

**Letters of Sir  
Lawrence  
Alma-Tadema**

**Reference:  
ATL**

## Letters of Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema

ATL

Letters of Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema

1874-1912

Correspondence mainly to Sir George Henschel [1850-1934, singer and conductor] about the Royal Academy and social affairs, 1877-1912. With 14 letters to Mr and Mrs George Boughton (dating from 1872-1901) and 2 letters to A. J. Hipkins (1870s). The collection includes 4 letters written by Alma-Tadema's second wife Laura [1852-1909, painter], and a few of the letters have been added to or signed by Laura, or Alma-Tadema's daughter, Anna [1867-1943, artist].

**Administrative history:** Lawrence Alma-Tadema was born in Friesland in the Netherlands in 1836. He was trained in Antwerp and came into contact with Baron Henri Ley (1815-1869), a painter of sixteenth century Flemish historical subjects and Louis de Taeye (1822-1890) a painter and professor of archaeology at the Antwerp Academy. Following his first marriage to Marie Pauline Gressin Dumoulin de Boisgirard in 1863, he visited Italy and, influenced by the archaeological remains he saw in Florence, Rome, Naples and Pompeii, he developed a life long interest in classical archaeology and architecture. He began to acquire a reputation as a painter of historical subjects, particularly of Greek and Roman antiquity. Between 1865 and 1870, he lived in Brussels but then moved to London. He was remarried in 1871, to Laura Epps, a former pupil, who also practised as an artist. He was a very prolific painter, producing more than 400 paintings in his lifetime, and his pictures sold well. His success, popularity and wealth continued to grow and he regularly exhibited at the Royal Academy, becoming an Associate Member in 1876 and a full member in 1879. He was knighted in 1899, awarded the Order of Merit in 1905 and the Royal Institute of British Architects' Gold Medal in 1906. He was buried in St Paul's Cathedral in 1912.

Reference: University of Birmingham, Special Collections Department, Online Archive Catalogue. Accessed May 2002.

130 letters

Access: Open

**Access conditions:** Access to all registered

## Letters of Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema

researchers

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**Language:** EnglishGermanItalian

**Creator name:** Alma-Tadema, Sir, Lawrence, 1836-1912, painter of historical subjects

**Acquisition:** These letters were purchased and their acquisition is noted in the Librarian's annual report for 1954/55.

**Related material:** University of Birmingham Information Services, Special Collections Department also holds the following collections: Letters Additional of Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema (reference: ATLAdd) and the photographic archive of Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema (which also includes drawings, prints and tracings) (reference: AT).

**Publication notes:** This collection, together with other holdings of Alma-Tadema materials, were micropublished by IDC Publishers in 1998 as a microform collection with an accompanying guide.

ATL/1	Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel	1877
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Written from Townshend House, North Gate, Regents Park, N.W., dated 10 October. Alma-Tadema refers to his painting of Cleopatra.

1 item

Access: Open

**Language:** German

ATL/2	Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel	1879
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Written from Townshend House, North Gate,

## Letters of Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema

Regents Park, N.W., dated 2 August.

1 item

Access: Open

**Language:** German

ATL/3 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1877

Written from Townshend House, North Gate, Regents Park, N.W., dated 14 March. With two drawings in the text.

1 item

Access: Open

**Language:** German

ATL/4 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1881

Written from Townshend House, North Gate, Regents Park, N.W., dated 18 February. Alma-Tadema wishes Henschel a happy birthday. He writes that he is working but hampered by bad light and toothache. He sends brief news of his family and refers to Schlessinger's death. Signed also by Laura, Laurence and Anna Alma-Tadema.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/5 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1881

Written from Townshend House, North Gate, Regents Park, N.W., dated 12 September. Alma-Tadema regrets missing a call from Mrs Henschel and hopes to see the Henschels before they leave. He adds that Henschel's portrait has arrived and asks what he should do with it.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/6 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1882

