

Manuscript Collections

Name of collection: Worcester Art Society, Records, 1878-1914	Location: Octavo Volumes "W"
Size of collection: 7 octavo volumes	N.U.C.M.C. number: N.A.
Finding aids: For further information concerning the Art Society, see Charles Nutt, <u>History of Worcester and Its People</u> (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1919), vol. 2, pp. 775-76	
Source of collection: Gift of Worcester Art Museum, 1974	
Collection description: <p>The Worcester Art Society was organized at a public meeting in 1877 for the purpose of promoting art culture. Its leaders included Stephen Carpenter Earle (1839-1913), Nathaniel Paine (1832-1917), and Zelotes Wood Combs (1865-1946). The Society, incorporated in 1887, held exhibitions where works of art owned by members were displayed. It also sponsored lectures on art, and was instrumental in the establishment of the Worcester Art Museum in 1896. The Society continued as an independent organization until declining membership forced it to transfer its assets to the Art Museum in 1914.</p> <p>This collection of seven volumes, 1878-1914, includes a membership record volume, treasurer's records, advisory committee records, and a journal containing descriptions of porcelain and china exhibit items. The treasurer's records include annual fees, bank deposits, exhibition costs, and insurance costs. There is also a detailed Record of Activities, 1887-1914, which contains the minutes of each annual and special meeting of the Society. The volume includes newspaper clippings on lectures delivered, printed announcements and lists of portraits exhibited, attendance records, several treasurer's reports, and the constitution and bylaws.</p> <p>See Contents List.</p>	

18 May 1978

WORCESTER, MASS., ART SOCIETY

Contents List

Octavo Volumes:

- #1 Membership record volume, with list of dues, 1878-1914
- #2 Treasury ledger, 1878-1889, containing accounts of profits and losses
- #3 Advisory Committee records, 1886-1902, with minutes of each meeting
- #4 Record of Activities, 1887-1914. Includes Act of Incorporation, 1887
- #5 Records of Society's Income from Annual Dues, 1895-1902
- #6 Ledger, 1914-1915, containing brief list of receipts and expenses
- #7 Journal, undated, containing description of china and porcelain display items; includes owners' names