Finding aid for the Gabriel Mourey letters received 1887-1913, bulk 1898-1906

Finding aid prepared by Onica Busuiocceanu.
Descriptive Summary
Title: Gabriel Mourey letters received
Date (inclusive): 1887-1913 (bulk 1898-1906)
Number: 900251
Creator/Collector: Mourey, Gabriel, 1865-1943
Physical Description: 51.0 items
Repository: The Getty Research Institute
Special Collections
1200 Getty Center Drive, Suite 1100
Los Angeles, California, 90049-1688
(310) 440-7390
Abstract: The collection comprises 31 letters and postcards sent to the French art critic Gabriel Mourey by 9 correspondents, most of them Belgian artists. An additional 20 letters are from Emile Gallé.
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
French art critic, editor and prolific author in various genres, including prose, poetry and plays.
Access
Open for use by qualified researchers.
Publication Rights
Contact Library Rights and Reproductions.
Preferred Citation
Gabriel Mourey letters received, 1887-1913, bulk 1898-1906, Research Library, The Getty Research Institute, Accession no. 900251.
http://hdl.handle.net/10020/cifa900251
Acquisition Information
Most of this collection was received in 1990. The Gallé letters were received in a separate acquisition in 1990; the Huysmans letter was received in 2000.
Processing History
Processed by Onica Busuiocoeanu.
Alternate Form Available
Photocopies of Emile Gallé letters are available in repository.
Scope and Content of Collection
The collection comprises 31 letters and postcards sent to Gabriel Mourey by 9 correspondents, most of them Belgian artists. The topics include their work in progress, participation in exhibitions, professional organizations and events, autobiographic information, and grateful thoughts for Mourey’s help or appreciation. The correspondents are Louis Abel-Truchet, Albert Baertsoen, Emile Claus, Maurice Denis, Henry de Groux, J.-K. Huysmans, Fernand Khnopff, and Theo van Rysselberghe. Another group of 20 letters from Emile Gallé concern his artistic credo, his struggle to save the recently created Ecole de Nancy, and his activities during the last years of his life.
Arrangement note
Arranged in 2 series: Series I. Letters received from various artists; Series II. Letters from Emile Gallé
Subjects - Topics
France--Intellectual life--19th century
Painters--Belgium--Correspondence
Painters--France--Correspondence
Contributors
Abel-Truchet, Louis, 1857-1918
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baertsoen, Albert</td>
<td>1866-1922</td>
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<tr>
<td>Claus, Emile</td>
<td>1849-1924</td>
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<td>Denis, Maurice</td>
<td>1870-1943</td>
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<td>Gallé, Emile</td>
<td>1846-1904</td>
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<td>Groux, Henri de</td>
<td>1867-1930</td>
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<td>Huysmans, J.-K.</td>
<td>1848-1907</td>
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<td>Khnopff, Fernand</td>
<td>1858-1921</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mourey, Gabriel</td>
<td>1865-1943</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rysselberghe, Théo</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Series I. Letters received from various artists, 1900-1951**

**Physical Description:** 31.0 items

**Scope and Content Note**

Letters from artists to Mourey telling him about their work, exhibitions and other plans, and discussing writings about art. Some letters thank Mourey for his favorable reviews.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 1</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
|                 | **Abel-Truchet, Louis**, undated |                | **Physical Description:** 2.0 letters                                                                                      | **Scope and Content Note**
|                  |                    |                | Thanks Mourey for his words of appreciation. Writes a sharp criticism of a Miss Beveridge who thinks that “beauty” is an American product.                                                      |
|                 | **Baertsoen, Albert, 1904**, undated |                | **Physical Description:** 3.0 letters                                                                                      | **Scope and Content Note**
|                  |                    |                | Sends subscription money for Mourey's review Les arts de la vie (1904). Thanks Mourey for Fierens-Gevaert's article about him and its excellent illustrations (1907). Explains anxieties which made him withdraw his painting from the Libre esthétique exhibition (undated). |
|                 | **Claus, Emile, 1899, 1906** |                | **Physical Description:** 2.0 letters                                                                                      | **Scope and Content Note**
|                  |                    |                | Praises the "nouvelle société" and its elected president (1899 Mar. 25). Reminisces about people he met at the Salon, and the visit to Mourey's house "Le Verger" in St. Cloud (1906 May 14).     |
|                 | **Denis Maurice, 1903, 1913, 1939**, undated |                | **Physical Description:** 9.0 items                                                                                      | **Scope and Content Note**
|                  |                    |                | 5 short letters related to the publication of Denis's work about two chapels in Vésinet arranged by Mourey (July- Aug. 1903). Busy after his trip to Italy, promises to write a short article (undated). Postcard with congratulations from Perros-Guirec (1913). 2 short letters arranging meetings with Mourey (undated). Clipping advertising Denis' book Histoire de l'art (Flammarion, 1939). |
Series I. Letters received from various artists, 1900-1951

