Guide to the Albums of Correspondence from Stanford White to his Family, 1872-1905

1999.015.00001-.00004

Date Range: 1872-1905

Size: 4 bound albums

Preferred Citation: Albums of Correspondences from Stanford White to his Family.

Acquisition Information: These albums were a gift to Avery Library from descendents of Stanford White, 1999.

Location: Materials are located onsite at Avery Library.

Processing Information: This collection was inventoried by Janet Parks, Curator, Dept. of Drawings & Archives, Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library.


Finding Aid Date: 2008-11-17

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Historical Note:
These albums were compiled and bound in red leather, with gold tooling and lettering, by Stanford White’s son, Lawrence Grant White, in 1936.

Scope and Content:
This collection contains four bound volumes titled: "Letters from Stanford White, 1883, Wedding Tour, 1884, 1905"; "S.W. Mexican Letters, 1882"; "Early Letters of Stanford White, Illustrated with his original sketches"; and "Stanford White’s Letters from Europe, 1878."

Letters are primarily to White’s mother, Alexina Black Mease White, his father, Richard Grant White, and his wife, Bessie Springs Smith White. The volume of White’s letters from Mexico documents an extended trip he took with his elder brother, Richard Mansfield White, to prospect. Also included in the last volume is a letter to White from H. H. Richardson, dated February 22, 1878, acknowledging White’s resignation from Richardson’s firm. Each original manuscript letter is followed by a typed transcription by Lawrence White, unless otherwise noted.
Arrangement and Organization:
This collection is arranged by album. The contents of each album are enumerated after a general description.

Related Collections:

Stanford White correspondence and architectural drawings, Dept. of Drawings & Archives, Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library, Columbia University.

Controlled Access Terms:
White, Alexina Black Mease.
White, Bessie Springs Smith.
White, Lawrence Grant, 1887-1956.
White, Richard Grant, 1821-1885.
White, Richard Mansfield.
Richardson, H. H. (Henry Hobson), 1838-1886.
Belgium --Description and travel.
France --Description and travel.
Mexico --Description and travel.
United States --Description and travel.
ALBUM: 1999.015.00001

Letters from Stanford White
1883
Wedding Tour, 1884
1905

Bound in red leather, with gold tooling and lettering

Letters listed include original ms. letter and typed transcription on following page[s], unless otherwise noted.

1. To Bessie, Sept. 21st, [80]

2. To Mrs. Ward, Christmas week, inserted

3. To Stanford from Bessie Smith, undated.

4. To Bessie, Monday, from the University Club, with portrait photo holding riding crop attached at bottom

5. To Bessie, from Tacoma, including sketch with Puget Sound (in graphite)

6. To Bessie, form Arizona, Tuesday 31st

7. To Bessie, undated

8. To Bessie, between St. Louis and Kansas City

9. To Bessie, Kansas (verso of #8; has two separate transcriptions)

10. To Bessie, Monday, Sep 11th (’83)

11. To his mother, 1884

12. To Mrs. Prescott Hall Butler, May 3rd, 1884

13. To his mother, May 6th, 1884

14. Facsimile: figures from Greek? Frieze
15. To his father, Grand Hotel d’Angleterre, Athens, May 18, 1884

16. Two small sketches on one page: 1) figure in a medallion, and 2) horse’s head

17. To his mother, Naples, May 31st, 1884

18. Rough sketch of street scene (buildings in outline)

19. To his mother, St. Moritz, Engadine, July 14th, 1884

20. Facsimile: sketch of pew in church, labeled, “back of seat not high enough”

21. To Mrs. Prescott Hall Butler, Meran, Tyrol, Sunday Jly 20th, /84

22. Facsimile: fountain in a piazza

23. Facsimile: Greek statue of woman in toga, no head

24. To his mother, April 23, 1884

25. Facsimile: rear view of knight with sword

26. To his mother, London, Aug 22nd, ’84

27. Facsimiles: two sketches of Flemish or Holbein portraits of women

28. Sketch of female warrior in graphite

29. Sketch of Greek statue of woman in toga, no head (very similar to that in facsimile in #23)

30. To his mother, on train bet. Chas. and Savannah, Monday the 11th

31. To his father, Ristigouche Salmon Club, Matapedia, Sat. June 8th, 1885

32. To Bessie, June 1904
33. To Bessie, February 7, 1905 (original typed except for last page; this last page also has been transcribed); attached to verso on one original page is clipping from newspaper with caricature of Stanford White

34. To Bessie, February 24, 1905 (two original pages only; rest typed)

35. To Bessie, February 17, 1905 (one original page only; rest typed)
Album: 1999.015.00002

S.W.
Mexican Letters
1882

Bound in red leather, with gold tooling and lettering

Letters listed include original ms. letter and typed transcription on following page[s], unless otherwise noted.