## Letters of Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema

Henschel

Written from Townshend House, North Gate, Regents Park, N.W., dated 30 March. Alma-Tadema thanks Henschel for his letter, reflecting: '[...] the wish to live a little more amongst ones brethren must weigh heavy sometimes [...] a beloved wife & success is all one can wish for the rest one arranges as well as one can [...]'. He asks if Henschel saw an exhibit in Boston and advises him to meet various people in New York: the Millets, Mr Abbey, art collector Mr Vanderbilt, and Mr Hank, proprietor of the Windsor Hotel, for whom he is painting Anthony and Cleopatra. He thanks Henschel for sending a portrait of Wilde, commenting: 'I too wonder what the London people will do with him when he returns'. He writes: 'My work seems to become more & more difficult perhaps I want it more complete'. He promises to send photos of his latest works. He has not had time to sit for his portrait. He asks if he can exhibit Henschel's portrait in Paris.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/7

Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel

1882

Written from Townshend House, North Gate, Regents Park, N.W., dated 3 May. Alma-Tadema lists the paintings which will be exhibited in Paris with Henschel's portrait, including his latest - a mother kissing her child before leaving for the theatre - which he describes more fully. He is glad to hear that Henschel has found a nice house and is composing for his own orchestra, which he regrets he will be unable to see.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/8

Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel

1882

Written from Townshend House, North Gate, Regents Park, N.W., dated 31 December. Alma-Tadema sends New Year greetings and informs Henschel that Barnay is in New York. He writes

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about the exhibiton of his works at the Grosvenor Gallery; whilst he regrets that several paintings from the USA had to be omitted due to high customs duty he is happy with the overall result. He sends personal news, writes about the weather, and writes of Henschel's high reputation.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/9 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1883

Written from Naples, dated 16 May. Alma-Tadema welcomes the Henschels to England. He regrets that he is not there to meet them but writes about the pleasures of being in Italy and looks forward to seeing them on his return.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/10 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1883

Written from Naples, dated 10 June. Alma-Tadema outlines his route back to London where he hopes to see the Henschels. He hopes to hear Henschel's concerto at the Richter concert. He writes that the return to London will be hard for his wife who will have to instruct new servants.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/11 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1885

Written from 17 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W., dated 6 November. Alma-Tadema thanks Henschel for drawing some tiles: 'I appreciate your kindness in helping to adorn my house and make it a happy home'.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/12 Postcard from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1885

## Letters of Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema

Henschel

Dated 9 June. Alma-Tadema tells Henschel where he buys his paints.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/13 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1885

Written from 17 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W., dated 20 October. Alma-Tadema sends a picture of a singing lesson taken from a pot in the museum of Leyden, which he think Henschel might like as a 'sort of trademark' (enclosure not included).

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/14 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1886

Written from 17 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W., dated 20 March.

1 item

Access: Open

**Language:** German

ATL/15 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1886

Written from 17 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W., dated 3 April. Alma-Tadema sends his charges for portraits.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/16 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1886

Written from 17 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W., dated 18 November. Alma-Tadema congratulates Henschel on his concerto and thanks

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him for the gift of a Bible.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/17 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1887

Dated 5 October. Alma-Tadema writes that he was sorry to find that the Henschels were out when he and his wife called. He sends a pot as a gift and invites Henschel to dinner.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/18 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1891

Written from 17 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W., dated 19 February. Alma-Tadema writes of the 'delightful' birthday party at Henschel's house. He adds personal news and writes that he is making slow progress with his painting.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/19 Postcard from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1891

Written from Cologne, dated 20 May. Alma-Tadema writes about visiting the cathedral where the bones of Karl der Grosse are buried. He writes that he has caught a cold, which 'may account for my not having been so jolly in Paris' and adds: 'Let us have another go someday & you will like me the better for it'.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/20 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1891

Written from 17 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W., dated 12 August. Alma-Tadema regrets that Henschel could not visit before leaving for Oxford



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and asks after the health of Mr Grosse.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/21 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to Mrs [Lilian June] Henschel 1894

Written from 17 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W., dated 27 May. Alma-Tadema regrets that he could not attend Henschel's musical party with his wife and daughter Anna. He writes that it was a pleasure he had to sacrifice in service of his art, with which he made good progress.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/22 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1894

Written from 17 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W., dated 18 October. Alma-Tadema writes that he is unable to see Henschel off tomorrow as he must finish his painting 'Past & Present Generations'. He wishes Henschel success in Glasgow. He is unable to receive Henschel's friend Rottenburg when he visits London as he will be away.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/23 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1894

