Charles Lanman papers, 1840-1987

Finding aid prepared by Lori Dedeyan
Descriptive Summary
Title: Charles Lanman papers
Date (inclusive): 1840-1987
Number: 930071
Creator/Collector: Lanman, Charles, 1819-1895
Physical Description: 1.0 linear feet (3 boxes)
Repository:
The Getty Research Institute
Special Collections
1200 Getty Center Drive, Suite 1100
Los Angeles, California, 90049-1688
(310) 440-7390
Abstract: Artist and author Charles Lanman's output was informed by and representative of his nature travels east of the Rocky Mountains, and wrote about the major personalities of his field and time. The collection includes twenty-three unpublished manuscripts about these subjects, as well as a family history; official documents relating to the administration of Lanman's estate and art collections; personal and professional correspondence; photographs; newspaper clippings; and ephemera relating to an exhibition about Lanman. It also contains reproductions of Lanman's artwork, transcripts, notes, biographical and literary lists, and correspondence generated by E. Maurice Bloch, a scholar and collector specializing in American art who undertook research on Charles Lanman in the second half of the twentieth century.
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 English
Biographical/Historical note
Charles Lanman was born in 1819 and spent his childhood exploring the wilds of Michigan. From 1835 to 1845, Lanman studied and worked in New York, where he was associated with the Hudson River School. In 1848, Lanman moved to Washington, DC, where he married Adeline Dogge in 1849. During his time there, he served as librarian of the War Department, the Department of the Interior, the House of Representatives, and the Washington City Library; and as private secretary to Daniel Webster. He was a prolific landscape and character painter, and also wrote extensively about many major New York artists and political figures of the early to mid-nineteenth century with whom he was associated, including George Caitlin, John James Audubon, and Daniel Huntington. One of the first non-native travelers to use a birch bark canoe, Lanman recorded his adventures on the rivers east of the Rocky Mountains in more than 1000 oil studies, 700 pencil sketches, 33 books and numerous newspaper articles. He died in Washington, DC in 1895.
Biographical/Historical note
E. Maurice Bloch, American art historian, professor, curator and collector, was born in New York City on October 26, 1916. Bloch enrolled at New York University, first as an undergraduate in the School of Architecture and Allied Arts, then as a graduate student in the Institute of Fine Arts, for which he wrote a dissertation on George Caleb Bingham (not completed until 1967). He taught at the University of Missouri (1944-1945), New York University (1945-1946), and the University of Minnesota (1946-1947). He was curator of prints at Cooper Union Museum (1952- ca. 1957). His tenure at the University of California, Los Angeles, began in 1956 and lasted until his retirement in 1982, and he was the founding director of UCLA's Grunwald Center for the Graphic Arts. Additionally, he was actively involved with the Western Division of the Archives of American Art, and helped negotiate a cooperative arrangement between the AAA, the Virginia Steele Scott Gallery, and the Huntington Library. His scholarly interests were in American art. Bloch died December 1989 in Los Angeles.
Access
Open for use by qualified researchers.
Publication Rights
Contact Library Reproductions and Permissions.
Preferred Citation note
Immediate Source of Acquisition note
Acquired in 1993.
Processing Information note
This collection was processed by Lori Dedeyan, under the supervision of Andra Darlington, in 2014. It was initially rehoused by the Registrar's Office.

**Related Archival Materials note**
E. Maurice Bloch Papers, 1925-1989 (Collection 910003).
Charles Lanman Papers, 1840-1892 (Collection 827). UCLA Library Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library.

**Scope and Content of Collection**
These materials are the product of the activities of two people: Charles Lanman, the nineteenth century artist, writer and collector, and Maurice Bloch, a scholar undertaking research about Lanman in the second part of the twentieth century. Materials generated by and concerning Charles Lanman primarily include manuscripts and correspondence, notes, bills of sale, and official documents regarding his estate. Also included are a photographic print of Lanman and his wife, Adeline, and an 1845 edition of Lanman's book, *Letters from a Landscape Painter*. Materials by Bloch include transcripts of letters and writings by Lanman; correspondence with various individuals, universities, libraries, and historical societies; notes and lists; and reproductions of artwork.

**Subjects - Names**
Lanman, Charles, 1819-1895

**Subjects - Topics**
Artists--United States

**Contributors**
Bloch, E. Maurice

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**Series I. Charles Lanman materials, 1840-1985**

**Physical Description:** 2.0 boxes

**Scope and Content Note**
Contains materials relating to the personal and professional lives of Charles Lanman. The bulk of this series is composed of Lanman’s writings, including both handwritten manuscripts and published articles. Unpublished material includes artistic and literary recollections, and essays on New York artists and political figures of the mid-19th century known by Lanman, including John James Audobon, George Catlin, Frederic E. Church, Thomas Cole, and Asher B. Durand. Other material includes personal and professional correspondence, documents relating to the administration of his estate, biographical notes, reproductions of his artwork, publications documenting posthumous exhibitions, and newspaper clippings pertaining to Daniel Webster. Also included are a large format photograph and an 1845 edition of his book, *Letters from a Landscape Painter*.

