

Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Landers - Metcalf

Section 4, Pages 91 - 120

A series of research correspondence from the Robert Taft collection relating to frontier artists. Robert Taft (1894-1955) was a professor of chemistry and author on the subjects of photography and art. The artists included here are Emil W. Landers, Charles Alexandre Lesueur, Emanuel Leutze, Henry Lewis, Richard Lorenz, Henri Love, Marc Lucas, Arthur Lumley, Fernand H. Lungren, William Macy, F. O. Marvin, Alfred Mathews, Louis Maurer, Frank Mayer, Charles Mente, William M. Merrick, and Willard Leroy Metcalf.

Date: 1930-1955

Callnumber: Robert Taft Coll. #172, Box 25

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 308636

Item Identifier: 308636

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Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Landers - Metcalf

THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

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TELEPHONE CENTRAL 7080

Ryerson Library
December 2, 1939

Dear Miss Schmitt:

We are sending what information we have found about the artists listed in your letter.

In an article by Benjamin Draper; Alfred Edward Mathews, soldier, pioneer, and delineator - in *Antiques* v.35, p. 127-129, March 1939, is the following information about Mathew's death:

"His death, in 1872, was scarcely noticed, and was recorded only by a date line in a Boulder, Colorado, newspaper."

We could find nothing on Frenzeny, Paul (fl. 1870-90).

The few references which we found on Samuel Seymour gave no more information about him than is given in Fielding's Dictionary of American painters, sculptors and engravers.

We regret that we have been of so little assistance to you in this matter.

Very truly yours,

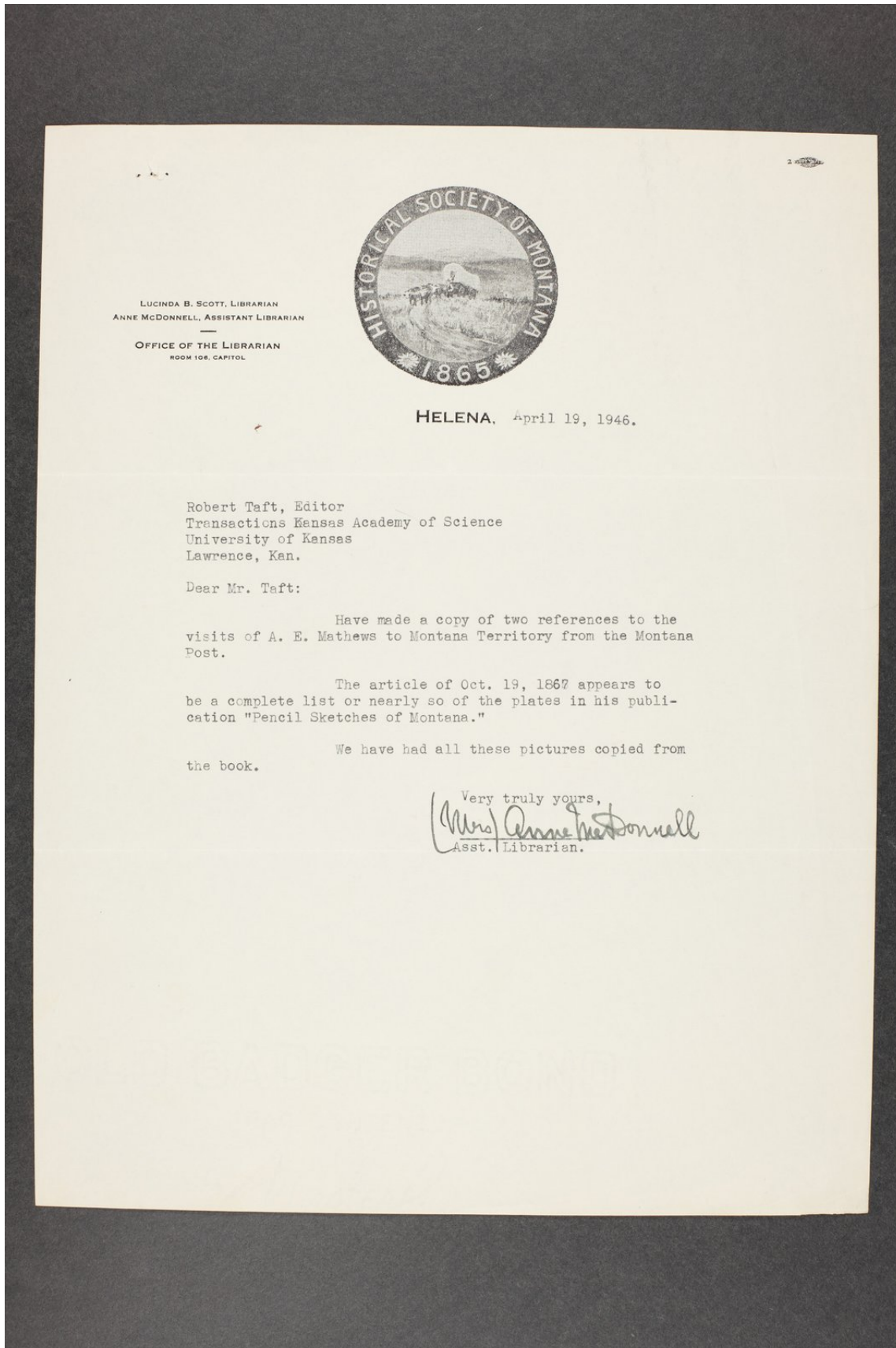
Wiebe A. White

Assistant Librarian,
Ryerson and Burnham Libraries

Miss Lauretta M. Schmitt
Reference Librarian
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas

