Descriptive Summary

Title: George Turner Marsh papers
Inclusive Dates: 1875-2001
Bulk Dates: 1875-1931
Collection Number: mssMarsh
Collector: Marsh, George Turner, 1857-1932
Extent: 26 boxes, 2 oversize folders, and 1 envelope (11 linear feet)
Repository: The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens
1151 Oxford Road
San Marino, California 91108
Phone: (626) 405-2191
Fax: (626) 449-5720
Email: reference@huntington.org
URL: http://www.huntington.org

Abstract: The George Turner Marsh papers consist of personal and professional material related to Marsh's business selling primarily Japanese arts and antiques.

Language of Material: The material is in English.

Access
Collection is open to qualified researchers by prior application through the Reader Services Department. For more information, please go to following web site.

Publication Rights
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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], George Turner Marsh papers. The Huntington Library, San Marino, California.

Acquisition Information

Biography
George Turner Marsh (1857-1932) was born in Richmond, Australia; son of Stephen Hale Marsh, who was court musician to Queen Victoria. When George Marsh was 15 years old his family decided to move to America. On the journey to America they stopped in Japan and the young Marsh fell in love with both the country and culture; he then persuaded his parents to let him stay. His father found him work with a tea import/export firm in Yokohama, Japan. Several years later he joined his family in San Francisco where he went on to use the expertise he gained in Japan to open one of the first Asian art galleries in the United States. Sometime after 1876, G.T. Marsh & Company: Japanese Art Repository opened at 625 Market Street at the Palace Hotel in San Francisco, California. Marsh married Lucy Elvira Whiteside in 1880; the couple had one daughter and five sons. He passed away in 1932 at the age of 75.


Scope and Content
The George Turner Marsh papers consist of professional and personal correspondence, documents, ephemera, financial records, legal documents, negatives, photographs, and typescripts dating from 1875-2001. The bulk of the first series contains correspondence to and from customers, export agents, art, and antique dealers including Singleton, Benda & Co., Ltd, Zung Chang Ziang Company, and Zung Chang Trading Company, Ltd (1879-1970). Included are letters from C.R. Conway and legal documents related to San Fernando Petroleum and Mining Company; Conway claimed to be one of the
original claimants with interest in the company. The more recent letters, with supporting enclosures, concern the origin of the Japanese Tea Garden in San Francisco, California. The second series includes letters from Marsh's wife Lucy E. Whiteside Marsh writing from Pasadena, California (1903), grateful recipients of Marsh's book *Citizenship for Nations* (1931-1932), and direct mail from the International Coalition and the New Commonwealth (1928-1953). Included in the same series are research notes, possibly conducted by Marsh for his 1931 book. The third series includes numerous clippings, ephemera, and postcards concerning arts, culture, and politics (1881-2001). Also included is a box containing various drafts about Japanese sword mountings entitled *Catalogue of Kozuka* by George Turner Marsh. The fourth series consists of one daguerreotype, negatives, photograph albums, and photographs (1894-1986). Most of the photograph albums and photographs showcase Asian arts and antiques for sale at Marsh's stores and from dealers. Also included are scenes from the Japanese Village during the California Midwinter International Exposition of 1894. Note: There is an envelope of unavailable negatives too fragile to be handled.

**Arrangement**
Arranged in four series:
- Series 1: Business material, 1875-2001
- Series 2: Personal material, 1877-1953
- Series 3: Ephemera, 1881-2001
- Series 4: Photographs, 1894-1986

**Personal Names**
Janel, Emil G., 1897-1981
Marsh, George Turner, 1857-1932
Stilwell, Alison

**Corporate Names**
G.T. Marsh and Company
San Fernando Petroleum Mining Company

**Subjects**
Antique dealers
Art dealers
Art, Japanese -- Collectors and collecting
Disarmament
Gardens, Japanese -- California
Gardens, Japanese -- Exhibitions
International cooperation
Oriental art
Petroleum -- California
Sword guards -- Japan

**Geographic Areas**
California -- Exhibitions
Coronado (Calif.)
Monterey (Calif.)
Santa Barbara (Calif.)

**Genre**
Correspondence
Ephemera (general object genre)
Negatives
Photograph albums
Photographs
Sales catalogs
Typescripts

**Alternate Authors**
Conway, C.R.
Whiteside, Lucy Elvira

**Business material 1875-2001**

Physical Description: 9 boxes and 1 oversize folder

Box 3, Folder 1  **Address books, undated**
Japanese contacts.

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**Autograph albums**

Box 1  **1903-1993**
Signed by customers.
Six albums.

Box 2  **1935-2001**
Signed by customers.
Six albums.

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**Correspondence**

Box 3, Folder 2  **1879-1939**

Box 3, Folder 3  **1884-1885**
Related to San Fernando Petroleum Mining Company.

