from artists and



friends expressing thoughts and memories of his life. There are also letters from Emma to many of Abbott's friends requesting his letters or copies of his for a planned book of Thayer's correspondence.

Researchers should note that correspondence between Emma and Abbott is arranged in subseries 2.1. Emma's correspondence is arranged alphabetically by last name and chronologically within each folder.

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Box 1, Folder 77    | A, 1905, 1921-1923<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Addams, Jane</li> <li>• Allen, Glover M.</li> <li>• Allen, Irene C.</li> <li>• Allen, Nellie Wright</li> <li>• American Academy of Arts and Letters</li> <li>• American Federation of Arts</li> <li>• Andrews, Robert D.</li> <li>• <i>Atlantic Monthly</i></li> <li>• Ayres, Philip W.</li> </ul> |
| Box 1, Folder 78    | Beach, Moses S. & Chloe (parents), 1865-1866, 1870, 1902<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a>   |
| Box 1, Folder 79    | Beach, William & Mabel, 1902<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a>   |
| Box 1, Folder 80-81 | Beecher, Henry Ward, 1870-1883<br>(2 folders)<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a><br><a href="#">Image(s)</a>  |
| Box 1, Folder 82    | Benson, Frank W., 1921-1923<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a>  |
| Box 1, Folder 83-89 | Birch, Mary Thayer, 1891-1923<br>(7 folders)<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a><br><a href="#">Image(s)</a><br><a href="#">Image(s)</a><br><a href="#">Image(s)</a><br><a href="#">Image(s)</a><br><a href="#">Image(s)</a><br><a href="#">Image(s)</a>   |
| Box 1, Folder 90    | Ba-Bi, 1878, 1914-1922<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Backhouse, Irene</li> <li>• Barker, Virgil</li> <li>• Bartsch, Paul</li> <li>• Bayard, Mabel</li> <li>• Beach, Ella</li> <li>• Beatty, Mr.</li> </ul>  |

- Beaulieu, Bessie Price
- Bigelow, Henry B.
- Birch, Elsie

Box 1, Folder 91

BI-Bu, 1917-1923

[Image\(s\)](#)

- Blashfield, Edwin Howland
- Bowditch, Nancy
- Bowditch, Vincent Y.
- Brackett, Mary A.
- Bradley, Susan H.
- Braun, John F.
- Brown, Demetra & Kenneth
- Browne, George & Emily H.
- Brush, George de Forest
- Buffalo Fine Arts Academy
- Burlingham, L. L.

Box 1, Folder 92

Clemens, Samuel, circa 1880s, 1905

[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 1, Folder 93

Cortissoz, Royal, 1917, 1921-1923

[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 1, Folder 94

C, 1917-1922

[Image\(s\)](#)

- Carr, W. S.
- Channing, Anna K.
- Churchill, Alfred
- Coffin, Grace P.
- Coffin, William A.
- Cole, Kate Foote
- Cole, Timothy
- Contant, R. B.
- Coolidge, John T.
- Curtis, Benjamin

Box 1, Folder 95

Dow, Thomas Millie, 1884-1888

[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 1, Folder 96

D-E, circa 1900-1922

[Image\(s\)](#)

- Dewing, Maria Oakey
- Dewing, Thomas Wilmer
- Dickerson, Roy E.
- Dow, Florence E.
- Elliot, Mary
- Emerson, Annie S.
- Emerson, Edward W.

Box 1, Folder 97

Freer, Charles L., 1915-1918

- [Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 98 French, Daniel Chester, 1917-1922  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 99 Fuertes, Louis Agassiz, 1921-1923  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 100 F, 1907-1923  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Faulkner, Barry
  - Field, Mary D.
  - Fischer, Dr. Martin H.
  - Forbes, Alexander
  - Foster, Ben
  - Freer Gallery of Art
  - Fuller, Lucie Fairchild
- Box 2, Folder 1-3 Gellatly, John, 1917-1922  
(3 folders)  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 2, Folder 4 G, 1920-1923  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Gab\_\_?, Clara C.
  - Gould, Laura Stedman
  - Goodnow, W. L.
  - Gulick, Alida Carey
- Box 2, Folder 5 H, 1916-1923  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Hassam, Childe
  - Hawthorne, Charles W.
  - Hawthorne, Marion
  - Hazen, John D.
  - Historical Press Association
  - Hemenway, Mr.
  - Holt, Florence F.
  - Houghton Mifflin Company
- Box 2, Folder 6 James, William & Alice, 1921-1924  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 2, Folder 7 J-L, 1906-1927  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Jenkins, Elizabeth F.
  - John Lane Company
  - Kent, Rockwell
  - Keyes, Alicia

- Kittredge, S. Dana
- Low, Will H.

