

Charles L. Fussell papers

MS.015

Finding Aid prepared by Hoang Tran



PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMY
OF THE FINE ARTS

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Updated by Hoang Tran, January 2016

Summary Information

Repository	The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Dorothy and Kenneth Woodcock Archives
Creator	Charles L. Fussell (1840-1909)
Title	Charles L. Fussell papers
Date [bulk]	
Date [inclusive]	1857-1907
Extent	1 box
Location note	
Language	
Language of Materials note	English
Abstract	The Fussell papers contain an unpublished family history, <i>Bits o' Background</i> , by Ellen Fussell Cope; Charles Lewis Fussell's correspondence; correspondence of three generations of Fussell family members mentioning Charles and his art activities; and two photographs of Charles Lewis Fussell.

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

Charles Lewis Fussell lived and worked in the Philadelphia area for most of his life. He received painting instruction from Peter F. Rothermel, and in 1864 was enrolled at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. He returned to the Academy in 1879 for the anatomy course then being taught by his friend and former Academy classmate, Thomas Eakins.

Between 1863 and 1905, Fussell frequently exhibited landscape and genre scenes in the Academy's annual exhibitions, as well as exhibitions at the National Academy of Design and the Chicago Art Institute. Fussell is represented in the Academy's permanent collection by thirty-two drawings and sketches.

Fussell spent much of his time engaged in farming. For several months during 1870 and 1871, he was in Greeley, Colorado, for the purpose of investigating climate conditions which might be beneficial to his father's health, and because Rothermel had advised him that paintings of Rocky Mountain scenes might sell well back in Philadelphia. He managed to support himself in Colorado by making sketches for the Greeley town commissioners, but was unable to obtain an appointment as an artist for government surveying expeditions, and is not known to have sold many paintings during his lifetime. Fussell traveled throughout Pennsylvania, New York, and New Jersey painting landscapes. Never married, he lived quietly in Media, Pennsylvania, with his aunt, Graceanna Lewis, and an unmarried sister. Thomas Eakins painted a portrait of Fussell about 1905 (Montclair Art Museum, Montclair, New Jersey). The two are known to have visited occasionally and enjoyed ice skating together.

Scope and Contents note

The Fussell papers contain an unpublished family history, *Bits o' Background*, by Ellen Fussell Cope; Charles Lewis Fussell's correspondence; correspondence of three generations of Fussell family members mentioning Charles and his art activities; and two photographs of Charles Lewis Fussell.

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

The collection was the gift of Sarah Fussell Macaulay, the artist's grand-niece in 1975.

Processing Information note

Processed by Hoang Tran.

Controlled Access Headings

Person(s)

Corporate Name(s)

Genre(s)

Geographic Name(s)

Subject(s)

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements note

Collection Inventory

Folder title	Date	Box	Folder
Provenance and genealogy		1	1
Research for exhibition (cancelled)		1	2
Correspondence	Undated, 1857-1892	1	3
Correspondence: Charles L. Fussell and art activities	1860-1907	1	4
Unpublished family history by Ellen Fussell Cope "Bits o'Background: Chapters 1-3		1	5
Unpublished family history by Ellen Fussell Cope "Bits o'Background: Chapters 4-8		1	6

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Folder title	Date	Box	Folder
Unpublished family history by Ellen Fussell Cope "Bits o' Background: Chapters 9-10		1	7
Photographs (2)		1	8