Title page:

Stanford White’s

Letters to his Mother, written during a Mexican Trip taken with his older brother, Richard Mansfield White, in the Spring of 1882

Illustrated with his
Sketches made at the times, and photographs,
collected by his son,

L.G.W.

M C M X X X V I
[1936]

1. Two albumen photographs: top, four men on mules, center two figures are SW and RMW; bottom, three men and a dog

2. Map of western Mexico, showing Sonora, Chihuahua, Baja, Sinaloa, and Durango

3. Graphite sketch of building with two people in front of building

4. Title page (see above)
5. Two albumen photographs: top, larger version of three men and a dog; bottom, three men standing with two horses

6. Photo of Richard Mansfield White, Feb. 22, 1873

7. Two photographs of RMW: top, on horseback; bottom, 1879 portrait with long beard

8. Letter to his mother, March 2, [1882]

9. Graphite sketch of facade

10. Graphite sketch of window detail

11. Graphite sketch on paper of interior patio with two arches

12. Photostat of similar subject to #11

13. Graphite sketch on paper of elevation of church with bell

14. Letter to his mother, March 28, Socorro

15. Photostat of church in piazza

16. Letter to his father, March 27, Socorro

17. Photostat of more finished sketch of church

18. Letter to Mrs. Prescott Hall Butler, [April 12, 1882], Black Range, Paloma Valley, letter pasted on four separate pages

19. Photostat of graphite sketch of benches in piazza

20. Photostat of graphite sketch of same piazza from longer perspective

21. Photostat of graphite sketch of well in piazza

22. Letter to his mother, April 14, 1882, Chihuahua

23. Photostat of sketch of view of town
24. Letter of his father, Batopilas, April 26, 1882

25. Photostat of sketch of church

26. Photostat of sketch piazza with church and city street

27. Envelope addressed to his mother (recto only)

28. Letter to his mother, June 17, 1882, Denver (no transcript)

29. Letter to his mother, June 12, 1882, Socorro (no transcript)
Album: 1999.015.00003

Early Letters

Bound in blue leather, with gold tooling and lettering

Letters listed include original ms. letter and typed transcription on following page[s], unless otherwise noted.

Title page:

Early Letters
of
Stanford White

Illustrated with his original
sketches

L. G. W.
19 36

1. Inserted: letter to his cousin Maggie, [.....] 22/76

2. Graphite sketch on paper of elevation of townhouse

3. Albumen photograph of SW in profile (with mustache)

4. Title page (see above)

5. Foreword, by L.G.W., September 1st, 1936

6. Letter to his mother, Saturday 27th, Orange, [NJ]

7. Letter to his mother, undated [earlier than #6]; (no transcript)

8. Graphite and wash sketch of piers with ships and adjacent buildings

9. Graphite and wash drawing of tree branches in wind

10. Graphite sketch on paper with white highlights of trees in swampy land
11. Ink and wash drawing of barn and barnyard, [1874?]
12. Ink and wash drawing of mill and bridge on river
13. Ink and watercolor of same mill and bridge as aerial perspective
14. Ink and wash drawing of bridge
15. Ink and wash view of same bridge and mill
16. Graphite with white highlights of same bridge and mill
17. Letter to his mother, 1874, Brookline (loose letter)
18. Ink sketch of house
19. Watercolor and ink drawing of colonial-style house
20. Letter to his mother, after 1876, Albany
21. Photostat of perspective drawing made by SW for H.H. Richardson, North Easton, MA
22. Photostat of perspective sketch of Trinity Church Tower made by SW for H.H. Richardson
23. Letter to his mother, Feb. 22, 1873
24. Watercolor of Lake Mohunk, from Overlook
25. Watercolor view of mountain
26. Watercolor of mountain valley
27. Watercolor view of [Hunter?] Mountain and surrounding hills
28. Watercolor and graphite of Smuggler’s Notch, Mt. Mansfield
29. Two watercolors: top, mountain view with white highlights; bottom, view of valley

30. Watercolor view of river and landscape behind

31. Watercolor of hillscape

32. Graphite sketch of Hunter Mountain from slide

33. Graphite and watercolor sketch of valley and mountains

34. Watercolor and graphite sketch of hills around Hunter Mountain

35. Watercolor view of hills

36. Watercolor and ink view of hills from perspective of river

37. Watercolor view of hills in springtime

38. Letter to his mother, [probably 1878], on Gambrill & Richardson stationery

39. Watercolor view of church spires and cityscape at sunset

40. Letter to his mother, Oct. 29, 1872, [Boston]

41. Letter to his mother, Springfield, Monday 9th, ’73

42. Watercolor and graphite view of building under construction?

43. Letter to his mother, Buffalo, undated

44. Letter to his mother, [prob. 1878]

45. [Book plate design?] for Stanford White in black ink and graphite

46. Watercolor and graphite with white highlights: view of [Hudson River?]

47. Letter to his cousin Maggie, [1877?] (no transcript)

48. Photograph of Charles Graham Mease - S.W.’s “Uncle Graham” - about 1898
Letters from Europe

Bound in red leather, with gold tooling and lettering

Letters listed include original ms. letter and typed transcription on following page[s], unless otherwise noted.