Box 2, Folder 8

M, 1921-1923

[Image\(s\)](#)

- Macbeth, Robert W.
- MacKaye, Percy
- MacVeagh, Franklin
- Masefield, J.
- Mason, John?
- McIlvane, William M.
- Merriman, Charlotte B.
- Minnigerode, C. Powell
- Morris, Harrison S.

Box 2, Folder 9

N-P, 1918-1924

[Image\(s\)](#)

- National Association of Audubon Societies
- Of, George Ferdinand
- Pabrelivitsch?, Mme. Ossip
- Pepper, Charles H.
- Pevey?, Eustace
- Powell, Caroline
- Powers, Henrietta
- Putnam, James J.

Box 2, Folder 10

Reasoner, David, 1920-1924

[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 2, Folder 11-15

Reasoner, Gladys Thayer, 1910-1923  
(5 folders)[Image\(s\)](#)[Image\(s\)](#)[Image\(s\)](#)[Image\(s\)](#)[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 2, Folder 16

Reasoner, Gladys Thayer, Undated Letters, circa 1910-1923

[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 2, Folder 17

Rice, James Henry, 1921-1924

[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 2, Folder 18

R-S, 1913-1924

[Image\(s\)](#)

- Reilly, Mary S.
- Roosevelt, Edith K.
- Sackett, Edith S.
- Sainsbury, Grace E.
- Sargent, John Singer
- Sears, Mrs.

- Sharman, John
  - Shurtleff, Clara E.
  - Slack, Julia
  - Smart, Ann Wentworth
  - Smith, Annie Morrill
  - Smith, H. A. Hammond
  - Stillman, Evangeline
  - Stone, Ellen J.
- Box 2, Folder 19-20 Thayer, Gerald H., 1917, 1921-1923  
(2 folders)  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 2, Folder 21-25 Thayer, Kate Bloede, 1881-1887  
(5 folders)  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 2, Folder 26 Thayer, Kate Bloede, Undated Letters, circa 1881-1887  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 2, Folder 27 T-V, 1891, 1908-1924  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Thayer, Dr. William & Ellen Handerson
  - Treasury Department, Internal Revenue Service
  - Troccoli, Giovanni B.
  - Tryon, Dwight W.
  - Twitchill?, Charlotte H. P.
  - Van Loon, Elize Bowditch
  - Von Villern, Wilhelmina
  - Vose, Robert C.
- Box 2, Folder 28-32 Whelpley, Jay & Philip, 1905-1924  
(5 folders)  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 2, Folder 33 Whelpley, Jay & Philip, Undated Letters, circa 1905-1924  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 2, Folder 34 W-Y, 1916-1924  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Walker, Henry O.

- War Office, London
- Wheeler, Emma H.
- White, Lawrence Grant
- Whiting, Sue Thayer
- Whiting, Winifred Harris
- Whitney, Douglas
- Wister, Owen
- Wyeth, Annie W.
- Wyeth, N. C.
- Yale University

Box 2, Folder 35      Unidentified Correspondents, 1867-1923  
[Image\(s\)](#)

### 2.3: Kate Bloede Thayer Correspondence, 1881-1889

Kate Bloede Thayer's correspondence documents family activities and friendships during the 1880s. Included are letters in German from her grandfather, letters from her brother, Victor, and several letters from her daughter Mary sent during Kate's time at a sanatorium. Also found are letters from artist friends including Arthur Bell, Thomas Millie Dow, and Lewis T. Ives. Dow's letters discuss his travels in Europe, his current artwork, mutual friends such as Arthur Bell, and other general news. Ives's letters also discuss mutual friends and general news. Letters from Kate to her in-laws, William and Ellen Thayer, discuss family news and news of Abbot's work. Other correspondence, arranged alphabetically, contains letters from family and friends. Correspondence between Kate Bloede Thayer and Emma Beach Thayer is found with Emma Beach's correspondence.

