

Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Schreyvogel - Sprague

Section 5, Pages 121 - 150

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 Charles Schreyvogel, Carl Schuchard, Julian Scott, Samuel Seymour, Joseph Henry Sharp, Joshua Shaw, Walter Shirlaw, James D. Smillie, Dan Smith, De Cost Smith, Gean Smith, Jerome Howard Smith, William Smyth, Gustav Sohon, William Louis Sontag, and Isaac Sprague.

Date: 1930-1955

Callnumber: Robert Taft Coll. #172, Box 36

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Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Schreyvogel - Sprague

Hebron, Connecticut.

April 1, 1939.

Dr. Robert Taft,
University of Kansas,
Lawrence.

Dear Dr. Taft:

I have a few marked catalogues of the Peale Museum sale of 1854, but, looking them over, can find no mention of Seymour. In one catalogue the works of members of the Peale family are marked, and I find portraits of Major Long, Lt. Jessup and Thomas Say which are apparently, by other hands. These were bought, respectively, by "Barton," "Mrs. Moore" and "Harrington" or "Hamilton," for 5, 20, and 25 dollars. There are a number of pictures simply listed as "Landscape" which sold for one or two dollars. One wishes that one could step briefly into the past, equipped with a small sum of money.

As far as I can find, the Peale papers contain no reference to Seymour. That is, he had apparently no correspondence with Charles Willson Peale. I have no knowledge of what became of Titian Peale's papers, but believe, if they are not at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia, that you might get some information there as to their whereabouts. His journal of the Long expedition was included in the Samuel N. Rhoads sale, Freeman, auctioneers, in 1908. Of course you have seen the references in the life of Say.

Thomas
I enclose a circular description of my biography of C. W. Peale. Lest this piece of salesmanship prove irresistible, I must point out that it covers only the founding of the Philadelphia Museum, and does not reach the period in which you are interested.

*Very yours
Charles Allen Sellers.*

*according
to material
in library of
Congress*

Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Schreyvogel - Sprague

April 18, 1939

Mr. Charles M. B. Cadwalader, President
Academy of Natural Sciences
Nineteenth and Parkway
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Cadwalader:

I have in preparation a history of the artists who have recorded our western frontier. Among the earliest of these artists were Titian R. Peale and Samuel Seymour, both of Philadelphia, who were on Major Long's Expedition to the Rockies in 1819-20. I am attempting to obtain all possible information about the work of these men while with the expedition, especially any reference to their sketches made in the field. Of course, if the original sketches themselves could be located, I would be more than pleased. It was for this reason I wrote you on April 6th concerning manuscript material of T. R. Peale.

Does your institution have any biographical information concerning Seymour? Almost nothing seems to be known about him except that he was on two of Long's expeditions.

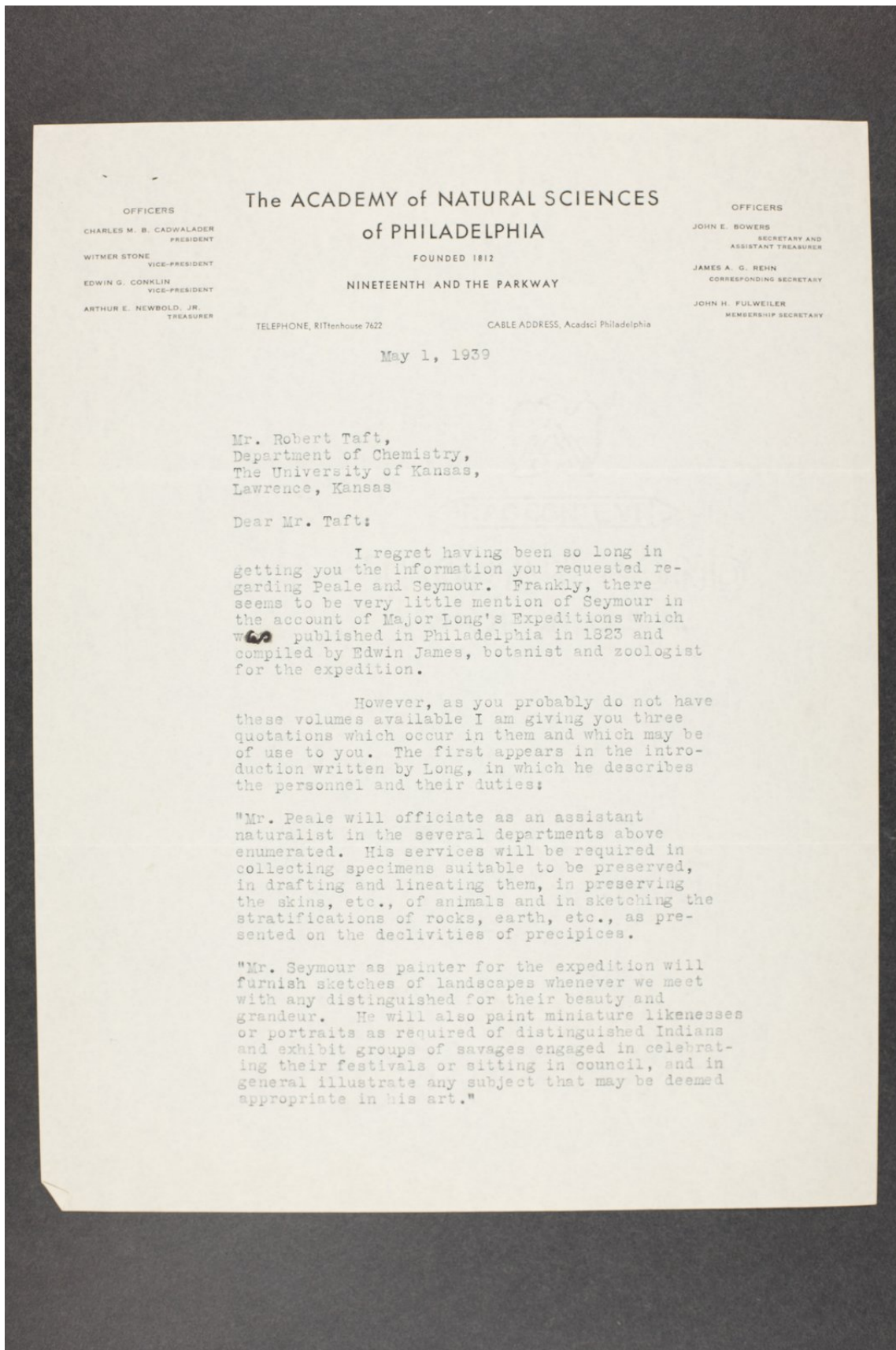
Many thanks for your letter of the 13th and for any information that you can give me.

