Summary Information

Repository
The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Dorothy and Kenneth Woodcock Archives

Creator
Tara Leigh Tappert

Title
Tara Tappert collection of Cecilia Beaux research materials

Date [bulk]
1983-2000

Date [inclusive]
1983-2000

Extent
12 linear feet

Location note

Language

Language of Materials note
English

Abstract
Research files compiled by Tara Tappert while writing her dissertation on the life and career of Cecilia Beaux. Large collection of correspondence, photographs, and biographical research on Beaux.

Preferred Citation note
[identification of item], Title of Collection, Collection ID#, The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Dorothy and Kenneth Woodcock Archives, Philadelphia, PA.
Historical note

Tara Leigh Tappert completed her Ph.D. dissertation on the prominent American portrait painter Cecilia Beaux (1855-1942) in 1990 at George Washington University. She earned a Masters degree in Library Science from Wayne State University in 1976, and a BA from Hope College in 1973. In 1995 she was the guest curator for the National Portrait Gallery exhibition *Cecilia Beaux and the Art of Portraiture*. In 1996 and 1997 she worked with Exhibits USA, to organize a traveling exhibition of Beaux's work. Funding for the tour and the book-length catalogue was not found and the project was canceled. In 1999-2000 she worked with the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts to co-edit a special issue on Beaux for the July 2000 issue of *The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, published by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

In the course of her research on Beaux, Tappert surveyed archival collections at the Archives of American Art, the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, the American Academy of Arts and Letters, Yale University Library, the Library of Congress, the Cape Ann Historical Society and several private collections of family papers. Tappert's work on Beaux brought her several related projects including archival arrangement and a checklist of the papers of the Gilder and de Kay families (1987), and preparation of a catalogue on the Emmets, a family of women artists who were Beaux's contemporaries. During the course of her career as an independent art historian and archives consultant, she continued to write about Cecilia Beaux, and is one of the acknowledged experts on authentication issues.

Ms. Tappert's other area of interest is American decorative arts. She has taught 20th craft history at the HDA Masters Program in the History of Decorative Arts at the Smithsonian Associates, and the Corcoran School of Art and Design.

Scope and Contents note

Tara Tappert began amassing files on Cecilia Beaux (hereafter CB) as soon as she began her dissertation. Over time she added material as she came across it. During her research she visited many of Beaux's many great-nieces and nephews. She made multiple visits to Cecilia Saltonstall, Beaux's great-niece in New Hampshire. There is a large file of correspondence with Mrs. Saltonstall.

It should be noted that in the mid 1980s Mrs. Saltonstall lent Tappert a collection of original photographs of Beaux including two photograph albums, and a few items of Beaux memorabilia. They were lent with the understanding that Tappert would eventually donate them to an art institution. In 1998 she gave them to the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts and they have been added to the collection of primary materials on Beaux.

The Tappert research files donated to the Academy in 2007 fall into several broad categories:
Research on CB's life, her travels, her friends and colleagues, and Beaux's portrait sitters. There are also clippings, reviews, photographs, and copies of Beaux material held elsewhere.

Articles and book chapters copied as background research for the dissertation.

Tappert's correspondence from the research phase of her work, 1983-90.

Tappert's correspondence concerning the organization of the National Portrait Gallery CB exhibition, 1992-95.

Tappert's correspondence after the 1995 exhibition while preparing a biographical study of CB, 1995 to 2000.

Correspondence on issues of authentication will be found in many of the above files.

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 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


Processing Information note

Controlled Access Headings

Person(s)
Corporate Name(s)

Genre(s)

Geographic Name(s)

Subject(s)

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements note

Collection Inventory

FILES ON INDIVIDUALS
    A. Piatt Andrew (3 files)
    Balch, Edwin Swift
    Barlow, Ernesta Drinker
    Bartlett, Paul
    Bellows, George
    Berenson, Bernard
    Biddle, Emily
    Biddle, Will
    Blake, Mrs. William (Elisabeth Cady Stanton, 2 files)
    Blashfield, Edwin Howland
    Bonnat, Leon
    Bouguereau, William
    Bowen, Catherine Drinker
    Brandon, Edouard
    Carolus-Duran, Charles A.
    Cassatt, Mary
    Conant, Lucy Scarborough
    Constant, Benjamin
    Cope, Edward Drinker
    Courtois, Gustave
    Cox, George
    Dagnan-Bouveret, P. A.
    Darwin, George, family of
    De Glehn, Jane Emmett (2 files)
    Dewing, Maria Oakey
    Davidge, Joanna Randall-Maclver
    Drinker family
    Drinker, Henry Sturgis
    Drinker, Henry Sandwith
    Emmet family
    Gardner, Isabella Stewart
Gilder family
Gilder, Dorothea
Gilder, Helena De Kay
Gilder, Richard Watson
Gilder, Rodman

