

Thomas P. Anshutz papers

MS.049

Finding Aid prepared by Hoang Tran



PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMY
OF THE FINE ARTS

The 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, The Dorothy and Kenneth Woodcock Archives
Creator	Thomas Pollock Anshutz (1851-1912)
Title	Thomas Pollock Anshutz papers
Date [bulk]	1897-1912
Date [inclusive]	1897-1926
Extent	1 document box, 1 flat box (20.5")
Location note	
Language	
Language of Materials note	English
Abstract	

Preferred Citation note

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

Historical note

Thomas Pollock Anshutz (hereafter TPA) was born in 1851 in Newport, Kentucky. He received his first formal art training in New York at the National Academy of Design in 1871. Five years later he enrolled in the life class taught by Thomas Eakins at the Philadelphia Sketch Club, and also at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts where Christian Schussele and Eakins were teaching. Anshutz became one of Eakins's best pupils and joined him on the teaching staff as an instructor in 1881.

When Eakins was forced to resign as director of the Academy in 1886, Anshutz sided against him and took his place as head of the life class. After a year of study in Paris in 1892, he resumed his Academy position, exhibiting and teaching there until his death in 1912. Along with Hugh Breckenridge, he formed the Darby School, a summer art school near his home in Fort Washington, Pennsylvania.

Anshutz won numerous art honors during his lifetime, although his name was not widely known to the public until late in his life. Among his honors were the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts' Lippincott Prize and Gold Medal of Honor, both in 1909. After his death in 1912, his oil painting *The Tanagra* was purchased by Anshutz's students for the Academy collection.

The above biography was excerpted, with permission, from the more detailed information in *Philadelphia: Three Centuries of American Art*, (Philadelphia Museum of Art, 1976), pp. 487-88. Also see *Thomas Anshutz, Artist and Teacher* (Huntington, N.Y.: Heckscher Museum, 1994).

Scope and Contents note

The Anshutz materials in the PAFA Archives consist of correspondence, clippings, and photographs of people, places and artworks. It should be noted that the museum of the Pennsylvania Academy houses a large collection of TPA artwork including paintings, drawings and sketchbooks, as well as a bust of TPA by Charles Grafly, and a low relief by Adam Pietz. The majority of his personal papers are held by the Archives of American Art.

The PAFA Archives also houses transcriptions of twelve letters written by TPA to John Laurie Wallace, 1883-85, containing news of Academy social events and mutual friends. Eadweard Muybridge's photographic work at the University of Pennsylvania and his lecture at the Academy are also mentioned. Anshutz refers to his own work with Thomas Eakins on the "motion study" photographs. Originals of some of these letters are housed at the Joslyn Art Museum in Omaha, Nebraska; others are unlocated. The Philadelphia Museum of Art houses researcher correspondence about their provenance in its Thomas Eakins Research Collection.

A related PAFA collection is that of the papers of TPA's son, Edward (Ned) Anshutz, a 1997 gift of descendants of the artist's daughter-in-law. A separate finding aid has been prepared for these papers.

The Academy Archives also houses photographs of TPA, acquired from various sources, in its faculty files, and correspondence with him during his tenure on the faculty.

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 Academy's Anshutz collection derives from several gifts. The 1982 donation of a group of TPA letters to his wife, along with an unpublished family history, and photographs attributed to TPA, was the gift of his daughter-in-law (see folders 11—17). In 1998, an anonymous donation by a TPA scholar added important photographs and clippings, and a few items of correspondence, all given to him by TPA's son in the 1960s (see folders 1-10). In 2001, descendants of TPA's daughter-in-law gave a few additional items.

Processing Information note

Catherine Stover, 1982 and Cheryl Leibold, 1998, and 2001

Finding Aid: Cheryl Leibold, 1998; edited 2001, integrating the finding aids for the 1982, 1998, and 2001 donations.

