



Smithsonian
*Freer Gallery of Art and
Arthur M. Sackler Gallery*

The Brumbaugh Collection of Artist Letters

Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery Archives
Washington, D.C. 20013
AVRreference@si.edu
<https://www.freersackler.si.edu/research/archives/>

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery Archives
Title:	The Brumbaugh Collection of Artist Letters
Identifier:	FSA.A2009.06
Date:	1831-1979
Extent:	73 Items (Letters; written in ink, ball point, graphite, typewriter) 26 Items (Stamps) 3 Items (Photographs)
Creator:	Brumbaugh, Thomas B. (Thomas Brendle), 1921-
Language:	English
Digital Content:	Image(s): The Brumbaugh Collection of Artist Letters

Administrative Information

Provenance

Gift of Susan A. Hobbs, 2009.

Other Archival Materials

Thomas B. Brumbaugh research material on Abbott Handerson Thayer and other artists, 1876-1994 (bulk 1960s-1994); Also located at Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Permission to publish, quote, or reproduce must be secured from the repository.

Biographical / Historical

Beginning in his youth Thomas Brumbaugh collected autographed correspondence. Mr. Brumbaugh's collecting instincts resulted in a unique collaborative collection providing a glimpse into the lives of a variety of 19th and 20th century American artists, such as Abbott Thayer. Brumbaugh was a professor of fine arts at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, and author of many articles on American art and artists.

Scope and Contents

This collection is an amalgamation of letters written and received by prominent figures in 19th and 20th century American Art. Included in the collection is a significant portion of letters from Abbott Thayer to correspondents from his circle of family, friends and art world figures such as Maria Oakey Dewing and Samuel Coleman.

Arrangement

Organized alphabetically by author.

Local Numbers

FSA A2009.06

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Art, American

Types of Materials:

Correspondence -- 19th century

Correspondence -- 20th century

Names:

Beal, Gifford, 1879-1956
Brush, George de Forest, 1855-1941
Cloar, Carroll
Dewing, M. O. (Maria Oakey), 1855-1927
Faulkner, Barry, 1881-1966
Harding, Chester, 1792-1866
Healey, George.
Johnson, Eastman, 1824-1906
Lassaw, Ibram, 1913-2003
Moser, James Henry, 1854-1913
Palmer, Erastus Dow, 1817-1904
Reid, Robert, 1862-1929
Robus, Hugo, 1885-1964
Rossiter, Thomas Prichard, 1818-1871
Soyer, Isaac, 1902-1981
Speicher, Eugene Edward, 1883-1962
Thayer, Abbott Handerson, 1849-1921
Weber, Max, 1881-1961

Whittier, John Greenleaf, 1807-1892

Geographic Names:

USA -- Tennessee -- Nashville

Container Listing

Series FSA A2009.06 3: Correspondence to and from Brumbaugh, Thomas B, 1941-1970

10 Items (Letters; written in ink, ball point, graphite, typewriter)

[Image\(s\)](#)

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Brumbaugh, Thomas B. (Thomas Brendle), 1921-

Gibbs, Wolcott, 1902-1958

Faulkner, Barry, 1881-1966

Hardin, Louis

Lassaw, Ibram, 1913-2003

Rosin, Harry

Soyer, Isaac, 1902-1981

Beginning in his youth Thomas Brumbaugh collected autographed correspondence. Mr. Brumbaugh's collecting instincts resulted in a unique collaborative collection providing a glimpse into the lives of a variety of 19th and 20th century American artists, such as Abbott Thayer. Brumbaugh was a professor of fine arts at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, and author of many articles on American art and artists.

Oliver Wolcott Gibbs was an American playwright and writer who lived in New York City. He wrote for The New Yorker and worked as a humorist and theatre critic. Gibbs was a direct descendent of President Martin Van Buren.

Barry Faulkner was an American artist who studied with Abbott H. Thayer, George de Forest Brush, and Augustus Saint-Gaudens. Along with sculptor Sherry Edmundson Fry, Faulkner organized artists to train as camouflage specialists. Faulkner was born in New Hampshire, traveled to Europe as he studied art, and then returned to New York, where he began work as a mural artist. He completed "The Constitution" and "The Declaration" in 1936 for the Rotunda for the Charters of Freedom at the National Archives.

