

# Guide to the Joseph Southall archive

MSS 80



YCBA Library Court. Photograph by Richard Caspole, YCBA, 2016.

edited by Francis Lapka

2021

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<https://britishart.yale.edu/about-us/departments/rare-books-and-manuscripts>

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Yale Center for British Art, Rare Books and Manuscripts  
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1080 Chapel Street  
P. O. Box 208280  
New Haven, CT 06520-8280  
203-432-2814  
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**CALL NUMBER:** MSS 80

**CREATOR:** Southall, Joseph E.

**TITLE:** Joseph Southall archive

**DATES:** 1898-1910

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** .42 linear feet (1 box)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The collection comprises 14 autograph letters from Joseph Southall to Laurence Hodson; a catalog of paintings by Southall; and three additional lists of works by Southall.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/ycba.mss.0080>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use on site, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/ycba.mss.0080>.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.      box  
f.      folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Yale Center for British Art, Paul Mellon Fund

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

The collection is the physical property of the Yale Center for British Art. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the Curator of Rare Books and Manuscripts.

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## Preferred Citation

Joseph Southall archive, Yale Center for British Art, Paul Mellon Fund

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## Biographical / Historical

Joseph Southall (1861-1944), painter and pacifist, was a key member of the Birmingham School of artists and an adherent of the arts and crafts movement. In 1901, he was a co-founder of the Society of Painters in Tempera.

Laurence William Hodson (1864-1933), of Compton Hall, Wolverhampton, was a brewer, art collector, and philanthropist. He was chairman of the Wolverhampton Art and Industrial Exhibition of 1902, and supporter of the Guild of Handicraft.

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## Scope and Contents

The collection comprises 14 autograph letters from Joseph Southall to Laurence Hodson; a catalog of paintings by Southall; and three additional lists of works by Southall. The correspondence reveals a growing friendship between Southall and Hodson and a shared desire to see the Birmingham Group of artists receive greater recognition beyond the West Midlands. This ambition is noted in 1908 letter concerning an exhibition in London (folder 12): "... folks see a little of what we are driving at and what the effect of decorative art might be ... For the first time our Birmingham work has been put together without jarring elements to disturb it."

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## Arrangement

The collection is arranged into two series: I. Correspondence; II. Catalog and lists. The letters are arranged chronologically.

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## Collection Contents

### Correspondence

b. 1, f. 1	Joseph Southall letter to Laurence Hodson <i>1 folded sheet</i>  Southall writes that he been told by the New Gallery of Hodson's purchase of Beauty at the Fountain (now at the Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum).  Genres / Formats: Correspondence	1898 May 10
b. 1, f. 2	Joseph Southall letter to Laurence Hodson <i>1 folded sheet</i>  Southall asks Hodson to come for a cup of tea and look at his work along with Gaskin.  Genres / Formats: Correspondence	1899 October 11
b. 1, f. 3	Joseph Southall letter to Laurence Hodson <i>1 folded sheet</i>  Southall writes to confirm a meeting time and that Gaskin will be joining them.  Genres / Formats: Correspondence	1899 October 13
b. 1, f. 4	Joseph Southall letter to Laurence Hodson <i>1 folded sheet + 1 envelope</i>  Southall hopes that a mirror has safely made it to Hodson, thanks him for purchasing his work and promises he will send a packet of drawings as well.  Genres / Formats: Correspondence	1899 October 27
b. 1, f. 5	Joseph Southall letter to Laurence Hodson <i>1 folded sheet + 1 envelope</i>  Southall writes that he has received a cheque from Hobson and thanks him for purchasing the mirror after it had been rejected by the Arts and Crafts group.  Genres / Formats: Correspondence	1899 November 27
b. 1, f. 6	Joseph Southall letter to Laurence Hodson <i>1 folded sheet</i>  Southall sends a gift of a painted box to Hodson.  Genres / Formats: Correspondence	1899 December 27

b. 1, f. 7	Joseph Southall letter to Laurence Hodson <i>1 folded sheet + 1 envelope</i>  Southall suggests times in which Hodson can come to see him and mentions an exhibition of Legros drawings he had enjoyed.  Genres / Formats: Correspondence	1901 March 4
b. 1, f. 8	Joseph Southall letter to Laurence Hodson <i>1 folded sheet + 1 envelope</i>  Southall writes about an exhibition at the New Gallery, in which he has been asked to take part. He requests that Hodson lend the Mirror and Beauty at the Fountain for it and asks for discretion regarding this information.  Genres / Formats: Correspondence	1901 March 8
b. 1, f. 9	Joseph Southall letter to Laurence Hodson <i>1 folded sheet + 1 envelope</i>  Southall suggests an exhibition of Birmingham work to be displayed in London.  Genres / Formats: Correspondence	1907 February 19
b. 1, f. 10	Joseph Southall letter to Laurence Hodson <i>1 folded sheet</i>  Southall writes to tell Hodson he will not need the Mirror or Beauty at the Fountain for an exhibition he will be a part of in London but says he will send Hodson a private viewing ticket.  Genres / Formats: Correspondence	1907 November 23
b. 1, f. 11	Joseph Southall letter to Laurence Hodson <i>1 folded sheet + 1 envelope + 1 photograph</i>  Southall sends Hodson a photograph of his watercolour "The Schooner" in celebration of the New Year and thanks him for offering to lend The Mirror for an exhibition although it was not used in the end.  Genres / Formats: Correspondence	1907 December 31
b. 1, f. 12	Joseph Southall letter to Laurence Hodson <i>1 folded sheet + 1 envelope</i>  Southall discusses frescoes and how he wished he had done more and continues on to discuss the success of the London show and its significance in exposing Birmingham work.  Genres / Formats: Correspondence	1908 January 8

b. 1, f. 13	Joseph Southall letter to Laurence Hodson <i>1 folded sheet + 1 envelope</i> Southall tells Hodson about a one-man show he is doing in Paris and asks if Hodson would lend "Beauty at the Fountain" to be in the show.  Genres / Formats: Correspondence	1910 February 20
b. 1, f. 14	Joseph Southall letter to Laurence Hodson <i>1 folded sheet + 1 envelope</i> Southall recommends that Hodson use a silk cloth to remove mold from tempera paintings, speaks of Mrs. Hodson's health and comments on the state of art sales in London.  Genres / Formats: Correspondence	1910 February 24

## Catalog and lists

b. 1, f. 15	Catalog of paintings by Joseph Southall, compiled by Hodson <i>34 pages</i>  Genres / Formats: Catalogs	circa 1900
b. 1, f. 16	List of drawings in cut mounts <i>1 sheet + 1 envelope</i>  Genres / Formats: Inventories	circa 1900
b. 1, f. 17	List of small drawings in white mounts <i>1 sheet</i>  Genres / Formats: Inventories	1899
b. 1, f. 18	List of drawings by Joseph Southall <i>1 sheet</i>  Genres / Formats: Inventories	circa 1900



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## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### Subjects

Art, British -- England -- Birmingham  
Art -- Collectors and collecting  
Art patronage  
Arts and crafts movement  
Mural painting and decoration  
Painters -- Great Britain  
Painting, British  
Tempera painting

### Genres / Formats

Catalogs  
Correspondence  
Inventories

### Names

Gaskin, Arthur, 1862-1928  
Hodson, Laurence W., 1864-1933  
Southall, Joseph E.

### Corporate Body

New Gallery (London, England)

### Contributors

Southall, Joseph E.  
Hodson, Laurence W., 1864-1933