**Arrangement note**
Arranged in two subseries:
Series I.A: Professional career, 1840-1985
Series I.B: Personal materials and estate, 1941-1981

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**Series I.A. Professional career, Bulk, 1843-1886 1840-1985**

**Scope and Content Note**
This subseries is comprised largely of published and unpublished manuscripts by Lanman about his experiences as an author, artist, and explorer; a family history; and written portraits of his contemporaries. It also includes professional correspondence, publications on Lanman, reproductions of artwork, and ephemera from a Morris Museum exhibit of his work.

Transcripts were made by Maurice Bloch.

**Arrangement note**
Files are arranged chronologically.
Series I. Charles Lanman materials, 1840-1985
Series I.A. Professional career, Bulk, 1843-1886 1840-1985

- Box 1, Folder 1: Published Articles, 1843-1845 1843-1845
- Box 1, Folder 2: Published Articles, 1846-1847 1846-1847
- Box 3, Folder 1: Letters from a Landscape Painter, 1845
- Box 1, Folder 3: Our National Paintings manuscript, 1855
- Box 1, Folder 34: Corcoran Gallery Catalog, 1857
- Box 1, Folder 5: Recollections of New York manuscript, 1864
- Box 1, Folder 6: Newspaper Recollections manuscript, 1867
- Box 1, Folder 7: Artistic Recollections manuscript, 1868
- Box 1, Folder 8: Literary Recollections manuscript, 1869
- Box 1, Folder 9: Manuscripts for profiles of contemporaries: A-D, 1850s-1890s
- Box 1, Folder 10: Manuscripts for profiles of contemporaries: D-P, 1850s-1890s
- Box 1, Folder 11: Manuscripts for profiles of contemporaries: R-Z 1850s-1890s
- Box 1, Folder 12: Curious Characters and Pleasant Places manuscript reproductions, undated
- Box 1, Folder 13: A Family Monologue manuscript, 1880-1895
- Box 1, Folder 14: Professional correspondence, 1840-1886
- Box 1, Folder 15: Newspaper clippings pertaining to Daniel Webster, 1840s-1910s
- Box 2, Folder 6: Reproductions of Lanman artworks, circa 1967
- Box 2, Folder 7: Issue of American Book Collector with article on Lanman, 1966
- Box 2, Folder 8: Morris Museum exhibit on Lanman, 1983-1985


Scope and Content Note
This subseries includes personal correspondence, official documents regarding Lanman’s will and estate, a photograph of Lanman and his wife, and a short vignette written by Adeline Lanman.

Arrangement note
Files are arranged chronologically.

- Box 2, Folder 1: Personal correspondence, 1841-1896
- Box 1, Folder 5: Writing by Adeline Lanman, 1852
- Box 1, Folder 2: Wills and biographical notes, 1870-1895
- Box 2, Folder 3: Documents and correspondence regarding Lanman estate, 1914-1916
- Box 2, Folder 4: Documents regarding Lanman estate sale, 1915, 1981
- Box 2, Folder 15: Photograph of Mr. & Mrs. Lanman, undated

Series II. Maurice Bloch materials, 1961-1987

Scope and Content Note
Includes Bloch’s professional correspondence with universities, libraries, historical societies, collectors, and individuals; lists; notes; and annotated transcripts of various of Lanman’s letters and publications.

Arrangement note
Arranged in two subseries:
Series I.A: Correspondence, 1961-1985
Series I.B: Notes and writings, 1967-1987

Series II.A. Correspondence, 1961-1985

Scope and Content Note
Contains professional correspondence with various universities, libraries, and individuals, including Lanman’s descendants.

Arrangement note
Files are arranged chronologically.

- Box 2, Folder 9: Professional correspondence, 1961-1985
- Box 2, Folder 10: Correspondence with Dorothy McNeilly and Dorothy Parmly, 1968-1985

Charles Lanman papers, 1840-1987
Series II.B. Notes and writings, 1967-1987

Scope and Content Note
Includes notes, transcripts, lists and other writings generated by Bloch during his research and professional correspondence.

Arrangement note
Files are arranged chronologically.

Box 2, Folder 11
Lists and notes on Lanman publications, circa 1967

Box 2, Folder 12
Notes and transcripts of Lanman biography and works, 1968-1985

Box 2, Folder 13
General notes, 1968-1985

Box 2, Folder 14
Notes and transcripts for Lanman drawing collection and relevant letters, 1969-1987