

ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART

A Guide to the Launt Thompson Children's Correspondence

Summary Information

Repository

Albany Institute of History & Art Library

Creator

Launt Thompson

Title

Launt Thompson Children's Correspondence

Identifier

MG 242

Date

1880-1888

Physical Description

1 box

Physical Location

The materials are located onsite in the Museum.

Language of the Material

English

Abstract

This collection contains the correspondence between Launt Thompson (1883-September 1894) and his three children, a son, Lancelot C. Thompson, and two daughters, Mariette and Florence "Flossy" Thompson, mostly in the form of letters addressed to Thompson from his children dating from 1880 to 1888. Along with these letters, the collection contains a series of drawings addressed to Thompson from his children dating from the same period, as well as "Mental Photographs" (a list of hypothetical questions which the children answered) dating from 1886. The collection also contains a letter, dated February 24, 1883 from a man named Bayard addressed to Launt Thompson regarding

Thompson's sculpture, *Admiral Samuel Francis DuPont*, (1884) located in Wilmington, Delaware.

Preferred Citation

Preferred citation for this material is as follows:

Launt Thompson Children's Correspondence, 1880-1888, MG 242. Albany Institute of History & Art Library, Albany, New York.

Conditions Governing Access and Use

Restrictions on Access

None

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Accession: # LIB 2014.59

Accession Source/Date: 2014

Processing Information

Processed by C. Lynch, September 2014; finding aid updated by H. Cox, August 2021.

Biographical/Historical

Launt Thompson (February 8, 1833-September 26, 1894) was an American sculptor. Originally born in Abbeyleix, Ireland, Thompson emigrated from Ireland to the United States in 1847. Thompson and his mother settled in Albany, New York. After spending nine years acting as a studio assistant for sculptor Erastus Dow Palmer (April 2,

1817-March 9, 1904) in Albany, Thompson opened his own studio in New York City. Thompson is best known for his bronze portraits, which exemplify his remarkable ability as a realist sculptor and his refined sense of surfaces in his sculpture. The Albany Institute has several of Thompson's sculptures in its collection, including a bronze bust of Sanford Robinson Gifford, (1871) a bronze figure entitled The Color Bearer (1872) and a marble sculpture entitled Unconsciousness (1881).

Thompson married Maria Louise Palmer (1839-1916) and had three children, a son, Lancelot C. Thompson, and two daughters, Mariette and Florence "Flossy" Thompson.

This collection contains the correspondence between Thompson and his three children, mostly in the form of letters addressed to Thompson from his children dating from 1880 to 1888, which illustrate the relationship between Thompson and his children during these years. Along with these letters, the collection contains a series of drawings addressed to Thompson from his children dating from this same period, as well as "Mental Photographs" (a list of hypothetical questions which his children answered) dating from 1886. The collection also contains a letter, dated February 24, 1883, from a man named Bayard addressed to Launt Thompson regarding Thompson's sculpture, Admiral Samuel Francis DuPont, (1884) located in Wilmington Delaware.

Scope and Contents

The letters in this collection are organized by the author, (Bayard, Lancelot C. Thompson, Mariette Thompson, and Florence "Flossy" Thompson). Letters written by these same authors that are undated, or dated in an unclear fashion, have been organized in separate folders. Also in their own folders are an original envelope addressed to Launt Thompson, which contained "The Children's Letters," several drawings by Thompson's children, and the lists of "Mental Photographs."

Contents List

The following section contains a listing of the materials in the collection.

Description	Box	Folder
Original Envelope addressed to Launt Thompson Esq. containing "The Children's Letters"	1	1
Letter from Bayard to Launt Thompson regarding DuPont sculpture in Wilmington, Delaware, 24 February 1883		2
Letters to Launt Thompson		
Lancelot C. Thompson, 6 November 1881-August 1887		3
Mariette Thompson, 1880-30 April 1888		4
Florence "Flossy" Thompson, 8 February 1880-1887		5

Lancelot C. Thompson, Undated		6
Mariette Thompson, Undated		7
Florence "Flossy" Thompson, Undated		8
Lancelot C. Thompson, Exact dates unknown		9
Mariette Thompson, Exact dates unknown		10
Mariette and Florence "Flossy" Thompson		11
Letters to Launt Thompson from daughters, Unsigned		12
Drawings addressed for Launt Thompson, from his children		13
"Mental Photos," Questions and answer exercise for Launt Thompson's children, 1886		14