Box 1, Folder 1  
**Groux, Henry de, 1893, 1904, 1951**  
Physical Description: 6.0 items  
Scope and Content Note  
Thanks Mourey for the "noble lines" he wrote about his painting "La tribu prophétique" [Les Bohémiens] (Paris, 1893 June 19). 4 letters from Marseille, where he lives in hiding after escaping from a madhouse near Florence, explaining the treacherous plot of his vengeful lover who put him there (Aug. 1904). Clipping with article of Louis Piérard: "Sur la tombe d'Henry de Groux" (Le Monde, 1951 Sep. 4).

Box 1, Folder 1  
**Huysmans, J.-K, circa 1887**  
Physical Description: 1.0 letters  
Scope and Content Note  
Postpones a meeting because of Zola's close departure from Paris, and the last proofs of his book En rade, to be published by Stock next week [Apr. 1887?].

Box 1, Folder 1  
**Khnopff, Fernand, 1898, undated**  
Physical Description: 3.0 letters  
Scope and Content Note  
Delighted with Mourey's appreciation of his works exhibited at the New Gallery in London (Bruxelles, 1898 June 7). Confirms the excellent reception by the Belgian public of Mourey's recent round of lectures (Les arts de la vie et le règne de la laideur, Bruxelles, 1898 Dec. 21). E.R. Menard has a big success at the Société des Beaux-Arts exhibition. He has nothing prepared for the London exhibitions (undated).

Box 1, Folder 1  
**Rysselberghe, Theo van, 1900**  
Physical Description: 2.0 letters  
Scope and Content Note  

Series II. Letters received from Emile Gallé, 1901-1904  
Physical Description: 20.0 items  
Scope and Content Note  
Gallé, a French artist who worked in glass, was an influential proponent of French art nouveau. Letters document his social activism, including his efforts to organize evening schools for the working class. He thanks Mourey for his articles and reviews, discusses his work and his health.

Box 1, Folder 2  
**1901-1902**  
Scope and Content Note  
8 letters are related to G. Mourey's visit to the Ecole de Nancy, meant to win its official recognition and financial help. Gallé arranges Mourey's lecture with transparency projections, and informs him about the goals and principles of his newly created school of arts and crafts. The 4-page letter of Dec 21 contains Gallé's artistic credo (1901 Nov 21 to 1902 Jan 31).

Box 1, Folder 2  
**1902**  
Scope and Content Note  
Thanks Mourey for the article published after his visit, which, he hopes, will bring the subsidies needed for the exhibition of his school in Turin (1902 Feb 6).
Deeply distressed and sick after the administration's refusal of subsidies for the Turin exhibition (1902 Mar 24).

Thanks Mourey for presenting his works to the Director of the London review Studio. He has exhibited some furniture at the Salon, and made several pieces of glassware and furniture to be taken as gifts by the French President to Russia (1902 May 28).

Exhaustion and an ensuing nervous breakdown have forced Gallé to retreat to a spa in the Vosges (Bussang). He expresses his fear that the Bohemian craftsmen may steal his glass processes, as they have done in the past with Tiffany's and his own (1902 July 1 and July 6).

Recounting spa gossip from friends met at Bussang and Plombiers (1902 July 12).

Upset about the loss of the work by Victor Prouvé, which had been promised to Mourey for his visit to Nancy (1903 Mar 7).

Sends two pages of gardening tips for Mourey's plants (1903 June 8).

Reminds Mourey about the difficulties he will meet in his new project of creating a true journal about art. He himself is too sick for writing (1903 Sep 29).

From a Luxembourg clinic, Gallé writes 4 pages of hope in the creation of an "Alliance provinciale," that would resuscitate the old craft centers like Limoges, Rouen, Bordeaux. He believes that a general renaissance of French crafts is possible, introducing new ways in education (1903 Nov 16).

Enthusiastic congratulations to Mourey and his collaborators for the first issue of his review based on clear thinking and free speech. He wishes to recuperate his strength to join the team (1904 Jan 5).

Congratulations for Mourey's article in the review. Despite his pains, Gallé keeps experimenting with new materials and shapes. He is organizing, along with the Nancy masters, an exhibition for autumn (1904 Mar 6).