Box 2, Folder 36      Bloede, Grandpa, 1881-1884  
[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 2, Folder 37      Bloede, Victor, 1887  
[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 2, Folder 38      Birch, Mary Thayer, 1888-1889  
[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 2, Folder 39      Dow, Thomas Millie, 1881-1886  
[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 2, Folder 40      Ives, Lew. T., 1882-1888  
[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 2, Folder 41-43      Thayer, Dr. William & Ellen Handerson, 1881-1887  
(3 folders)  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 2, Folder 44      B-H, 1882-1888  
[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 2, Folder 45      M-S, 1887-1889

[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 2, Folder 46      Unidentified letter fragments, 1880s  
[Image\(s\)](#)

## 2.4: Gladys Thayer Reasoner Correspondence, 1907-1943

The correspondence of Gladys Thayer Reasoner, a.k.a Galla, documents family activities and her friendships. Found here are letters to and from family members, including her sister Mary, her brother Gerald (known as Gra), nephews, nieces, and other extended family, such as her cousins in the Foster and Whiting families. Additional letters are from friends, including Randolph Bourne, Frances Burns, Evangeline Stillman, Blanche Walton, and others. Gladys also maintained correspondence with Thayer family friends, who were friends of her parents, or members of the Dublin, New Hampshire community in which they lived, such as Mary Amory Greene, John Gellatly, Richard Meryman, Raphael Pumpelly, and Jay and Philip Whelpley. Gladys' correspondence is also found in the subseries containing her father and stepmother Emma Beach Thayer correspondence.

Box 2, Folder 47      Birch, Elsie, 1916-1936  
[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 2, Folder 48      Birch, Mary Thayer, 1916-1927  
[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 2, Folder 49      Bourne, Randolph, 1915-1916  
[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 2, Folder 50      Buckley, Lily, 1917-1922  
[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 2, Folder 51      Burns, Frances L., circa 1920-1935  
[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 2, Folder 52      B, 1912-1937  
[Image\(s\)](#)

- Beach, Violet
- Beaulieu, Mary
- Berlingham, Robert
- Bloede, Victor G.
- Bowditch, Vincent Y.
- Buckley, Lou

Box 2, Folder 53      C-D, 1907-1943  
[Image\(s\)](#)

- Cameron, Hugh A.
- Clemens, Jean
- Comstock, Charlie L.
- Cortissoz, Royal
- Daniels, George E.
- Dow, Florence E.

Box 2, Folder 54      Fisher, Eleanor, 1908-1922

[Image\(s\)](#)

- Box 2, Folder 55 Fisher, Faith H. (Mrs. William F. Fenn), 1928-1936  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 2, Folder 56 Fisher, Richard & Nina, 1939-1935  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 2, Folder 57 F, 1911-1935  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- F., W. W.
  - Faulkner, Barry
  - Fisher, Ellen Thayer
  - Forbes, Alexander
  - Franck, Peter
- Box 2, Folder 58 G-H, 1909-1942  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Gellatly, John
  - Gleason, John R.
  - Goldschmidt, Anita
  - Greene, Mary Amory
  - Harvard College, Museum of Comparative Zoology
  - Hoen, A. B.
  - Hu\_?, Evan
- Box 2, Folder 59 J, 1911-1936  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- James, Henry
  - James, Nina Marion
  - James, William
  - Jenkins, Elizabeth F.
- Box 2, Folder 60 K-L, 1908-1935  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Keane, Polla Price
  - Kellogg, Foster S.
  - Kittredge, Anna M.
  - Kleb, Sarah M.
  - Lord, Ruth Whiting
  - Lowder, Isabel
- Box 2, Folder 61 M-O, 1922-1937  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- MacVeagh, Eames
  - Martin, Polly (Mrs. G. Rainsford Martin)
  - Meryman, Richard S. (Wig)
  - Nautilus Beach Club
  - Ohta family
- Box 2, Folder 62 Palmer, H. P., 1935-1937