Isaac Soyer was a social realist painter from New York City who used working-class and unemployed people as the subjects in his paintings. He also painted portraits for friends, and used his friends and family as models for his work.

Louis Hardin, commonly known as "Moondog," was a blind American composer and poet who lived on the streets of New York for a large portion of his life. He wore clothes inspired by the Norse god Thor, giving him the epithet, "The Viking of 6th Avenue." Moondog was influenced by ambient noises in his environment, and Native American music.

Henry Rox was a German artist who studied in Berlin and Paris before settling in the United States in 1938, where he taught at many universities, including Mount Holyoke College. He is known for fruit and vegetable photo-sculptures.

Ibram Lassaw was an American sculptor in the 20th century. Born in Egypt to Russian parents, Lassaw grew up in Brooklyn, New York. He was influenced by Alexander Calder and Wassily Kandinsky. Lassaw created open-space sculptural abstractions with metal, and helped abstract art grow in the United States.

Harry Rosin was an American sculptor born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. After working around the area following his studies at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, he traveled to Tahiti, where he married his wife. He is known for his iron sculptures.

This collection is an amalgamation of letters written and received by prominent figures in 19th and 20th century American art. Included in this folder are letters between the collector, Thomas Brumbaugh, and various artists, including American playwright and writer Oliver Wolcott Gibbs, mural artist Barry Faulkner, and Louis Hardin.

Organized chronologically.

Thomas B. Brumbaugh research material on Abbott Handerson Thayer and other artists, 1876-1994 (bulk 1960s-1994); Also located at Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Local Numbers

FSA A2009.06 3

Names: Barnes Foundation
Greenough, Horatio, 1805-1852
Rox, Henry
Thayer, Abbott Handerson, 1849-1921
White, Nelson C.

Topic: Art, American
Busts
Runes

Genre/Form: Correspondence -- 19th century
Correspondence -- 20th century

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Series FSA A2009.06 4: Correspondence, Andrews, Ambrose - Harding, Chester, 1779-1981

14 Items (Letters; written in ink, ball point, graphite, typewriter)

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Beal, Gifford, 1879-1956

Andrews, Ambrose, 1805-1859

Bates, Edward, 1793-1869

Bohrod, Aaron

Cloar, Carroll

Colman, Samuel, 1832-1920

Bacon, Josephine Daskam, 1876-1961

Rogers, Daniel Denison, 1751-1825

Elliot, William Parker

Brush, George de Forest, 1855-1941

Harding, Chester, 1792-1866

Ambrose Andrews was a portrait, miniature, and landscape portrait who worked throughout New England and the United States. He was born in Stockbridge, Massachusetts in 1801 and studied at the National Academy of Design. He exhibited paintings at many different institutions, including his portraits of Henry Clay and Sam Houston. Andrews's work is now in the New York Historical Society.

Edward Bates was a representative for Missouri in the mid-1800s. He served in the War of 1812 as a sergeant in a volunteer brigade, studied and practiced law, attended the state constitutional convention, was district attorney from 1821 to 1826, and was a member of the state senate. He declined to serve

as Secretary of War for President Fillmore, but was appointed Attorney General of the United States by President Lincoln, and served from March 5, 1861 to September 1864. Bates died on March 25, 1869.

Admiral Charles Henry Davis was born on January 16, 1807, and served as Chief of the Bureau of Navigation between 1862 and 1865. He then served as Superintendent of the Naval Observatory. He had three ships named after him.

Forbes Watson was an art critic, lecturer, and administrator in New York City in the early 20th century. He served as art critic for the New York Evening Post. In 1933 he was appointed Technical Director of the first New Deal art program, the Public Works of Art Project, which provided work for artists in the decoration of non-federal buildings. He later worked at the Treasury Department of Painting and Sculpture, which administered funding for decorating federal buildings. Watson finally served in the Treasury Department's War Finance Division, where he organized exhibitions and posters by combat artists to promote the sale of war bonds. Forbes Watson's papers are held in the Archives of American Art.