WAW:NH

Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Landers - Metcalf



LUCINDA B. SCOTT, LIBRARIAN
ANNE McDONNELL, ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN
—
OFFICE OF THE LIBRARIAN
ROOM 106, CAPITOL



HELENA, April 19, 1946.

Robert Taft, Editor
Transactions Kansas Academy of Science
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kan.

Dear Mr. Taft:

Have made a copy of two references to the
visits of A. E. Mathews to Montana Territory from the Montana
Post.

The article of Oct. 19, 1867 appears to
be a complete list or nearly so of the plates in his publi-
cation "Pencil Sketches of Montana."

We have had all these pictures copied from
the book.

Very truly yours,
(Mrs) Anne McDonnell
Asst. Librarian.



Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Landers - Metcalf

October 23, 1948

Mr. Paul Vanderbilt, Chief,
Prints and Photographs Division
Library of Congress
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Vanderbilt:

Many thanks for your kind note of October 13th concerning the Möllhausen article. I am pleased that you liked it.

I am working now on A. E. Mathews and have copies of all of his western work. Mathews, however, was one of the Civil War artists and I am writing to ask if you have any of Mathews' original Civil War sketches or lithographic reproductions of the sketches. If you do not have any such material in your division, might it be in other divisions of the Library of Congress?

Sincerely,

Robert Taft

RT:c

Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Landers - Metcalf

Transactions of The Kansas Academy of Science Established 1873

THE EDITOR'S OFFICE
University of Kansas
Department of Chemistry
Lawrence, Kansas

November 22, 1948

The Librarian
Public Library
New Philadelphia, Ohio

Dear Madam:

I am preparing an article on Alfred E. Mathews, a Civil War artist and western illustrator. He had brothers, Charles H. Mathews and Edwin P. Mathews, who over forty years ago were residents of New Philadelphia. Can you tell me if any descendants of either of these men are still living in New Philadelphia? If so, would you be good enough to give me their names and addresses? Thank you sincerely for any information you are able to give me.

Very truly yours,

Robert Taft

Robert Taft

RT:wac

Dear Dr. Taft:

I have just talked to Miss Isadora Mathews, 211 2nd Drive N. W. New Philadelphia, Ohio who says that Charles E. is her grandfather! She has just written a biography of Alfred for the University of Colorado. She is a retired school teacher. I asked if it was alright to give you her name and she said certainly she would give you any information she could. Hope this helps.

Sincerely yours,

Phyllis Hansberger
Phyllis Hansberger
Librarian

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY IN MARCH, JUNE, SEPTEMBER, AND DECEMBER

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November 22, 1948

The Librarian
Public Library
New Philadelphia, Ohio

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Very truly yours,

Robert Taft

RT:wac

Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Landers - Metcalf

November 22, 1948

Dr. James C. Olson, Supt.,
Nebraska Historical Society
Capitol
Lincoln, Nebraska

Dear Dr. Olson:

I have been working up my notes on Alfred B. Mathews for another article in my western artists series. The illustration in the last issue of Nebraska History Nebraska City "about 1860" is very strongly suggestive of Mathews' work and I know that Mathews made sketches in and around Nebraska City. Can you tell me more about the original of your Nebraska City illustration? Is it an original sketch or a lithograph? Is it signed?

Many thanks for the information.

Sincerely,

Robert Taft

RT:c



Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Landers - Metcalf

November 22, 1948

Miss Ina T. Aulls
Denver Public Library
Denver, Colorado

Dear Miss Aulls:

In going over the newspaper material on Alfred E. Mathews that you sent me, I find the earliest reference made to him in the Denver papers was in the Rocky Mountain News (daily) for Nov. 13, 1866, p. 4, c. 1. This account makes it appear that Mathews had just reached Denver for the first time. The second note on A. E. Mathews appears in the same paper on Nov. 22, 1866, p. 4, c. 2 and makes it appear that Mathews was already well known at the above date. Do you suppose there were two men by the name of A. E. Mathews? Are there any city directories of this period that would help out? It might be well, too, to check the original pages of the News to make sure that a correct transcription of the dates has been made.

Do you have a file of the Colorado Transcript (Golden, Colo., I believe) for 1868? If so, will you see if there is mention of Mathews in the issue for May 27, 1868?