Title page:

Stanford White’s

Letters from Europe

1878

Illustrated with selected original sketches made by him at the time

Typed by his son, L. G.W.

1936

1. Foreword by [L.G.W.]

2. Photo of SW as a young man with handlebar mustache


4. Letter to his mother, July 3rd

5. Letter to his mother, July 4th (with sketches); probably posted with letter of July 3rd

6. Graphite sketch with dark [crayon, pastel?] of man sleeping on ship

7. Graphite sketch of woman sleeping in deck chair on board

8. Letter to his mother, Paris, July 18th, /78

10. Ink sketch of half-timbered building [with white highlights turned black?]

11. Letter [to his mother], Paris, August 30th, Sept. 1st, '78

12. Photostat of ink drawing of Romanesque building with round tower

13. Photostat of graphite drawing of chateau

14. ink, graphite, and wash drawing of [alley or courtyard?] of half-timber building, with man shown sketching next to wall

15. Photostat of graphite sketch of interior of Romanesque church

16. Photostat of graphite sketch of figure on exterior of Chartres

17. Photostat of graphite sketch (added color?) of courtyard of cloister/church

18. Watercolor and ink sketch of townscape [La Bonneville?]

19. Letter to his mother, Lisieux, Sept. 25th, /78

20. Graphite sketch: Breval - front view of church from road Sept. 20, 1878

21. Graphite and watercolor sketch of church bell dormer at La Bonneville, Sept. 22, 1878

22. Watercolor and graphite drawing of church in landscape

23. Graphite sketch of old house, Sept. 22, 1878

24. Graphite drawing with wash of Renaissance houses in Bernay, Sept. 23, 1878

25. Letter to his mother, Flers, Oct. 10th, /78

26. Graphite drawing of house

27. Letter to his father, Oct. 17 /78

28. Two graphite drawings: top, church at Tourney; bottom, farmhouse
29. Ink and wash sketch of farmhouse in landscape

30. Letter to his father, Tournay, Nov. 2nd., /78

31. Graphite sketch of sculptural figures on wall pedestals, Bruges

32. Two graphite sketches at Arras: top, entrance portal and wall; bottom, church in landscape

33. Photostat of graphite and wash drawing of church tower

34. Photostat of ink drawing of old house at Soissons, Nov. /78

35. Photostat of ink drawing of house

36. Letter to his mother, Bruges, Nov. 6th, /78; continued in Ghent, Nov. 7th

37. Graphite sketches: top, building with several towers; bottom, half-timber house

38. Sketches of Amiens: top, graphite sketch of house front; bottom, photostat of graphite sketch of exterior staircase

39. Graphite sketch of farmhouse

40. Letter to his mother, Noyon, Nov. 14, /78

41. Graphite sketch of tower of Cathedral at Laon

42. Two graphite drawings of Laon: top, interior bays of cathedral; bottom, view of cathedral from a distance

43. Letter to his mother, Laon, Nov. 21st. /78

44. Graphite and watercolor drawing of half-timber house front

45. Letter to his mother, Paris, undated

46. Letter to his father, Laon, Nov. 21st, /78
47. Letter to his mother, Laon, Nov. 21st, /78 (detached from sheet)

48. Letter to his mother, Rheims, Dec. 1st /78

49. Photostat of graphite sketch of entry gate at Beauvais

50. Letter to his mother, Beauvais, Dec. 12th, /78 (letter is missing; only transcript is included)

51. Letter to his mother, Paris, Jan. 12th, /78

52. Letter to his mother, Feb. 7th, /79, consisting of sketches of him inquiring about letters for himself

53. Letter to his mother, Rome, June 11th, ’79

54. Letter to his father, Florence, 7th July (79)

55. Letter to his mother, Paris, Aug. 15th., /79

56. Fragment of letter to his mother, [Paris?], undated

57. letter to his father, Paris, Aug. 15th. (’79)

58. Letter to his mother, on the road to Bourges, August 12th /78 (no transcript)

59. Letter to his mother, Fontainebleau Aug. 2nd /78 (no transcript)

60. Letter to his mother, July 28 /78 (loose)

61. Letter to his mother, Aug. 2nd [78?] (loose)

62. Letter to his mother, undated (loose)

63. Letter to White from H.H. Richardson, Feby 22nd 1878 acknowledging White’s resignation from the firm