Box 3, Folder 4  **1903-1931**
Related to Japanese Tea Garden (Coronado).
Includes leases.

Box 3, Folder 5  **1903**
Related to Singleton, Benda & Co., Ltd.

Box 4, Folder 1  **1904**
Related to Singleton, Benda & Co., Ltd.

Box 4, Folder 2  **1905**
Related to Singleton, Benda & Co., Ltd.

Box 4, Folder 3  **1906**
Includes letters related to San Francisco Earthquake and Fire, Calif. 1906.

Box 4, Folder 4  **1930-1931**
Related to Emil Janel.
Includes clippings, lists, negatives, photographs, and printed ephemera.

Box 4, Folder 5  **1936-1947**
Related Zung Chang Ziang Company and Zung Chang Trading Company, Ltd.
Includes invoices.
| Box 5, Folder 1 | 1940-1941 | Related to Jordan and Happa, Export Commission Agents. |
| Box 5, Folder 2 | 1940-1982, undated | Includes letters removed from "Work Organizer" folder. |
| Box 5, Folder 3 | 1963-1970 | Primarily thank you letters from customers. Removed from binder. |
| Box 5, Folder 4 | 1967 | Related to Huntington Botanical Gardens "school journey" program. |
| Box 5, Folder 5 | 1979-1998 | Related to origin of the Japanese Tea Garden (San Francisco). Includes enclosures provided by George T. Marsh and Lucy Wyckoff Marsh. |

**Financial records**

| Box 6, Folder 1 | 1882-1970 | Miscellaneous bills, notes, receipts, and statements. |
| Box 6, Folder 2 | 1882-1984 | Invoices. |
| Box 6, Folder 3 | 1919-1933 | Account for goods sold at Coronado store. |
| Box 6, Folder 4 | 1924-1926 | Possibly account for goods purchased in Japan. |
| Box 6, Folder 5 | 1952-1954 | Consular Invoice of Merchandise. |
| Box 6, Folder 6 | undated | Statement of Proposed Quarry Enterprises to consist of Quarry, Quarrying, and Finishing Plants and Contracting Department. |

**Legal documents**
Box 7, Folder 1 1879-1885
Related to San Fernando Petroleum Mining Company.
Includes interviews, memorandums, power of attorney, and stock certificates.

Box 7, Folder 2 1883-1931
Miscellaneous.

Box 7, Folder 3 1897
Z. Yamabe sold, assigned, and transferred patents to George T. Marsh.

Box 7, Folder 4 1903
Agreements between George T. Marsh and E.F. Wheeler and J. Allyn Ormond.

Box 7, Folder 5 1930-1956
Includes correspondence and stock certificate.

Box 7, Folder 6 1931
In the Matter of the Application of G.T. Marsh and Company, a corporation, to Perpetuate Testimony.
Deposition of George T. Marsh, pages 1-181.

Box 7, Folder 7 1931
In the Matter of the Application of G.T. Marsh and Company, a corporation, to Perpetuate Testimony.
Deposition of George T. Marsh, pages 182-428.

Box 7, Folder 8 1931-1932
Numbers 233727 and 69482.
Includes notes and "Extracts of Records Pertaining to Coronado Garden."

Box 7, Folder 9
Minutes, 1909-1934
Special meeting of the Board of Directors of G.T. Marsh and Company.

Box 8, Folders 1-2
Notebooks, 1875-1911, undated
Twelve notebooks.

Box 8, Folder 3
Notes, undated
Related to tsuba and menuke.

Box 8, Folder 4

**Paintings, undated**

Merchandise for sale at George T. Marsh and Company.

Oversize folder 1

**Paintings, undated**

Merchandise for sale at George T. Marsh and Company.

Box 9, Folder 1

**Sketches, 1928**

Sketches of "Vault at Monterey," Japanese Tea Garden (San Francisco), and merchandise for sale at George T. Marsh and Company.

Box 9, Folder 2

**Stationery, undated**

Blank.

Box 9, Folder 3

**Stock certificates, after 1909**

Blank George T. Marsh and Company certificates.

Box 9, Folder 4

**Stock certificates, 1912-1928**

Includes United States Automotive Corporation; British and Australian Gold Mining Company Limited; Municipal Properties Company; and Sanitary Telephone Mouthguard Company certificates.

**Personal material 1877-1953**

Physical Description: 3 boxes and 1 oversize folder

Box 9, Folder 5

**Biography, 1916-1958**

Related to George T. Marsh.

Includes extract from "Who's Who in California."

