



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

**A Finding Aid to the Edward Gay and Gay family
papers, 1852-1983, in the Archives of American Art**

by Judy Ng

Funding for digitization of the Edward Gay and Gay Family Papers was made possible by a gift from Edward Gay's descendants Gay Fort Boswell, Wickie Fort Bridgforth, Melanie Fort Christian, Caleb Fort, Edward Fort, Hamlet Fort, James Fort, William Fort, Claudia Fort Heath, Jack Linville, and Jim Linville, in memory of Daniel Wilkins Fort

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Contact Information

Reference Department
Archives of American Art
Smithsonian Institution
Washington, D.C. 20560
www.aaa.si.edu/askus

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Creator:	Gay, Duncan, 1865-1948
Creator:	Gay, Edward, 1837-1928
Title:	Edward Gay and Gay family papers
Dates:	1852-1983
Quantity:	2.6 linear feet
Abstract:	The papers of Edward Gay and the Gay family measure 2.6 linear feet and date from 1852 to 1983. Found within the papers are biographical materials on Edward and Duncan Gay; personal correspondence from Edward Gay, his wife Martha Feary Gay, and other family members; artwork by Edward and Duncan Gay; writings; printed materials; and photographs of Edward and Duncan Gay, their family, and their work.
Language:	The collection is in English.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The papers were donated in separate accessions beginning in 1959 by Edward Gay's daughter, Dorothy Gay Gordon. Additional materials on Edward Gay were donated by Gay's grandson, Richard G. Coker, in 1974. From 1983 to 1995, materials on Edward and Duncan Gay and the Gay family were donated by Susanne G. Linville, Duncan Gay's daughter.

Available Formats

The bulk of the collection was digitized in 2016 and is available on the Archives of American Art's website. Materials which have not been scanned include blank pages, blank versos of photographs, and duplicates. In some cases, exhibition catalogs and other publications have had their covers, title pages, and relevant pages scanned.

Processing Information

Materials received a preliminary level of arrangement after receipt and portions of the collection were microfilmed onto reels D30 and 866. All accessions were merged and the collection was described and prepared for digitization by Judy Ng in 2016, with funding provided by Edward Gay's descendants: Gay Fort Boswell, Wickie Fort Bridgforth, Melanie Fort Christian, Caleb Fort, Edward Fort, Hamlet Fort, James Fort, William Fort, Claudia Fort Heath, Jack Linville, and Jim Linville, in memory of Daniel Wilkins Fort.

Preferred Citation

Edward Gay and Gay family papers, 1852-1983. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions on Access

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C. Research Center. Contact Reference Services for more information.

Ownership & Literary Rights

The Edward Gay and Gay family papers are owned by the Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution. Literary rights as passed by the donor have been dedicated to public use for research, study, and scholarship. The collection is subject to all copyright laws.

Biographical Note

Landscape painter Edward Gay (1837-1928) lived and worked in Mount Vernon and Cragmoor, New York and was known for his works depicting the local countryside of upstate New York and the Hudson River Valley.

Born in Mullingar, Ireland to Richard and Ellen Gay, his family immigrated to Albany, New York in 1848. After showing an early affinity for art, Gay began his studies in the studio of local landscape painters William and James Hart. Under the Harts' advisement, Gay traveled to Karlsruhe, Germany in 1862 to continue his studies with Johann Wilhelm Schirmer and Karl Friedrich Lessing. After returning to America in 1864, Gay married the art critic Martha Feary and lived for a short time in New York City before moving his family to Mount Vernon and eventually purchasing a home there in 1870. He exhibited in museums and galleries throughout America and painted murals for public libraries in Mount Vernon and Bronxville, New York. Gay was a member of the National Academy of Design, New York Artists' Fund Society, and Lotus Club, and was a recipient of the National Academy's George Inness Gold Medal and the Society of American Artists' Shaw Prize.

Duncan Gay (1865-1948), Edward Gay's eldest son, was also an artist. Duncan worked as a draftsman and designer for Louis Comfort Tiffany, where he remained employed prior to becoming a self-employed artist and stained glass designer.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Edward Gay and the Gay family measure 2.6 linear feet and date from 1852 to 1983. Found within the papers are biographical materials on Edward and Duncan Gay; personal correspondence from Edward Gay, his wife Martha Feary Gay, and other family members; artwork by Edward and Duncan Gay; writings; printed materials; and photographic materials of Edward and Duncan Gay, their family, and their work.