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
letter from TPA to Mrs. Russell (his mother-in-law), Nov. 8, 1891; 1 empty envelope addressed to TPA from the Buenos Aires International Fine Arts Exposition, 1910.	1891, 1910	1	1
six letters to Effie Russell Anshutz (Mrs. Thomas Anshutz). Senders: F. Cresson Schell, Dec. 24, 1913; Gerald and Clio (cousins), July 25, 1913 re gift of photos enclosed with letter; S. Anshutz, Sept. 3, 1915 (postcard); Robert J. Wickenden, Nov. 11 and Dec. 29, 1926 re a biographical article; empty envelope from TPA, postmarked Delaware, July 27, 1897.	1897, 1913, 1915, 1926	1	2
Photographs of TPA (17 items, 1 by William Shewell Ellis, stored oversize).		1	3
Sketches depicting TPA (2 pen and ink cartoons; 2 charcoal portraits).		1	4
Photographs of Effie Russell Anshutz (7 items)		1	5
Photographs of TPA's Fort Washington home (8 exteriors)		1	6
Photographs of family members and friends (6 loose		1	7

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photographs); 4 pages from a family photograph album with 24 photographs affixed, are stored oversized in Box 2. Photographs of Henry McCarter, Charles Grafly, and Hugh Breckenridge from this group were transferred to the Faculty Photographs file in PAFA Archives.			
Clippings (ca. 25 items), including several obituaries (seven full page articles stored oversized in Box 2).	1900-1921	1	8
Brochure for the Darby School of Art, 1909 (also see 2 oversized clippings re the Darby School in Box 2).	1909	1	9
Photographs of TPA paintings (ca. 50 items) Miscellaneous items: Japanese print (stored oversized in Box 2); 4 photos of PAFA classes, by J. Liberty Tadd (transferred to the School Classes file, PAFA Archives)	1901	1	10
Unpublished family history, 9 pp. (TPA is not mentioned); one page from a family bible containing marriage and death dates, including those of TPA; TPA's passport certificate	1895	1	11
TPA's letters to his wife Effie Russell Anshutz, 1897, (16 items), during a painting trip to New Jersey and Delaware. The letters are illustrated with coastal scenes (itemized list available) and the text describes the places visited, uncomfortable conditions, and development of several paintings. These letters are microfilmed by the Archives of American Art on roll 140.	1897	1	12
Postmarked envelopes from letters described above		1	13
Photocopies of the letters above		1	14
Modern prints from glass negatives attributed to TPA and/or the Circle of Thomas Eakins, (42 items). The negatives are in the collection of the Archives of American Art. Two journal articles document these photographs: "Nature, the Photograph and Thomas Anshutz," by Ruth Bowman (<i>Art Journal</i> , Fall, 1973) and "Some Recently Discovered Thomas Eakins Photographs," (<i>Archives of American Art Journal</i> , 1972, no. 4).		1	15
Photographs, (8 items), 2 landscapes, 4 unidentified portraits, a portrait of Martha Kientz, and; 3 boys bathing		1	16

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nude; 2 of Darby School studio			
Reproductions of European and ancient art, (13 items); a sheet of sketches of babies; a topographic map of Philadelphia; 2 small Japanese prints		1	17
Transcriptions of TPA letters to John Laurie Wallace	1883-1885	1	18
Japanese print		2	1
Four pages from a family photograph album		2	2
Photograph of TPA by William Shewell Ellis		2	3
<p>Full-page newspaper clippings re the Darby School and other subjects, (7 items):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>New York Herald</i>, Sept. 3, 1905, "An Art School at Valley Forge," by Horace T. Carpenter, 2 photos and 3 sketches. • <i>The North American</i>, July 12, 1900, "M'Dougall Joins the Summer Sketching Class at Darby Creek," unsigned article with 3 cartoons by McDougall re "plein air" paintings class. • Newsprint proof of a photograph of a group of students painting outdoors (probably Darby School) inscribed "Dear Tom, This is a flat proof of what we will run on Sunday, with a [illegible word] story by Miss Weston - you couldn't buy the space for \$1000." <p><u>Other subjects:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The North American</i>, Oct. 6, 1907, "What Artists Can Do With Their Eyes Shut," (humor piece). • <i>The Sun</i>, Jan. 14, 1912, "Artists as Amateur Actors Make a Hit," unsigned article re play performed by Everett Shinn, William Glackens and others, with 4 photos. • <i>The Public Ledger</i>, Jan. 28, 1912, (full page reproduction of <i>The Tanagra</i>). • <i>Collier's</i>, 1910, "The American Girl of Today" (7 portraits of women with illustration of <i>Summertime</i>, by TPA). 	1900-1912	2	4

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Folder title	Date	Box	Folder
Photograph portrait of Malcolm Stewart		Flat file 47	1