



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Olin Levi Warner
Papers, 1857-1962 (bulk 1857-1899),
in the Archives of American Art

Vanessa Catanzaro and Erin Corley

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

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Olin Levi Warner papers
Identifier:	AAA.warnolin
Date:	1857-1962 (bulk 1857-1899)
Extent:	1.9 Linear feet
Creator:	Warner, Olin Levi, 1844-1896
Language:	English
Summary:	The papers of sculptor Olin Levi Warner measure 1.9 linear feet and date from 1857 to 1962 with the bulk of the materials dating from 1857 to 1899. The collection documents Warner's art student days in Paris and his career as a sculptor, primarily in New York City. Found are scattered biographical materials and writings, including a speech by Warner about the Paris Commune of 1871; personal and professional correspondence; clippings, catalogs, and other printed material; sculpture project files; and photographs of Warner, his studio, his family, and notable figures who sat for him, including artist J. Alden Weir, and his artwork.

Administrative Information

Provenance

A portion of the Olin Levi Warner papers were originally loaned to the Archives of American Art for microfilming in 1972 by Rosalie Warner Jones, Warner's daughter. Rosalie Warner Jones and her sister, Frances O. Warner, and Rosalie's daughter Frances Follin Jones, donated the collection in several accretions between 1972 and 1977. This gift included the majority of the loaned materials, excluding one sketchbook. Additional materials were transferred to the Archives in 2005 from the Smithsonian American Art Museum.

Separated Material

The Archives of American Art also holds material lent for microfilming on reel 270. All of the material was later donated, except for one sketchbook which was returned to the lender, and is not described in the collection container inventory.

Alternative Forms Available

The bulk of this collection was digitized in 2013 and is available on the Archives of American Art's website. Materials which have not been scanned include photographs of artwork, duplicates, blank pages in bound volumes, and blank versos of photographs. In some cases, exhibition catalogs and other publications have had their covers, title pages, and relevant pages scanned.

Material lent for microfilming is available on 35mm microfilm reel 270 at the Archives of American Art reading room and through interlibrary loan.

Processing Information

The bulk of the collection was microfilmed as separate accretions and loans on reels 270, 414, and 3746-3747, except for the materials transferred from the Smithsonian American Art Museum in 2005. All earlier accessions were merged and re-processed by Vanessa Catanzaro, Joan Lord, and Erin Corley in 2004 and 2005, and a finding aid prepared as part of the Terra Foundation for American Art Digitization Project. The collection was scanned in 2013 with funding provided by the Terra Foundation for American Art.

Preferred Citation

Olin Levi Warner papers, 1857-1962 (bulk 1857-1899). Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions on Access

Use of original papers requires an appointment.

Ownership and Literary Rights

The Olin Levi Warner 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.

Biographical Note

Olin Levi Warner was born in 1844 in Suffield, Connecticut and worked as an artisan and a telegraph operator before pursuing his art education and career. In 1869, Warner traveled to Paris to study under Francois Jouffroy at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts. He was in Paris when the Republic was declared and served in the French Foreign Legion for a short while before resuming his studies. In 1872 he returned to the United States and set up a studio in New York.

An early proponent of the French Beaux-Arts style, Warner was a founding member of the Society of American Artists in 1877 and joined the National Academy of Design in 1888. By the end of Warner's lifetime, he had become a well-known sculptor, helping to popularize bas-relief in the United States. A few of Warner's notable works include a series of medallions depicting Native American Indian Chiefs, an 1876 bust of President Rutherford B. Hayes, the 1883 nude *Diana*, a statue of judge and former U.S. Attorney General Charles Devens in Boston, and the design of the bronze doors of the Library of Congress. This last project was uncompleted at the time of Warner's death on August 14, 1896, as the result of a bicycle injury in Central Park.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of sculptor Olin Levi Warner measure 1.9 linear feet and date from 1857 to 1962 with the bulk of the materials dating from 1857 to 1899. The collection documents Warner's art student days in Paris and his career as a sculptor, primarily in New York City. Found are scattered biographical materials and writings, including a speech by Warner about the Paris Commune of 1871; personal and professional

correspondence; clippings, catalogs, and other printed material; sculpture project files; and photographs of Warner, his studio, his family, and notable figures who sat for him, including artist J. Alden Weir, and his artwork.