Thank you again.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Taft

RT:c

Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Landers - Metcalf

November 23, 1948

Mrs. Anne McDonnell,
Historical Society of Montana,
Room 106, Capital,
Helena, Montana.

Dear Mrs. McDonnell:

Some time ago you sent me a news item concerning the western artist A. E. Mathews. The item came from The Montana Post and the citation reads "Friday, November, 1868 (p. 6, C. 1)". Was there a day of the month missed and if so, can you find it for me? Many thanks again for your help.

Sincerely,

Robert Taft

RT:dn

Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Landers - Metcalf

November 23, 1948

Mr. Nyle Miller,
Kansas State Historical Society,
Topeka, Kansas.

Dear Nyle:

I have a reference to the exhibition of a panorama of Rocky Mountain scenery shown at Junction City in 1870. As nearly as I can make out from some notes taken a good many years ago the item came from the J. C. Union, Jan. 15, 1870, p. 3 or 4. If this is not the correct date, I am pretty sure that reference was made to the panorama some time between the above date and Feb. 12, 1870. Will you see if the original can be located and a transcript sent? J. E. Wharton of Denver was the exhibitor of the panorama.

Many thanks.

Yours,

Robert Taft

RT:dn



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THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
LAWRENCE

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

November 23, 1948

Mrs. Anne McDonnell,
Historical Society of Montana,
Room 106, Capital,
Helena, Montana.

Dear Mrs. McDonnell:

Some time ago you sent me a news item concerning the western artist A. E. Mathews. The item came from The Montana Post and the citation reads "Friday, November, 1868 (p. 6, C. 1)". Was there a day of the month missed and if so, can you find it for me? Many thanks again for your help.

Sincerely,

Robert Taft

Robert Taft

RT:dn

Nov. 27, 1948

Dear Mr. Taft:

Am sorry I missed the complete date for the Mathews' citation. It is; Montana Post, Nov. 13, 1868, p. 6, c. 1.

Have you Peter Tofft? If you have do not trouble to reply but I can't remember just now whether I have asked you about that.

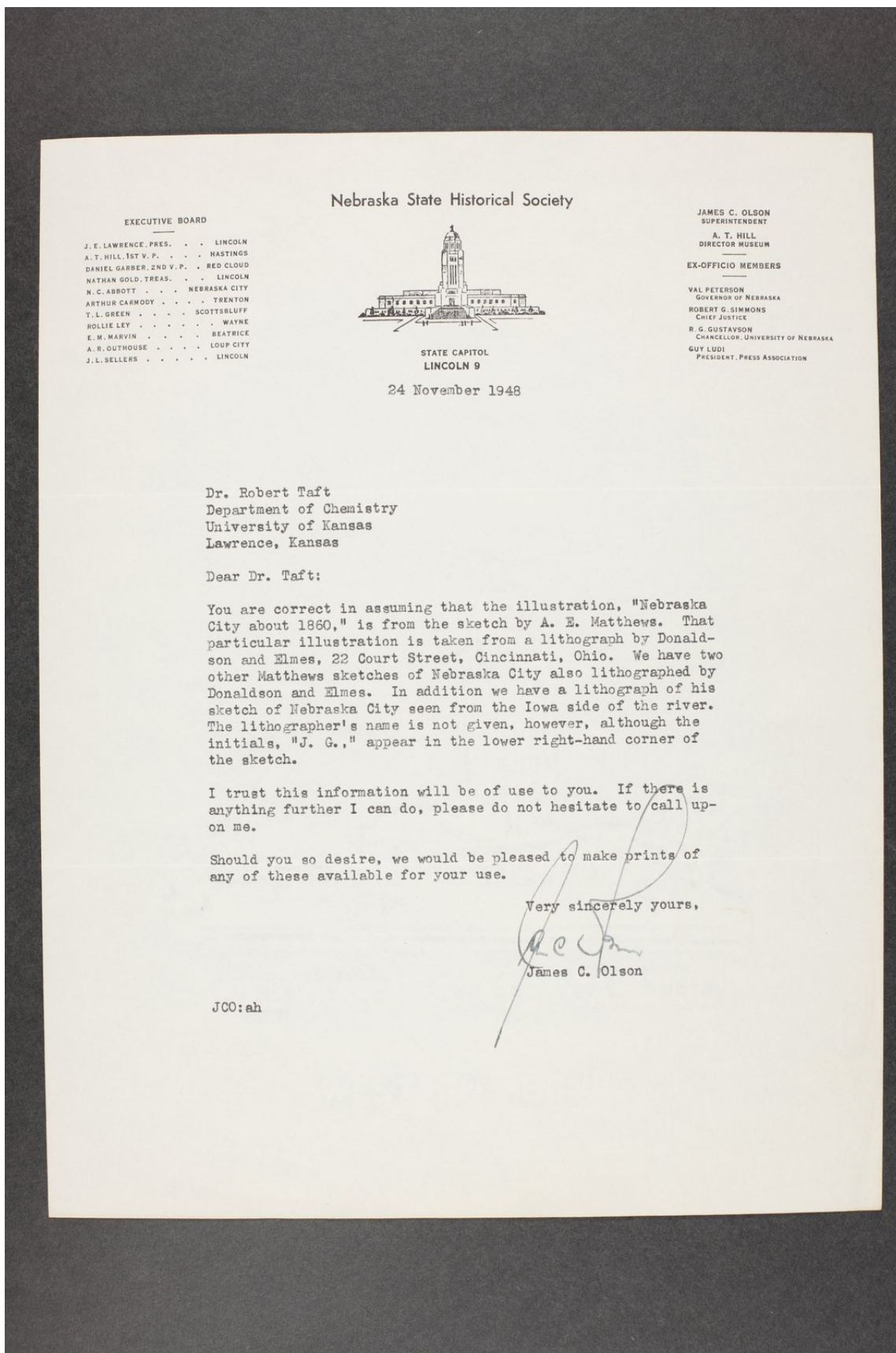
Thanks for the Remington book review.

