

Henry C. Gibson photographs

MS.068

Finding Aid prepared by Hoang Tran



PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMY
OF THE FINE ARTS

The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts
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Hoang Tran, June 2016

Summary Information

Repository	The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Dorothy and Kenneth Woodcock Archives
Creator	Henry C. Gibson (1830-1891)
Title	Henry C. Gibson photographs
Date [bulk]	
Date [inclusive]	Circa 1882
Extent	13 photographs
Location note	
Language	
Language of Materials note	
Abstract	

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

Henry C. Gibson served on the Board of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts from 1870 to 1891. He bequeathed his art collection, consisting of some American works and a large quantity of European paintings to the Academy.

In 1974 the Academy mounted an exhibition, *The Beneficent Connoisseurs: The Gibson, Carey, and Harrison Collections* (4 January–17 February, 1974) which focused in part on the collection of art bequeathed by Gibson. The exhibition brochure and the file of curatorial research contain additional information on Gibson. The curatorial file (see Broad and Cherry Exhibitions files) contains detailed notes taken from several Gibson scrapbooks lent to the Academy by Gibson descendants at the time of the exhibition, as well as references to several published descriptions of his collection.

Scope and Contents note

Suite of 13 mounted photographs, by William H. Rau, of the interior of Henry C. Gibson's home, showing his collection as it was displayed. The photographs are dated by inference to about 1882.

The photographs are albumen prints. Eight of the prints measure 7 ¾ x 9 ½ inches. Five measure 10 ¼ x 13 ¾ inches. All are adhered to large mounts embossed with the name W.H. Rau. The photographs are numbered 1 through 8, and 14 through 18. There is a letter from Rau stating that all negatives for the series taken in Gibson's home were destroyed (by inference at Gibson's wish). The letter is preserved in the file on the Gibson bequest in the archival "Gifts and Bequests" files.

Other images of Gibson's home are available in *Artistic houses; being a series of interior views of a number of the most beautiful and celebrated homes in the United States, with a description of the art treasures contained therein*. (New York: D. Appleton, 1883). Authorship generally ascribed to George Sheldon. Reprinted version (New York, B. Blom, 1971). Also see *The Opulent Interiors of the Gilded Age: All 203 Photographs from "Artistic houses" with New Text*, by Arnold Lewis, James Turner and Steven McQuillin, (New York: Dover, 1987). Photocopies from these two publications and several others are in the Gifts and Bequests file mentioned above.

The Academy's Gibson photographs have been microfilmed by the Archives of American Art on reel 4339, frames 380-94.

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 provenance of these photographs is unknown, but they would likely have been acquired as part of the gift of the art collection in 1892.

Processing Information note

Controlled Access Headings

Person(s)

Corporate Name(s)

Genre(s)

Geographic Name(s)

Subject(s)

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements note

Nearly all materials are sleeved in plastic.

Collection Inventory

13 mounted photographs, by William H. Rau, of the interior of Henry C. Gibson's home, showing his collection as it was displayed.	1882	Flat file 47	1
13 mounted photographs, by William H. Rau, of the interior of Henry C. Gibson's home, showing his collection as it was displayed.	1882	Flat file 47	2