Gifford Beal was an American artist who worked with many organizations for the advancements of the arts, finding inspiration from a wide variety of sources, including holiday scenes, every-day life, and landscapes. Beal loved spontaneity and was influenced by French Impressionists. He was commissioned by the government to paint two murals: one on the post office in Allentown, Pennsylvania, and one in the Main Interior Building in Washington, D.C. Beal's papers are held in the Archives of American Art.

Aaron Bohrod was born in Chicago, Illinois on November 21, 1907, where he studied art at the Art Institute of Chicago. He worked for a while in the advertising art department at the Fair Department Store in Chicago, but eventually moved to New York City, where he joined the Art Students League. He died on April 3, 1992. During World War II, Bohrod worked as an artist for the United States Army Corps of Engineer and Life magazine in Europe.

Carroll Cloar was an American realist and surrealist who lived from 1913 to 1993. He grew up in Arkansas, but later moved to Tennessee, travelled Europe, and joined the Art Students League in New York City. During World War II, he joined the U.S. Army Air Corps, and although he did complete some artwork during this period, none of it survives. Cloar then settled in Memphis. One of his paintings was chosen to commemorate President Clinton's inauguration in 1993. Cloar died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound on April 10, 1993, after a long battle with cancer.

Samuel Colman was an American painter who belonged to the Hudson River School, and is most well-remembered for his landscapes. He was born in Portland, Maine, in 1832, and began exhibiting at the young age of 18. At 27 he was elected an associate of the National Academy, and later studied abroad in Paris and Spain. He was made a full Academician upon his return to the United States, and both founded and served as the first president of the American Water-color Society. He continued to both study in Europe and exhibit artwork, moving from New York to Rhode Island. Colman is represented in the metropolitan Museum, Chicago Art Institute, and many other collections. He died in New York City in 1920.

Josephine Daskam Bacon was an American writer known for writing about "women's issues" and using female protagonists. She wrote a series of juvenile mysteries and helped pioneer the Girl Scouts movement, writing a guidebook for the organization.

Daniel Denison Rogers is perhaps most widely remembered for the painting that John Singleton Copley completed of his wife, Abigail Bromfield.

Ithiel Town was an American architect and civil engineer who lived from October 3, 1784 to June 13, 1844. He worked in the Federal and revivalist Greek and Gothic styles, and was widely copied. He was born in Connecticut, and built both Center Church and Trinity Church in New Haven. Town patented a wooden lattice truss bridge, which made him quite wealthy. He formed a professional architecture firm with Alexander Jackson Davis. One of Town's most amazing feats was the construction of the Potomac Aqueduct in Washington, D.C., which allowed fully loaded canal boats to cross the Potomac River.

William Parker Elliot designed the old U.S. Patent Office, a very important Greek Revival building, with Ithiel Town.

George de Forest Brush was an American painter who grew up in Connecticut and is typified by his paintings and drawings of Native Americans. Even after moving from Wyoming, where he met the Native Americans, back to the East, Brush still occasionally enjoyed living in a teepee. Brush's artistic style later developed into Renaissance-inspired portraits. He was friends with Abbott H. Thayer, and along with Brush's wife, Mary, and son, Gerome, they all contributed to early camouflage designs. Brush died in New Hampshire in 1941.

Chester Harding was an American portrait painter born in Massachusetts in 1792. He worked in many different professions, finally becoming a self-taught itinerant portrait painter. Harding settled in Beacon Hill, Boston, Massachusetts, in a building that now houses the Boston Bar Association (the Chester Harding House, a Historic National Landmark). He studied at the Philadelphia School of Design, later setting up a studio in London, where he befriended and painted for royalty and nobility. Harding finally returned to Boston, where he died in 1866.