Sincerely yours,

(Mrs.) Anne McDonnell

Asst. Librarian.

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THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
LAWRENCE

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

November 29, 1948

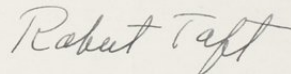
Editor,
Nebraska Daily News-Press,
Nebraska City, Nebraska.

Dear Sir:

I am preparing an article on A. E. Mathews, a western illustrator and artist, who made sketches in and around Nebraska City in the sixties. I notice that according to the Union List of Newspapers you have a file of the Nebraska City News from 1858 on. Could I employ some one on your staff to examine the issues of the News from Nov. 15, 1865 to Jan. 1, 1866 to see if reference to a visit by Mathews or to his sketches of Nebraska City can be found in the personals in the above interval?

I would very much appreciate your co-operation in this matter.

Sincerely yours,



Robert Taft

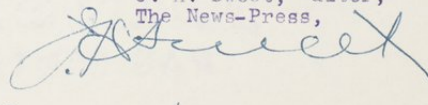
RT:dn

Dear Dr. Taft:

I would suggest that you correspond with the State Historical Society at Lincoln with a view to obtaining what you desire. Our 1865-1866 files are being microfilmed for future reference and storage.

Cordially yours,

J. H. Sweet, Editor,
The News-Press,



Thank you for the booklet!

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November 30, 1948

Miss Mabel R. Gillis,
State Librarian,
California State Library,
Sacramento, California.

Dear Miss Gillis:

Under separate cover I am sending you a copy of the November issue of the Kansas Historical Quarterly which contains a translation of a portion of H. B. Möllhausen's Reisen in die Felsengebirge Nord-Amerikas. The copy of the Reisen was obtained on interlibrary from your Library as we have acknowledged on page 338. We are now working on the remainder of this work. If you would care to have additional copies of the above Quarterly, please let me know.

I am also seeking information on Alfred E. Mathews, another western illustrator and artist, best known for his Colorado and Montana lithographs. Mathews, however, spent the winter of 1872-73 in southern California and secured a large number of sketches. They were reported as in the process of publication in May, 1873, but I have never seen any such material. Does your picture division have any record of Mathews' California lithographs? They would probably have been published individually and not as a collection.

Thank you for your aid in this matter and again for your co-operation with the copy of the Möllhausen book, I am,

Yours sincerely,

Robert Taft

RT:dn



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THE PUBLIC LIBRARY
THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER
DENVER 2, COLORADO

MALCOLM GLENN WYER
Librarian

November 30, 1948

Dr. Robert Taft
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Dr. Taft:

I noticed the conflicting statements about Mathews when they were ready for you but I did not have time to check with what you might already have. I did recheck the newspaper for the name and date and found that they were correct.

However, I think that the article of November 22 must be about some one else. Altho the paper says A.E. Mathews I rather think it may be an E.G. Mathews or Matthews, of whom there are many references from as early as 1865 thru the '70s. He seems to have been connected with all sorts of things-politics, real estate, etc. There were several other Mathews but none with similar initials. The nearest directory of the time is 1866 and it does not list any Mathews.

