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Special Collections
020-02
Joseph and Elizabeth Pennell correspondence
1782, 1881-1934

OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION

Number: 020-02

Title: Joseph and Elizabeth Pennell correspondence

Creator: Pennell, Joseph, 1857-1926
Pennell, Elizabeth Robins, 1855-1936

Dates: 1782, 1881-1934

Quantity: .5 box (.25 linear feet)

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Acquisition: Gift of T. Robley Louttit, date unknown.

Accruals: No accruals are expected.

Custodial history: Unknown.

Processed by: The collection was processed in 2012 by Pat Loan. Previously known as Collection MSS 014. Collection number updated in 2018.

Conservation: Not applicable.

Language: Materials are in English.

RIGHTS AND ACCESS

Access: This collection is open under the rules and regulations of the Providence Public Library, Special Collections department.

Preferred Citation: Researchers are requested to use the following citation format:
[item title], Joseph and Elizabeth Pennell correspondence, Special Collections, Providence Public Library

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INFORMATION FOR RESEARCHERS

Separated material Not applicable.

Published descriptions	Not applicable.
Location of originals	Not applicable.
Location of copies	Not applicable.
Publication note	Not applicable.
Subject headings	Art--Collectors and collecting. Authors. Travel writers. Pennell, Joseph, 1857-1926 Pennell, Elizabeth Robins, 1855-1936 Whistler, James McNeil, 1834-1903. Correspondence. aat.

SEE ALSO

Joseph and Elizabeth Robins Pennell Collections, Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division
Joseph Pennell Papers & Joseph Pennell letters, Smithsonian Museum, Archives of American Art
Pennell family papers, University of Pennsylvania, Kislak Center

HISTORICAL NOTE

Joseph Pennell (1857-1926) was a prolific and influential illustrator as well as an author. Engraving was Pennell's early medium of choice, but he embraced lithography in the 1890s. Among his most notable lithographs is the poster he produced to encourage purchases of Liberty Bonds during World War I. His wife, Elizabeth Robins Pennell (1855-1936) was an author of fiction, non-fiction and essays. During their marriage, they collaborated together on more than 230 books and other works.

Both Pennells were born in Philadelphia, but eventually made their home in London for 36 years. They both travelled across Europe, often writing and illustrating travel books. They became close to many of the artists of the period, especially James McNeill Whistler whose biography they wrote together. In 1921, they moved back to the United States and settled in New York.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE COLLECTION

The collection consists of 33 letters, primarily written by Joseph and Elizabeth Pennell, and one receipt. The correspondence includes suggestions for topics for new publications, references to editorial suggestions, travel plans, and interest in artwork by Whistler.

ORGANIZATION OF THE COLLECTION

The collection is organized in the order used by the original compiler (presumably T. Robley Louttit), which is essentially chronological.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Folder Number	Author	Recipient	Date
1	Lane, Isaac	Pennell, William	1782
	Receipt for the purchase of lumber.		
2	Pennell, Joseph	Hueffur, Mr.	no date
3	Pennell, William	Johnson, Mr.	Oct. 22, no year
4	Pennell, Joseph	Westcott, Richard	Dec. 31, 1881
5	Pennell, Elizabeth R.	Niles, Mr.	June 18, 1886
6	Pennell, Elizabeth R.	Niles, Mr.	Feb. 9, 1889
7	Pennell, Joseph	Colles, Martin	Dec. 31, 1893
8	Pennell, Elizabeth R.	Johnson, Mr.	Nov. 24, 1897
9	Pennell, Elizabeth R.	Editor of No. Am. Review	Feb. 6, 1899
10	Pennell, Joseph	Westcott, Richard	Mar. 13, 1904
11	Pennell, Joseph	Westcott, Richard	Feb. 4, 1905
12	Pennell, Joseph	Way, Thomas R.	Apr. 17, 1907
	Correspondence relating to a Whistler painting.		
13	Pennell, Joseph	Way, Thomas R.	June 6, 1907
	On letterhead of the International Society of Sculptors, Painters and Gravers.		
14	Pennell, Joseph	Westcott, Richard	Feb. 16, 1908
15	Pennell, Joseph	Way, Thomas R.	Jan. 24, 1909
16	Pennell, Joseph	Smith, S. C.	Oct. 16, 1913
17	Pennell, Elizabeth R.	Niles, Mr.	Mar. 29, no year
18	Pennell, Elizabeth R.	Way, Mrs.	May 9, 1915
19	Pennell, Joseph	Landis, Mr.	Sept. 30, 1917
	Pennell agrees to provide a lecture on his wartime experiences in France.		
20	Pennell, Joseph	Public Info. Comm.	May 15, 1918
21	Pennell, Elizabeth R.	VanDyke, John	Nov. 6, 1919
	With envelope.		
22	Pennell, Joseph	Graham, A. S.	Nov. 28, 1919
	Requesting information regarding Graham's Whistler letters. With envelope.		
23	Pennell, Joseph	Graham, A. S.	May 9, 1923
24	Pennell, Joseph	Graham, A. S.	July 19, 1923
	With envelope.		
25	Pennell, Joseph	Graham, A. S.	Nov. 14, 1923
	With envelope.		
26	Pennell, Joseph	Thierry, James	Nov. 18, 1923
	With envelope.		

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27	Pennell, Joseph With envelope.	Graham, A. S.	Nov. 18, 1923
28	Pennell, Joseph With envelope.	Graham, A. S.	Feb. 29, 1924
29	Pennell, Joseph With envelope.	Graham, A. S.	June 22, 1924
30	Pennell, Joseph Discussing the reproduction of Whistler letters. With envelope.	Graham, A. S.	Aug. 30, 1924
31	Pennell, Elizabeth R. With envelope.	Louittit, T. Robley	Feb. 27, 1931
32	Pennell, Elizabeth R. With envelope.	Louittit, T. Robley	Dec. 11, 1932
33	Pennell, Elizabeth R. With envelope.	Louittit, T. Robley	Jan. 1, 1933
34	Pennell, Elizabeth R. With envelope.	Louittit, T. Robley	Sept. 15, 1934