**Correspondence**
Personal material 1877-1953

Correspondence

| Box 9, Folder 6 | 1879-1949, undated |
| Box 9, Folder 7 | 1903-1930 |
|                 | Letters from Lucy Elvira Whiteside. |
| Box 9, Folder 8 | 1928-1953, undated |
|                 | Direct mail only. |
|                 | Includes publications from *International Conciliation*, *The New Commonwealth*, *The Home Financer*, and *The Landmark*. |
| Box 10, Folder 1 | 1931-1932 |
|                 | Related to *Citizenship for Nations* by George T. Marsh. |

Diaries

| Box 10, Folder 2 | 1878-1879 |
|                 | George T. Marsh's trip to British Columbia, Canada and Yokohama, Japan. |
| Box 10, Folder 3 | 1928 |
|                 | Lucy Elvira Whiteside's trip to Japan. |
| Box 10, Folder 4 | undated |
|                 | Related to unidentified individual's travel in Japan. |
|                 | Account written on onionskin paper. |

Box 10, Folder 5

Disks, undated

Unidentified 6-inch disk.

Box 10, Folder 6

Financial records, 1893-1902

Related George T. Marsh's personal property.

Box 10, Folders 7-8

Notebooks, undated

One notebook related to patriotism and religion; and the second notebook consists of one page related to garment measurements.

| Box 10, Folder 9 | after 1912 |
|                 | "From the Personal Notes of G.T. Marsh." |
|                 | Photocopies. |

George Turner Marsh papers

mssMarsh 8
Box 10, Folder 10  
**1930-1931**

Possibly research related to *Citizenship for Nations* by George T. Marsh.

Box 10, Folder 11

**Paintings, undated**

Image of a hand and man by Emil Janel.

Box 10, Folder 12

**Poems, undated**

Entitled "Pungle" by H.H.J.

Oversize folder 2

**Scrapbooks, 1877-1930**

Laid-in articles, clippings, and letters related to economics, international relations, society, and politics.

Box 10, Folder 13

**Sketches, undated**

Six miscellaneous sketches.

**Typescripts**

Box 10, Folder 14  
*The Lords of Sengami: A Tale of the Dawn of an Empire* by Ronald Temple and George T. Marsh., 1930s

Box 11, Folder 1  
*Citizenship for Nations* by George T. Marsh., before 1931

Box 11, Folder 2  
*Armageddon: A Foreshadow of the World's Great War: A Novel of Old and New Japan* by Ronald Temple and George T. Marsh., undated

Box 11, Folder 3  
"Eight Boots and Yellow Booty: An Article on China" by Harry W. Wyckoff in collaboration with George T. Marsh., undated

Box 11, Folder 4  
"The Silent Army -- The Reserves. An Article" by Harry W. Wyckoff., undated

Box 11, Folder 5  
*The Ten Demon Rulers of the Chinese Buddhist Hells.*, undated

**Ephemera 1881-2001**

Physical Description: 6 boxes and 2 oversize boxes.

Oversize box 12  
**Black-and-white prints, undated**

Images from various gardens in Japan.

Oversize box 13  
**Black-and-white prints, undated**

Images from various gardens in Japan.
Books

Box 11, Folder 6  Books, 1916
The Lords of Dawn by Gorge T. Marsh and Ronald Temple.

Box 11, Folder 7  Books, 1931
Citizenship for Nations by George T. Marsh.

Box 11, Folder 8  Books, 1924

Box 14, Folder 1  Business cards, 1971, undated

Clippings

Box 14, Folder 2  1881-1910s
Miscellaneous.

Box 14, Folder 3  1920s
Miscellaneous.

Box 14, Folder 4  1930s
Miscellaneous.

Box 14, Folder 5  1931-1932
Two articles written by George T. Marsh.

Box 14, Folder 6  1931-1958
Related to Marsh family.

Box 14, Folder 7  1940s-1950s, undated
Miscellaneous.

Box 14, Folder 8  1979-2001
Related to Japanese Tea Gardens and George T. Marsh and Company.

Box 15, Folder 1  Descriptions, 1937-1968
Descriptions and historical notes about oriental art.

Box 15, Folder 2  Greeting cards, 1910-1930
Box 15, Folder 3

**Empty envelopes, 1916-1961**

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**Ephemera**

Box 15, Folder 4  
**American, Canadian, Chinese, and Japanese arts and culture, 1930-1948**  
Includes booklets, exhibition catalogs, fliers, index, newsletters, prints, and a map of Dairen.  
Includes typewritten copies of excerpts and notes related to Alison Stilwell.

Box 15, Folder 5  
**Economics, international relations, society, and politics, 1925-1930**  
Includes booklets, pamphlets, and publications.

Box 16, Folder 1  
**George T. Marsh and Company, undated**  
Shopping bags only.