Papers of Edward Gay include legal documents; family and business correspondence, including correspondence from fellow artists; writings, including reminiscences by Martha Gay; printed materials; artwork, including one sketchbook; a small selection of business papers related to the Artists' Fund Society; and photographs of Edward and Martha Gay, their homes, and Gay's artwork.

Papers of Duncan Gay include biographical materials; family correspondence; printed material; artwork, including three sketchbooks and sketches of house plans; and photographic materials of Duncan Gay, his travels, and his artwork.

Gay family papers consist primarily of correspondence to Ingovar Gay and Helen Gay Learned, and photographs of the Gay family, extended family members, and friends.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 3 series.

Series 1: Edward Gay Papers, 1852-1983 (0.8 linear feet; Box 1, OV 4-5)

Series 2: Duncan Gay Papers, 1870-1983 (0.5 linear feet; Boxes 1-2)

Series 3: Gay Family Papers, 1888-1970 (1.3 linear feet; Boxes 2-3)

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Archives of American Art under the following terms:

Subjects:

Landscape painters--New York (State)
Landscape painting--19th century--New York (State)
Landscape painting--20th century--New York (State)
Painters--New York (State)

Types of Materials:

Photographs
Sketchbooks
Sketches

Names:

Artists' Fund Society of the City of New York.
Gay, Ingovar
Gay, Martha Feary
Learned, Helen Gay

Series Descriptions/Container Listing

Series 1: Edward Gay Papers, 1852-1983

0.8 linear feet; Box 1, OV 4-5

Papers of Edward Gay include biographical materials, including a marriage certificate and property deeds. Correspondence is with his wife, Martha Feary, and his children, as well as business correspondence with collectors, artists, museums, and galleries. Artists of note include George Inness, Thomas Moran, and Eastman Johnson. Correspondence with William Arkell includes mention of the Artists' Fund Society's 1880 boat trip in Canajoharie, New York.

Writings include a biography on Gay, a poem, and an untitled manuscript by Martha Feary. Materials related to the Artists' Fund Society relate to membership accounts and a petition signed by artists.

Printed materials include clippings, exhibition announcements and catalogs, and a pamphlet on the history of Mount Vernon, New York written by Gay's daughter, Dorothy Gay Gordon. Artwork consists of one sketchbook, an engraving, and sketches in oils and in graphite and ink. Photographs are of Edward and Martha Gay; their homes in Mount Vernon, Cragmoor, and Stoneridge; and Gay's artwork.

Materials are arranged by document type.

The bulk of this series has been scanned. In some cases exhibition catalogs and other publications have had their covers, title pages, and relevant pages scanned.

Box	Folder	
		Biographical Materials
1	1	Biographical Information, circa 1912-1970
1	2	Legal Documents, 1864-1889 Oversized material housed in OV 4.
1	3	Legal Documents, 1890-1915
		Correspondence
1	4	Gay, Edward to Martha Feary Gay (wife), circa 1861-1890
1	5	Gay, Edward to Family, 1878-1916
1	6	Gay, Martha Feary to Edward Gay (family), 1863-1883
1	7	Coker, Richard G., 1965-1974
1	8	Gay, Ingovar, 1965-1974
1	9	Gordon, Dorothy Gay, 1959-1967
1	10	A, circa 1865-1920
1	11	B-G, circa 1865-1920
1	12	H-Q, circa 1865-1920
1	13	R-Z, circa 1865-1920
		Writings
1	14	Gay, Martha Feary, "Late Spring" (poem), 1928
1	15	Gay, Martha Feary, "Life of Edward Gay as Recorded By His Wife," circa 1925
1	16	Gay, Martha Feary, Untitled Manuscript, circa 1910-1925