- [Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 2, Folder 63 P, 1911-1937  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Page, Arthur W.
  - Paramount Pictures Distributing Corporation
  - Percy, Eustace
  - Pinkham, M.
  - Public Works of Art Project
  - Pumpelly, Raphael
  - Putnam, Shirley
- Box 2, Folder 64 Reasoner, David, 1921-1923  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 2, Folder 65 R, 1922-1924  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Reasoner, Mrs. (David's Mother)
  - Reasoner, Nan
  - Rodakiewicz, Eva
- Box 2, Folder 66 Stillman, Michael & Evangeline, 1909-1935  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 2, Folder 67 S, 1911, 1920s  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Schurmeier, Theodora
  - Stokes, Rose Paxton
- Box 2, Folder 68 Thayer, Gerald H., 1908-1936  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 2, Folder 69 T, 1911-1941  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Tax Commissioner
  - Thayer, Alma
  - Thayer, Bernie
  - Tish, Hay
  - Treasury Department, Public Works of Art Project
  - Tryon, Dwight W.
- Box 2, Folder 70 Walton, Blanche W., 1923-1937  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 2, Folder 71-74 Whelpley, Jay & Philip, 1907-1937  
(4 folders)  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 2, Folder 75 Whiting, Susan Thayer, 1928-1936

[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 2, Folder 76 W, 1912-1943

[Image\(s\)](#)

- W., Marion W.
- Wangler, Kathy & Albert McCreery
- War Department
- Warner, Langdon
- White, Nelson C.
- Whiting, Rose
- *The Woman Citizen*
- Wynne, Annette

Box 2, Folder 77 First Names Only: A-H, 1912-1936

[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 2, Folder 78 First Names Only: J-R, 1907-1936

[Image\(s\)](#)

## 2.5: David Reasoner Correspondence, 1918-1954

David Reasoner's correspondence is primarily with family and friends, such as Emma Beach Thayer's sister, Violet, and from Mary Thayer Birch discussing Emma's estate, Gerald's ill health, and other family news. David Reasoner also corresponded with John Gellatly concerning the sale of Abbott Thayer's paintings, and with Gerald Thayer concerning financial matters. Other alphabetical correspondence is with Thayer and Reasoner family members, people working on books or requesting information on Abbott Thayer, museums exhibiting Thayer's work, and people interested in purchasing artwork by Thayer. Also found are letters concerning the deaths of Reasoner's mother, his wife Gladys, and his son Allen. The bulk of the David Reasoner correspondence concerning the estates of Abbott H. Thayer and Emma Beach Thayer is found in Series 4: Estate Papers.

Box 2, Folder 79 Beach, Violet, 1924-1932

[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 2, Folder 80 Birch, Mary Thayer, 1924

[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 2, Folder 81 Gellatly, John, 1924-1928

[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 2, Folder 82 Thayer, Gerald, 1922-1930

[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 2, Folder 83 A-B, 1921-1949

[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 3, Folder 1 C-D, 1925, 1946-1947

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
|                 | <a href="#">Image(s)</a>   |
| Box 3, Folder 2 | F-G, 1924-1936<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a>                         |
| Box 3, Folder 3 | H-J, 1925-1947<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a>                         |
| Box 3, Folder 4 | L-P, 1922-1936, 1950<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a>                   |
| Box 3, Folder 5 | R, 1924-1951<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a>                           |
| Box 3, Folder 6 | T-V, 1918, 1943-1950<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a>                   |
| Box 3, Folder 7 | W, 1928-1951<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a>                           |
| Box 3, Folder 8 | Unidentified Correspondents, 1942-1954<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a> |

## 2.6: General Correspondence, 1883-1987

This series contains the correspondence of other members of the Thayer and Reasoner families. Included is correspondence between Elsie Birch and her cousins, and the correspondence of her mother, Mary Thayer Birch. Also found are letters to Jean Reasoner Plunket, Abbott Thayer's granddaughter, including many from Nelson C. White, who collected research material for a biography of Abbott Thayer.

Gerald H. Thayer's correspondence discusses concealing coloration, the estate of Abbott and Emma Thayer, and letters of condolence from George Gray Barnard and Edwin H. Blashfield. Additional correspondence found here includes letters to Gerald's wife, Alma, from the family friend and Thayer patron, John Gellatly, letters to Abbott Thayer's parents, Dr. William and Ellen Thayer, and letters to Jay and Philip Whelpley, family friends of the Thayers.