Box 16, Folder 2  
**George T. Marsh and Company and Japanese Tea Garden (San Francisco), 1894-1998**  
Includes a bulletin, fliers, invitations, *Orientations* 29, no. 4, and photocopies.

Box 16, Folder 3  
**League of Nations, 1927-1930**  
Includes draft of a memorandum, program, flier, and publications.

Box 16, Folder 4  
**Miscellaneous, 1889-1931**  
Includes booklets, brochures, fliers, newsletters, and theater programs.

Box 16, Folder 5  
**Miscellaneous, 1912-1947**  
Includes *The Forum*, *Western Livestock Journal*, and *Overland Monthly*.

Box 16, Folder 6  
**Monterey Peninsula, 1963-1972**  
Includes booklets, magazines, and travel guides.

Box 17, Folder 1  
**Travels, 1896-1931**  
Includes passenger ships' passenger lists, menus, and booklets.

Box 17, Folder 2  
**Victoria, Queen of Great Britain, 1819-1901, 1900-1901**  
Includes songbook and funeral program.

Box 17, Folder 3  
**Lists, 1931-1939**  
Miscellaneous contacts, goods, and historical facts.

Box 17, Folder 4  
**Postage stamps, 1969-1985**  
Removed from envelopes.
Box 17, Folder 5

**Postcards, undated**

Primarily related to Japanese Tea Garden (Coronado).

Blank.

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**Sales catalogs**

Box 17, Folder 6

**1896-1936**

Miscellaneous.
Includes order forms.

Box 18, Folder 1

**1913-1914**

*Catalogue of Kozuka* by George T. Marsh.

Box 18, Folder 2

**1913-1914**

*Catalogue of Kozuka* by George T. Marsh.
Fragments only.

Box 18, Folder 3

**1913-1914**

*Catalogue of Kozuka* by George T. Marsh.
Notebooks with pasted fragments only.

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**Photographs 1894-1986**

Physical Description: 7 boxes, 1 oversize box, and 1 envelope.

Box 19, Folder 1

**Daguerreotype, undated**

Unidentified girl.

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**Negatives**

Box 19, Folders 2-4

**Negatives, 1904-1941, undated**

Box 20, Folders 1-2

**Negatives, undated**

Envelope 1

**NOT AVAILABLE: Negatives, undated**

Negatives are too fragile to be handled.

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**Photograph albums**

Box 20, Folder 3

**George T. Marsh and family, undated**

Box 20, Folder 4

**George T. Marsh and Company store, 1928**

Box 20, Folder 5

**George T. Marsh and Company store, 1930**

Box 21, Folders 1-3

**George T. Marsh and Company (Monterey and/or Santa Barbara), undated**
### Photograph albums

| Box 22, Folder 1-2 | George T. Marsh and Company (Santa Barbara), undated |
| Box 22, Folder 3 | Japanese Tea Garden (Coronado), 1905-1915 |
| Box 22, Folder 4 | Miscellaneous, undated  
  Furniture and household goods.  
  Includes loose pages. |
| Box 23, Folders 1-3 | Oriental art, undated  
  Includes furniture, household goods, and printed papers. |
| Oversize box 24 | Oriental art, undated  
  Bronze wares. |

### Photographs

| Box 23, Folder 4 | Containers, undated |
| Box 23, Folders 5-6 | Figurines, 1957-1969, undated |
| Box 25, Folder 1 | Furniture, 1937-1969, undated |
| Box 25, Folder 2 | George T. Marsh and Company (Los Angeles and Pasadena), 1904, undated |
| Box 25, Folder 3 | George T. Marsh and Company (Monterey), 1956-1986, undated |
| Box 25, Folder 4 | George T. Marsh and Company (San Francisco), undated |
| Box 25, Folder 5 | George T. Marsh and Company (Santa Barbara), 1930-1955, undated |
| Box 25, Folder 6 | Japanese Tea Garden (Coronado), undated |
| Box 25, Folder 7 | Japanese Tea Garden (San Francisco), 1894, undated  
  Scenes from California Midwinter International Exposition of 1894. |
| Box 25, Folder 8 | Mill Valley home, undated |
| Box 26, Folder 1 | Miscellaneous objects, undated |
| Box 26, Folder 2 | Miscellaneous people and places, undated  
  Includes may be photographs from George T. Marsh's gardens, stores, or travels. |
| Box 26, Folder 3 | Stone lanterns and pagodas, undated |
| Box 26, Folder 4 | Travels to Arizona, Baja California, and other unidentified locations, undated |
| Box 26, Folder 5 | Travels to Asia, 1935, undated |
| Box 26, Folder 6 | Tsubas, undated |
| Box 26, Folder 7 | Portraits, 1901-1930, undated |
Includes Charles Doyle, J. Allyn Ormond, and George T. Marsh.

Mostly unidentified.