Hale, Ellen Day
Hancock, Walker
Harrison, Alexander
Harding, James Duffield
Janvier, Catherine Drinker
Julien, Bernard Romaine (author)

Kent family
Kirk, Marie Louise
LaFarge, John
Lamb, Aimee
Lambert, John
Lasar, Charles
Lathrop, John Howland
Laughlin, Lawrence
Leavitt family
Lee, Cuthbert
Mechlin, Lila
Morris, Harrison
Natale (CB's gardener)
Oakley, Thornton (re his book)
Oakley, Thornton (letters to and from Beaux)
Oakley, Violet
Parrish, Stephen
Perry, Lila Cabot
Peart, Caroline
Pell, Mrs. Herbert (Olive)
Piton, Camille
Rand, Ellen Emmet (works of art)
Rand, Ellen Emmet (correspondence)
Robert-Fleury, Tony
Sargent, John Singer
Sartain, Emily
Sartain, William (biography)
Sartain William (manuscripts)
S9hussele, Christian
Senat, Prosper
Seymour, Charles Dudley
Sherwood, Rosina Emmett (works of art)
Sherwood, Rosina Emmett (general)
Sinkler, Caroline
Sleeper, Henry Davis (manuscripts)
Smith, Joseph Lindon
Smith, Russell
Sorolla
St. Gaudens, Homer
Taggart, Lucy
Thayer, Abbott

Thouron, Henry
Thomas, M. Carey
Tinker, Chauncey B.
Van der Wielen, F.A.
Van Renssalaer, Mrs. S.
Watkins, Dr. S. C. G.
Whistler, James McNeil
Whitehurst, Camilla
Wilder, Thornton
Wiles, Irving
Williams, Talcott
Yvon, Adolphe
Zorn, Anders

FILES ON INSTITUTIONS
Academie Colarossi
Academie Julian
American Academy of Arts and Letters (3 files)
American Woman’s Association
Art Students League of New York
Barnard College
Bryn Mawr College
Century Magazine
Chi Omega Fraternity (women's fraternity)
Contemporary Club
Fine Arts Club of Washington
Geographical Society of Philadelphia
Hispanic Society of America
International Art Congress
International Society of sculptors, Painters, and Gravers
The Louvre
National Academy of Design
National Arts Club
National Association of Portrait Painters
National Association of Women Artists (NY)
National Institute of Arts and Letters
Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts
Plastic Club (Philadelphia)
University of Pennsylvania
Yale University

FILES ON BEAUX'S PAPERS:
This material is copied from originals at the Archives of American Art (collection available online at www.si.aaa.edu) and several other institutions.


Correspondence concerning CB's portraits of prominent World War I heroes, 1919-20.

Notebook: Photocopy of notebook at the Archives of American Art, Roll 427, frames 1614-1689. 29 pages of notes on lectures on classification in the animal kingdom primarily with regard to fossils and shells. Also 47 pages of verse. Dated 1867 to 1885.

Account book: Photocopy of account book at the Archives of American Art, covering the years 1879 to 1884.

CB's legal and estate correspondence and documents, copied from the Archives of American Art.

FILES ON PLACES
Philadelphia: miscellaneous research material on the city and its art milieu.

6 files on CB's travels, containing copies of her letters from each place visited, copied from the Archives of American Art, and notes by Tappert on the letters.
- Paris, Jan. - June, 1888
- Concarneau, July - Oct., 1888
- Italy, Nov. 1888
- Paris, Dec. 1888 - May, 1889
- Cambridge, England, June - Aug. 1889
- European trip, 1896

6 files on places important in CB's life:
- "Beauport" the Gloucester, Mass. home of Henry Davis Sleeper. 2 articles on Beauport; 2 versions (older and newer?) of the transcription of the Beauport guest register book. Also see the NAMES file on Henry Davis Sleeper.
- Fair View Inn, Gloucester, Mass.
- Four Brooks Farm, Tyringham, Mass.
• Gloucester, Mass. (general)
• "Green Alley," Beaux's home at Gloucester, Mass.