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Box 3, Folder 9  | Elsie Birch, 1933, 1946<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a>                  |
| Box 3, Folder 10 | Mary Thayer Birch, 1886-1915, circa 1924<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a> |
| Box 3, Folder 11 | Jean Reasoner Plunket, 1945-1987<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a>         |
| Box 3, Folder 12 | Allen Reasoner, 1935-1942<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a>                |
| Box 3, Folder 13 | Alma E. Thayer from John Gellatly, 1925<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a>  |
| Box 3, Folder 14 | Gerald H. Thayer, 1908-1924  |

[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 3, Folder 15 Dr. William H. Thayer and Ellen Handerson Thayer, 1883-1891

[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 3, Folder 16 Jay and Philip Whelpley, 1910-1927

[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 3, Folder 17 Unidentified correspondence, 1908-1927

[Image\(s\)](#)

*[Return to Table of Contents](#)*

## Series 3: Writings, 1888-1945

(Box 3-4; 0.8 linear feet)

This series contains writings by Abbott Handerson Thayer and others, including family members and scholars. Writings by Thayer primarily focus on his theories about concealing coloration and nature observations through notes and draft writings. Also found are his writings on other topics such as the restoration of artwork. Writings by others include the writings of Emma Beach Thayer and Abbott Thayer's daughters Mary and Gladys, and writings by scholars about the Thayer's artwork.

The Writings series is arranged into 2 subseries:

- Subseries 3.1: Writings by Abbott Handerson Thayer, circa 1890-1918
- Subseries 3.2: Writings by Others, 1888-1989

### 3.1: Writings by Abbott Handerson Thayer, circa 1890-1918

Writings by Abbott Handerson Thayer, primarily on the topic of concealing coloration and his observations of nature, include four small notebooks. His notes and draft essays, often written on small scraps of paper or the back of other documents, are on the topic of concealing coloration in nature, and the related topics, the invisibility of icebergs and the concealing coloration in military uniforms and warships. Many of his notes appear to be preparations for lectures or letters to the editor on these topics, or responses to the negative feedback from his book *Concealing Coloration in Nature*, published in 1909. Also found are draft essays on the restoration of works of art and notes and essays on various subjects such as the Boer war, art, and other thoughts on nature.

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Box 3, Folder 18-19 | Notebooks, circa 1890-1920<br>(2 folders)<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a><br><a href="#">Image(s)</a>  |
| Box 3, Folder 20-23 | Notes & Essays on Concealing Coloration in Nature, circa 1910-1917<br>(4 folders)<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a><br><a href="#">Image(s)</a><br><a href="#">Image(s)</a><br><a href="#">Image(s)</a>  |
| Box 3, Folder 24    | Notes & Essays on the Invisibility of Icebergs, 1912<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a>   |
| Box 3, Folder 25-30 | Notes & Essays on Concealing Coloration in Uniforms & Warships, circa 1915-1918<br>(6 folders)<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a><br><a href="#">Image(s)</a><br><a href="#">Image(s)</a><br><a href="#">Image(s)</a><br><a href="#">Image(s)</a><br><a href="#">Image(s)</a> |
| Box 3, Folder 31    | Essay, "Restoration: The Doom of Works of Art", 1917   |

- [Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 3, Folder 32-34      Typescript, "Restoration of Pictures", circa 1910s  
(3 folders)  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 3, Folder 35      Draft Letters to the Editor of *The Auk*, 1916-1917  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 3, Folder 36-39      Notes & Essays on Various Subjects, circa 1901-1919  
(4 folders)  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
[Image\(s\)](#)

### 3.2: Writings by Others, 1888-1989

This subseries contains writings by the Thayer family and writings by scholars, primarily about Abbott Handerson Thayer. Included are writings by Emma Thayer, such as a manuscript for a story entitled "Ernest" and two poems, and Mary Thayer's diary and corresponding hand-made calendar, written when she was ten years old. Writings by Gladys Thayer Reasoner include a brief biographical sketch of her father, a biography of her son, Allen Reasoner, who died in 1943 in a plane crash, and stories and other writings she wrote as a young girl.

Writings by others about Abbott Thayer include a draft manuscript by Nancy Bell, wife of artist Arthur Bell, about Thayer's book on concealing coloration. This series also contains writings by unidentified authors, such as draft writings about George Gray Barnard, possibly written by David or Gladys Thayer Reasoner, and miscellaneous writings and poetry by others. Folders are arranged by author and title of work, if known, and chronologically within each folder.