Found are biographical materials, including a speech written by Warner about the Paris Commune of 1871, awards, and membership records for several art organizations, including the Fine Arts Federation of New York.

Personal and business correspondence written by Warner, his wife, and his daughter is with family and friends. Warner's correspondents include artists Albert Pinkham Ryder, Clarence Cook, and Wyatt Eaton, among others. Of note are letters written from Warner to his family during the time he spent in Paris from 1869 to 1872 studying art and serving in the Foreign Legion.

Also found are scattered project files for a few of his notable sculptural projects, including his statue of Massachusetts governor Charles Devens, the Hodgkins Medal designed as the Smithsonian Institution's seal, work for the Chicago World's Fair, and bronze work produced by the Jno. Williams Foundry.

Printed materials include clippings and exhibition catalogs for the Society of American Artists, the National Sculpture Society, and the World's Columbian Exposition.

Photographs in the papers are of Warner, his family, home, and studio, works of art, and a few notable sitters, including the artist J. Alden Weir.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into five series.

- Series 1: Biographical Material, 1863-1896 (Box 1, OV 4; 5 folders)
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1857-1962 (Box 1; 0.7 linear feet)
- Series 3: Project Files, 1871-1936 (Box 1, OV 4; 6 folders)
- Series 4: Printed Material, 1862-1950 (Boxes 1-2, OV 4; 6 folders)
- Series 5: Photographs, 1870s-1890s (Box 2-3, OV 4; 0.7 linear feet)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Art -- Study and teaching -- France -- Paris
Artists' studios -- Photographs
Sculptors -- New York (State) -- New York -- Interviews
Sculpture, American

Types of Materials:

Photographs

Names:

Cook, Clarence, 1828-1900
Devens, Charles, 1820-1891
Eaton, Wyatt, 1849-1896

Fine Arts Federation of New York
France. Armée. Légion étrangère
Jno. Williams, Inc.
Ryder, Albert Pinkham, 1847-1917
Smithsonian Institution
Warner, Sylvia Martinache
Weir, Julian Alden, 1852-1919
World's Columbian Exposition (1893 : Chicago, Ill.)

Geographic Names:

Paris (France) -- History -- Commune, 1871

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Materials, 1863-1896

5 Folders (Box 1, OV 4)

This series contains official documents for Warner's membership in several art organizations, including the Fine Arts Federation of New York and the Society of American Artists, and from Warner's time in France, including his admission form to the French Foreign Legion. Also found are death announcements and other memorial material, including a memorial paper read before the National Sculpture Society by W. C. Brownell. Additional items of note are drafts of a speech written by Warner about the Paris Commune of 1871. Oversized materials include Warner's Mason membership certificate and documentation from a U.S. diplomatic office in France, and two awards received for his artwork.

Materials are arranged by document type.

This series has been scanned in its entirety.

Box 1, Folder 1	Awards, 1863, 1895 Image(s) Oversized material housed in OV 4.
Box 1, Folder 2	Membership Documents, 1868, 1870 Image(s) Oversized material housed in OV 4.
Box 1, Folder 3	Memorial Materials, 1896 Image(s) Oversized material housed in OV 4.
Box 1, Folder 4	Speech Drafts, circa 1871 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 5	Speech Drafts, circa 1871 Image(s)
Box OV 4	Oversized Awards, 1863, 1895 Oversized material scanned with Box 1, Folder 1.
Box OV 4	Oversized Membership Documents, 1868-1870 Oversized material scanned with Box 1, Folder 2.
Box OV 4	Oversized Memorial Material, 1896 Oversized material scanned with Box 1, Folder 3.

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Series 2: Correspondence, 1857-1962

0.7 Linear feet (Box 1)

This series contains family and personal correspondence. Family correspondence is found for Olin Levi Warner, his wife Sylvia Martinache Warner, and their daughters Rosalie Warner Jones and Frances O. Warner.

Warner's family correspondence is primarily with his parents, his wife Sylvia, and his extended family. Warner's personal correspondence is with friends, including Charles Erskine Scott Wood, Albert Pinkham Ryder, W. C. Brownell, Clarence Cook, Wyatt Eaton, and his business correspondence is primarily with people interested in commissioning sculptures. Topics covered in this series include Olin Warner's studies; his life in Paris from 1869 to 1872, including the establishment of the French Third Republic; and the artist's work up to the time of his death.

