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Collection Summary

Repository: Archives and Special Collections Library, Vassar College Libraries

Creator: Magoon, Elias Lyman

Title: Elias L. Magoon Papers

Dates: 1861-1885

Quantity: 0.2 cubic feet (1 box)

Abstract: This collection consists of correspondence, reports, and other materials created or collected by Elias Magoon, most of which are related to the Vassar College Art Gallery.

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Biographical Note

Elias L. Magoon (1810-1886) was an American clergyman. A trustee of Vassar College from 1861 to 1886, he also served as chairman of the committee responsible for founding the College's art gallery. In 1864, Magoon sold over 400 works of contemporary American and British art to Matthew Vassar, who insisted on the study of original works of art for the edification of the women who attended the new College. These works are now held at the Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center.

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Scope and Content Note

This collection consists of correspondence, reports, and other materials created or collected by Elias Magoon, most of which are related to the Vassar College Art Gallery.

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Access and Use

Access

This collection is open for research according to the [regulations of the Vassar College Archives and Special Collections Library](#) without any additional restrictions.

Restrictions on Use

Permission to quote (publish) from unpublished or previously published material must be obtained as described in the [regulations of the Vassar College Archives and Special Collections Library](#).

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Subject Headings

Names:

- Vassar College--Art Gallery
- Vassar, Matthew, 1792-1868

Document Types:

- Correspondence
- Reports

VCL Categories:

- Vassar College Trustees

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Encoding Information

Encoded by Mark Seidl, May 2021. Updated by Emma Gronbeck, October 2025.

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Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Elias L. Magoon Papers, Archives and Special Collections Library, Vassar College Libraries.

Processing Information

Inventory created by Emma Iadanza, May 2021.

Acquisition Information

Source unknown.

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Container List

- Folder 1 Letters from Elias Magoon to Samuel Caldwell, 1883-1884 [2 letters]
- Folder 2 Letter from Elias Magoon to Registrar Willard L. Dean, 1885 [1 letter]
- Folder 3 Letters from Elias Magoon to Benson J. Lossing, 1865-1872 [3 letters]
- Folder 4 Letters from Elias Magoon to President John Raymond, 1875-1877 [2 letters]
- Folder 5 Letters from Elias Magoon to Matthew Vassar, 1861 Jan - 1864 Aug [9 letters]
- Folder 6 Letters from Elias Magoon to Matthew Vassar, 1864 Oct-Nov [6 letters]
- Folder 7 Letters from Elias Magoon to Martin B. Anderson, 1838-1883 [Photocopies. Originals at the University of Rochester]
- Folder 8 Letters from Elias Magoon to others, 1860-1882 (Photocopies. Originals at the University of Rochester)
- Folder 9 Catalogue of the Art Gallery given to Cyrus Swan, 1864

- Folder 10 "Report of the Committee on the Art Gallery of Vassar Female College," 1864
- Folder 11 Reports of the Committee on the Art Gallery, 1864 Feb-Jun [2 reports]
- Folder 12 Elias Magoon autograph, undated
- Folder 13 Receipt from Appleton and Co. to Elias Magoon, 1858 Jun 8

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