FILES ON EXHIBITIONS (BEAUX'S LIFETIME)
• General: Miscellaneous research
• Carnegie International
• Corcoran Gallery
• Paris - Universal Exposition, 1889
• Chicago - World's Columbian Exposition, 1893
• Atlanta - Cotton States and International Exposition, 1895
• New York - American Academy of Arts and Letters, 1935
• Solo Exhibitions
• Clippings and articles about exhibitions
• Exhibition activity by Beaux's contemporaries

FILES ON CECILIA BEAUX
• General Biography
• Obituaries
• Published notices and Tappert's notes on CB's autobiography Background With Figures
• Solicited reminiscences, 1984 (5 items; one includes a short CB letter)
• Beaux Portraits: lists made by Tara Tappert on types and categories of portraits.
• Reproductions of works of art by other artists on similar subjects.
• Addresses and lectures by CB, 1914-33 (texts and drafts).
• Published poetry and articles by CB, 1884-1925.
• Unpublished essays, letters and poetry, by CB, ca. 1888-1930s.
• Articles about, or mentioning CB, 1893-1919.
• Articles about, or mentioning CB, 1920-46.
• Articles about, or mentioning CB, 1955-97.
• CB's views of other women.
• Other women's views of CB.
• Research on CB from Elizabeth Bailey, 1977-80.

Elizabeth Bailey was the co-curator of the Pennsylvania Academy's 1974-75 Beaux exhibition. After the exhibition closed she continued to research Beaux's career. The file contains about a dozen pieces of correspondence, mostly in regard to several articles Bailey was attempting to write. Bailey gave the file to Tara Tappert in 1996. (Bailey's research file for the Academy's exhibition is in the Academy archives. See the files on the Beaux exhibition).

PHOTOGRAPHS
Copy photographs, or photocopies, obtained by Tara Tappert during her research. Subjects include CB; CB's relatives; groups of friends; the Gilder family; Green Alley and Beauport taken
by Tappert about 1990; and the 1995 CB exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery. Also see three ring-binders of photographs prepared for Tappert's unpublished biographical study of Beaux. (These could be dismantled at some point.)

**FILES ON WORKS OF ART BY BEAUX**
Files are in chronological order. Undated and questionable attributions are at the end. Each decade has a file "Works - 1910s" etc. to accommodate single items where no folder was created. (Another source of information on works of art by CB is the Henry S. Drinker Collection, research amassed by Beaux's nephew while writing his catalogue of her work in 1955. The Drinker Collection is in the PAFA archives)

**BIBLIOGRAPHIC MATERIALS**
Articles and book chapters, photocopied for general background research on various topics, as well as material cited in dissertation footnotes.

- Autobiography and Biography (as literary forms)
- Children
- China Painting after 1870
- Heroes
- Industrial Art Education in the Nineteenth century
- Photographic Portraiture on non-paper surfaces ("plaque portraits")
- Portraiture - General references and articles
- Women - General references and articles
- Women Artists
- Women and Fine Arts Education
- Women and Industrial Arts Education
- Miscellaneous notes and lists

**FILES OF TAPPERT'S CORRESPONDENCE**
Correspondence amassed while writing CB dissertation:
- Outgoing Correspondence, 1983-86, 1987-90,
- Correspondence from Cecilia Saltonstall, 1984-99

Correspondence amassed during preparation of the National Portrait Gallery CB exhibition:
- Grant Proposal, 1992
- Incoming Correspondence, 1990-94, 1995
- Outgoing Correspondence, 1990-94, 1995-96
- Legal Correspondence re photograph permissions, 1995-96

Correspondence amassed, post-dissertation, while preparing a book on CB:
- Includes correspondence re CB, exhibition congratulations, the book manuscript, and authentication correspondence.
• Outgoing Correspondence, 1991-2000

TAPPERT'S WRITINGS ON BEAUX
There is a copy of Tappert's dissertation on CB in the PAFA library.

Ca. 1994. Annotated photocopy of Henry Drinker's 1955 Beaux catalogue, listing titles and locations for scores of works Tappert learned of and recorded. Also contains corrections of Drinker's original entries.


Ca. 1996. Unpublished chronology of the life of CB. This is a detailed progression of events in CB's life organized year-by-year. About 75 handwritten pages. There is also a 16-page list of "Sources to Pursue [for] CB biography."


2008. Lecture on Beaux prepared for, but not delivered, during the run of the PAFA Beaux exhibition.

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