Sylvia Martinache Warner's correspondence consists of sympathy notes following her husband's death; various personal matters; and the management of the artist's work by Mrs. Warner and her daughters..

Materials are arranged alphabetically by correspondent name.

This series has been scanned in its entirety.

2.1: Olin Levi Warner, 1857-1896

Box 1, Folder 6	A-O Miscellaneous, 1857-1895 Image(s) Includes letters from Wyatt Eaton and Albert Pinkham Ryder
Box 1, Folder 7	Oliver, Michael, 1893 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 8	P-W, Miscellaneous, 1857-1895 Image(s) Includes letters from John Quincy Adams Ward
Box 1, Folder 9	Warner, Olin Levi and Family, 1857-1860 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 10	Warner, Olin Levi and Family , 1861 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 11	Warner, Olin Levi and Family, 1862-1863 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 12	Warner, Olin Levi and Family, 1864 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 13	Warner, Olin Levi and Family, 1865

[Image\(s\)](#)

- Box 1, Folder 14 Warner, Olin Levi and Family, 1866
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 15 Warner, Olin Levi and Family, 1867-1868
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 16 Warner, Olin Levi and Family, 1869
[Image\(s\)](#)
Includes typescript transcriptions of letters.
- Box 1, Folder 17 Warner, Olin Levi and Family , 1870-1871
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 18 Warner, Olin Levi and Family, 1872
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 19 Warner, Olin Levi and Family , 1873-1875
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 20 Warner, Olin Levi and Family, 1876-1879
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 21 Warner, Olin Levi and Family , 1880-1883
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 22 Warner, Olin Levi and Family, 1884-1885
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 23 Warner, Olin Levi and Family , 1886
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 24 Warner, Olin Levi and Family, 1887-1890
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 25 Warner, Olin Levi and Family , 1891-1895
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 26 Wood, C.E.S., 1883-1896
[Image\(s\)](#)

2.2: Sylvia Martinache Warner, 1883-1962

- Box 1, Folder 27 Concern for Olin Levi Warner, 1896

- [Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 28 Condolences for Olin Levi Warner, 1896
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 29 A-B, Miscellaneous, 1896-1917
[Image\(s\)](#)
Includes letters from Herbert Adams and Paul Wayland Bartlett
- Box 1, Folder 30 Brownell, W.C. and Gertrude, 1903-1935
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 31 C-N, Miscellaneous, 1896-1930
[Image\(s\)](#)
Includes letters from Lockwood de Forest, J. Scott Hartley, H.A. MacNeil, Kenneth Hayes Miller
- Box 1, Folder 32 National Sculpture Society, 1896-1898
[Image\(s\)](#)
Includes letters from W.C. Brownell, and Daniel Chester French
- Box 1, Folder 33 Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, 1897-1899
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 34 P-R, Miscellaneous, 1898-1920
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 35 Ryder, Albert Pinkham, 1897-1912
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 36 S-W, Miscellaneous, 1898-1930
[Image\(s\)](#)
Includes letter from J. Alden Weir
- Box 1, Folder 37 Warner, Olin Levi, 1883-1894
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 38 Wood, C.E.S., 1896-1921
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 39 X-Z, Miscellaneous, circa 1910
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 40 Letters to Rosalie Warner Jones and Frances O. Warner, 1936-1962

[Image\(s\)](#)

Letters from Cooper Union, Caro Ely, Lloyd Goodrich, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Caro Lloyd Strobell, W.S. Budworth and Son, and Sylvia Warner

Box 1, Folder 41

Unsigned and Illegible, circa 1898-1923

[Image\(s\)](#)

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Series 3: Project Files, 1871-1936

6 Folders (Box 1, OV 4)

This series contains materials such as receipts, contracts, and correspondence documenting some of Warner's sculptural projects. Projects with a significant amount of material include a statue of Massachusetts governor Charles Devens; the Hodgkins Medal, designed as the Smithsonian Institution seal; sculptural work for the Chicago World's Fair; and works produced by the Jno. Williams Foundry.