- Box 3, Folder 40      Emma Beach Thayer, "Ernest", circa 1900  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 3, Folder 41      Emma Beach Thayer, Poetry, circa 1910  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 3, Folder 42      Mary Thayer, Diary and Calendar, 1888  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 3, Folder 43      Gladys Thayer Reasoner, Biographical Sketch of Abbott H. Thayer, circa 1930  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 3, Folder 44      Gladys Thayer Reasoner, Biography of Allen Reasoner, "One Out of Fifty",  
circa 1945  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 3, Folder 45-47      Gladys Thayer Reasoner, Biography of Allen Reasoner, Draft Versions, circa  
1945

*(3 folders; not scanned)*

- Box 3, Folder 48 Gladys Thayer Reasoner, Miscellaneous Writings, circa 1897  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 3, Folder 49 Sidney Allen, "Abbott Handerson Thayer: An Appreciation of His Work", circa 1920s  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 3, Folder 50 Nancy Bell, "A Painter Naturalist and His Son", circa 1909  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 3, Folder 51 William Dutcher, "Report of the A. O. U. Committee on the Protection of North American Birds for the Year 1903", 1903  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 3, Folder 52 Elizabeth Walmsley, "A Preliminary Investigation into the Painting Techniquet of Abbott Handerson Thayer", 1988-1989  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 3, Folder 53 Unknown Author, Notes for a Book on Abbott H. Thayer, circa 1920s  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 3, Folder 54 Unknown Author, Lecture on Rembrandt and Reubens, undated  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 3, Folder 55 Unknown Author, Writings about George Grey Barnard, circa 1938  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 4, Folder 1 Miscellaneous Writings by Others, circa 1890-1920  
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 4, Folder 2 Miscellaneous Poetry, circa 1900-1945  
*(Partially scanned)*  
[Image\(s\)](#)

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## Series 4: Estate Papers, 1921-1954

*(Box 4; 0.5 linear feet)*

This series contains the estate papers for Abbott Handerson Thayer, who died in 1921 and Emma Beach Thayer, who died in 1924. Much of material consists of correspondence between David Reasoner, Executor of both estates, and others regarding financial and legal matters. Correspondence of note is with Mary and Gerald Thayer regarding their inheritance, and with E. & A. Milch, Inc. and William Macbeth, Inc. regarding the sale of artwork. Also found are financial and legal documents, forms, lists and notes, and Emma Thayer's will and drafts. Some of the financial account statements and a ledger book have not been scanned.

Items are arranged chronologically within each folder.

Box 4, Folder 3-5      Estate Papers of Abbott H. Thayer and Emma B. Thayer, 1921-1924  
*(3 folders)*  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 4, Folder 6-18      Estate Papers of Abbott H. Thayer and Emma B. Thayer, 1925-1954  
*(13 folders)*  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
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[Image\(s\)](#)  
[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 4, Folder 19      Emma Beach Thayer Last Will and Testament, 1923, 1926  
[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 4, Folder 20-21      Estate Account Statements, Kingston Trust Company, 1927-1932  
*(2 folders; not scanned)*

Box 4, Folder 22-23      Estate Bills, 1922-1938  
*(2 folders; not scanned)*

Box 4, Folder 24      Ledger Book for Emma Thayer Estate, 1924-1925  
*(Not scanned)*

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## Series 5: Other Financial Records, 1889-1957

*(Box 4; 7 folders)*

This series contains a small amount of Thayer and Reasoner family financial records not directly related to the estates of Abbott or Emma Thayer. Most of this series has not been scanned.

Items are arranged chronologically within each folder.