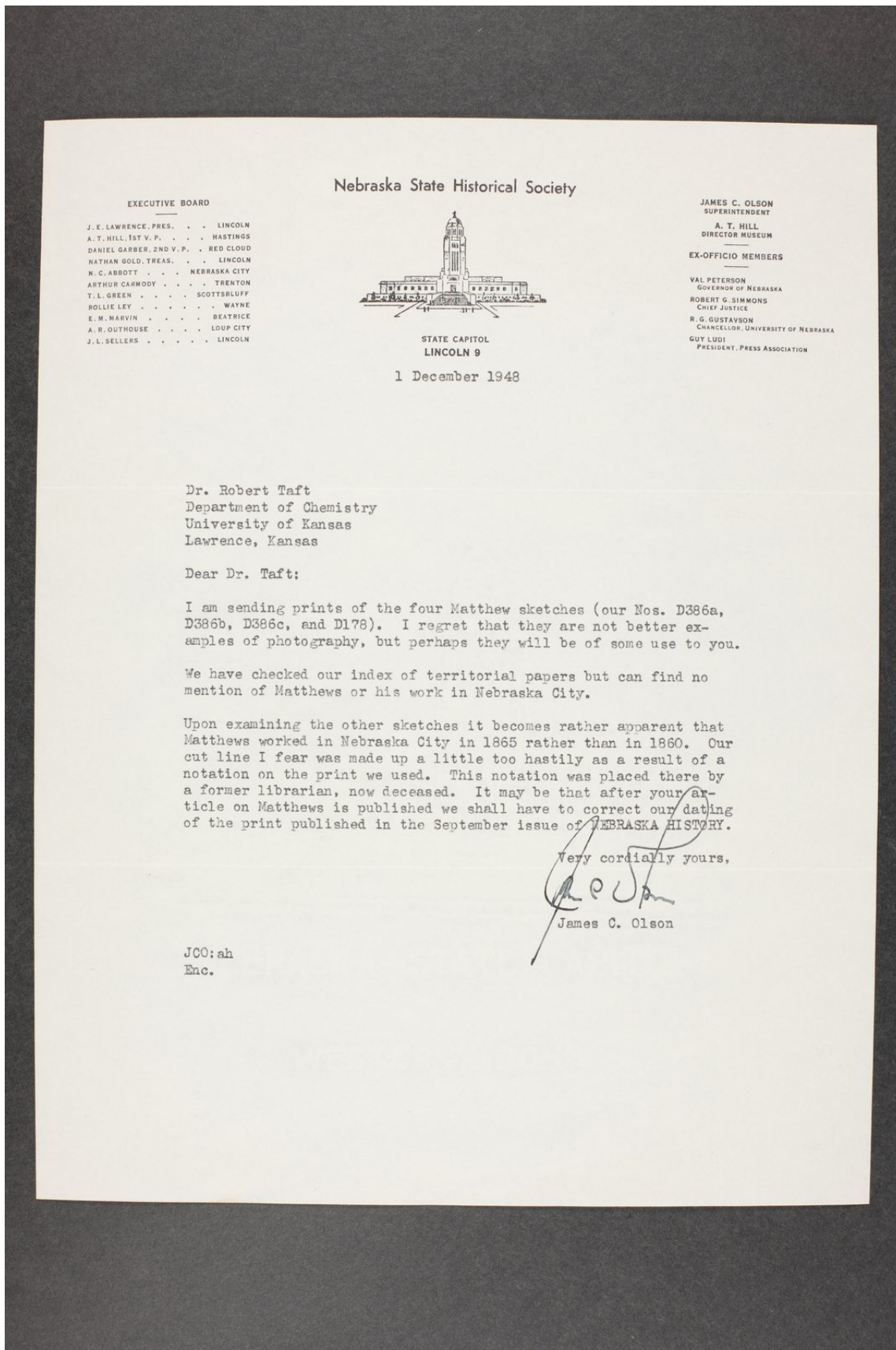
I am sending a few more references which I have found. There are probably many others if we only had them indexed. We do not have the Colorado Transcript but I will have some one check it for you at the State Historical Society. We have been busy and rather short of help but I think we can get to it later this week. I want to find some more information about the colony if I can.

About the time Mathews was in Central City in 1865 I found several references to Theodore Davis who came there. I will mention it now in case you want it some time.

Sincerely,

Ina Quells

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Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Landers - Metcalf

December 2, 1948

Dr. James C. Olson, Director
Nebraska Historical Society
State Capitol
Lincoln 9, Nebraska

Dear Dr. Olson:

I wrote J. H. Sweet, editor of the Neb. City News-Press, relative to a file of the Nebraska City News for 1865 and I take it from his reply that you have a microfilm copy of the News for this period (or are having one made). Would it be possible to have the News searched for personals from Nov. 15, 1865 back to Jan. 1, 1865, to see if some reference to A. E. Mathews or his Nebraska City sketches cannot be found? I would be willing to pay for the search. Mathews was in Denver by the first date given above and from other information I have, I do not believe he started west until the earliest date above--although there is a chance that this last bit of information may be wrong.