Sincerely yours,

RT/cdo

Robert Taft.

Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Schreyvogel - Sprague



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May 1, 1939

Mr. Robert Taft,
Department of Chemistry,
The University of Kansas,
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Mr. Taft:

I regret having been so long in getting you the information you requested regarding Peale and Seymour. Frankly, there seems to be very little mention of Seymour in the account of Major Long's Expeditions which was published in Philadelphia in 1823 and compiled by Edwin James, botanist and zoologist for the expedition.

However, as you probably do not have these volumes available I am giving you three quotations which occur in them and which may be of use to you. The first appears in the introduction written by Long, in which he describes the personnel and their duties:

"Mr. Peale will officiate as an assistant naturalist in the several departments above enumerated. His services will be required in collecting specimens suitable to be preserved, in drafting and lineating them, in preserving the skins, etc., of animals and in sketching the stratifications of rocks, earth, etc., as presented on the declivities of precipices.

"Mr. Seymour as painter for the expedition will furnish sketches of landscapes whenever we meet with any distinguished for their beauty and grandeur. He will also paint miniature likenesses or portraits as required of distinguished Indians and exhibit groups of savages engaged in celebrating their festivals or sitting in council, and in general illustrate any subject that may be deemed appropriate in his art."

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Mr. Taft - 2

In the summation of the expedition
in Volume II there is a note to the effect:

"The sketches executed by Mr. Peale amounted to
122 - Of these 21 only were finished, the residue
being merely outlines of quadrupeds, birds and
insects. The landscape views by Mr. Seymour
are 150 in number - of these 60 have been finished."

Trusting that this information will
be of some use to you, I am, with kindest
regards

Cordially yours,



John H. Fulweiler

jhf/jc

Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Schreyvogel - Sprague

November 29, 1939

Miss Alice M. Sharkey
Executive Secretary
Whitney Museum of American Art
10 West 8th Street
New York City, New York

Dear Miss Sharkey:

Thank you for your letter of November 21st and for the catalog of your collections which has been received. I have in preparation a book THE Frontier in Picture which is to deal with the artists and illustrators who recorded the life and growth of our American west from 1800 to 1900. Included in the list of names that I have under study is that of Samuel Seymour. I notice that on page 24 of your bulletin you have listed one of his paintings. Can you give me any biographical data on Seymour? I am familiar with the data in Fielding and in Mallett but I would particularly like to obtain reference to a published obituary. Can you help me out? In case you do not have such material, could you tell me something about the history of your Seymour painting? From whom was it obtained?

Sincerely yours,

RT/cdo

Robert Taft.

Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Schreyvogel - Sprague

November 28, 1939

Librarian of Congress
Washington, District of Columbia

Dear Sir:

On January 7, 1937, your office wrote me enclosing a report of your Fine Arts Division (dated January 5, 1937) with biographical data on four early American artists. For one of these artists, Samuel Seymour, the report gave the life span of 1797-1882. Will you ask Dr. Holland to verify this last date (1882) and if possible, give me a reference to the source from which this data was obtained. I would particularly like to obtain reference to a published obituary of Seymour.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

RT/cdo

Robert Taft.

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December 4, 1939

Miss Martha E. Cutler
Taron Library
Peterborough, New Hampshire

Dear Miss Cutler:

I have in preparation a book The Frontier in Picture which is to deal with the artists and illustrators who recorded the life and growth of our American west. Included among these artists is Samuel Seymour who was west with the Long expeditions of 1819-1822. I have been able to get but little biographical information concerning Seymour. The last authentic information I have concerning him is the fact that he was in Salmon Falls, New Hampshire, in 1850. By chance, does your library have any data concerning Seymour?

Thank you for any help that you can give me.

Sincerely yours,

RT/cdo

Robert Taft.

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9-1555

MEMORANDUM 287

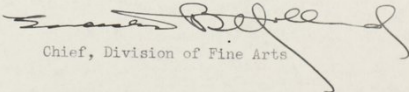
TO THE
LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS

FROM THE
Division of Fine Arts
December 5, 1939

REFERRING TO
letter of The University of KANSAS
Lawrence, Kans. By Robert Taft
November 29, 1939

We believe the 1882 date given by Mantle Fielding to be a mis-
print. Fielding, Stauffer and Baker all make the statement that
Seymour, as a draftsman accompanied Major Stephen H. Long on his
exploring expedition into the Yellowstone region, in 1823, and nothing
later is known of him. Mallet gives Syemour's dates: 1797-1822, as does
Stauffer.