This folder is an amalgamation of letters written and received by prominent figures in 19th and 20th century American art. Included in the folder are letters by Ambrose Andrews, Edward Bates, Gifford Beal, Aaron Bohrod, Carroll Clear, Samuel Colman, Josephine Daskam, Daniel Denison Rogers, William Elliot, George de Forest Brush, and Chester Harding. The letters' subjects cover a wide range of topics, including the buying and selling of art, invitations to dinner, and general correspondence.

Organized alphabetically by author.

Thomas B. Brumbaugh research material on Abbott Handerson Thayer and other artists, 1876-1994 (bulk 1960s-1994); Also located at Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Local Numbers

FSA A2009.06 4

Names: Art Students League (New York, N.Y.)
Beach, Ella
Thayer, Abbott Handerson, 1849-1921
Town, Ithiel, 1784-1844
Watson, Forbes, 1880-1960

Topic: Art, American
Drawing
Real property

Place: New York (N.Y.)

Genre/Form: Correspondence -- 19th century
Correspondence -- 20th century
Lithographs -- 1950-2000

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Series FSA A2009.06 5: Correspondence, Harrington - Moser, 1848-1924

9 Items (Letters; written in ink, ball point, graphite)

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McEvoy, Ambrose, 1878-1927

Healy, G. P. A. (George Peter Alexander), 1813-1894

Johnson, Eastman, 1824-1906

Maynard, George W. (George Willoughby), 1843-1923

Moser, James Henry, 1854-1913

Healy was an American academic painter during the 19th century who painted mostly portraits, including a rather well-known one of Abraham Lincoln seated, which hangs in the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C. He studied in Paris, and worked in Paris, Rome, and Boston. Healy was prolific, painting as many as 50 portraits in a single year, including a series of American presidents, and group pictures depicting congressmen and other famous political figures. The picture depicts Senator Daniel Webster's (MA) reply in Senate to Senator Robert Hayne (SC) in 1830. They debated the issue of states' rights and nullification, and Webster defended a strong national government, famously declaring, "The motto should not be 'Liberty first, and Union afterwards,' but 'Liberty and Union, now and forever, one and inseparable!'"

Hon. George C. Washington was born in Virginia in 1789 and died in Georgetown, D.C. in 1854. He attended Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts, served in the Maryland legislature, and served several terms representing Montgomery County in Congress.

Eastman Johnson was an American painter who co-founded the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Johnson painted many influential Americans of his day, and his style was influenced by the Dutch masters, earning him the title of "The American Rembrandt." He was born in Maine in 1824, but moved to Washington, D.C., where he completed many of his portraits. Johnson lived among Native American tribes and opened a studio in New York.

George Willoughby Maynard was an American painter who started his career by completing murals in Boston's Trinity Church. He later did many murals in the Library of Congress.

Ambrose McEvoy painted figures, landscapes, and portraits in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. He was a founder-member of the National Portrait Society in England, and painted a number of portraits of soldiers and sailors, which are now in the Imperial War Museum.

Edward Stanley Mercer was an English artist who studied at the Slade School of Art, along with time in Holland, Spain, and Italy. He exhibited at the Royal Academy, and was a member of both the Royal Society of Portrait Painters and the Royal Institute of Oil Painters.

In the letter, Ambrose McEvoy mentions that he has "written to Harold Speed," who was an English painter of oil and watercolor landscapes and portraits. Speed (1872-1957) studied art at the Royal Academy Schools and was elected a member of the Royal Society of Portrait Painters. Speed exhibited at the Royal Academy.

James Henry Moser was born in Ontario, Canada, who worked as an illustrator and landscape painter in oil and watercolor. In Washington, D.C., he was awarded the first Corcoran Prize by the Washington Watercolor Club. He was an art critic for the Washington Times, Post, and Herald, and did freelance illustrations for Harper's, among other publications. Mrs. Benjamin Harrison, the First Lady, purchased one of Moser's pieces, "A Sunny Morning at Salisbury Beach," to hang in the White House living room. He died in 1913 after having suffered a stroke earlier that year.

This folder is an amalgamation of letters written and received by prominent figures in 19th and 20th century American art. Included in the folder are letters from George P. Healy, Eastman Johnson, George W. Maynard, Ambrose McEvoy, and James Henry Moser.