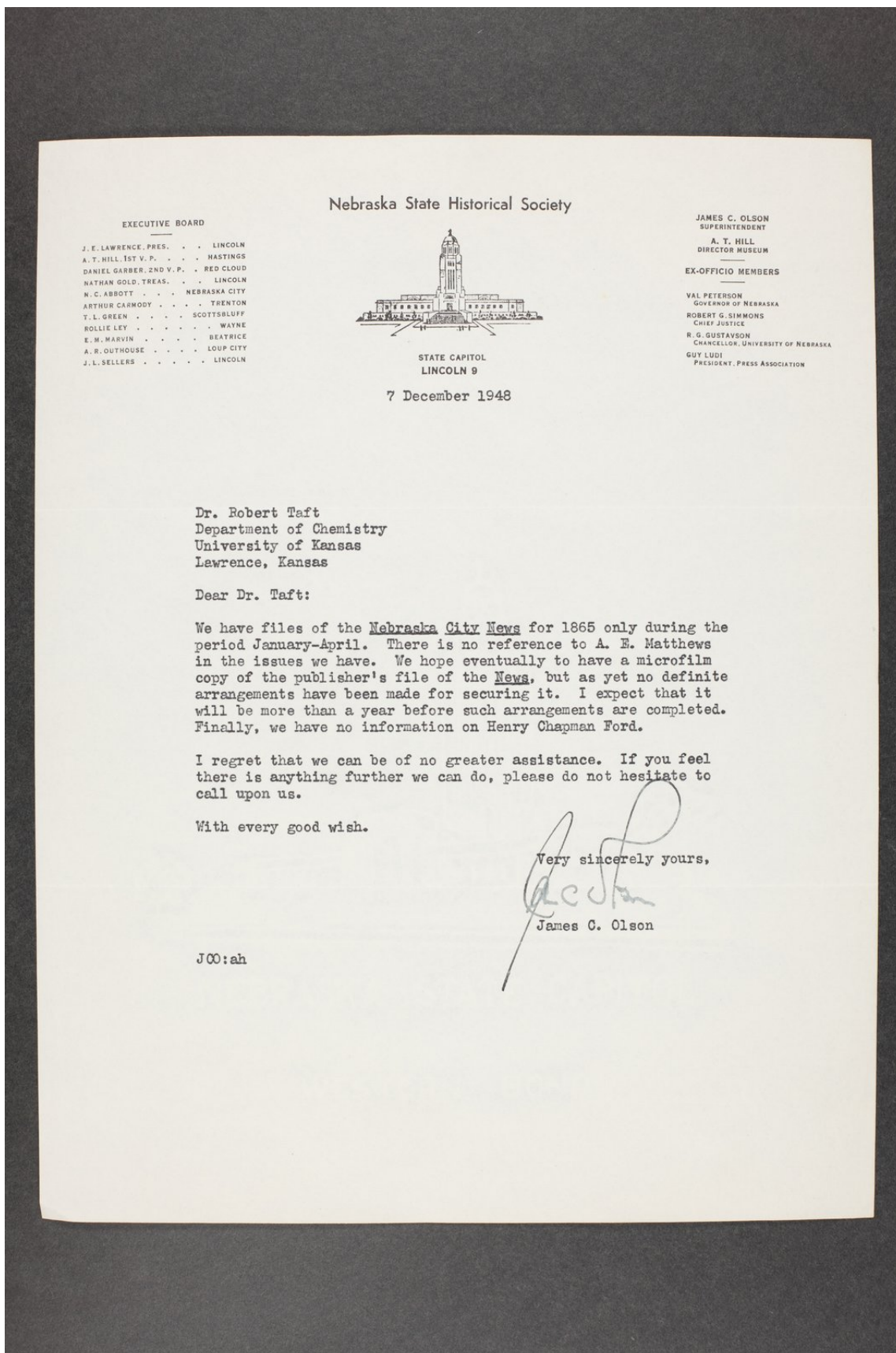
By chance, do you happen to have any biographical data on Henry Chapman Ford who published Etchings of the Franciscan Missions of California (N.Y., 1883)? Many thanks for your help.

Sincerely,

Robert Taft

RT:c

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Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Landers - Metcalf

New Philadelphia, O.
Dec. 12, 1948.

Dr. Robert Taft
Dept. of Chemistry
Univ. of Kansas

Dear Sir:

Your letter containing inquiries about the sketches of my great-uncle, Alfred E. Matheis, was received. Also, last week, your Kansas literature was received. I have looked this over to discover the type of information on which you are working.

A few months ago, Mr. M. Mehan, curator of the State Museum of Colo. wrote me for a biography of Alfred, including a little family background material. He said they have the Colo. sketches of the co. and the two

Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Landers - Metcalf

portfolios. I presume these are of Colo. and Mont. and no doubt you know what they are like. My brother has one of the Montana looks.

At this request from Denver, I wrote, gleaning from my grand. father's scrap book, a short biography of Alfred. I have this, which I will enclose. If you do not care for it, just return it, or copy what you need.

I do not know if original sketches exist anywhere. I have seen the collections of pioneer Colo. at both Museum and City Library, and, as I remember, they are all lithographs.

Respectfully yours,

Isadora C. Matthews

Shall I return these records from the Kansas Historical Society?

Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Landers - Metcalf

ALFRED E. MATHEWS

Alfred E. Mathews was born in Bristol, England, June 24, 1831. His parents, Joseph Mathews and Sarah Sharland Mathews, brought their family of six children to the United States in 1833. They settled in Stark County near Canton, Ohio. The father had been a book publisher in Bristol, England, before emigrating to this country. Alfred was the youngest of five brothers, only two years old when arriving in this country.

