

Lizzie Chapin papers

MS.007

Finding Aid prepared by Hoang Tran



PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMY
OF THE FINE ARTS

The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts
118-128 North Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102

archives@pafa.org

215-972-2066

Updated December 2015

Summary Information

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Repository | The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Dorothy and Kenneth Woodcock Archives |
| Creator | Lizzie Chapin |
| Title | Lizzie Chapin papers |
| Date [bulk] | |
| Date [inclusive] | 1855-1856 |
| Extent | 1 folder |
| Location note | |
| Language | English |
| Language of Materials note | English |
| Abstract | Lizzie Chapin's diary for 1855-1856 records a year in the life of a young, comfortably established, Philadelphia woman. Most of the entries record social visits, weather, church-going, and other routine events in her life. Four brief entries record visits to the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts on May 31 and June 4, 5, and 16, 1855. Unfortunately, there are no comments on what she saw or did on these visits. The diary's length (220 pages), and the level of detail provide a fascinating picture of the social life of a young, single woman in mid-nineteenth century Philadelphia. |

Preferred Citation note

[identification of item], Title of Collection, Collection ID#, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts Archives, Philadelphia, PA.

Historical note

Lizzie Chapin's diary is the only known documentation of her life. From the tone and content of the entries she appears to have been in her late teens or early twenties at the time of writing. Although her address is not known, she seems to have lived in the neighborhood of Mt. Vernon Street, west of Broad, based on several references in the diary.

Scope and Contents note

Lizzie Chapin's diary for 1855-1856 records a year in the life of a young, comfortably established, Philadelphia woman. Most of the entries record social visits, weather, church-going, and other routine events in her life. Four brief entries record visits to the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts on May 31 and June 4, 5, and 16, 1855. Unfortunately, there are no comments on what she saw or did on these visits. The diary's length (220 pages), and the level of detail provide a fascinating picture of the social life of a young, single woman in mid-nineteenth century Philadelphia.

The other items in the collection include:

- Calling card for Lizzie Chapin
- Letter to Lizzie from her parents, 1849
- Photograph of William B. Thompson, 1862
- Calling card of Mr. and Mrs. William B. Thompson (address is 1700 Mount Vernon St., near the home of Thomas Eakins)

Arrangement note

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access note

Collection is open for research.

The archives reserves the right to restrict access to materials of sensitive nature. Please contact the department for further information.

Conditions Governing Use note

The collection is the physical property of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Archives. The Museum holds literary rights only for material created by Museum personnel or given to the Museum with such rights specifically assigned. For all other

Lizzie Chapin papers (MS.007)

material, literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. Researchers are responsible for obtaining permission from rights holders for publication and for other purposes where stated.

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Provenance note

The provenance of this collection is unknown, but would likely have been a descendant of Lizzie Chapin's. The four Academy visits mentioned in the diary may have prompted the donation.

Processing Information note

Processed by Hoang Tran, December 2015.

Controlled Access Headings

Person(s)

Corporate Name(s)

Genre(s)

Geographic Name(s)

Subject(s)

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements note

Collection Inventory

| Item | Date | Box | Folder |
|---------------------|-----------|-----|--------|
| Collection contents | 1855-1856 | 1 | 1 |