Written from 17 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W., dated 30 December. Alma-Tadema sends best wishes for Mrs Henschel's journey to the continent. He is sorry to hear about Henschel's troubles and hopes he will find success with Chappell.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/24 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to the 1895

## Letters of Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema

Henschels

Written from 17 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W., dated 11 January. Alma-Tadema thanks the Henschels for their telegram. He sends family news and writes about the success of a recent party, regretting that the Henschels were not there.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/25 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1895

Written from 17 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W., dated 12 January. Alma-Tadema writes about his birthday and sends thanks for the present and telegram received. He wishes Henschel success with his new business arrangements.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/26 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1895

Written from 17 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W., dated 16 January. Alma-Tadema asks for Mrs Henschel's address so that he can send a wire on her birthday.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/27 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1895

Written from 17 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W., dated 28 January. Alma-Tadema thanks Henschel for his letter of condolence on the death of Lord Leighton [1830-1896, painter]. He congratulates Mrs Henschel on her success in Vienna.

1 item

Access: Open

## Letters of Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema

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|--------|--|------|
| ATL/28 | Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel  | 1895 |
|        | <p>Written from 17 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W., dated 6 February. Alma-Tadema opens the letter referring to an unspecified object: 'I suppose it was on the arrival home that the prodigal son had his ears charred. I sent it on to Burne Jones who I trust will enjoy it'. He is looking forward to a seeing a concert and going to the Garrick, and hopes to arrange a dinner with the Henschels. He closes by saying that he has been busy working.</p> <p>1 item</p> <p>Access: Open</p> |      |
| ATL/29 | Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel  | 1895 |
|        | <p>Written from 17 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W., dated 17 February. Alma-Tadema wishes Henschel a happy birthday. Written on the reverse of a letter from Laura Alma-Tadema to Henschel, in which she sends birthday greetings and looks forward to the Henschels' return.</p> <p>1 item</p> <p>Access: Open</p>   |      |
| ATL/30 | Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel  | 1895 |
|        | <p>Written from 17 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W., dated 20 March. Alma-Tadema asks Henschel to hear Jacques Bruske, a singer who wants to settle in London who has been sent to him by Mrs Van Essen of Amsterdam.</p> <p>1 item</p> <p>Access: Open</p>  |      |
| ATL/31 | Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel  | 1895 |
|        | <p>Written from 17 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W., dated 20 March. Alma-Tadema writes that he was tired and 'overwrought' the previous evening and worries he may not have been</p>  |      |

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sufficiently polite to Mrs Henschel.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/32 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1895

Written from 17 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W., dated 30 March. Alma-Tadema sends a list of Council members, adding that there are normally 'one or two musical invites'.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/33 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1895

Written from Russell House, Broadway, Worcestershire, dated 28 June, accepting an invitation to dinner.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/34 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1895

Written from 17 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W., dated 7 July. Alma-Tadema writes that he was prevented from seeing Henschel this afternoon because he had to work (on a painting of flowers) and then found that the lock on his studio was broken, which caused him a lot of trouble. He regrets missing 'the last opportunity I had to hear music in your place before you start for the north'.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/35 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1895

Written from 17 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W., dated 31 October. Alma-Tadema regrets that he will not be involved with Sir Henry Irving's production of Julius Caesar at the Lyceum but

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complains that Irving asked him to 'imitate Gerome's pictures amongst my scenes as if I could be brought to copy another'. He goes on to say that only an artist can understand and assess an artist's work and concludes: 'I feel it very much that Irving should belong to those who don't know & don't respect'.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/36 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1895

Written from 17 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W., dated 4 November, accepting an invitation to visit.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/37 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1895

Written from 17 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W., dated 9 November. Alma-Tadema writes that he has been unwell all week and must miss the 'smoking party' planned for the evening.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/38 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1895

Written from 17 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W., dated 15 November. Alma-Tadema tells Henschel: 'let them have the Cleopatra & the study in the Villa Borghese'. He looks forward to seeing Henschel tomorrow night.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/39 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1895

Written from 17 Grove End Road, St John's Wood,

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N.W., dated 28 November. Alma-Tadema cannot meet Henschel the following night as he is attending the Woodengravers dinner, where he must propose the toast to literature.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/40 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1895

