# ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART

# A Guide to the John Quincy Adams Ward Papers

## **Summary Information**

#### Repository

Albany Institute of History & Art Library

#### Creator

John Quincy Adams Ward

#### Title

John Quincy Adams Ward Papers, 1800-1933

## Identifier

CM 544

#### Date

1800-1933

## **Physical Description**

2.08 linear feet; 5 Hollinger boxes

## **Physical Location**

The materials are located onsite in the Museum.

## Language of the Material

English

## Abstract

John Quincy Adams Ward was born on June 29, 1830, in Urbana, Ohio. The fourth of eight children born to John Anderson (1783-1855) and Eleanor Macbeth Ward (1795-1856), one of his younger brothers was the artist, Edgar Melville Ward (1839-1915). Encouraged in his early art by local potter, Miles Chatfield, Ward became discouraged after attending a sculpture exhibition in Cincinnati in 1847.

While living with his older sister Eliza (1824-1904) and her husband in Brooklyn, New York, Ward began training under sculptor Henry Kirke Brown (1814-1886), under whose tutelage he would remain from 1849-1856. In 1857 he set out on his own, making busts of men in public life. In 1861, Ward set up his own studio in New York City, where he dedicated himself to developing an American school of sculpture.

Left a widower twice, Ward eventually married Rachel Smith (1849-1933) in 1906. She was instrumental in helping to get his work and papers placed in numerous institutions. During his lifetime, Ward created numerous public sculptures, including one of General Phillip Sheridan in Albany, New York, and he participated in and served on numerous boards. Ward died in New York City in 1910, and was buried in Oakdale Cemetery in Urbana, Ohio.

This collection contains correspondence, business records, organizational records, photographs, clippings, sculpture plans, sketches, speeches, and a scrapbook.

## **Preferred Citation**

Preferred citation for this material is as follows:

John Quincy Adams Ward Papers, 1800-1933, CM 544. Albany Institute of History & Art Library, Albany, New York.

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None.

## **Restrictions on Use**

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# **Immediate Source of Acquisition**

Accession: # 1942.32 (Curatorial) Accession Date: July 1942

# **Processing Information**

Processed by P. Carnell, March 2005. Updated by C.D. Lewis, June 2005. Finding aid updated by H. Cox, April 2020.

# **Biographical/Historical**

The sculptor John Quincy Adams Ward, was born on June 29, 1830 in Urbana, Ohio. The fourth of eight children born to John Anderson (1783-1855) and Eleanor Macbeth Ward (1795-1856), one of his younger brothers was the artist, Edgar Melville Ward (1839-1915). Encouraged in his early art by local potter, Miles Chatfield, Ward became discouraged after attending a sculpture exhibition in Cincinnati in 1847.

While living with his older sister Eliza (1824-1904) and her husband in Brooklyn, New York, Ward began training under sculptor Henry Kirke Brown (1814-1886), under whose tutelage he would remain from 1849-1856. Ward assisted Brown with the execution of the equestrian statue of George Washington in New York City. In 1861, Ward opened his own studio in New York City and created his first full-length figure, "The Freedman," which attracted attention to his work. He later created a number of works for Central Park, the first of which was the "Indian Hunter" (1864). Both "The Freedman" and the "Indian Hunter" were included in the Paris Universal Exposition of 1867.

Later in his career, Ward was mainly commissioned for portrait statues and monuments, including the General Sheridan statue in Albany, New York, which was installed after his death. He also collaborated with P.W. Bartlett in the creation of the pediment sculptures for the New York Stock Exchange. His work furthermore includes busts of many prominent figures, including William H. Vanderbilt and Dr. Orville Dewey. Ward participated in and served on the boards of numerous organizations, and founded the National Sculpture Society, as well as served as president of both the Sculpture Society (1893–1904) and the National Academy of Design (1874).

On February 10<sup>th</sup>, 1858, Ward married his first wife, Anna Bannan. She died of illness sometime later. Following Anna's death, he married Julia Devens Valentine (1854-1879) on June 19, 1877, but lost her during childbirth on January 31, 1879. After remaining a widower for many years, Ward eventually married Rachel Smith (1849-1933) in 1906. She was instrumental in helping to get his work and papers placed in numerous institutions.

Ward died in New York City in 1910 after suffering from increasingly poor health over the last five years of his life, and was buried in Oakdale Cemetery, in Urbana, Ohio. His wife had a replica of his first sculpture made for his grave.

# **Scope and Contents**

This collection is organized into 13 series. These include Correspondence, which is broken into two subseries: Letters to John Quincy Adams Ward and Letters to Mrs. Rachel O. Ward; Business Records; Invitations, Tickets, and Programs; Newspaper and Magazine Articles; Sketches and Plans; Photographs; Speeches and Addresses about Ward; Ephemera; Records of the National Sculpture Society; Genealogical Records of the Ward family; Published Materials, which consists of two Italian books of lithographs, and Sketchbooks, which includes eleven of Ward's sketchbooks; and a scrapbook of newspaper clippings.

## **Contents List**

The following section contains a detailed listing of the materials in the collection.

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From Bromilee Brown, Henry Kirke Brown (Sculptor), Page, Ann Powell, 1854 – 1859.	1	1b
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From D.G. Appleton, Charles Booth (Memorial Stained Glass Windows), William Courtenay, S.I. Dennis, George Fischer (Fischer & Brother Fine Art Bronze Foundry), J.S. Fullerton, Major General J. Hooker, Albert Jaegers (Sculptor), Erastus Dow Palmer (Sculptor), P.H. Sheridan, 1878-1879.	1	13
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From Edwin H. Blashfield, Charles DeKay, Charles W. Eliot, Albert L. Farwell, Daniel Chester French (Sculptor), J.A. Garland, Henry Hilton, A.R. Spofford (Librarian, Library of Congress), Wager Swayne, Cornelius Vanderbilt, A.	1	28
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From General Daniel Butterfield (U.S. Treasury), Charles J. Cohen (Secretary, Fairmount Park Art Association), Charles E. Dana, I. Wyman Drummond, Fairmount Park Art Association, John Marshall Gest (Attorney, Philadelphia), Eugene Griffith, John Hancock, Charles Rollinson Lamb (Architect, New York), Phillip Livingston, L.W. Miller, George B. Post, Edmund Redmond, Louise Saint Larme, 1899.	2	10
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From Samuel P. Avery, R.S. Chilton, Jessie B. Fremont, E. Leutze (Artist), Frederick L. Olmsted, Jr., Edward Ruggles, E.H. Schemerhorn, Olin L. Warner, Undated.	2	18a
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From the American Science and Historical Society, W.C. Brownwell, Hampton Training School for Nurses and Dixie Hospital, Miss Hewitt, Henry Holt, Charles Rollinson Lamb (Architect, New York), F.H.M. Murray, Amy Reed (Librarian, Vassar College), Stephens, George W. (Toledo Museum of Art), July-December 1914.	2	22
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## Photographs, 1865, Undated

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Calcografia della Colonna Antonina divisa in 150 Tavole. Parte I. ["Copperplate Engravings of the Antonina Column (Column of Marcus Aurelius) Divided into 150 Tables. Part I."] Rome, 1779. 150 Lithographs concerning the Marcus Aurelius column in	4	2

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