Finding aid for the Paul Signac letters and Signac family correspondence, 1860-1935

Finding aid prepared by Lesley Heins Walker.
Descriptive Summary

Title: Paul Signac letters and Signac family correspondence

Date (inclusive): 1860-1935

Number: 870524

Creator/Collector: Signac, Paul, 1863-1935

Physical Description: 93.0 items

Repository: The Getty Research Institute

Special Collections
1200 Getty Center Drive, Suite 1100
Los Angeles, California, 90049-1688
(310) 440-7390

Abstract: Letters from French painter Paul Signac to several colleagues discussing work in progress, exhibitions, contemporary art, the Société des Artistes Indépendants, and personal and financial matters. A significant number addressed to Edouard Fer, a neo-impressionist disciple whose independent means and connections enabled him to promote Signac's career. Other correspondents include Camille Pissarro, Claude Monet, Georges Turpin, Henri Martineau, Georges Lecomte, and Luc-Albert Moreau. Most of the letters are Signac family correspondence; some of these are addressed by Paul Signac to his cousins.

Request Materials: Request access to the physical materials described in this inventory through the catalog record for this collection. Click here for the access policy.

Language: Collection material is in French

Biographical Historical Note

Parisian painter Paul Signac (1863-1935), a founder of the Salon des Indépendants, developed with Georges Seurat the technique of pointillism, or divisionism, and was a principal adherent and spokesman for the Neo-Impressionist movement. He was the author of the books D'Eugène Delacroix au néo-impressionnisme (1899) and Jongkind (1927).

Access

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Preferred Citation

Paul Signac letters and Signac family correspondence 1860-1935, Getty Research Institute, Research Library, Accession no. 870524.

http://hdl.handle.net/10020/cifa870524

Acquisition Information

Acquired in 1987.

Scope and Content of Collection

The Paul Signac Letters and Signac Family Correspondence contains letters from Signac to several colleagues discussing work in progress, exhibitions, contemporary art, the Société des Artistes Indépendants, and personal and financial matters. A significant number of these letters are addressed to Edouard Fer, a neo-Impressionist disciple whose independent means and connections enabled him to promote Signac's career. Other correspondents include Camille Pissarro, Claude Monet, Georges Turpin, Henri Martineau, Georges Lecomte, and Luc-Albert Moreau. There is also a draft essay for a review of the Exposition des peintres provençaux held in 1902. Most of the letters in this collection are Signac family correspondence; some of these are addressed by Paul Signac to his cousins. (The repository also holds a significant series of Signac's correspondence within the papers of Theo van Rysselbergh, accn. no. 870305.)

In his thirty-five letters to Edouard Fer (1916-1932, bulk 1918-1921) Signac discusses the organization of exhibitions, mostly in Switzerland, and the critical reaction to his own work. He does not forget to offer Fer the occasional bit of advice. Other letters include ten to Pissarro (1886-1899) in one of which he comments on Pissarro's stylistic evolution and his own recent landscape painting in the Midi (1897); a letter that recounts the formation of the Société des Artistes Indépendants in 1884 with mention of Redon, Seurat, and Theodore Rousseau; a letter to Georges Lecomte where Signac comments on Symbolism, Puvis de Chavannes, Maximilien Luce, and Lecomte's recent work; a letter from Brussels describing at great length a visit to a foundry (1897); two notes to Henri Martineau pertaining to Signac's study of Stendal (1919, 1928); one
letter to an unnamed critic thanking him for a favorable article and describing Signac's trips to Brittany and Provence (1933); and one fragment of a letter in response to an enquete on interior decorating.

A draft essay of a review of the Exposition des Peintres Provençaux held in Marseilles in 1902, includes an introductory statement on the exhibition followed by remarks characterizing the work of individual painters including Jean Antoine Constantin, Emile Loubon, Auguste Aiguier, Gustave Ricard, Adolphe Monticelli, and Paul Guigou.

Signac family correspondence deals with family life, children, illness, vacations, money worries, marriages, divorces and so forth. A small number of these are written by Paul Signac to his cousins. The rest are between other family members. Most of the letters seem to be about Julie and Alfred Signac's family-Paul Signac's aunt and uncle. Included are letters from his grandmother, grandfather, and cousins.

Arrangement note
Arranged in one series.

Subjects - Names
Aiguier, Louis Auguste Lauren
Constantin, Jean-Antoine, 1756-1844
Guigou, Paul, 1834-1871
Loubon, Emile, 1809-1863
Luce, Maximilien, 1858-1941
Monticelli, Adolphe, 1824-1886
Puvis de Chavannes, Pierre, 1824-1898
Redon, Odilon, 1840-1916
Ricard, Gustave, 1823-1873
Rousseau, Théodore, 1812-1867
Seurat, Georges, 1859-1891
Signac, Paul, 1863-1935

Subjects - Corporate Bodies
Exposition de peintres provencaux (Marseilles, France)
Société des artistes indépendants (Paris, France)

Subjects - Topics
Art--Exhibitions
Interior decoration
Neo-impressionism (Art)
Painting, Modern--19th century--France
Painting, Modern--20th century--France
Symbolism (Art movement)

Contributors
Fer, Edouard, 1887-1959
Guillemond, Maurice
Lecomte, Georges, 1867-1958
Martineau, Henri, 1882-1958
Moreau, Luc-Albert, 1882-1948
Pissarro, Camille, 1830-1903
Turpin, Georges, 1885-

Folder 1-2 Letters to Fer
Folder 3 Letters to Pissarro and Monet
Folder 4-5 Letters to artists, museum curators, and colleagues, 1907-1935 undated

Scope and Content Note
Many are on Société des Artistes Indépendants stationary.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Manuscript for L'Exposition des Peintures Provinçaux</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Letters from Paul Signac to his cousin Albert Signac</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Letters from Paul Signac to his cousins, ca. 1912</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Letters from Julie Signac (presumably Paul's aunt) to Marie and Albert Signac (his cousins)</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Letters addressed to Madame Veuve Signac, 1914-1918</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Letters from H. Signac addressed to Julie Signac, 1902-1910</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Letters from Julie Signac to Albert Signac</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Letters from L.A. Signac (presumably Paul's grandfather) to Julie Paché and his son Alfred Signac, 1860-1862</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Letters from the Héberts to Julie and Alfred Signac</td>
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<td>Letters from an N. Badet</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Letters from Cousin Dorez, 1888-1889</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Unidentified family letters</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Letters from a Madame Lantru</td>
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**Scope and Content Note**

Presumably the Signac family wetnurse.