

Partridge, William Ordway Papers

William Ordway Partridge Papers

1894-1905

Title Statement

Partridge, William Ordway PapersGuide to the William Ordway Partridge Papers SC 01075

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Publication Statement

Publisher: Special Collections Research Center

William & Mary Special Collections Research Center
Earl Gregg Swem Library
400 Landrum Dr
Williamsburg, Virginia
Business Number: 757-221-3090
spcoll@wm.edu
URL: <https://libraries.wm.edu/libraries-spaces/special-collections>

2007-07-12

Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2025-05-15 12:25:26 -0400.

Language Usage: The collection description/finding aid is written in English

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

SC 01075

Unit ID

/repositories/2/resources/1957

Unit Date

1894-1905

Language

English

Extent

0.01 Linear Foot

Repository

Special Collections Research Center

Administrative Information

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Acquisition Information:

Purchase

Processing Information:

Processed by Cynthia B. Brown in 1983.

Preferred Citation:

William Ordway Partridge Papers, Special Collections Research Center, Swem Library, College of William and Mary.

Biographical Information:

William Ordway Partridge (1861-1930) was an American sculptor whose public commissions can be found in New York City and other locations; including his life-size statue of the Native American Indian princess, Pocahontas, unveiled at Jamestown, Virginia in 1922.

William Partridge was born in Paris to American parents descended from the Pilgrims in Massachusetts; his father was a representative of A. T. Stewart. At the end of the reign of Napoleon III, Partridge travelled to America to attend Adelphi Academy in Brooklyn and Columbia University (graduated 1883) in New York. After a year of experimentation in theater, he went abroad to study sculpture. During a brief stint in the Paris studio of William-Adolphe Bouguereau, he formed a close friendship with the neo-Gothic architect Ralph Adams Cram on his 1887 trip. He knew the young Bernard Berenson in Florence, where he studied in the studio of Galli, and Rome, in the studio of Pio Welonski (1883-85).

His published work includes articles on aesthetics and several art history books including *Art For America* (1894), *The Song Life of a Sculptor* (1894), and *The Technique of Sculpture* (1895). He also wrote poems and published the verse novels *Angel of Clay* (1900) and *The Czar's Gift* (1906).

Aside from his public commissions, his work consisted mostly of portrait busts. In 1893 eleven of his works were displayed at the World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago, according to the official catalog of the Fine Arts Building at the fair, where he exhibited sculptures of Alexander Hamilton and William Shakespeare as well as portraits. In this same catalog Partridge was listed as living in Milton, Massachusetts. He maintained homes and studios in both Milton and New York. Among his studio assistants on West 38th Street in New York was Lee Lawrie.

Partridge went on to lecture at Stanford University in California, and assumed a professorship at Columbian University, now George Washington University, in Washington, D.C.

His life-size statue of the Native American Indian princess, Pocahontas, was unveiled in Jamestown, Virginia in 1922. Queen Elizabeth II viewed this statue on May 4, 2007, while visiting Jamestown on the 400th anniversary of the founding of the first English colonial settlement in America. On October 5, 1958, a replica of the Pocahontas statue by Partridge was dedicated as a memorial to the princess at the location of her burial in 1617 at St. George's Church in Gravesend, England. The Governor of Virginia presented the statue as a gift to the British people.

Partridge died in New York in 1930. Further information about this individual or organization may be available in the Special Collections Research Center Wiki:

http://scdbwiki.swem.wm.edu/wiki/index.php/William_Ordway_Partridge.

Scope and Contents

Letters, 1894-1905, of the sculptor William Ordway Partridge to [?] Allen, [?] Hardy, Edward W. Bok, and the Society of American Sculptors. Letters discuss his book, desire to write an article for *Ladies Home Journal* on the history of women's clothing, attending social gatherings, and Society of American Sculptors affairs.

4 items.

Related Materials:

See WorldCat for information about two additional archival collections containing the papers of W. O. Partridge.

Keywords

Correspondence
Jamestown (Va.)--History
Sculptors, American--19th century
Sculptors, American--20th century
Sculpture, American
Statue Pocahontas, 1922, Historic Jamestowne

Description of Subordinate Components

Papers

Unit ID id4399

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/171206

Unit Date 1894-1905

Mixed Materials Small Collections Box 74 (Box)

Container 1 (folder)

Scope and Contents

6 Sept. [18]94, W[illia]m Ordway Partridge, Wilton, Massachusetts, to Mr. [?] Hardy, n.p. Discussion of his book, copies printed and numbers sold, 2 pp. 12 Aug. 1896, W[illia]m Ordway Partridge, Wilton, Massachusetts, to Edward W. Bok, Ladies Home Journal, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania where he explains that he was not able to answer his earlier request for an article due to ill health and his work on the equestrian statue of Grant; however, he is now able, and would like to do an article on the history of women's clothing, using photographs of paintings and statues by old and modern masters; comments that the clothing worn by women today is "far from beautiful, and in most cases far from sensible"; lists references of his other writings, 3 pp. 27 Nov. 1905, [William] Ordway Partridge, New York, [N.Y.], to Mr. [?] Allen, n.p. where he writes that he is sorry to have missed him and Mrs. Allen at the reception at the "Studio"; would like for him to hear about the "Society" soon; needs to pay visit, 1 p. 6 Dec. 1905, [William] Ordway Partridge, Society of American Sculptors, New York City, [N.Y.], to Mr. [?] Allen, n.p. where he informs Allen of the Arts & Crafts dinner coming up, and relays a message from Miss Hicks, asking that he dine and speak; invites Mrs. Allen also, 1 p.