



# 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

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Olin Levi Warner papers
<b>Date:</b>	1857-1962 (bulk 1857-1899)
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.warnolin
<b>Creator:</b>	Warner, Olin Levi, 1844-1896
<b>Extent:</b>	1.9 Linear feet
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	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.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## Arrangement

The collection is arranged into five series.

Missing Title:

- 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)

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## 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.)

Places:

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

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Biographical Materials, 1863-1896

#### 5 Folders (Box 1, OV 4)

**Scope and Contents:** 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.

**Available Formats:** This series has been scanned in its entirety.

**Arrangement:** Materials are arranged by document type.

Box 1, Folder 1	<a href="#">Awards, 1863, 1895</a> Notes: Oversized material housed in OV 4.
Box 1, Folder 2	<a href="#">Membership Documents, 1868, 1870</a> Notes: Oversized material housed in OV 4.
Box 1, Folder 3	<a href="#">Memorial Materials, 1896</a> Notes: Oversized material housed in OV 4.
Box 1, Folder 4	<a href="#">Speech Drafts, circa 1871</a>
Box 1, Folder 5	<a href="#">Speech Drafts, circa 1871</a>
Box OV 4	Oversized Awards, 1863, 1895 Notes: Oversized material scanned with Box 1, Folder 1.
Box OV 4	Oversized Membership Documents, 1868-1870 Notes: Oversized material scanned with Box 1, Folder 2.
Box OV 4	Oversized Memorial Material, 1896 Notes: Oversized material scanned with Box 1, Folder 3.

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## Series 2: Correspondence, 1857-1962

### 0.7 Linear feet (Box 1)

**Scope and Contents:** 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..

**Available Formats:** This series has been scanned in its entirety.

**Arrangement:** Materials are arranged alphabetically by correspondent name.

### 2.1: Olin Levi Warner, 1857-1896

Box 1, Folder 6	<a href="#">A-O Miscellaneous, 1857-1895</a> Notes: Includes letters from Wyatt Eaton and Albert Pinkham Ryder
Box 1, Folder 7	<a href="#">Oliver, Michael, 1893</a>
Box 1, Folder 8	<a href="#">P-W, Miscellaneous, 1857-1895</a> Notes: Includes letters from John Quincy Adams Ward
Box 1, Folder 9	<a href="#">Warner, Olin Levi and Family, 1857-1860</a>
Box 1, Folder 10	<a href="#">Warner, Olin Levi and Family , 1861</a>
Box 1, Folder 11	<a href="#">Warner, Olin Levi and Family, 1862-1863</a>
Box 1, Folder 12	<a href="#">Warner, Olin Levi and Family, 1864</a>
Box 1, Folder 13	<a href="#">Warner, Olin Levi and Family, 1865</a>
Box 1, Folder 14	<a href="#">Warner, Olin Levi and Family, 1866</a>
Box 1, Folder 15	<a href="#">Warner, Olin Levi and Family, 1867-1868</a>
Box 1, Folder 16	<a href="#">Warner, Olin Levi and Family, 1869</a> Notes: Includes typescript transcriptions of letters.
Box 1, Folder 17	<a href="#">Warner, Olin Levi and Family , 1870-1871</a>



Box 1, Folder 18	Warner, Olin Levi and Family, 1872
Box 1, Folder 19	Warner, Olin Levi and Family , 1873-1875
Box 1, Folder 20	Warner, Olin Levi and Family, 1876-1879
Box 1, Folder 21	Warner, Olin Levi and Family , 1880-1883
Box 1, Folder 22	Warner, Olin Levi and Family, 1884-1885
Box 1, Folder 23	Warner, Olin Levi and Family , 1886
Box 1, Folder 24	Warner, Olin Levi and Family, 1887-1890
Box 1, Folder 25	Warner, Olin Levi and Family , 1891-1895
Box 1, Folder 26	Wood, C.E.S., 1883-1896

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## 2.2: Sylvia Martinache Warner, 1883-1962

