Accession Number: *80 M 29

Title: Asher B. Durand Papers

Location: [Blank]

Approximate Inclusive Dates: 1812-1886

Date of Receipt: 1971

Received From: Charles Henry Hart gift

(name & address)

Volume on Arrival: [Blank]

Number of Boxes (after reboxing): 6 fl. 1 volume

Condition: Good. Some of the letters need conservation treatment, especially Michael Pekenimo’s.

Restrictions: None

Special Formats (list): Graphics

DESCRIPTION: See attached

TEMPORARY CATALOG CARD ADDED ENTRIES (additional)

Art Union (NYC)

Lea & Carey

Epidemic Cholera, Asiatic 1831-32

Illustrated letters

New York City—history 1820-69

National Academy of Design (NYC)

Pekenimo, Michael

United States History 1812-86

ACCESSIONED BY Valerie Wingfield Date: 4-19-85
Asher Brown Durand (1796-1886) engraver and painter. Durand was born in New Jersey, the eighth of eleven children. As a child, he developed his mechanical ability by working in his father, John Durand's workshop. Around 1812 he became an apprentice to Peter Maverick, a steel-engraver. During the next five years, Durand made copies of illustrations for English books sold in America. In 1817, Durand went into partnership with Maverick and during this period he was commissioned to engrave the "Declaration of Independence" by John Trumbull. A rift developed between Durand and Maverick; Maverick felt that because he was the one most experienced, he should have executed it. Their partnership ended in 1820. Durand continued to engrave and formed a brief partnership (from 1824 to 1832) with his brother Cyrus. Among his most important works were the "Musidore" and "Ariade." In 1836 Durand gave up engraving and turned his interests toward painting.

Durand toured Europe (1840-41) with fellow artists J.F. Kensett, T.P. Rossiter and J.W. Casilear. He served as president of the National Academy of Design (1845-61). During the latter part of his life, Durand stayed active within the intellectual and artistic life of New York City. After a period of fifty-four years, he returned to his birthplace of Jefferson City, N.Y. where he died in 1886.

Durand married twice and was widowed by both. At the time of his death, he was survived by several children.
The papers of Asher B. Durand consist of Biographical sketches of Asher B. Durand. Also included is General Correspondence (1832-84). The early period (1812-20) concentrates on Durand's partnership with Peter Maverick, a steel engraver, their business arrangements with regard to setting up "Maverick Durand and Co." (NYC), and commissions of work. Some of Maverick's letters to Durand state his grievances with him over commissions. According to Maverick, Durand and his brother Cyrus were not keeping to the terms of agreement regarding how work was to be divided.

Correspondence, 1830----, includes letters to Durand regarding commissions to engrave bank note vignettes, etc. He also spent several months in Augustus, Florida according to the letters addressed to him. Correspondence C. 1831-32 mentions the cholera epidemic which was sweeping New York and neighboring states. Durand was living outside of New York City at the time.

C. 1835 March, Durand wrote to his son John from Washington relating his experiences, especially his portrait sessions with Henry Clay. Later that year in Boston, Durand wrote again regarding his portrait sessions with John Quincy Adams' grand-daughters.

The letters of the latter half of 1840 (June-1841) are mostly to his son John and to his wife regarding his tour of Europe. Durand wrote about his impressions of London, especially the Royal Academy, and offered opinion of the Queen, as well as his thoughts about Paris, Antwerp, The Hague, Geneva, and Italy, including Florence, Rome, and Milan.
The period 1848-84 covers Durand's presidency of the National Academy of Design (1848-62), his conflicts with the rival Art Union, and other subjects. Scattered throughout are letters from Durand to his family.

Prominent correspondents include Carey, Lee & Carey, John W. Casilear, Thomas Cole (1836-40), John Durand (son), John F. Kensett, William S. Mount, Erastus Dow Palmer, Michael Pakenizo, Luman Reed (art patron) and Elias B. Wade, Jr. Some letters are in French and illustrated; transcripts are included with many letters.

The remaining papers consist of Testimonials, diplomas 1821-26, including: the National Academy of Design; Addresses 1846-47; n.s., by Durand; Broadside, an auction of engravings (1) and the American Art Union (1); Graphics, a print of an engraving of David Crockett (autograph). Journal: 1840 regarding Durand's European trip (including 2 small journals in pencil).
Durand descendants

Son John, died in 1908 (probably in Paris). He wrote from Maplewood, N.J. in 1893.

Daughter Mary Caroline, married George Woodman. Lived in South Orange, N.J. He died in 1893.

John Durand's brother was 17 years younger than he but died in 1909 apparently without issue. He was actually a half-brother.

One nephew is mentioned in the letters:

Durand Woodman, undoubtedly his sister's son.