Materials are arranged alphabetically by project name.

This series has been scanned in its entirety.

Box 1, Folder 42	Charles Devens Statue, 1892-1896 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 43	Jno. Williams Foundry, 1904-1936 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 44	Library of Congress Doors, circa 1897-1898 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 45	Smithsonian Seal, 1893-1894 Image(s) Oversized material housed in OV 4.
Box 1, Folder 46	World's Columbian Exposition (Chicago World's Fair), 1893 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 47	Miscellaneous contracts and receipts, 1871-1905 Image(s)
Box OV 4	Oversized Smithsonian Seal Information, 1893-1894 Oversized material scanned with Box 1, Folder 45.

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Series 4: Printed Material, 1862-1950

6 Folders (Boxes 1-2, OV 4)

This series contains assorted printed materials including exhibition catalogs for the Society of American Artists and the National Sculpture Society; a catalog for the 1893 Chicago World's Fair; information from clubs to which Warner belonged; newspaper and magazine clippings; promotional materials and a booklet highlighting Warner's doors for the Library of Congress; and miscellaneous materials such as programs and booklets.

Materials are arranged by document type.

The bulk of this series has been scanned. Duplicates and blank pages in bound volumes have not been scanned. In some cases, exhibition catalogs and other publications have had their covers, title pages, and relevant pages scanned.

Box 1, Folder 48	Clippings, 1895-1950 Image(s) Oversized material housed in OV 4.
Box 1, Folder 49	Club and Association Membership Listings, 1892-1896 Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 1	Exhibition Catalogs, 1880-1883 Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 2	Exhibition Catalogs, 1893 Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 3	Exhibition Catalogs, 1895-1907 Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 4	Miscellaneous, 1862-1921 Image(s)
Box OV 4	Oversized Clippings, 1895-1950 Oversized materials scanned with Box 1, Folder 48.

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Series 5: Photographs, 1870s-1890s

0.7 Linear feet (Boxes 2-3, OV 4)

Photographs are of Warner, his family, sitters, and artwork. Included are photographs of Warner in his New York City studio and with his wife and two daughters. Two photographs of note are of Warner standing with an unfinished Caryatid for the Skidmore Fountain project. Also found are photographs of the exterior of Warner's New York home and studio, an unidentified exhibition, and photographs of some of the many people Warner sculpted, including the artist J. Alden Weir. Additional photographs are of Warner's completed sculptures, medals, or other works.

Materials are arranged by photographic subject.

The bulk of this series has been scanned. Photographs of artwork, duplicates, and blank versos of photographs have not been scanned.

Box 2, Folder 5	Photographs of Artist and Family at Home and Studio, circa 1875-1895 Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 6	Photographs of Olin Levi Warner Standing with Caryatid for Skidmore Fountain, circa 1883 Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 7	Photographs of Exterior of Warner Home and Studio, circa 1890s Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 8	Photograph of Exhibition, circa late 1890s Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 9	Photographs of Sitters, circa 1870's-1890's Image(s) Includes photographs of J. Alden Weir, Governor Buckingham, Chief Joseph, and President Hayes.
Box 2	Photographs of Artwork
Box 2, Folder 10	W. C. Brownell, 1886 Image(s) Oversized material housed in OV 4.
Box 2, Folder 11	Governor Buckingham, 1884 Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 12	General Charles Devens, 1894 Image(s)
Box 3, Folder 1	Dancing Nymph, 1879

	Image(s)
Box 3, Folder 2	Diana, 1883 Image(s)
Box 3, Folder 3	Library of Congress Doors, circa 1896 Image(s) Oversized material housed in OV 4.
Box 3, Folder 4	Native American Series, circa 1880's Image(s)
Box 3, Folder 5	Skidmore Fountain, circa 1883 Image(s)
Box 3, Folder 6	Various Sculptures, circa 1880s-1890s Image(s)
Box 3, Folder 7	Various Sculptures, circa 1880s-1890s Image(s)
Box 3, Folder 8	Portraits of Olin Levi Warner, 1880s Image(s)
Box OV 4	Oversized Photographs of Artwork, 1886-circa 1896 Oversized material scanned with Box 2, Folder 10 and Box 3, Folder 3.

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