

Sartain Family papers

MS.033

Finding Aid prepared by Hoang Tran



PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMY
OF THE FINE ARTS

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Summary Information

Repository	The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Dorothy and Kenneth Woodcock Archives
Creator	John Sartain (1808-1897), Emily Sartain (1841-1927), William Sartain (1843-1924), Samuel Sartain (1830-1906), Henry Sartain (1833-1895), Helen Sartain (1841-1927), and Harriet Sartain (1873-1957)
Title	Sartain Family papers
Date [bulk]	
Date [inclusive]	1860-1933
Extent	1/2 document box, 3 flat boxes (12")
Location note	
Language	
Language of Materials note	English
Abstract	The papers in the Sartain family collection relate to at least five members of the family; John, Emily, William, Samuel, Henry, Helen, and Harriet. The collection consists of photographs, scrapbooks, unpublished manuscripts, and a small amount of correspondence.

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

John Sartain (1808-1897), was the patriarch of one of Philadelphia's most famous and important artistic dynasties. He was also one of the Academy's two or three most important and influential Board members, serving the institution from 1855 to 1877. He exerted a profound influence on both the design of our building and on the curriculum of the school. His place in Philadelphia's artistic history would be assured for these events alone, not to mention his reputation as an engraver, painter and designer. Trained in England, he arrived in the United States in 1830. His popular reproductive engravings prompted a revival of mezzotint engraving in this country. He also served as art director of the 1876 Centennial Exposition. His autobiography, *Reminiscences of a Very Old Man, 1808-1897*, was published posthumously.

Four of his eight children became artists. Two of these in particular are important to Academy history because of their close friendship with Thomas Eakins. Eakins, who already knew John Sartain through his father's circle of contacts, went to high school with William Sartain (1843-1924), and attended classes with him at the Academy in the early 1860's. They traveled in Europe together in the summer of 1868, and remained in contact until the end of their lives. William Sartain's career as painter was long and successful.

William's sister, Emily (1841-1927), was also close to Eakins, and there may have been a romantic attachment between them. Emily studied at the Academy from 1868 to 1870 and in Paris from 1872 to 1876. She painted portraits and genre scenes and pursued a successful career as a mezzotint engraver. She headed the Philadelphia School of Design for Women from 1886 to 1919.

Samuel Sartain (1830-1906) was an engraver. Henry Sartain (1833-1895) was an engraver and a printer. Helen Sartain (1838-1901) married Samuel Schofield and did not pursue an artistic career.

Harriet Sartain (1873-1957) was the daughter of Henry Sartain. She became an instructor at the Philadelphia School of Design for Women in 1904 and served as its Dean from 1920 to 1946, before and after the name change to Moore College of Art.

Scope and Contents note

The papers in the Sartain family collection relate to at least five members of the family. The collection consists of photographs, scrapbooks, unpublished manuscripts, and a small amount of correspondence. In addition to the archival material, the 1988 gift included framed engravings; bound volumes of Sartain's Magazine; Helen Sartain's scrapbook of over 500 engravings by John Sartain and other artists and two Civil War group photographs; and a collection of drawings

possibly by Harriet Sartain or her students. These items were transferred to the museum collection.

Other sources of information about the Sartain family are: the Mary Cassatt papers for letters from Cassatt to Emily Sartain, the papers of Thomas Eakins, the archival collections at Moore College of Art and Design in Philadelphia, and the published volume *Philadelphia's Cultural Landscape: The Sartain Family Legacy, 1830-1930*, 2000, Temple University Press.

The Academy's Sartain materials have been filmed, with some omissions, by the Archives of American Art on reel 4235:283-814.

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

There are three sources for the Sartain family papers:

Paulette Van Roekens and Arthur Meltzer, 1959, (acting as executors of the estate of Harriet Sartain) donated letters from Thomas Eakins and his father, Benjamin, to various members of the Sartain family; letters to Emily, Harriet, and Paul Sartain from other persons; printed copies of William Morris Hunt's "Talks on Art", 1875-86 (transferred to the library); and a few other items.

Mrs. Margaret Eachus and her brother, Frank Deger, 1988, donated correspondence, ephemera, works of art (see Scope and Content note), the William Sartain scrapbooks, and photographs.

Kathryn Eachus Clark, 1995, gave a sixth scrapbook in the series compiled by William Sartain.

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

Folder title	Date	Box	Folder
Display case labels (from previous exhibition)	1997	1	1
Provenance information for the Sartain-Eakins correspondence		1	2
Provenance information for scrapbook vol. II		1	3
Finding Aid		1	4
Correspondence: Emily Sartain to John Sartain, 17 Sep 1875; John Sartain to Helen M. Sartain, 03 Jul 1884; John Sartain to James A. Sartain, 04 Apr 1896	1875, 1884, 1896	1	5
Manuscript - <i>Annals of the Sartain Tribe from 1557 to 1886</i> , Sartain's original manuscript for his family history (never published), 33 pages with several newspaper clippings tipped in at the end. In the 20th century the family prepared a typescript version, a copy of which is also preserved.	1886	1	6

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Folder title	Date	Box	Folder
Printed Matter including a fragment of an undated 19th century clipping describing Sartain; an undated 20th century clipping with a biographical summary of Sartain's life; an undated mid-20th century clipping describing Sartain's painting in the Bishop William White house; printed broadside: <i>Acrostic Sonnet to John Sartain, Esq.</i> by Stockton Bates.		1	7
Correspondence: Samuel Sartain	1830	1	8
Notebook and painting register: William Sartain		1	9
Autobiographical manuscript: William Sartain		1	10
Correspondence: William Sartain		1	11
Printed matter: William Sartain		1	12
Correspondence: Harriet Sartain		1	13
Correspondence: Paul Sartain, letters from Benjamin Eakins and Emily Sartain	Circa 1900	1	14
Correspondence: Phoebe Carey to Miss Hadry, re: Story for Sartain's magazine	1852	1	15
Correspondence: Emily Sartain		1	16
Harriet Sartain: Diploma from Moore Institute	1933	1	17
Correspondence: Thomas Eakins to Emily, William, and John Sartain re Gift of Paulette Van Roekens	1866-1871, 1886	1	18
William Sartain Scrapbook "Prints, Photographs, and Home with Sartain's Works" Volume 2	1900	2	
William Sartain Scrapbook "Photographs, engravings, and drawings illustrating with Sartain's Life" Volume 5	1902	2	
Slides: duplicates for sale or distribution (18 items)		2	
William Sartain Scrapbook "Press Notices on William Sartain" Volume 1	1908-1911	3	
William Sartain Scrapbook "Notices from the Press on William Sartain" Volume 3	1905	3	
William Sartain Scrapbook "Press Notices on William Sartain" Volume 6	1901-1905	3	
William Sartain Scrapbook "Press Notices on William Sartain" Volume 4	1868-1900	3	
Photographs: The Sartain home at 728 Sansom Street (5 items)		4	
Photographs: John Sartain (3 items)		4	
Photographs: William Sartain (3 items)		4	
Photographs: Exhibition of William Sartain paintings (3 items)		4	
Photographs: Unidentified persons (8 items)		4	