

# **A Guide to the Papers of George de Forest Brush (1893-1953) MS.53**

**Finding aid prepared by Nancy Garrison**

---

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

June 15, 2015

College Archives & Special Collections / Wallace E. Mason Library / Keene State College

May 30, 2012

229 Main Street

MS 3201

Keene, New Hampshire, 03435

603-358-2717

[archivist@keene.edu](mailto:archivist@keene.edu)

## Table of Contents

---

<u>Summary Information</u> .....	3
<u>Biographical/Historical note</u> .....	4
<u>Scope and Contents note</u> .....	4
<u>Administrative Information</u> .....	4
<u>Controlled Access Headings</u> .....	5
<u>Collection Inventory</u> .....	6
<u>Series 1: Correspondence</u> .....	6
<u>Series 2: Legal &amp; Financial Papers</u> .....	9
<u>Series 3: Personal Papers</u> .....	11

## Summary Information

---

<b>Repository</b>	College Archives & Special Collections / Wallace E. Mason Library / Keene State College
<b>Creator - Artist</b>	de Forest Brush, George
<b>Title</b>	George de Forest Brush Papers
<b>Date</b>	1893-1953
<b>Extent</b>	1.0 Linear feet
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Abstract</b>	George de Forest Brush was a figure and portrait painter, well known for his "idealized" depictions of activities of Native Americans, his subject matter being studied while he lived in the American West after returning from Europe, around 1880-1886. He was also known for his portraits of women and children, creating what is referred to as his "Madonna portraits."

### Preferred Citation note

George de Forest Brush Papers / College Archives & Special Collections / Keene State College

## Biographical/Historical note

---

George de Forest Brush was born September 28, 1885, in Shelbyville, TN, but was raised in Danbury, CT. He studied painting in New York at the National Academy of Design (1870-74), enrolling at age 16, and also at Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris (1874-1880). He was a figure and portrait painter, well known for his "idealized" depictions of activities of Native Americans, his subject matter being studied while he lived in the American West after returning from Europe, around 1880-1886. He was also known for his portraits of women and children, creating what is referred to as his "Madonna portraits"; the Renaissance influenced style developed after returning in 1890 from Florence, Italy, which later became a frequent destination for him. As well as having won honors for his work and being a known portrait painter, Brush was a teacher, gave lectures, and had a studio in New York City. He is noted as participating in the development process of camouflage for airplanes and warships through the use of various artistic techniques. In 1886, he married Mary (Mittie) Taylor Whelpley, and had eight children. The Brush's spent much time in New Hampshire where he had connections to area artists, and around 1901, they bought a farm in Dublin, NH. He spent many of his later years in Dublin, having established a studio there. In 1937, his studio was destroyed by fire. George de Forest Brush died April 24, 1941 and was buried in the Dublin Town Cemetery.

---

## Scope and Contents note

---

The Collection consists of three series: Correspondence, Legal and Financial Papers, and Personal Papers. The information covers the time period of 1873 through 1953, although records are limited and few are sequential, years covered being sporadic. The correspondence consists of few contacts concerning family members, some about his artwork and business. Legal records mainly consist of lease agreements, travel documents and insurance coverage for works. The last series consists generally of various newspaper clippings and articles saved.

---

## Administrative Information

---

### Publication Information

College Archives & Special Collections / Wallace E. Mason Library / Keene State College May 30, 2012

## **Conditions Governing Access note**

This collection is open and available to the public.

## **Conditions Governing Use note**

It is the responsibility of the user to obtain permission to publish from the owner of the copyright (the institution, the creator of the record, the author or his/her transferees, heirs, legates, or literary executors). The user agrees to indemnify and hold harmless Keene State College, its officers, employees, and agents from and against all claims made by any person asserting that he or she is an owner of copyright.

---

## **Controlled Access Headings**

---

### **Personal Name(s)**

- Haddock, Libby

## Series 1: Correspondence

---

### Collection Inventory

#### Series 1: Correspondence

Letter from H.G. Maitland, Boston Public Library May 11, 1904

Letter from F.W. Johnson March 8, 1910

Letter from Farjeon, Ballin and Co. February 27, 1918

Letter and Envelope from Frank Townsend Hutchins April 6, 1920

Letter from Nancy April 23, 1920

Letter from Charles Carey March 3, 1921

Letter from Percival Lombard, Bourne Historical Society, note attached to letter September 5, 1931

Letter from R. Johnson December 20, 1932

Letter from Mrs. Grace Vanamee December 12, 1932

**Series 1: Correspondence**

---

Letter and envelope from R.U. Johnson August 21, 1932

Note typed on paper from Nicholas Butler January 26, 1932

Letter and envelope from Grenville Clark December 31, 1933

Letter from George de Forest Brush to Mr. Butler November 8, 1933

Letter from Edward Alden Jewell November 14, 1933

Letter from R.U. Johnson October 5, 1933

Letter from Blanche Beck, Secretary to Evret Quantrell August 17, 1933

Letter and envelope from J. Martin to Mrs. de Forest Brush August 8, 1933

Letter from Grand Central Art Gallery July 13, 1933

Letter from George de Forest Brush to Plutt January 18, 1933

Envelope only from Alex Graham November 19, 1934

Letter unsigned to Mr. Potter June 4, 1934

**Series 1: Correspondence**

---

Letter and envelope with notation from Richard Hansley, Boston Public Library April 23, 1934