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Box 4, Folder 25 | Account Statements, 1924-1941<br><i>(Not scanned)</i>                              |
| Box 4, Folder 26 | Bills & Receipts, 1889-1919<br><i>(Not scanned)</i>                                |
| Box 4, Folder 27 | Liberty Bonds, Cheshire National Bank, 1919-1921<br><i>(Not scanned)</i>           |
| Box 4, Folder 28 | Ledger, 1923-1935<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a>                                      |
| Box 4, Folder 29 | Ledger kept by Emma Beach Thayer, 1915-1923<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a>            |
| Box 4, Folder 30 | Ledger kept by David Reasoner, 1921-1930<br><i>(Not scanned)</i>                   |
| Box 4, Folder 31 | David Reasoner Bethesda Country Club Membership, 1948-1957<br><i>(Not scanned)</i> |

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## Series 6: Legal Records, 1891-1927

*(Box 4; 4 folders)*

Legal records include a copy of the patent office record given to Gerome Brush and Abbott Handerson Thayer for the "process of treating the outsides of ships & for making them less visible." Also included in that folder is a contract handwritten by Thayer giving Brush claim to use of the original invention. Other documents in this series are legal agreements, including a draft agreement among landowners in Dublin, New Hampshire to create a nature reservation, and deeds of property belonging to Abbott Thayer and Emma Beach Thayer. Also found is a map of the property owned by Thayer and surrounding properties in Dublin.

Items are arranged chronologically within each folder.

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Box 4, Folder 32 | Patent Documents, 1902, 1911<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a>                        |
| Box 4, Folder 33 | Legal Agreements, 1908-1927<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a>                         |
| Box 4, Folder 34 | Deeds of Property, 1891-1921<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a>                        |
| Box 4, Folder 35 | Map of Thayer Property, Dublin, New Hampshire, 1919<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a> |

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## Series 7: Printed Material, 1851, 1896-1999

(Box 4-5; 0.4 linear feet)

Printed material includes two books, an alphabet book belonging to Abbott Thayer which he inscribed and gave to his daughter Mary, and a bound article written by Theodore Roosevelt in response to Thayer's book on concealing coloration. The article was originally published in the *Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History*, volume XXX. Also found are newspaper and magazine clippings about Abbott Thayer, about his artwork and exhibitions, and about the Reasoner family. Exhibition announcements and catalogs are for exhibitions by Thayer, his daughter Gladys Thayer Reasoner, and group exhibitions. Other material in this series is about the Woodstock Playhouse, for which David Reasoner was the director, and includes news clippings, programs and newsletters, and the publication *Hue and Cry*.

Items are arranged chronologically within each folder.

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Box 4, Folder 36    | Book, <i>Illustrated Alphabet of Animals</i> , 1851<br>(Not scanned)  |
| Box 4, Folder 37    | Book, <i>Revealing and Concealing Coloration in Birds and Mammals</i> , by Theodore Roosevelt, 1911<br>(Not scanned)  |
| Box 4, Folder 38-42 | Clippings, 1900-1996<br>(5 folders)<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a><br><a href="#">Image(s)</a><br><a href="#">Image(s)</a><br><a href="#">Image(s)</a><br><a href="#">Image(s)</a>   |
| Box 4, Folder 43    | Clippings about Woodstock Playhouse, circa 1929-1949<br>(Not scanned)   |
| Box 4, Folder 44-49 | Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1896-1983<br>(6 folders)<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a><br><a href="#">Image(s)</a><br><a href="#">Image(s)</a><br><a href="#">Image(s)</a><br><a href="#">Image(s)</a><br><a href="#">Image(s)</a> |
| Box 5, Folder 1     | Newsletters & Event Calendars, 1980-1983, 1999<br>(Not scanned)   |
| Box 5, Folder 2     | Newsletters & Programs from Woodstock, New York, 1928-1941<br>(Not scanned)   |
| Box 5, Folder 3     | <i>Hue and Cry</i> Newspaper, 1925, 1928, 1929<br>(Not scanned)   |

Box 5, Folder 4

Miscellaneous Printed Material, 1895, 1914-circa 1966  
*(Not scanned)*

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## Series 8: Photographs, circa 1861-1933

(Box 5, MGP 2; 0.2 linear feet)

This series contains photographs of Abbott H. Thayer, including two portraits of him, a photo of him with a group of people (possibly at Gerald Thayer's wedding), and a photograph of his plaster death mask. Also found are photographs of Thayer's studio, some of which include the painting he was working on at the time, his son Gerald, and other models. There are photographs of Thayer's home in Dublin, New Hampshire. Additional photographs are of his wife, Emma Beach Thayer, Ralph Waldo Emerson, and one of his former student Rockwell Kent painting outdoors. Also found are numerous photographs of unidentified people, most likely members of the Thayer family, and a few photographs of artwork by Thayer. Glass plate negative is housed separately and closed to researchers.