We are not able to locate a published obituary of Seymour.


Chief, Division of Fine Arts

Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Schreyvogel - Sprague

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HERMON MORE · Curator

December 12, 1939

Mr. Robert Taft,
The University of Kansas,
Lawrence, Kansas.

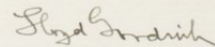
Dear Mr. Taft:

Mrs. Sharkey has referred to me your letter of November 29th about our painting ascribed to Samuel Seymour. We secured this painting in March 1932 from Mrs. Helen Hackett of New York, who secured it from a Mr. de Langis, an antique dealer of Harvard, Massachusetts. At the time of the purchase we understood that Mr. de Langis had bought it from a son of the artist. Recently we tried to confirm this with Mr. de Langis, but he never replied. Hence our attribution to Samuel Seymour is not very definite, until we can secure more first hand evidence, which we have not so far succeeded in doing. If I find out anything further we will let you know.

We have no additional biographical data on Seymour besides what you already have.

Regretting that I cannot be of more assistance to you, I am

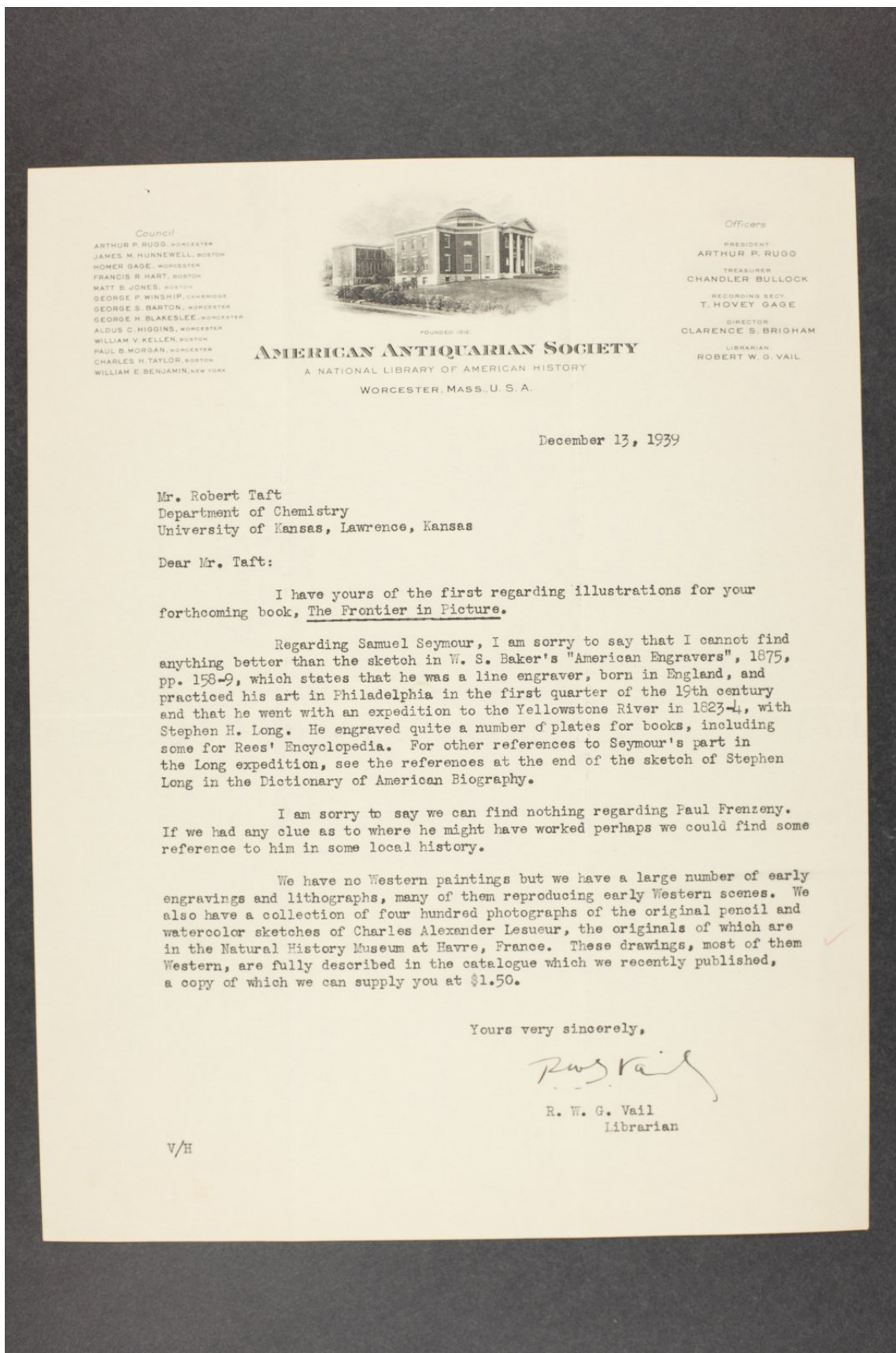
Sincerely yours,



Lloyd Goodrich
Research Curator

LG/DF

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December 13, 1939

Mr. Robert Taft
Department of Chemistry
University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Mr. Taft:

I have yours of the first regarding illustrations for your forthcoming book, The Frontier in Picture.

Regarding Samuel Seymour, I am sorry to say that I cannot find anything better than the sketch in W. S. Baker's "American Engravers", 1875, pp. 158-9, which states that he was a line engraver, born in England, and practiced his art in Philadelphia in the first quarter of the 19th century and that he went with an expedition to the Yellowstone River in 1823-4, with Stephen H. Long. He engraved quite a number of plates for books, including some for Rees' Encyclopedia. For other references to Seymour's part in the Long expedition, see the references at the end of the sketch of Stephen Long in the Dictionary of American Biography.