Organized alphabetically by author.

Thomas B. Brumbaugh research material on Abbott Handerson Thayer and other artists, 1876-1994 (bulk 1960s-1994); Also located at Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Local Numbers

FSA A2009.06 5

Names: Mercer, Edward
Washington, George Corbin, 1789-1854

Topic: Art, American

Genre/Form: Correspondence -- 19th century
Correspondence -- 20th century

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Series FSA A2009.06 6: Correspondence, Palmer, Erastus - Widener, P.A.B, 1818-1847

11 Items (Letters; written in ink, ball point, graphite)
1 Photograph

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[Image\(s\): The Brumbaugh Collection of Artist Letters](#)

Speicher, Eugene Edward, 1883-1962

Palmer, Erastus Dow, 1817-1904

Reid, Robert, 1862-1929

Robus, Hugo, 1885-1964

Rossiter, Thomas Prichard, 1818-1871

Weber, Max, 1881-1961

Whittier, John Greenleaf, 1807-1892

Widener, P. A. B. (Peter Arrell Brown), 1834-1915

Erastus D. Palmer was an American sculptor. He sculpted portrait busts and religious bas-reliefs in a style that combined neoclassical idealism and realism. His most famous sculpture is "The White Captive," which depicts a young girl who has been captured by Native Americans.

Isaac Newton Phelps Stokes was an American architect born into the wealthy Phelps Stokes family. He designed St-Paul's Chapel at Columbia University and some residential buildings in New York. Phelps Stokes also published *The Iconography of Manhattan Island*, a six volume work about New York City. He commissioned John Singer Sargent to paint a portrait with himself and his wife, Edith née Minturn.

Robert Reid was an American artist who studied in New England and Paris. He began by painting French peasants, but became known for his murals and stained glass designs. Some of his work can be found in the Congressional Library in Washington, D.C.

Hugo Robus was an American painter and sculpture from Ohio. He studied in the United States and Paris, and then taught at the Modern Art School in New York. He worked in a very lyrical cubist style, usually with people as his subject.

Thomas Prichard Rossiter was an American painter born in New Haven, Connecticut. He traveled throughout Europe, painting portraits along the way, and he kept a studio in Paris. He painted mostly portraits, but also completed a series of paintings depicting the life of Christ.

John Frederick Kensett was an American artist and engraver who worked in New Haven, Connecticut, and New York City.

Henry Rox was a German artist who studied in Berlin and Paris before settling in the United States in 1938, where he taught at many universities, including Mount Holyoke College. He is known for fruit and vegetable photo-sculptures.

Eugene Speicher was an American realist painter from Buffalo, New York. He attended the Art Students League, and then studied in Europe for a few years. He was considered a leading portrait artist in America at the time, favoring female subjects. Speicher won numerous awards for his work, and was appointed Director of the American Academy of Arts and Letters in 1945.

Max Weber was a Russian-born Jewish-American cubist. He studied with Matisse, Rousseau, and Picasso in Paris. Weber helped introduce cubism to America.

John Greenleaf Whittier was an American Quaker poet. Whittier was an ardent abolitionist who was extremely influenced by the doctrines of humanitarianism, compassion, and social responsibility found in Quakerism. He was a founding member of the American Anti-Slavery Society, and worked as a lobbyist. He is remembered today for his patriotic poetry, and his poems that were later turned into hymns.

Paul Hayne was an American poet who Whittier references in his letter to the publishers Houghton, Mifflin & Co. Hayne had just died, and his son, W.H. Hayne, wanted to edit his later poems for publication.

Widener (1834-1915) was an American businessman from Pennsylvania. During the Civil War, he supplied meat to the Union Army. By investing in trolley cars and public transit services, Widener became quite successful and wealthy. He was an avid art collector whose collection included works by Rembrandt, Edouard Manet, and Auguste Renoir. He is considered one of the top 100 wealthiest Americans of all time.

This folder is an amalgamation of letters written and recieved by prominent figures in 19th and 20th century American art. Included in the folder are letters by Robert Reid, Hugo Robus, Thomas Prichard Rossiter, Eugene Speicher, John Greenleaf Whittier and Peter A.B. Widener.