William T., ten years older than Alfred, afterward developed into "the painter of presidents." He was so known because he had made oil paintings of the presidents: Lincoln, Hayes, Garfield, Harrison, and McKinley. Among his other portraits were Charles Sumner, Daniel Webster, William C. Bryant, and William J. Bryan.

Charles H. Mathews, a brother twelve years older than Alfred, had founded the Ohio Democrat in New Philadelphia, Ohio in 1839. It was in the printing office here that Alfred learned the art of setting type; but he never worked much at the business, having a natural taste for the fine arts.

In August, 1861, Alfred volunteered in the 31st Ohio Regiment Volunteers and served during the war. He participated in the siege of Corinth, battle of Stone River, Lookout Mountain, Mission Ridge, etc., making drawings and maps of the country, as well as of scenes of combat. He made many sketches of battle scenes in the armies of Ohio, the Cumberland, the Tennessee, and the Mississippi. Included in his sketches were those of the extensive works of Vicksburg and the line of Sherman's march to the sea, all with remarkable accuracy. These maps and drawings

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received written commendation for their accuracy and artistic finish from Generals Grant, Sherman, Logan, and others. These works gave Mathews a wide reputation as a faithful delineator and were widely sought after by the soldiers.

After the war the artist traveled through Nebraska, Utah, Colorado, and Montana, making beautiful sketches of the western scenery. The last eight years of his life were spent in Colorado, and at the time of his death he was engaged in an extensive project of propagating fish in some of the beautiful mountain streams in that state.

It was at Big Thompson near Longmont, Colorado on October 30, 1874, that this lover of nature, at the age of forty-three, met his death from exposure and hardships. He developed a sudden attack of cramp colic and, being twenty-two miles from a physician, died before medical aid could reach him, being ill only forty-eight hours. Mr. W. M. Large, a friend and employee of Alfred's, was the only one with him at the time, and afterward wrote of it to the family.

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Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Landers - Metcalf

December 16, 1948

Dr. James C. Olson, Director
Nebraska State Historical Society
State Capitol
Lincoln 9, Nebraska

Dear Dr. Olson:

Does the lithograph by Mathews (your number D 386 a) of Nebraska City bear any imprinted title on the lithograph itself? I judge that it must be the south side of Main Street. Is there a map of Nebraska City of approximately 1865 that would serve to verify the buildings that Mathews has depicted in his views?

What are the print sizes of each of these lithographs? Many thanks for the information.

My article on Mathews is making good progress and I expect that it will be published in the May issue of the Quarterly.

Sincerely,

Robert Taft

RT:c

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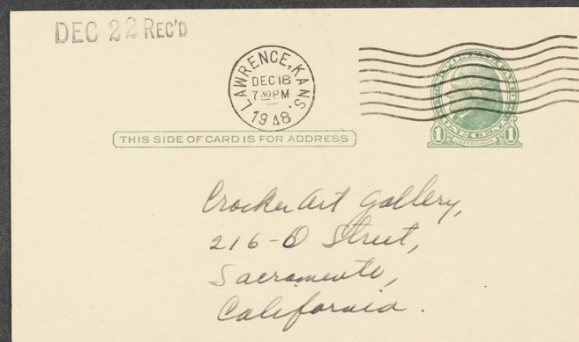
Robert Taft, Editor—TRANSACTIONS KANSAS ACADEMY OF SCIENCE—University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas

Dec. 18
A. E. Matthews, the artist, spent the winter
of 1872-73 in California, making lithographs
of the country.
Do you have any of his original California
lithographs of this period? I would
like the information for an article
in my current series "The Pictorial
Record of the Old West." Thank you
for your help.

Robert Taft

KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Landers - Metcalf



Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Landers - Metcalf

December 20, 1948

Dr. L. R. Hofen
Colorado Historical Society
State Museum
Denver, Colorado

Dear Dr. Hofen:

While in Denver last summer I found an account of colonization near Canon City in the early 70's in your manuscript records. The account mentioned A. E. Mathews. At the time I did not think it of sufficient interest to make suitable notes. I should, however, like to cite it in an account of A. E. Mathews that I am publishing in a few months. Can you give me your official record of the manuscript (i.e., name and number) so that I can make the citation.