I am sorry to say we can find nothing regarding Paul Frenzeny. If we had any clue as to where he might have worked perhaps we could find some reference to him in some local history.

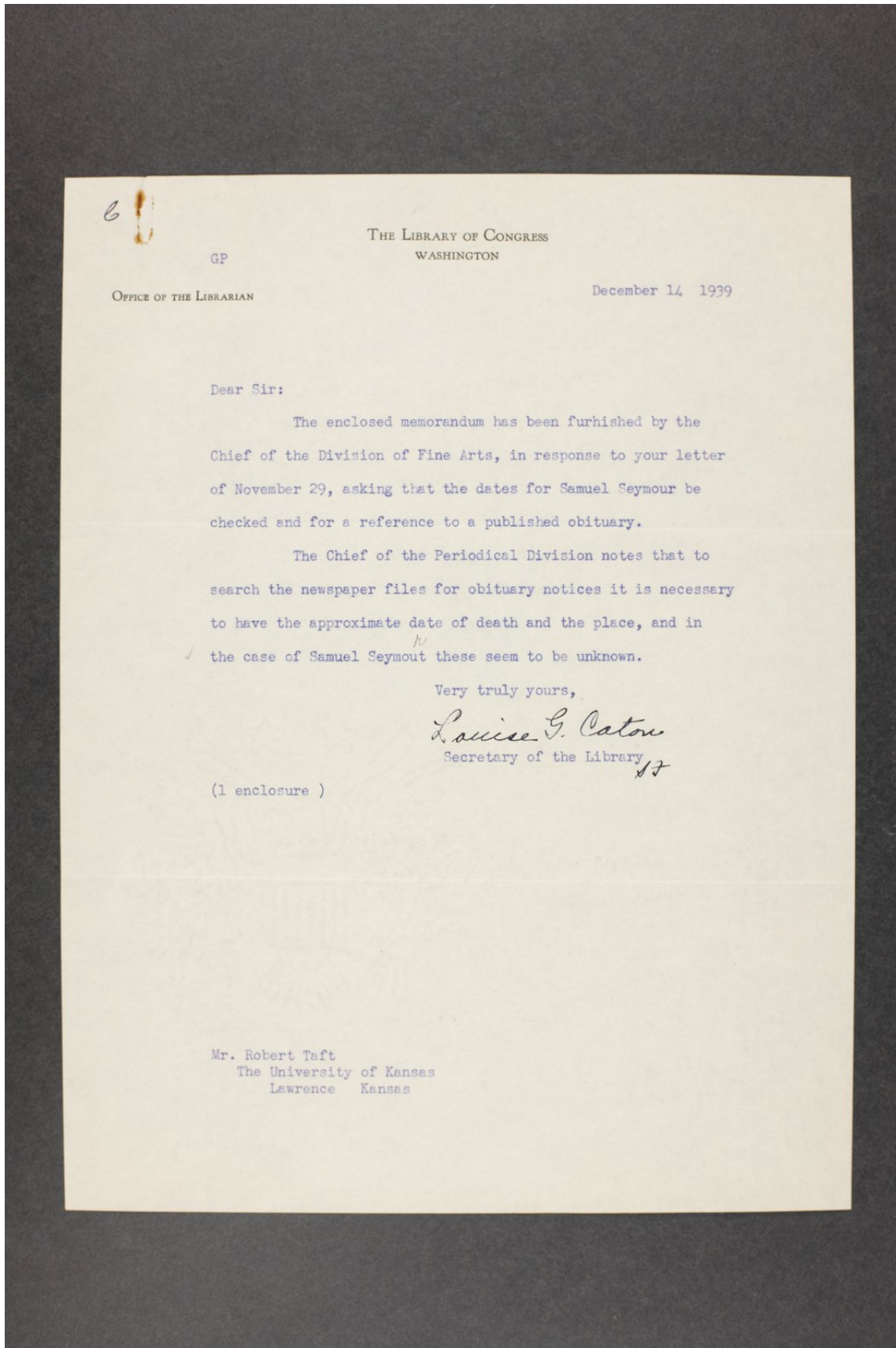
We have no Western paintings but we have a large number of early engravings and lithographs, many of them reproducing early Western scenes. We also have a collection of four hundred photographs of the original pencil and watercolor sketches of Charles Alexander Lesueur, the originals of which are in the Natural History Museum at Havre, France. These drawings, most of them Western, are fully described in the catalogue which we recently published, a copy of which we can supply you at \$1.50.

Yours very sincerely,

R. W. G. Vail
Librarian

V/H

Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Schreyvogel - Sprague



6 1

GP

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE LIBRARIAN

December 14 1939

Dear Sir:

The enclosed memorandum has been furnished by the Chief of the Division of Fine Arts, in response to your letter of November 29, asking that the dates for Samuel Seymour be checked and for a reference to a published obituary.

The Chief of the Periodical Division notes that to search the newspaper files for obituary notices it is necessary to have the approximate date of death and the place, and in the case of Samuel Seymout^h these seem to be unknown.

Very truly yours,

Louise G. Caton
Secretary of the Library

(1 enclosure)

Mr. Robert Taft
The University of Kansas
Lawrence Kansas

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DARTMOUTH COLLEGE LIBRARY

Librarian NATHANIEL L. GOODRICH *Assistant Librarians* HAROLD G. RUGG ELLEN F. ADAMS ALEXANDER LAING

HANOVER · NEW HAMPSHIRE

December 18, 1939

Dr. Robert Taft
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas.

