

# Thomas Sully correspondence

MS.043

Finding Aid prepared by Hoang Tran

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PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMY  
OF THE FINE ARTS

The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts  
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Philadelphia, PA 19102

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Updated by Hoang Tran, January 2016

## **Summary Information**

<b>Repository</b>	The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Dorothy and Kenneth Woodcock Archives
<b>Creator</b>	Thomas Sully (1783-1872)
<b>Title</b>	Thomas Sully correspondence
<b>Date [bulk]</b>	
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1842, 1862, 1871
<b>Extent</b>	4 items
<b>Location note</b>	
<b>Language</b>	
<b>Language of Materials note</b>	English
<b>Abstract</b>	This group of four one-page letters consists of two that are related to Sully's affiliation with the Pennsylvania Academy, and two unrelated to it. These four items constitute a small collection of the personal papers of Sully, but it should be noted that correspondence to and from Sully survives in the institutional archives of the Academy.

### **Preferred Citation note**

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

## **Historical note**

Thomas Sully, one of America's foremost portrait painters, was closely associated with the Pennsylvania Academy from its inception until his death. He was an instructor in the school and served on committees charged with the organization of the exhibition, and other matters.

## **Scope and Contents note**

This group of four one-page letters consists of two that are related to Sully's affiliation with the Pennsylvania Academy, and two unrelated to it. These four items constitute a small collection of the personal papers of Sully, but it should be noted that correspondence to and from Sully survives in the institutional archives of the Academy.

## **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**

These letters were the gift of Davis Meltzer in 1990. Mr. Meltzer's parents were the artists Paulette van Roekens and Arthur Meltzer, who jointly served as executors of the estate of Harriet Sartain in the late 1950's. The letters probably came out of the Sartain estate.

#### **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
<p>Correspondence:</p> <p><u>Academy Related</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sully to John Sartain, March 1, 1862 (suggestions on paintings to borrow for the Annual Exhibition)</li> <li>• Sully to Caleb Cope, June 20, 1862 (offers to copy a Benjamin West painting for the Academy, for \$50)</li> </ul> <p><u>Unrelated to Academy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sully to Charles Fraser, November, 1842 (recalls pleasant winter spent in Charleston and pleasure of his acquaintance with Fraser)</li> <li>• Sully to John Sartain, October, 1871 (sending gift of a sketch of Cortes)</li> </ul>	<p>1842, 1862, 1871</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>1</p>