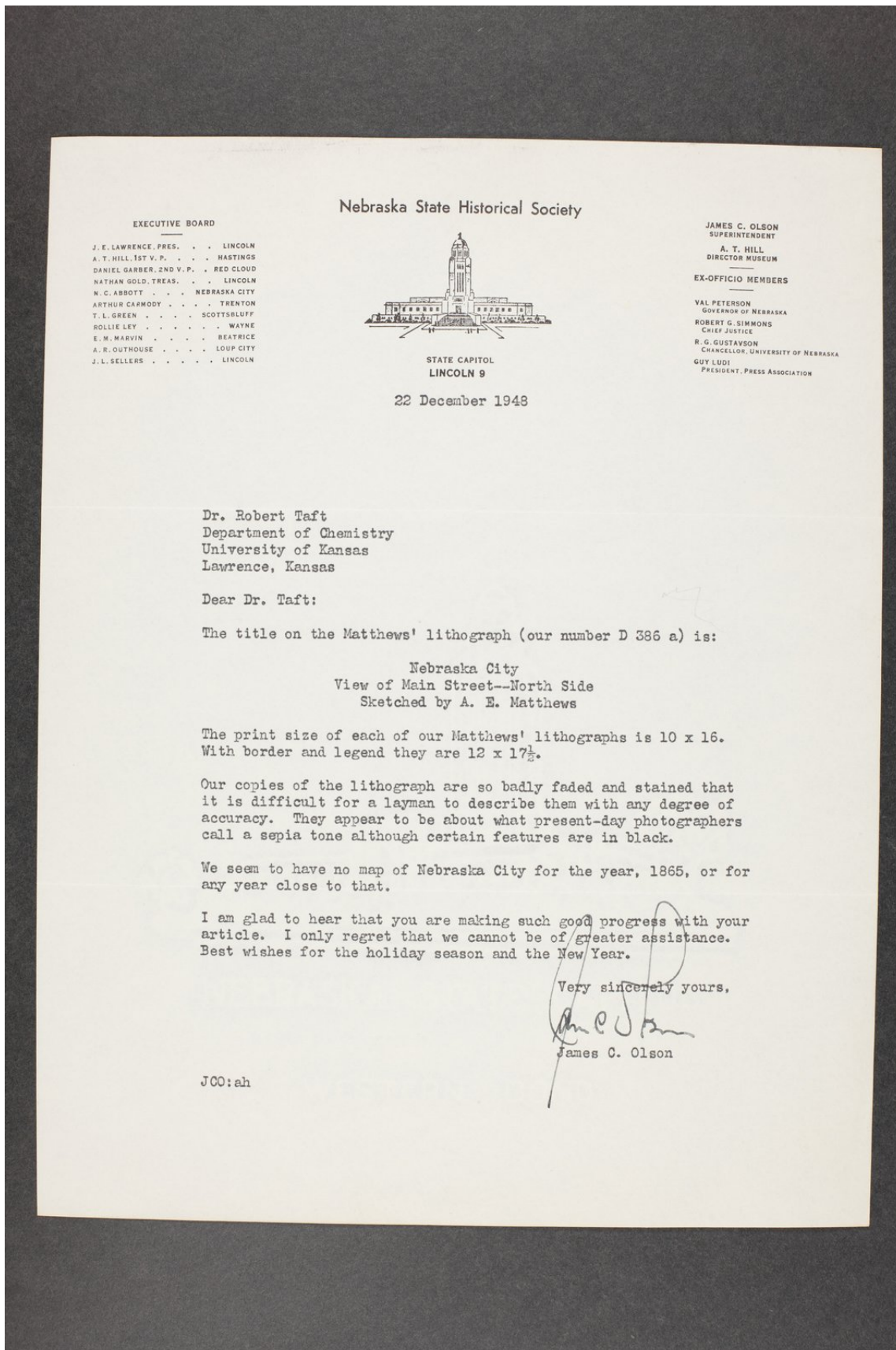
Thank you for your aid.

Sincerely,

Robert Taft

RT:c

Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Landers - Metcalf



Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Landers - Metcalf

HENRY E. HUNTINGTON LIBRARY AND ART GALLERY
SAN MARINO 15, CALIFORNIA

ROBERT O. SCHAD
CURATOR OF RARE BOOKS

CAREY S. BLISS
ASSISTANT CURATOR OF RARE BOOKS

December 22, 1948

Mr. Robert Taft
Editor, Transactions
Kansas Academy of Science
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Sir:

Your letter was sent to me for reply, and I am sorry to say that to my knowledge we have no examples of the work of A. E. Mathews. As you probably know already, Peters, California on Stone, lists two views by Mathews, and the second one, "Oceanic Steamship Company Steamers Mariposa and Alameda" is in the collection at the Mariners Museum in Virginia. They have a negative of it on file there and would send you a print for a very small charge.

I am very glad to have this opportunity of corresponding with you, since I have enjoyed for some time your series, "The Pictorial Record of the Old West." I have my own copy of "Photography and the American Scene", which has given me great pleasure as well as help in cataloging the photographs in our collection here at the Library. We have a good collection of photographs of southern California, as well as a fairly representative collection for the other western states. We also have a good collection of early lithographs of California, done by Britton and Rey, Nahl, and many of the others.

in the future, I am

Hoping I can be of service to you

Sincerely yours,

Carey S Bliss

CSB:jc

Newport News

Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Landers - Metcalf

CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
156 McAllister Street
San Francisco 2 23 December 1948

Dear Mr. Taft:

I am sorry that we find no lithographs by A.E. Mathews in this collection. By odd coincidence, we have on display a painting of the discovery of S.F. Bay made in 1896 by A.F. Mathews which is on loan from the S.F. Museum of Art. ...

Very sincerely yours,

Sally Martin Parratt
(Mrs. Rogers Parratt)
Managing Director

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