Box 1, Folder 27	Concern for Olin Levi Warner, 1896
Box 1, Folder 28	Condolences for Olin Levi Warner, 1896
Box 1, Folder 29	A-B, Miscellaneous, 1896-1917 Notes: Includes letters from Herbert Adams and Paul Wayland Bartlett
Box 1, Folder 30	Brownell, W.C. and Gertrude, 1903-1935
Box 1, Folder 31	C-N, Miscellaneous, 1896-1930 Notes: Includes letters from Lockwood de Forest, J. Scott Hartley, H.A. MacNeil, Kenneth Hayes Miller
Box 1, Folder 32	National Sculpture Society, 1896-1898 Notes: Includes letters from W.C. Brownell, and Daniel Chester French
Box 1, Folder 33	Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, 1897-1899
Box 1, Folder 34	P-R, Miscellaneous, 1898-1920
Box 1, Folder 35	Ryder, Albert Pinkham, 1897-1912
Box 1, Folder 36	S-W, Miscellaneous, 1898-1930 Notes: Includes letter from J. Alden Weir
Box 1, Folder 37	Warner, Olin Levi, 1883-1894
Box 1, Folder 38	Wood, C.E.S., 1896-1921

Box 1, Folder 39      [X-Z, Miscellaneous, circa 1910](#)

Box 1, Folder 40      [Letters to Rosalie Warner Jones and Frances O. Warner, 1936-1962](#)  
Notes:                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](#)

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## Series 3: Project Files, 1871-1936

### 6 Folders (Box 1, OV 4)

**Scope and Contents:** 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.

**Available Formats:** This series has been scanned in its entirety.

**Arrangement:** Materials are arranged alphabetically by project name.

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

**Scope and Contents:** 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.

**Available Formats:** 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.

**Arrangement:** Materials are arranged by document type.

Box 1, Folder 48      [Clippings, 1895-1950](#)  
Notes:              Oversized material housed in OV 4.

Box 1, Folder 49      [Club and Association Membership Listings, 1892-1896](#)

Box 2, Folder 1      [Exhibition Catalogs, 1880-1883](#)

Box 2, Folder 2      [Exhibition Catalogs, 1893](#)

Box 2, Folder 3      [Exhibition Catalogs, 1895-1907](#)

Box 2, Folder 4      [Miscellaneous, 1862-1921](#)

Box OV 4              Oversized Clippings, 1895-1950  
Notes:              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)

**Scope and Contents:** 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.

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

**Arrangement:** Materials are arranged by photographic subject.

Box 2, Folder 5	<a href="#">Photographs of Artist and Family at Home and Studio, circa 1875-1895</a>
Box 2, Folder 6	<a href="#">Photographs of Olin Levi Warner Standing with Caryatid for Skidmore Fountain, circa 1883</a>
Box 2, Folder 7	<a href="#">Photographs of Exterior of Warner Home and Studio, circa 1890s</a>
Box 2, Folder 8	<a href="#">Photograph of Exhibition, circa late 1890s</a>
Box 2, Folder 9	<a href="#">Photographs of Sitters, circa 1870's-1890's</a> Notes: Includes photographs of J. Alden Weir, Governor Buckingham, Chief Joseph, and President Hayes.
Box 2	<a href="#">Photographs of Artwork</a>
Box 2, Folder 10	<a href="#">W. C. Brownell, 1886</a> Notes: Oversized material housed in OV 4.
Box 2, Folder 11	<a href="#">Governor Buckingham, 1884</a>
Box 2, Folder 12	<a href="#">General Charles Devens, 1894</a>
Box 3, Folder 1	<a href="#">Dancing Nymph, 1879</a>
Box 3, Folder 2	<a href="#">Diana, 1883</a>
Box 3, Folder 3	<a href="#">Library of Congress Doors, circa 1896</a> Notes: Oversized material housed in OV 4.
Box 3, Folder 4	<a href="#">Native American Series, circa 1880's</a>
Box 3, Folder 5	<a href="#">Skidmore Fountain, circa 1883</a>
Box 3, Folder 6	<a href="#">Various Sculptures, circa 1880s-1890s</a>

Box 3, Folder 7      [Various Sculptures, circa 1880s-1890s](#)

Box 3, Folder 8      [Portraits of Olin Levi Warner, 1880s](#)

Box OV 4      Oversized Photographs of Artwork, 1886-circa 1896  
Notes:      Oversized material scanned with Box 2, Folder 10 and Box 3,  
Folder 3.

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