Written from 17 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W., dated 21 December. Alma-Tadema writes that he signed 300 copies of a photograph issued by the Berlin Photographic Co. He is currently 'at daggers drawn' with the company so cannot ask them for any favours.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/41 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1897

Written from 17 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W., dated 28 January. Alma-Tadema is looking forward to Henschel's visit.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/42 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1897

Written from 17 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W., dated 5 May. Alma-Tadema invites Henschel to call the next day and asks for advice about the ?Kneisels.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/43 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1897

Written from 17 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W., dated 3 June. Alma-Tadema writes to Henschel about their plans to dine and attend a

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military display.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/44 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1897

Written from 17 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W., dated 6 June. Alma-Tadema writes that he made 'a great mistake with construction of the window' in his painting and had to re-do the work. He is sorry to have missed the evening of music and sends his apologies to the Kneisels.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/45 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1897

Written from 17 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W., dated 27 June. Alma-Tadema encloses a contribution to Henschel's organ fund. He adds that his wife enjoyed a trip to Walton with Lady Lewis and that his painting is progressing well.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/46 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to the Henschels 1897

Written from 17 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W., dated 20 July. Alma-Tadema thanks the Henschels for their 'delightful singing', adding: 'How we will miss you all'.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/47 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1897

Written from 17 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W., dated 6 November. Alma-Tadema writes that he and his family miss the Henschels, who are in America. He praises the Kneisel quartet. He says

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that Henschel is with them at every meal as his portrait hangs in their dining room. He writes that he has been able to buy some more Chambertin wine. He writes about visiting the Millets, sends news of various friends and wishes the Henschels well in America.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/48 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1890

Written from 17 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W., dated 25 April. Alma-Tadema hopes to be at St James's Palace before two and home by three and asks if that suits Henschel.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/49 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1890

Written from 17 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W., dated 12 July. Alma-Tadema writes that he is awaiting permission to repair damage to the frame of a portrait and tells Henschel to be patient.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/50 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1890

Written from 17 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W., dated 16 October. Alma-Tadema thanks Henschel for a musical evening. He writes that his daughter Laurence no longer needs bandages and is walking again.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/51 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1892

Written from 17 Grove End Road, St John's Wood,



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N.W., dated 2 January. Alma-Tadema returns an unspecified item borrowed from Henschel on a foggy night and sends his best wishes to the Henschel family.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/52 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1892

Written from 17 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W., dated 11 January, thanking Henschel for birthday greetings.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/53 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to the Henschels 1894

Written from 17 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W., dated 9 May. Alma-Tadema regrets that he did not see the Henschels before they left.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/54 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1894

Written from 17 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W., dated 18 May. Alma-Tadema tells Henschel how much he enjoyed the play last night.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/55 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to the Henschels 1894

Written from 17 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W., dated 29 June. Alma-Tadema is sorry to hear about 'poor Henschel's trouble' and promises to visit the following night.

1 item

## Letters of Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema

Access: Open

ATL/56 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1894

Written from Hotel Victoria, Wiesbaden, dated 23 August. Alma-Tadema writes about his wife's medical treatment in Wiesbaden. He describes the town as very picturesque and says it looks like scenery: 'far from what we painters admire & love to see'. He writes about trouble with the post. He makes reference to his good friendship with the Henschels and reassures them that he was only joking that Mrs Henschel had hurt his feelings.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/57 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1894

Written from Kissingen dated 16 August. Alma-Tadema thanks Henschel for his letter but jokes that Mrs Henschel left him out of her greetings. He writes about his wife's state of health, and says that they cannot accept the Henschel's invitation because they do not know how much more treatment she will need. He writes: 'It is a frightful loss of time for me to hang about in this unhealthy sultry half civilized spot where the damp hangs about & air is scarce [...] every idea being darkened by the thought of the sufferings of a dear wife'. He complains about the atmosphere, bed linen, food, drink, and cigars and wishes to be at home where he is able to work. However he enjoyed seeing friends at a wedding. He mentions a picture being reproduced.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/58 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1894

Written from 17 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W., dated 9 October. Alma-Tadema writes that Henschel is right not to move house. He says that the house is suited to Henschel's musical evenings which are 'a centre of attraction' for music-lovers

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and that it is important for Henschel to have a base when he is travelling so much.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/59 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1895