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| Box 5 (hol), Folder 5     | Photographs of Abbott H. Thayer, circa 1861, 1900, 1915<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a>                               |
| Box 5 (hol), Folder 6     | Photographs of Thayer's Studio, circa 1895<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a>  |
| Box 5 (hol), Folder 7     | Photographs of Thayer's Home, Dublin, New Hampshire, circa 1905<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a>                       |
| Box 5 (hol), Folder 8     | Photographs of Emma Beach Thayer, circa 1870, 1889<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a>                                    |
| Box 5 (hol), Folder 9     | Photographs of Gladys Thayer Reasoner & Family (Photocopies), circa 1915, 1933<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a>        |
| Box 5 (hol), Folder 10    | Photographs of Lyman and Grace Reasoner, circa 1919<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a>                                   |
| Box 5 (hol), Folder 11    | Photographs of Ralph Waldo Emerson, circa 1860<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a>  |
| Box 5 (hol), Folder 12    | Photograph of Rockwell Kent, circa 1905<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a>   |
| Box 5 (hol), Folder 13    | Unidentified Portraits, circa 1860-1890<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a>   |
| Box 5 (hol), Folder 14-15 | Unidentified Tintype Portraits, circa 1870-1890<br>(2 folders; not scanned)                                       |
| Box 5 (hol), Folder 16    | Glass Plate Negative of Unidentified Man, circa 1890<br>(Not scanned)<br>(1 glass plate negative housed in MGP 2) |
| Box MGP 2                 | Glass Plate Negative<br>1 glass negative  |
| Box 5 (hol), Folder 17    | Photographs of Artwork, circa 1895  |

*(Not scanned)*

Box 5 (hol), Folder 18 Tintype Photograph of *The Sisters*, circa 1884  
*(Not scanned)*

Box 5 (hol), Folder 19 Original Frame for Photograph of *The Sisters*, circa 1884  
*(Not scanned)*

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## Series 9: Artwork, 1887 - circa 1940s

*(Box 5-6, 8; 0.2 linear feet)*

This series includes two drawings by Abbott Thayer, one depicting an angel and modeled by his daughter Mary. Also found is a large amount of artwork by children, including drawings by Gerald Thayer and other unidentified drawings and paintings, probably by Mary, Gerald, and Gladys Thayer, animal cutouts by Jean Reasoner Plunket, and other small painted cutout figures by an unknown artist. Also found are two sketchbooks, one belonging to David Reasoner, and the other probably belonging to his daughter, Jean Reasoner Plunket.

- |                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Box 5 (hol), Folder 20     | Drawings by Abbott Handerson Thayer, 1887, 1912<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a>   |
| Box 5 (hol), Folder 21     | Artwork by Gerald Thayer, 1889<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a>  |
| Box 6 (pam), Folder<br>1-2 | Artwork by Unidentified Children (probably Mary, Gerald, and Gladys Thayer),<br>circa 1890-1900<br><i>(2 folders)</i><br><a href="#">Image(s)</a><br><a href="#">Image(s)</a> |
| Box 6 (pam), Folder 3      | Painted Cutout Figures, circa 1904<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a>  |
| Box 6 (pam), Folder 4      | David Reasoner Sketchbook, circa 1910<br><i>(See Box 8)</i><br><a href="#">Image(s)</a>   |
| Box 6 (pam), Folder 5      | Animal Cutouts by Jean Reasoner Plunket, circa 1940s<br><i>(Not scanned)</i>  |
| Box 6 (pam), Folder 6      | Sketchbook (possibly belonging to Jean Reasoner Plunket), circa 1940s<br><a href="#">Image(s)</a>   |
| Box 8 (pam), Folder 1      | David Reasoner Sketchbook, circa 1910<br><i>(See also Box 6, folder 4)</i>  |

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## Series 10: Scrapbook, circa 1910-1920

*(Box 7; 0.3 linear feet)*

This large scrapbook, compiled by David Reasoner, includes photographs and printed reproductions of paintings by Abbott Thayer, as well as a few newspaper clippings about his artwork. The scrapbook also includes a few notations listing the current owners of the paintings.

Box 7 (sol), Folder 1      Scrapbook about Thayer Artwork, circa 1910-1920  
[Image\(s\)](#)

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