My dear Dr. Taft:

In reply to your letter of December 12 in regard to Samuel Seymour I am sorry to have to report that we have been able to find no more about him than you probably know already. Knowing that Stephen Long was a Dartmouth graduate we thought possibly we could find something, but we have had no luck. I understand that at the Boston Athenaeum there are three volumes of manuscript notes on American artists before 1850 by Charles Bolton. A letter to that institution might possibly elicit some information..

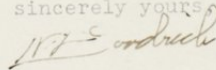
We found notes about Seymour in three books which I presume you have consulted already. They seem to give practically nothing more than is intimated in your letter. These books are:

Baker, W. S. American engravers. Philadelphia, Gebbie & Barrie, 1875. p. 158-159.

Stauffer, D. M. American engravers upon copper or steel. New York Grolier Club, 1907. vol. 1, p. 244-245.

Dunlap, William. History of the rise and progress of the art of design. Boston. Goodspeeds. vol. 3. p. 257.

Very sincerely yours,



Nathaniel L. Goodrich,
Librarian.

NLG/K

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NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE LIBRARY
TWENTY PARK STREET
CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

19 December 1939

Dr. Robert Taft
University of Kansas
Lawrence
Kansas

Dear Dr. Taft:

Mr C K Bolton of Shirley, Massachusetts has made a detailed study of the early artists with New England connections. Since the State Library has been able to find nothing about Samuel Seymour, I suggest that you write to Mr Bolton.

Yours sincerely,

Thelma Brackett

Thelma Brackett
State Librarian

TB:H

Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Schreyvogel - Sprague

December 26, 1939

Mr. C. K. Bolton
Shirley, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Bolton:

The New Hampshire State Library has informed me of your study of early artists with New England connections. I am writing to ask if you have any information about two of them. The first is Samuel Seymour who accompanied Major Long's expeditions to the west in 1819-1823. The last record I have of him is a painting reputed to have been made by him at Salmon Falls, New Hampshire, in 1850. Have you run across Seymour in your study and have you found a published obituary? If so, would you be good enough to cite me to the source of the obituary? The second artist is Wm. T. Ranney (1813-1857), who died in West Hoboken, New Jersey but was born, I believe, in Connecticut. Have you run across any contemporary descriptions of Ranney's work or experiences, especially any that deal with his life in the far west.

I wish the information for a book which I have in preparation, The Frontier in Picture, which is to deal with the artists and illustrators who recorded the life and growth of our American west.

Do you recall if any other of the New England artists that you studied made western trips for pictorial studies?

I will greatly appreciate any information that you can give me.

Sincerely yours,

RT/cdo

Robert Taft.

Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Schreyvogel - Sprague

December 28, 1939

Mr. Arthur de Langis
Shirley Center, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. de Langis:

Thank you for your courtesy in answering my query on Seymour. Possibly if you had the story as it was written me, it might help to clear up matters. In March, 1932, Mrs. Helen Hackett of New York sold to the Whitney Museum of Art a painting "Indians, Salmon Falls, New Hampshire". The Whitney Museum dated it at 1850 and ascribed it to Samuel Seymour, as Mrs. Hackett had apparently told them that the painting was purchased from you and you in turn had purchased it from a son of the artist. Going through so many hands by word of mouth only, such stories can easily become garbled. But there is a chance that it is correct and as I am much interested in tracing to its source some definite biographical information concerning Seymour, I took the chance and wrote you. If the above story does help you to recall anything about the transaction, I will be greatly obligated if you will relay the information on to me.

Seymour is one of my knottiest problems and I have already spent a good many hours and written a good many letters about him.

Sincerely yours,

RT/edo

Robert Taft.



Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Schreyvogel - Sprague

January 9, 1940

Mr. Charles K. Bolton
Pound Hill Place
Shirley, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Bolton:

Thank you for your kind letter and for your several suggestions. Yes, I have been through Gleason's, Harper's Weekly, Leslie's and other journals for illustrative material. A good deal of the material is not credited and in many cases is purely imaginative but every once in a while a real find is made.

I have no information on Osgood but as I am constantly adding new names to my present list (about 150), I may run across some of his work. If I find anything, I will let you know.

Seymour is one of my knottiest problems. He is important because he was the first artist as such to visit the west. It may be that the New Hampshire Seymour is not the one I am interested in, but until I get more information about him (or them) I cannot tell. If by chance, you do run across any further information about Seymour, I would greatly appreciate receiving it.

Sincerely yours,

RT/cdo

Robert Taft.

Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Schreyvogel - Sprague

January 22, 1940

Miss Bertha L. Heilbron
Minnesota Historical Society
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Miss Heilbron:

I have read your Lewis book with a good deal of interest and profit. I have been interested in panoramas and dioramas for some time and have accumulated a number of miscellaneous notes on the subject. Are you familiar with Sanford's panorama of the Mississippi? I thought possibly it might be a copy of one of the six mentioned in your notes. The only information that I have about it is an advertisement that appeared in the New York Tribune for April, 1853. The first time that it appears in our file (which is incomplete) is April 11, 1853, p11, col. 2. The advertisement reads in part "Metropolitan Hall - Sanford's Great National Panoramic Painting of the Mississippi River. The only Painting ever exhibited of the River from its mouth to the Falls of St. Anthony, a distance of nearly 3000 miles". If you wish a photostatic copy of the complete advertisement, I will be glad to send it (no charge).