- 1 17 Warnshuis, Margaret C., "Runaway," 1970
Subject File, circa 1881-1889
- 1 18 Artists' Fund Society, circa 1881-1889
Printed Materials
- 1 19 Book, *Celebration of Westchester*, 1983
- 1 20 Clippings, circa 1880-1930
- 1 21 Clippings, 1872-1900
- 1 22 Clippings, 1901-1974
- 1 23 Clippings, Reproductions of Artwork, 1887-1912
Oversized material housed in OV 5.
- 1 24 Clippings, By Martha Feary Gay in *Albany Evening Journal*, 1884-1887
- 1 25 Clippings, Martha Feary Gay, 1928-1934
- 1 26 Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, circa 1881-1975
- 1 27 Pamphlet, *Social and Cultural Development of Mount Vernon, New York*, 1951
By Dorothy Gay Gordon
- 1 28 Periodicals, 1964, 1974
- 1 29 Miscellaneous, circa 1920-1970
Includes the pamphlet *Nomination to the Presidency of Peter Cooper*.
- Artwork
- 1 30 Engraving, circa 1860-1920
- 1 31 Sketchbook, circa 1860-1920
- 1 32 Sketch, Graphite and Ink, 1878
- 1 33 Sketches, Oils, circa 1860-1920
- Photographs
- 1 34 Gay, Edward and Martha, circa 1852-1970
- 1 35 Gay, Edward at Work and in Studios, 1910-1937
- 1 36 Family Home, Cragmoor, circa 1914
- 1 37 Family Home, Mount Vernon, circa 1920
- 1 38 Family Home, Stoneridge, circa 1920
- 1 39 Works of Art (1856-1910), circa 1970

Box
OV 4

Oversized Legal Documents scanned with Box 1, Folder 2-3, 1864-1890

Box
OV 5

Oversized Clippings, Reproductions of Artwork scanned with Box 1, Folder 23, 1887-1912

Series 2: Duncan Gay Papers, 1870-1983

0.5 linear feet; Boxes 1-2

Papers of Duncan Gay include biographical materials, a letter from Louis C. Tiffany, family correspondence between Duncan and his parents, and miscellaneous printed material. There is also artwork consisting of three travel sketchbooks documenting trips to Japan, China, Indonesia, and St. Augustine, Florida. Sketches are for stained glass and lamp projects, as well as architectural house plans. Photographic materials are of Duncan Gay, his travels, and slides of artwork inspired by his travels at home and abroad. There are also photographs dating from the Kit Kat Club's 1895 Hudson Canal boat trip.

Materials are arranged by document type.

This series has been scanned in its entirety.

Box	Folder	
		Biographical Materials
1	40	Biography, 1983 By Susanne Gay Linville
1	41	Certificate, 1909
1	42	Passport, 1934
		Correspondence
1	43	Gay, Duncan to Martha Feary and Edward Gay (parents), 1882-1888
1	44	Gay, Edward and Martha, 1881-1921
1	45	Miscellaneous, 1891-1916 Includes letter from Louis Comfort Tiffany.
		Printed Material
1	46	Clippings, 1885, 1948
1	47	Periodical, 1913 Excerpt, "Sigiriya" by Jennie Coker Gay, illustrated by Duncan Gay; from <i>Century Magazine</i> .
1	48	Miscellaneous, circa 1940-1970
		Artwork
1	49	Sketchbook, Florida, 1882-1884
1	50	Sketchbook, Japan, China, Indonesia, 1909
1	51	Sketchbook, Travels, circa 1885-1940
1	52	Sketches, House Plans, circa 1900-1940
1	53	Sketches, House Plans, circa 1900-1940
1	54	Sketches, circa 1900-1925 Includes stained glass and lamp designs.
		Photographic Materials
1	55	Gay, Duncan, circa 1870-1940
1	56	Kit Kat Club Hudson Canal Boat Trip, 1895
1	57	Travel, circa 1925-1940

1	58	Slide Inventory, circa 1981-1983
1	59	Slides of Artwork, circa 1981-1983 Sculpture and travels, including Panama Canal; Cuba; Trinidad; Florida; Redding, Connecticut; Mexico; Hawaii; Japan; China; and Ceylon

Box	Folder	
2	1	Slides of Artwork, circa 1981-1983 Travels including: Philippines; Java; Malasia; Middle East; Mediterranean; and Egypt
2	2	Slides of Artwork, circa 1981-1983 Travels including: Spain; Greece; and Portugal

Series 3: Gay Family Papers, 1888-1970

1.3 linear feet; Boxes 2-3

Gay family papers consists primarily of correspondence to Ingovar Gay and Helen Gay Learned from their mother, Martha Feary Gay, relating to family updates and daily activities. Photographs are of the Gay family, extended family members, and friends at home and on family trips around the East Coast and to Canada and Italy.

