

**Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library
Department of Drawings & Archives
Columbia University**

**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. Department of Drawings & Archives, Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library, Columbia University.
- 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 Preparation:** Compiled and prepared for electronic publication by Annemarie van Roessel, Archivist, Dept. of Drawings & Archives, Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library, in 2008.
- 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:

McKim, Mead & White architectural records and drawings, circa 1879-1958.
Dept. of Drawings & Archives, Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library,
Columbia University.

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, from 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

Album: 1999.015.00004

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
3. Page from *An American Armory*: p. 178 with White
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
9. Letter to his mother, Paris, July 20th, '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 Tournay; 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