I am writing to ask if you can give me any help on one of my knottiest problems, Samuel Seymour. Seymour, as you probably know, was the artist on Major Long's expedition of 1819-20 and again on the voyage to the sources of St. Peters River in 1823 (reported by W. H. Keating). I have written some of the larger reference libraries of the country, but they can give no help with him. The Whitney Museum in New York claims to have a painting of his made in 1850 but I think they are in error. At one time I thought I had Seymour's last resting place located in Chelsea, Massachusetts, but that clue seems to have faded out recently. I have no positive record of him after Keating's book, although I have searched the obituary columns of the Philadelphia Ledger for a good many years to see if something could not be located, but so far without success. W. S. Baker (American Engravers, 1875), Dunlap's History (Bayley and Goodspeed

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edition, 1918) and P. M. Stauffer (American Engravers
1907) all refer to him but give little information.

As Seymour has some Minnesota interest, I
thought possibly you might have done some work on
him. Do you know anything about the E. S. Seymour
who wrote Sketches of Minnesota (1850, if I remember
correctly)? Could there be any connection there?

I hope you can help me again. Thanks.

Yours sincerely,

RT/cdo

Robert Taft.

Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Schreyvogel - Sprague

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Saint Paul

Minnesota History
A QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

THEODORE C. BLEGEN, EDITOR
BERTHA L. HEILBRON, ASSISTANT EDITOR

January 30, 1940.

Professor Robert Taft
Department of Chemistry
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Mr. Taft:

I'm glad that you are interested in Samuel Seymour, as I have long felt that something should be written about him. Only recently I included his name on a list of topics for a class in local art history that is now being given at the University of Minnesota. There are only six students in the class, however, and I fear that Seymour has been overlooked.

Most of the material that I have been able to turn up consists of casual references. They are to be found in Clarissa Bucklin, ed., Nebraska Art and Artists, 9 (Lincoln, 1932); Porter Butts, Art in Wisconsin, 24 (1936); Weiss and Ziegler, Thomas Say (1931); and Stokes and Haskell, American Historical Prints, 46, 48 (N.Y., 1933). The latter work lists several engravings by Samuel Seymour, all for the period about 1800. I have some doubts about this being the man who accompanied Long in 1819 and 1823, but it might have been his father. I cannot find that there is a connection between Samuel and the E. S. Seymour of the Sketches of Minnesota.

For your purposes, the best references I have found are in two manuscript journals of the Long expedition of 1823 that are owned by this society. The first is Major Long's own journal, in three closely written volumes. By simply dipping into it here and there I found numerous mentions of Seymour. For example, in the party that left Philadelphia with Long on April 30, 1823, was "Mr. Samuel Seymour, Landskip Painter and designer." On May 9 at Brownsville on the Monongahela River he "took a sketch of the Town river &c." Long's final entry, for October 27, shows that he left Say, Colhoun, and Seymour in New York, while he and Keating went on to Philadelphia. Accounts listed on the end sheets of the little volumes indicate that Long advanced to Seymour \$45.26 for traveling expenses at Fort Wayne, \$4.76 at Sault Ste. Marie, \$8.00 at Mackinac, \$10.00 at New York, etc. The second journal, of which we have a film copy, is that of James Colhoun, chief engineer of the expedition. He

A. Haessler
M. Marble

Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Schreyvogel - Sprague

mentions Seymour only once, on p. 141, where he notes that the artist has charge of the thermometer and "politely promises to communicate to me the daily temperature." I'm sorry that I could not take time for a thorough examination of the Long journal; if you think it would be worth while for you we could doubtless find someone to do it.

If you could locate some of Long's papers they might yield something on Seymour. Long's reports should be in the archives of the Topographical Engineers in the National Archives. There may be some Long papers also in the American Philosophical Society at Philadelphia, and Miss Nute seems to think that this organization may have some Seymour material. I should write also to Julian P. Boyd at the Pennsylvania Historical Society. If Seymour lived in Philadelphia, this society might be able to locate some information for you.

I'm pleased to know that you are finding the Lewis journal useful. Since publishing that little book I have gathered up much additional material on panoramas, and I have references to a number of Mississippi panoramas that I knew nothing about in 1936. Among them is the Sanford picture. We do not, however, have the issues of the New York Tribune in which it is advertised. I should be more than pleased to have a photostat of the Sanford advertisement; it is very kind of you to offer to furnish it.

Among other items that I found after the Lewis book came out were two texts of his panorama -- one in English and the other in Dutch. Both are in the East, but we have photostatic copies of them here. The title pages are reproduced in connection with an article by Mr. Blegen which appears in the issue of Minnesota History for December, 1939. Incidentally, there is some new panorama material given here with references that you may lack. If you are willing to give them to me, I should be very glad to get the references to showings of the Lewis panorama that you mentioned in an earlier letter. I don't know just what I am going to do with all this panorama material, but I may make use of it at some future time.

By the way, do you know of any actual moving panoramas that have survived to our own day? We have one here at the Minnesota Historical Society -- a picture showing the gory events of the Sioux War of 1862. I know of several circular panoramas like that at Atlanta, but ours is the only moving panoramas of which I have any knowledge. I sometimes wonder whether it is unique.

I shall try again to get a university student interested in Seymour. If I can do that, perhaps we can find some additional information for you.