Materials are arranged by document type.

This series has been scanned in its entirety.

Box	Folder	
		Biographical Materials, circa 1897-1950
2	3	Biographical Materials, Address Book, circa 1930-1950
2	4	Biographical Materials, Gay, Ingovar, 1897-1901
		Correspondence
2	5	Cotes, Vivian Gay, circa 1920
2	6	Gay, Ingovar, 1905-1931
2	7	Gay, Ingovar (from mother, Martha Feary Gay), circa 1890-1930
2	8	Gay, Ingovar (from mother), 1888-1901
2	9	Gay, Ingovar (from mother), 1902
2	10	Gay, Ingovar (from mother), 1902
2	11	Gay, Ingovar (from mother), 1903
2	12	Gay, Ingovar (from mother), 1903
2	13	Gay, Ingovar (from mother), 1904
2	14	Gay, Ingovar (from mother), 1904
2	15	Gay, Ingovar (from mother), 1905
2	16	Gay, Ingovar (from mother), 1905
2	17	Gay, Ingovar (from mother), 1906
2	18	Gay, Ingovar (from mother), 1907
2	19	Gay, Ingovar (from mother), 1908

2	20	Gay, Ingovar (from mother), 1908
2	21	Gay, Ingovar (from mother), 1909
2	22	Gay, Ingovar (from mother), 1910-1911
2	23	Gay, Ingovar (from mother), 1912
2	24	Gay, Ingovar (from mother), 1912
2	25	Gay, Ingovar (from mother), 1913
2	26	Gay, Ingovar (from mother), 1914
2	27	Gay, Ingovar (from mother), 1914
2	28	Gay, Ingovar (from mother), 1915-1916
2	29	Gay, Ingovar (from mother), 1923
2	30	Gay, Ingovar (from mother), 1924
2	31	Gay, Ingovar (from mother), 1925
2	32	Gay, Ingovar (from mother), 1926
2	33	Gay, Ingovar (from mother), 1926

Box Folder

3	1	Gay, Ingovar (from mother), 1927
3	2	Gay, Ingovar (from mother), 1927
3	3	Gay, Ingovar (from mother), 1928-1931
3	4	Gay, Martha Feary, 1890
3	5	Gay, Martha Feary (to family), circa 1890-1930
3	6	Gay, Nellie, circa 1920
3	7	Gay, William, 1914-1923
3	8	Gay, William (from family), 1905-1921
3	9	Learned, Helen Gay, 1923
3	10	Learned, Helen Gay (from mother, Martha Feary Gay), circa 1922-1926
3	11	Learned, Helen Gay (from mother), 1922-1925
3	12	Learned, Helen Gay (from mother), 1926
3	13	Reitzenstein, H. August, circa 1935
		Writings, 1964-1970
3	14	Writings, Gordon, Dorothy Gay, "Potatoes and Point," 1964
3	15	Writings, Warnshuis, Margaret C., "Stanley Steamer," 1970
		Photographs
3	16	Dorothy, Helen, Ingovar, Ruth, and William Gay, circa 1890-1920
3	17	Family Snapshots, Men and Women, circa 1890-1901
3	18	Family Snapshots, Women, Men, and Children, circa 1890-1901
3	19	Family Snapshots, Activities, circa 1890-1901
3	20	Family Snapshots, Outdoors, circa 1890-1901

3	21	Travel, Connecticut and Vermont, circa 1890-1920 New London, Groton Library, and University of Vermont
3	22	Travel, New York, circa 1890-1920 Lakewood, Lake Chautauqua, West Point
3	23	Travel, East Coast, circa 1902 Yale Harvard Race Day, Sound Beach
3	24	Travel, Canada, circa 1900-1901
3	25	Travel, Italy, circa 1890-1920