John Durand also had another sister.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reel No.</th>
<th>Box No.</th>
<th>Content</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N19</td>
<td>1-3</td>
<td>General Correspondence, 1812-1840</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Letters from Michael Pekenino, 1819-1822, n.d.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Note: Letters follow 1820 correspondence on film.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Graphics: engraved portrait of David Crockett by Asher B. Durand, with original manuscript signatures of prominent artists, etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Note: Follows 1833 correspondence on film. See reel list, p. 9.</td>
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<tr>
<td>N20</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Journals, 1840.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 v., 156 pp., June 1-Oct. 11; with two small journals in pencil, Oct. 23-Nov. 15; Nov. 16-Dec. 4.</td>
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<td>4-5</td>
<td>General Correspondence, 1841-1869</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N21</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>General Correspondence, 1870-1883</td>
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<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Undated letters, A-T; Miscellaneous letters</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Addresses by A. B. Durand, [1846]; n.d.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Note: starts with transcript of 1817 address</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Broadsides</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Testimonials, Diplomas, etc., 1821-1861</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Biographical Sketches and Lists of Works by A.B. Durand</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Note: Item filmed from Division’s Miscellaneous Personal Name File for Lawrence, Cornelius W.</td>
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<td>Note: End of Asher B. Durand filmed material; reel continues with John Durand Papers.</td>
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<tr>
<td>N25</td>
<td></td>
<td>Letters (typescript copies) to Asher B. Durand (frames 1141-1144):</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sully, Thos. 8 June 1825. 1 p.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Doughty, Thos. 6 May 1833. 2 pp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Jones, George. 31 July 1835. 1 p.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Note: Reel includes miscellaneous supplements to Manuscripts and Archives Division collections filmed on previous rolls, in alphabetical order by collection.</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Note: Items filed in General correspondence, Asher B. Durand Papers</td>
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</table>
1836

May 12, A.B.O. to Cole
" 13, Cole to A.B.O.
" 21, A.B.O. to Cole
" 24, Cole to A.B.O.
" 25, A.B.O. to Cole
" 31, A.B.O. to "
June 5, A.B.O. to "
" 7, Cole to A.B.O.
" 12, A.B.O. to Cole
" 16, Cole to A.B.O.
" 19, A.B.O. to Cole
" 23, Cole to A.B.O.
Jul. 7, A.B.O. to Cole
" 9, Cole to A.B.O.
" 15, A.B.O. to Cole
" 17, Cole to A.B.O.
" 19, A.B.O. to Cole
" 21, A.B.O. to "
Aug. 30, Cole to A.B.O.
Sept. 1, A.B.O. to Cole
" 12, Cole to A.B.O.
Nov. n.d., Cole to A.B.O.
" 15, Cole to A.B.O.
Dec. 2, Cole to A.B.O.
Dec. n.d., A.B.O. to Cole

1837

June 3, Cole to A.B.O.
" 13, A.B.O. to Cole
" 14, Cole to A.B.O.
" 18, A.B.O. to Cole
" 20, A.B.O. to Cole
Jul. 29, Cole to A.B.O.
Sept. 5, A.B.O. to Cole
Nov. 2, Cole to A.B.O.
" 7, A.B.O. to Cole
Dec. 25, A.B.O. to Cole
Dec. (3), Cole to Durand

1838

Jan. 5, Cole to Durand
" 15, A.B.O. to Cole
" 12, Cole to Durand
Mar. 20, A.B.O. to Cole
" 30, A.B.O. to Cole
May 24, A.B.O. to "
" 28, Cole to Durand

"N.B. In this gr of letters, the origs of Cole's are not present those o' Durand are.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>To</th>
<th>From</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<td>Aug.</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Cole</td>
<td>Durand</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>A.R.D.</td>
<td>to Cole</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Cole to Durand</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nov.</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>n.d.</td>
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<td>Sept.</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dec.</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
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<td>1860</td>
<td>May</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>Cole to Durand</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
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<td>A.R.D. to Cole</td>
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<td>1861</td>
<td>July</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Cole to Durand</td>
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<td>Copy only</td>
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<td>&quot;</td>
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<td>A.R.D. to Cole</td>
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<td>Cole to Durand</td>
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<td>Mar.</td>
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<td>Cole to Durand</td>
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<td>1867</td>
<td>May</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Cole to Durand</td>
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<td>Original, signature cut out</td>
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Avery, S. (1)
Bitter, N. (1)
Bullock, Julia (1)
Carlin, G. (1)
Clover, L.P., Jr. (1)
Cooper Union School of Design for Women (1)

Davis, J.P. (1)
Durand, Cyrus (5)
Ehninger, John W. (2)
Falconer, John M. (1)
Freeman, James E. (1)

Gould, Chas. (1)
Greencough, Horatio (2)
Hedley, J.T. (1)
Herring, James (1)
Hill, G.B. (1)
Huntington, Daniel (1)
Imms, J. (typescript) (1)

Johnston, D.C. (typescript) (1)
Jan. R. (4)
Jones, Ida C. (1)
Keable, Gov. (1)
Koch, E.J. (1)
Leutz, Emanuel (1)
Nordhoff, Talbot Geo. (1)
Phillips, B. (1)
Putnam, Geo. P. (1)

Sands, Robert C. (1)
Smith, A.R. (1)
Stone, William J. (2)
Stuart, R.C. (1)
Sweepfield, J. (1)
Swinburne, S.W. (1)

Terry, Lothar ? (1)
Tully, Thomas (1)

Miscellaneous