Sincerely,

Burtha L. Heilbrunn

Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Schreyvogel - Sprague

July 31, 1940

Miss Alice Smith
State Historical Society
816 State Street
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Miss Smith:

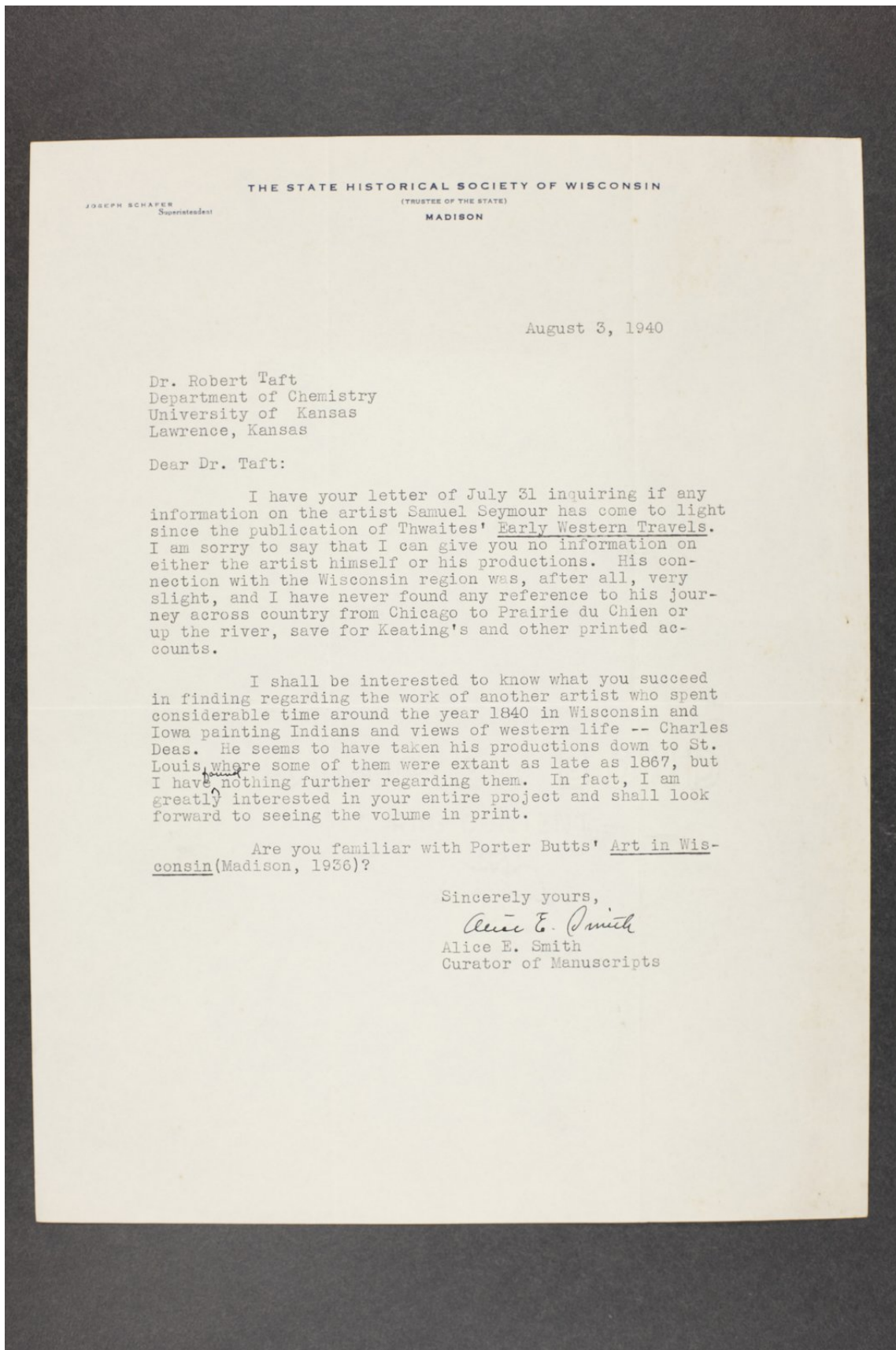
I have in preparation a book The Frontier in Picture which is to deal with the artists and illustrators who recorded the life and growth of our American west. Included in the list of artists that I have under study is Samuel Seymour, who accompanied the Long expedition of 1819-20. In Dr. Thwaites reprint (Early Western Travels, vol. 14) of the report of the Long expedition he makes the note "The events of the life of Samuel Seymour are now not known". Do you know of any biographical data on Seymour that has come to light since the publication of Early Western Travels? Many thanks for any help that you can give me.

Sincerely yours,

RT/cdo

Robert Taft.

Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Schreyvogel - Sprague



JOSEPH SCHAFER
Superintendent

THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WISCONSIN
(TRUSTEE OF THE STATE)
MADISON

August 3, 1940

Dr. Robert Taft
Department of Chemistry
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Dr. Taft:

I have your letter of July 31 inquiring if any information on the artist Samuel Seymour has come to light since the publication of Thwaites' Early Western Travels. I am sorry to say that I can give you no information on either the artist himself or his productions. His connection with the Wisconsin region was, after all, very slight, and I have never found any reference to his journey across country from Chicago to Prairie du Chien or up the river, save for Keating's and other printed accounts.

I shall be interested to know what you succeed in finding regarding the work of another artist who spent considerable time around the year 1840 in Wisconsin and Iowa painting Indians and views of western life -- Charles Deas. He seems to have taken his productions down to St. Louis, where some of them were extant as late as 1867, but I have nothing further regarding them. In fact, I am greatly interested in your entire project and shall look forward to seeing the volume in print.

Are you familiar with Porter Butts' Art in Wisconsin (Madison, 1936)?

