

# Thomas Shields Clarke letters and photographs

MS.064

Finding Aid prepared by Hoang Tran

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PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMY  
OF THE FINE ARTS

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Updated by Hoang Tran, May 2016

## Summary Information

<b>Repository</b>	The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Dorothy and Kenneth Woodcock Archives
<b>Creator</b>	Thomas Shields Clarke (1860-1920)
<b>Title</b>	Thomas Shields Clarke letters and photographs
<b>Date [bulk]</b>	
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1875-1920
<b>Extent</b>	3 document boxes, 1 ½ document box.
<b>Location note</b>	
<b>Language</b>	
<b>Language of Materials note</b>	English
<b>Abstract</b>	

### **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**

Thomas Shields Clarke was a native of Pittsburgh and an 1882 graduate of Princeton. He studied at the Art Students League in New York in 1883 and spent the following year working as an illustrator. He then studied in Paris at the Academie Julian and the Ecole des Beaux Arts, and in Rome and Florence.

Clarke exhibited both paintings and sculptures in the Paris Salons and several international expositions, and was awarded a number of prizes. He also participated in many Academy annual exhibitions between 1888 and 1918, and is represented in our permanent collection by the painting *A Fool's Fool*.

Best known as a sculptor, he served on the executive council of the National Sculpture Society of America. A number of his pieces, including *To Alma Mater* were designed for the Princeton University campus. Interested in gardens and color photography, Clarke wrote articles on these subjects. He experimented with both at his summer home, *Fernbrook*, in Lenox, Mass. A large number of the photographs in the collection reflect these pursuits.

## **Scope and Contents note**

The Clarke papers contain letters from Clarke to his parents during his travels as an art student in Europe. Other correspondence concerns exhibition, sales, and casting of his work, and the construction of *Fernbrook*. Printed matter includes copies of articles by and about Clarke. Photographs comprise the largest body of material in the collection and, for the most part, are unidentified. Of note is the collection of about one hundred color autochromes. Fifty-seven drawings and four sketchbooks have been transferred to the Academy museum collection.

The correspondence in the Clarke collection has been microfilmed by the Archives of American Art on reel 4235:924-1000.

## **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 papers were donated by Cynthia Clarke in 1977.

**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
Letters to his parents from Europe	1875-1891; 1912; 1914	1	1
Letters to Clarke concerning exhibitions, sales, and casting of his work	1902-1903	1	2
Letters from the architect, Wilson Eyre, and contractors concerning the planning and construction of <i>Fernbrook</i> in Lenox, Mass.	1902-1903	1	3
Tributes at the time of Clarke's death	1920	1	4
Miscellaneous notes		1	5

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Folder title	Date	Box	Folder
Printed matter by and about Clarke		1	6
Miscellaneous clippings		1	7
Photographs of Clarke		1	8
Photographs of <i>Fernbrook</i> , gardens, and family		1	9
Photographs of sculpture and paintings by Clarke		1	10
Photographs of travel, models, and miscellaneous subjects		1	11
Photographs of Clarke's studio		1	12
Autochrome slides (glass), and a few black and white glass negatives; mainly figure and composition studies, and a small number of views of <i>Fernbrook</i> and people. Approximately 100 items		2-4	
-Also see MS.053 – Catalogued Correspondence: Thomas Shields Clarke (4 items).		3	2