Letter from Grenville January 3, 1934

Letter from R.A. Meixell, Fifth Avenue Bank May 14, 1935

Letter and envelope from Charles C. Curran April 29, 1936

Letter from Lawrence Rathburn, Society for Protection of NH Forests April 13, 1936

Letter and envelope from R.U. Johnson March 31, 1937

Letter from George to "Papa" July 12, 1937

Envelope, addressed and postmarked September 25, 1937

Letter and envelope from John Dickson May 27, 1941

Envelope from Burlingham, Veeder, Clark and Hupper, postmarked May 10, 1941

Letter from C. Burlingham to Mittie de Forest Brush, with newsclipping dated April 25, 1941 and newsclipping dated May 4, 1941 (obit. notices, G. de Forest Brush) April 25, 1941 - May 9, 1941



**Series 2: Legal & Financial Papers**

---

Letter and envelope from C.B. Coleman February 3, 192

Letter from Dublin Associates to Estate September 15, 1945

Letter from Arnold Barker, Chairman of Monadnock Community Hospital February 4, 1953

Letter from Farjeon, Ballin and Co. October 3, 192[n.y.]

Postcard from RUJ November 8, 193[n.y.]

Letter from George de Forest Brush to Walter Clark n.d.

Note from George de Forest Brush to Mrs.Grace Vanamee n.d.

Letter and separate envelope, from George to "Papa" n.d.

Envelope only, note written on envelope, no address n.d.

Letter, damaged and partially illegible n.d.

**Series 2: Legal & Financial Papers**

Lease Agreement, George de Forest Brush (New York) October 18, 1927

**Series 2: Legal & Financial Papers**

---

Lease Agreement, George de Forest Brush (New York) (carbon copy) October 18, 1927

Insurance statement, George de forest Brush April 23, 1925

Lease Agreement, George de Forest Brush November, 1922

Deed of Works, George de Forest Brush to wife (Mittie Taylor Brush) December 16, 1922

Insurance statement, portrait of Mrs. Braun by George de Forest Brush February 26, 1918

Insurance policy, portrait of Mrs. Braun, Premium statement, painting "Andromeda" Collateral note, "paid", painting "Madonna in Blue" and "Two Little Sisters" February, 1918, February, 1922, May 2, 1935

Fire Ins. Policy, Dublin NH house January 28, 1917

List payments/charges:1923, 1924, 1926 Release form, George Lacey and George de Forest Brush, January 20, 1916 Release form, Paul Schlerch and George de Forest Brush, April 11, 1916 1916-1926

Copy of Will and letter from Charles Burlingham to George de Forest Brush March 16, 1916

Legal form, "passport", US Embassy, Rome, Italy August 21, 1914

Diplomatic form, British Consulae at Marseille, France September 4, 1914

### Series 3: Personal Papers

---

Contract, Madame Marchisini (Florence, Italy) and George de Forest Brush November 23, 1901

Title search, land deeds, Lot 11, Dublin, NH (period 1853-1901) September 11, 1901

Woodland Cemetary (Stamford, CT), Lot 64, Deed 212 to Alfred Brush September 20, 1873

Sale of Woodland Cemetary Lot by Alfred Brush (Portland, OR) to George de Forest Brush (NY,NY) August 31, 1900

Payment statement, Lot 64, Woodland Cemetary (Stamford, CT), for Alfred Brush January 2, 1880

### Series 3: Personal Papers

Biographical Sketch from Argus Bureau for George de Forest Brush n.d.

Biographical Sketch, "Who's Who in America", Vol.21 for George de Forest Brush, Edition 1940-1941 ca. 1941

Biographical Sketch "Who's Who in New England", Vol.IX for George de Forest Brush n.d.

Newspaper Article "Old Hat Phobia" by Charles Vizen, Vol.XIX, No.11 December 25, 1920

Newspaper clipping, NY Herald Tribune, February 20, 1932; re: Brush exhibit at Grand Central Gallery February 20, 1932

### Series 3: Personal Papers

---

Newspaper clipping, NY Herald Tribune, May 18, 1933, "Mr/Mrs. Ape" comic strip, notation on envelope May 18, 1933

Newspaper clipping, NY Herald Tribune, April 25, 1941, Obituary for George de Forest Brush April 25, 1941

Newspaper clipping, The Sunday Star (Washington, DC), April 27, 1941 April 27, 1941

Newspaper clipping, re:Nicholas Murray Butler n.d.

Pamphlets (2) written by N.M.Butler: "A Call to Action", Broadcast January 13, 1933 "Government and Liberty", Broadcast September 4, 1932 Note enclosed to Mr. Butler September 4, 1932 - January 13, 1933

Pamphlet "Colossal Debt and Heavy Taxes" by N.M.Butler, Broadcast November 16, 1932 November 16, 1932

Envelope only with notation, "My statement of the Ahern case", no identification n.d.

Sheet of paper with notation "misc. documents" no identification n.d.

Sheets of notebook paper (3), one with notation "Having to do with paintings", two blank No identification n.d.

### Series 3: Personal Papers

---

Book advertisement (duofold, full page); re: "Poems of Science" by Wm. Pallister, handwritten notations on review n.d.

Partial piece of paper, burned too badly to identify n.d.