



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Charles Henry Turner Papers, 1875-circa 1973, bulk circa 1890- circa 1910, in the Archives of American Art

Stephanie Ashley

Glass plate negatives in this collection were digitized in 2019
with funding provided by the Smithsonian Women's Committee.

2018 November 16

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Charles Henry Turner papers
Identifier:	AAA.turnchar
Date:	1875-circa 1973 (bulk circa 1890-circa 1910)
Creator:	Turner, Charles Henry, 1848-1908
Extent:	0.54 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of Massachusetts and New Hampshire painter and printmaker Charles Henry Turner, measure 0.54 linear feet and date from 1875-circa 1973, with the bulk of the material dating from circa 1890-circa 1910. The collection includes an auction catalog and a price list of Turner's paintings, biographical material, five letters, artwork, miscellaneous printed material, photographs of Turner, his studio, European travel, and artwork, and two glass plate negatives.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The collection was donated to the Archives of American Art by G. Frances Souther, granddaughter of Turner, in 1973 and 1979. The artworks on reel 4781 were lent for microfilming in 1993 by Robert and Connie Rosen, antiques dealers, who purchased the material at auction. The drawings may have come from Miss Souther's estate.

Separated Materials

Also in the Archives of American Art is material lent for microfilming (reel 4781) including drawings, a watercolor by Turner, and two charcoal landscapes by Edmund H. Garrett and [Emil?] Carlsen. Loaned materials were returned to the lender and are not described in the collection container inventory.

Available Formats

Portions of the collection and materials lent for microfilming are available on 35mm microfilm reels 2040, 2062, and 4781 at the Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan. Researchers should note that the arrangement of material described in the container inventory does not reflect the arrangement of the collection on microfilm.

Processing Information

The collection was microfilmed on Reels 2040 and 2062 at some point after receipt. The glass plate negatives were re-housed in 2015 with a grant from the Smithsonian Collections Care and Preservation Fund. The collection was processed and a finding aid written by Stephanie Ashley in 2018.

Preferred Citation

Charles Henry Turner papers, 1875-circa 1973, bulk 1890-1910. 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.

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Biographical / Historical

Massachusetts and New Hampshire painter and printmaker Charles Henry Turner (1848-1908) was known for his landscapes, portraits, illustrations, and genre scenes. Born in Newburyport, Massachusetts, Turner studied under Otto Grundmann at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts School in the late 1870s. He studied in Europe in the 1880s, before returning to Boston, where he had a studio above his home on Mount Vernon Street.

Turner established a summer home in the White Mountains of New Hampshire and built a studio resembling a Swiss chalet on a hillside in Jackson, where he and his family spent many summers.

Turner was a member of the Unity Art Club and served as president of the Boston Art Club, where his work was exhibited many times. His work was also exhibited at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts.

Scope and Contents

The papers of Massachusetts and New Hampshire painter and printmaker Charles Henry Turner, measure 0.54 linear feet and date from 1875-circa 1973, with the bulk of the material dating from circa 1890-circa 1910. The collection includes an auction catalog and a price list of Turner's paintings, biographical material, five letters, artwork, miscellaneous printed material, photographs of Turner, his studio, European travel, and artwork, and two glass plate negatives.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as one series.

- Series 1: Charles Henry Turner Papers, 1875-circa 1973 (0.5 linear feet; Box 1, OV 2, MGP 1-2)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Artists' studios -- Pictorial works
Etchers
Etching -- 19th century
Painting, Modern -- 19th century

Types of Materials:

Drawings
Photographs
Sketchbooks
Sketches
Works of art

Names:

Carlsen, Emil, 1853-1932
Garrett, Edmund H. (Edmund Henry), 1853-1929
Lesrel, Adolphe Alexandre
Murray, Henry -- Art of painting and drawing in coloured crayons

Occupations:

Painters

Functions:

Artists' studios -- France
Artists' studios -- New Hampshire

Container Listing

Series 1: Charles Henry Turner Papers, 1875-circa 1973

0.5 Linear feet (Box 1, OV 2, MGP 1-2)

Scope and Contents: The collection includes an annotated auction catalog and a price list of Turner's paintings sold at auction in 1910. Biographical material consists of biographical notes on Turner created by Turner's granddaughter, as well as a death notice and an obituary for Turner. Correspondence comprises four letters to Turner, primarily regarding portrait commissions, and an illustrated letter from Turner to his granddaughter.

Artwork by Turner includes six oils including a self-portrait, two etchings and eighteen etching plates, five watercolors created for the annual costume ball of the Boston Arts Club, two watercolors of Turner's studio, a sketchbook with four watercolors, and a portrait on wood "after David Neal." Also found are three silk etchings by Edmond H. Garrett.

Printed material includes Turner's signed copy of *The Art of Painting and Drawing in Colored Crayons* by Henry Murray.

Photographs include two portraits of Turner and photographs of Turner's wife, Elsie, including two cyanotypes; images of the exterior and interior of Turner's Jackson studio; a photograph album and loose photographs of Boston and Germany, where Elsie Turner was born; two photographs of Adolphe Lesrel's Paris studio; a photograph of O. A. Taft; and a folder of photographs of Turner's artwork.

Two glass plate negatives are images of artwork.

Available Formats: Glass plate negatives have been digitized.

Box 1, Folder 1	Auction Catalog and Lists, 1910
Box 1, Folder 2	Biographical Material, 1908, circa 1973
Box 1, Folder 3	Correspondence, 1888-1906
	Artwork
Box 1, Folder 4	Etchings, circa 1890-circa 1905
Box 1, Folder 5-6	Etching Plates, circa 1890-circa 1905
Box 1, Folder 7	Etchings by Edmond H. Garrett, circa 1890-circa 1905
Box 1, Folder 8-9	Oils, circa 1890-circa 1905
Box 1, Folder 10	Portrait on Wood after David Neal, circa 1900
Box 1, Folder 11	Sketchbook, 1904-1905
Box 1, Folder 12	Watercolors for Annual Costume Ball of Boston Arts Club, circa 1900

Box 1, Folder 13	Watercolors of Studio and Plan of Studio, circa 1890-circa 1905 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV 2
Box 1, Folder 14	Printed Material, circa 1875-circa 1910
	Photographs
Box 1, Folder 15	Of Turner and Elsie Turner, circa 1890-circa 1905
Box 1, Folder 16	Of Turner's Studio, Jackson, New Hampshire, circa 1900-circa 1907
Box 1, Folder 17	Of O. A. Taft and Studio of Adolph Lesrel in Paris, circa 1899
Box 1, Folder 18	Of Europe, circa 1890s
Box 1, Folder 19	Of Artwork, circa 1967-circa 1968, undated
Box 1, Folder 20-21	Photograph Album, circa 1890
Oversize 2	Watercolors of Studio and Plan of Studio, circa 1890-circa 1905
Box MGP 1	Glass Plate Negative of Artwork, circa 1890-circa 1905
Box MGP 2	Glass Plate Negative of Artwork, circa 1890-circa 1905

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