Organized alphabetically by author.

Thomas B. Brumbaugh research material on Abbott Handerson Thayer and other artists, 1876-1994 (bulk 1960s-1994); Also located at Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Local Numbers

FSA A2009.06 6

Names: Hayne, Paul Hamilton, 1830-1886
Houghton, Mifflin and Company
Kensett, John Frederick, 1816-1872
United States. National Park Service

Topic: Art, American

Genre/Form: Correspondence -- 19th century
Correspondence -- 20th century

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Series FSA A2009.06 1: Correspondence, Abbott H. Thayer to the Beaches, Dewing, Endicott, the Kings, 1891-1915

10 Items (Letters; written in ink)

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Thayer, Abbott Handerson, 1849-1921

Abbott Handerson Thayer was born in Boston, Massachusetts on August 12, 1849 to a distinguished family. He moved from Boston to Brooklyn during his childhood, where he attended the National Academy of Design. Thayer often used his wife, Kate Bloede Thayer, her sister Gertrude, and his three children Mary, Gerald and Gladys as models. He also used Clara A. May as a model. His subjects included ethereal angels, landscapes, women, children, and flowers. When Kate died, Thayer's entire outlook on art and life changed. It had been Kate's family that introduced Thayer to the sense of idealism that comes from a German family who had immigrated to the United States. He had learned about the romanticism surrounding art and literature from the Bloedes, all of which encouraged the artist to paint perfectly beautiful figures. Later in life, Thayer established a permanent household in Dublin, New Hampshire, with his new wife, Emma Beach. He loved to paint the surrounding mountains and birds. Interestingly, Charles Lang Freer was one of Thayer's patrons.

Kate Bloede (1846-1890) was Abbott Thayer's first wife, who tragically died following a long battle with depression. Abbott used Kate as a model during his painting career. The couple lived in Paris, where their first two children were born. Upon their return to New York, the Thayers had three more children. In May 1888, Kate developed "melancholia," or depression, following the death of her father, Gustav Bloede. She was admitted to Bloomingdale Hospital, where she was treated for six months. Although her family visited her often, she did not respond well. Abbott transferred Kate to McLean Asylum in the winter of 1888, and then to a sanatorium in 1890. Pulmonary complications developed and Kate died on May 3, 1891. Animositities between Abbott and the Bloede family developed soon after Kate's death.

Emma Beach was Abbott Thayer's second wife, whom he married four months to the day after Kate Bloede's death. She met the couple during the summer of 1881, when they were vacationing in Nantucket. Beach was the daughter of Moses Beach, the former owner of the New York Sun. She was an art student, and over the next few years she visited the Thayers often, developing a close relationship with the children. Emma actually helped Thayer transfer Kate to the McLean Asylum. On July 27, 1891, Abbott wrote to Emma, imploring her to move in permanently with the family for the sake of the children. Her

family was quite against this proposal, but the two were married in Nantucket on September 3, 1891. This caused problems between Abbott and the Bloedes, particularly offending Gertrude Bloede and Indie Bloede King, Kate's sisters.

Violet and Ella Beach were Emma Beach's sisters.

Dr. Samuel T. King was Abbott's brother-in-law, the husband of Indie Bloede. Thayer was quite close with King, and therefore it was King to whom he wrote in an attempt to patch things over with the Bloede family, especially Gertrude Bloede. This relationship later deteriorated, with King supporting his wife as opposed to Thayer.

Gertrude Bloede was Kate's sister and was married to Dr. King. It was Gertrude who was most offended when Thayer quickly remarried after Kate's death, and it was Gertrude whom Abbott attempted to reach out to after she refused to speak to him. Gertrude lived a double life as a poet. She published several pieces under the name "Stuart Sterne" in the 19th century.

William Endicott was an American politician from Massachusetts who served as Secretary of War and was influential on the Board on Fortification. Following his retirement, he returned to Boston, was overseer of Harvard College (his Alma mater) and president of the Peabody Academy of Science and Peabody Education Fund. It appears that Thayer's letter responds to a request from Endicott that Abbott participate in a mural in Massachusetts.