Sincerely yours,

Alice E. Smith
Alice E. Smith
Curator of Manuscripts



Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Schreyvogel - Sprague

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
LAWRENCE

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

October 8, 1940

Mr. Edward P. Seymour
404 Linden Avenue
Jenkintown, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Seymour:

I have in preparation a book The Frontier in Picture which is to deal with the artists and illustrators who recorded the life and growth of our American west. Included in the list of artists that I have under study is Samuel Seymour, an Englishman by birth, who came to Philadelphia about 1800. He is of interest to me as he was a member of Major Long's expedition to the Rocky Mountains in 1819 and 1820. The last positive date upon which I have information concerning Seymour is October 27, 1823.

Do you have any family records that would indicate whether the Samuel Seymour described above was a member of your family? If so, does the record reveal any information concerning Seymour subsequent to 1823? If you cannot furnish this information, can you suggest other members of the family who might be able to help me?

Thank you greatly for your aid.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Taft

Robert Taft.

RT/cdo

Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Schreyvogel - Sprague

Dear Mr Taft.

I'm just been looking over Seymour Genealogy

Our Ancestry of Granville family

✓ A B Seymour 26 Univ Museum Cambridge Mass
an unvarnished scribe. His latest material I've found is 194
Shame on me!!

✓ Seymour Morris 112 W Adams St Chicago 1918

was publishing the
Sir Richard Seymour of Hartford
Quarterly in New Eng Jm & West Register

✓ Miss M K Talcott had Hartford is the able &
efficient reviser & recorder of our family

I regret that (aged 78) I am too absorbed in
my labors of love (unsalaried) for the simple pleasures
that many persons naturally enjoy

I'm sure you will find, among above addresses
what you desire to know.

Sincerely,
E Sprague

KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

404 Linden St

Indianapolis, Ind

Oct 12, 1940

Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Schreyvogel - Sprague

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
LAWRENCE

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

October 8, 1940

Mr. Roy Seymour
7720 Mill Road
Elkins Park, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Seymour:

I have in preparation a book The Frontier in Picture which is to deal with the artists and illustrators who recorded the life and growth of our American west. Included in the list of artists that I have under study is Samuel Seymour, an Englishman by birth, who came to Philadelphia about 1800. He is of interest to me as he was a member of Major Long's expedition to the Rocky Mountains in 1819 and 1820. The last positive date upon which I have information concerning Seymour is October 27, 1823.

Do you have any family records that would indicate whether the Samuel Seymour described above was a member of your family? If so, does the record reveal any information concerning Seymour subsequent to 1823? If you cannot furnish this information, can you suggest other members of the family who might be able to help me?

Thank you greatly for your aid.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Taft

Robert Taft.

Dear Cousin Anne:

*Can you help
this man out?*

*I have no information
at all —*

*Am now Representing
Optimist, International,
Organizing Optimist
Clubs in New Jersey.*

Commuting to Denton daily.

How are all your folks?

Affectionately.

Roy —

RT/cdo

one

Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Schreyvogel - Sprague

October 19, 1940

My dear Dr. Taft:

Samuel Seymour, artist
to whom you refer is not included
in our branch of the American Seymours
so far as I can find.

Possibly you might find out
more from the Congressional Library
at Washington D.C.

Richard Seymour who came to America
and settled in Hartford Conn in 1635
brought one son Thomas ⁽²⁾ with him
and the first son born in this country
namely - John ⁽¹⁾ is our branch.

The only other son of Richard was
Richard Jr. ⁽²⁾ and I have never heard
of this Samuel or their line.

Possibly you refer to one of our
English collaterals but they are so
numerous - have never tried to trace
them.

The Thomas Seymour line has some
distinguished descendants. May I not
refer you to Miss Mary Francis.

101 Elm Street

KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Hartford, Conn. who is of the
Thomas Seymour line - Sorry I cannot
help you - Most truly,

Anne Seymour Mundy (Mrs. J. J.)
4406 Valley View Boulevard,
Ashland - Ohio

Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Schreyvogel - Sprague

November 14, 1940

MISS MARY FRANCIS
422 FARMINGTON AVENUE
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

Seymour

Dr. Robert Taft
Lawrence, Kansas.

Dear Dr. Taft,

Your letter of October 24 has been received asking if I have any information in regard to Samuel Seymour, an Englishman who came to Philadelphia about 1800.

I am sorry that I cannot help you out, but I know nothing about him and have no family records

Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Schreyvogel - Sprague

2.

MISS MARY FRANCIS
422 FARMINGTON AVENUE
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

concerning him. My only Szymon ancestors were Richard Szymon an original proprietor of Hartford in 1639, his son John Szymon who married Mary Watson and had a daughter Alice who married my Stanley ancestor.

Miss Katherine Szymon Day of 73 Forest Street, Hartford, has Szymon ancestry, and she might know something of the Samuel Szymon you are asking about.

With regret that I cannot be of any assistance,

Sincerely yours,
Mary Francis.

Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Schreyvogel - Sprague

Nov. 24th 40

THE STOWE HOUSE
73 FOREST STREET
HARTFORD, CONN.

Robert Taft, Esq.

Dear Sir,

In answer to your letter of
Nov. 18th 1940, relative to
Samuel Seymour, I am
sorry to say that I can give
you no information - The
ancestor of most of the
Connecticut & New York State
Seymours was Richard
Seymour who came with the

Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Schreyvogel - Sprague

grand of the Rev. Thomas Hooker
& is therefore one of the founders
of Hartford in 1636. There is great
dispute about his ancestry - the
family story has always been
that he was a younger son of
the line descended from the
first wife of the 1st Protector
mole of little King Edward &
brother of Jane Seymour
Henry the 8th wife. After he
rose in power & became
Duke of Somerset, he repudiated
his first wife, settling an