Maria Oakey Dewing was the wife of Thomas Wilmer Dewing, an American painter at the turn of the century. Maria herself was an artist who painted mostly flowers, although she began by painting figures. She studied art at the Cooper Union in New York City.

This folder is an amalgamation of letters written by Abbott H. Thayer to various people, mostly relatives. The recipients include Moses Beach, Ella Beach, Violet Beach, Maria Oakey Dewing, Gertrude Bloede, and Dr. Samuel T. King.

Organized alphabetically by recipient.

Thomas B. Brumbaugh research material on Abbott Handerson Thayer and other artists, 1876-1994 (bulk 1960s-1994); Also located at Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Local Numbers

FSA A2009.06 1

Names:	Beach, Ella Beach, Moses Sperry, 1822-1892 Beach, Violet Bloede, Gertrude Dewing, M. O. (Maria Oakey), 1855-1927 Endicott, William Crowninshield, 1826-1900 King, Dr. Samuel T. Thayer, Abbott Handerson, 1849-1921 Thayer, Emma B., 1850-1924
Topic:	Art, American
Genre/Form:	Correspondence -- 19th century Correspondence -- 20th century

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Series FSA A2009.06 2: Correspondence, Abbott H. Thayer to Clara A. May, 1890-1899

6 Items (Letters; written in ink, graphite)

4 Items (Envelopes)

[Image\(s\)](#)

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Thayer, Abbott Handerson, 1849-1921

Thayer, Gerald Handerson, 1883-1939

Abbott Handerson Thayer was born in Boston, Massachusetts on August 12, 1849 to a distinguished family. He moved from Boston to Brooklyn during his childhood, where he attended the National Academy of Design. Thayer often used his wife, Kate Bloede Thayer, her sister Gertrude, and his three children Mary, Gerald and Gladys as models. He also used Clara A. May as a model. His subjects included ethereal angels, landscapes, women, children, and flowers. When Kate died, Thayer's entire outlook on art and life changed. It had been Kate's family that introduced Thayer to the sense of idealism that comes from a German family who had immigrated to the United States. He had learned about the romanticism surrounding art and literature from the Bloedes, all of which encouraged the artist to paint perfectly beautiful figures. Later in life, Thayer established a permanent household in Dublin, New Hampshire, with his new wife, Emma Beach. He loved to paint the surrounding mountains and birds. Interestingly, Charles Lang Freer was one of Thayer's patrons.

Clara May was one of Thayer's models. May met Thayer at the summer colony of Dublin in New Hampshire, where the two families were neighbors. Their friendship lasted around ten years, but this friendship withered following May's marriage to Reverend Paine. Following her marriage, May no longer worked as a model for Thayer.

Gerald Thayer was one of Abbott Thayer's sons, who wrote an unfinished thank you letter to May which was sent along with Abbott's letter.

This folder is an amalgamation of letters written by Abbott H. Thayer to his model and friend, Clara A. May. Also included is a thank-you letter from Thayer's son, Gerald, to May.

Organized chronologically.

Thomas B. Brumbaugh research material on Abbott Handerson Thayer and other artists, 1876-1994 (bulk 1960s-1994); Also located at Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Local Numbers

FSA A2009.06 2

Names: May, Clara Adelaide, 1872-1946
Thayer, Abbott Handerson, 1849-1921
Thayer, Gerald Handerson, 1883-1939
Thayer, Gladys, 1886 or 7-1945
Turner, David, Dublin.

Topic: Art, American

Genre/Form: Correspondence -- 19th century
Correspondence -- 20th century

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Series FSA A2009.06 7: Correspondence, US Capitol, 1837-1853

3 Items (Letters; written in ink)

[Image\(s\)](#)

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Meigs, Montgomery C., 1816-1892

Vanderlyn, John, 1775-1852

Jarvis, Leonard, 1781-1854

Chapman, John W. (John Wight), 1858-1939

General Montgomery Cunningham Meigs was Quartermaster General of the United States Army during and after the American Civil War. He was responsible for the purchase and distribution of supplies to the Union troops. Meigs was also an engineer and architect, and before and after the war, he supervised numerous projects throughout Washington, D.C. as part of the Army Corps of Engineers. He supervised the construction of wings and the dome of the Capitol building and the expansion of the General Post Office building. Meigs designed the Old Pension Office Building. His most amazing contribution to the city, however, was the Washington Aqueduct. Interestingly, it was Meigs who suggested to Abraham Lincoln that Arlington would be a good place for a cemetery. Meigs is buried there.

Leonard Jarvis was an American politician who served in Congress from 1829 to 1837. He was chairman of the Committee on Naval Affairs for some time. This contract is signed by him.

John Vanderlyn was an American neoclassicist painter who painted portraits of politicians in the early 19th century. He was commissioned by Congress in 1842 to paint the landing of Columbus. This painting was later reproduced on a stamp. This painting was commissioned for the renovation of the rotunda in the Capitol Building.

John Chapman was an American congressman who represented Pennsylvania. He worked as a judge before being elected to the House of Representatives.

This folder houses a series of letters referencing the building and renovation of the United States Capitol Building, most of which are from architects who worked on the project. One of the contracts orders iron beams for use in extending the Capitol building in 1857, during the second remodeling.

Organized chronologically.

Thomas B. Brumbaugh research material on Abbott Handerson Thayer and other artists, 1876-1994 (bulk 1960s-1994); Also located at Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Local Numbers

FSA A2009.06 7

Place: U. S. Capitol

Genre/Form: Correspondence -- 19th century

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Series FSA A2009.06 8: Photographs, undated

2 Items (*Photographs*)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

Brumbaugh, Thomas B. (Thomas Brendle), 1921-

Henry Peters Gray was an American portrait and history painter during the 19th century. He served as President of the National Academy for two years, and enjoyed painting mostly classical subjects.

Thomas D. Jones was a sculptor and medallionist who worked primarily in marble, along with some works in bronze and wood. His most popular sculpture is a bust of Abraham Lincoln, completed in 1860. Jones was born in New York, but worked primarily in Ohio. This photograph is signed by Jones. There is a list of his works on the back of the photograph.

This folder holds two photographs from the collection, one of painter Henry Peter Gray, and the other of sculptor Thomas D. Jones.

Organized alphabetically by subject name.

Thomas B. Brumbaugh research material on Abbott Handerson Thayer and other artists, 1876-1994 (bulk 1960s-1994); Also located at Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Local Numbers

FSA A2009.06 8

Names: Gray, Henry Peters, 1819-1877
Jones, Thomas David, 1811-1881

Topic: Art, American

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Series FSA A2009.06 9: Stamps, undated

26 Items (Stamps)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

Brumbaugh, Thomas B. (Thomas Brendle), 1921-

This folder contains 26 stamps. It is unclear what exactly the relationship these 26 stamps have to the rest of the collection, and whether they were collected by Brumbaugh or one of the artists whose correspondence is included. The nationalities of the stamps and the cities where they were sent are: Tasmania - Launceston, Canada - Halifax & Yarmouth, Luxembourg - Dudelange, Queensland, Australia - Brisbane, Federated Malay States - Kuala Lumpur, United Kingdom - Glasgow, Australia - Melbourne, Russia, Silesia - Province of Upper Silesia, Russia, China, Touva (Russia), Austria - Bischofshofen, French Republic - Nice, Province of Upper Silesia - Kattowitz, an Austrian Military Outpost, Federated Malay States, El'Terieh, Austria - Wien (Vienna), Iceland, Province of Upper Silesia, Finland, Germany, and French Indochina.

Organized in the way they were acquired.

Thomas B. Brumbaugh research material on Abbott Handerson Thayer and other artists, 1876-1994 (bulk 1960s-1994); Also located at Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Local Numbers

FSA A2009.06 9

Topic: Postage stamps
Genre/Form: Correspondence -- 19th century
Correspondence -- 20th century

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