Written from 17 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W., dated 22 January. Alma-Tadema returns a press-cutting with thanks. He questions Lenbach's [1836-1904, painter] claim that Count Schack [1815-1894, poet, literary historian, art collector] made a mistake about a painting, writing that Schack understood art and left his country 'the finest modern gallery of German art'.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/60 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to the Henschels 1895

Written from 17 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W., dated 21 March. Alma-Tadema encloses a paper. He writes that he is going to an important meeting about copyright tomorrow.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/61 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1895

Written from 17 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W., dated 27 October. Alma-Tadema thanks Henschel for news about Brahms. He did not attend the Kinsmen dinner as he was at home with his daughter Laurence, who will be away for several months.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/62 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1895

## Letters of Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema

Written from 17 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W., dated 19 December. Alma-Tadema writes that they will be glad to have Henschel's portrait again. He invites Henschel to be his guest at the St John's Wood Arts Club supper.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/63 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1897

Written from 17 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W., dated 12 January. Alma-Tadema will do his best to see Henschel on 31st.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/64 Letter from Lawrence and Laura Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1897

Written from 17 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W., dated 18 February. Wishing Henschel a happy birthday.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/65 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1897

Written from 17 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W., dated 8 September. Alma-Tadema asks Henschel about his journey to America. He sends the latest 'spoonerism'. He says that his work has been affected by the foggy weather. He writes that his wife and Anna have gone to Scotland and sends news of their trip. He writes that Henschel's portrait hangs in his dining room with a picture of his wife. He plans to attend Cumings Carr's new melodrama at the Adelphi and Robertson's Hamlet at the Lyceum. He sends news of family and friends. He writes about the Donizetti festival which he is unable to attend due to work. He recommends exhibitions in the US, commenting that Abbey's Hamlet is much improved. He wishes Henschel success.

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1 item

Access: Open

ATL/66 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1899

Written from 17 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W., dated 12 January. Alma-Tadema describes his birthday celebrations, which involved 60 guests, a play, a trip to an inn, supper, and a party with spanish dances. He writes that Frank has told them much about his travels in 'the far & hot regions' and is now hard at work; Alma-Tadema intends to 'settle down to the paint also'. Their trip to the country did not improve their health.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/67 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to [George Henschel] 1899

Written from 17 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W., dated 8 June.

1 item

Access: Open

**Language:** German

ATL/68 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to [George Henschel] 1899

Written from Townshend House, North Gate, Regents Park, N.W., dated 19 September.

1 item

Access: Open

**Language:** German

ATL/69 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1899

Written from 17 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W., dated 31 December. Alma-Tadema is sorry to have missed Henschel's visit; he was visiting Princess Louisa to ask her to open the Exhibition

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War Fund and his wife and daughters were also out. He returns best wishes for the new year.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/70 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1900

Written from 17 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W., dated 27 January. Alma-Tadema writes favourably of a sculptor named George Simons and asks: 'Could you not be persuaded to vote for him next Tuesday?'

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/71 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to the Henschels 1900

Written from 17 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W., dated 19 June. Sending thanks for dinner and musical entertainment.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/72 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1901

Written from 17 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W., dated 18 January. Alma-Tadema hopes Mrs Henschel received the wire sent on her birthday. He writes that his birthday went well; he received a portrait of the Princess of Wales. He sends news of family and friends, writing that Anna is prevented from painting due to trouble with her eyes. He is going to Broadway tomorrow where his wife will join him next week. He has just finished a painting which has taken two years' work and he needs to finish Coriolanus scenery for Irving, so has not had time to paint a picture for Agnew's exhibition.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/73 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George 1901

## Letters of Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema

Henschel

Written from 17 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W., dated 1 March. Alma-Tadema is sorry that his reply to Henschel never arrived. He asks how the Henschels are faring 'in the land of the sun & tall trees'. He continues the letter on 3 March, writing that his wife's state of health is now improving after three weeks' illness, but she will not be able to exhibit this year. Anna's eyes are a little better and she is able to paint again. He dined at the Carrs where he met Sargeant. He sends news of the Carrs and Millets and enquires about other friends.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/74      Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel      1901

Written from 17 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W., dated 30 March. Alma-Tadema wishes the Henschels a safe crossing. He writes about the death of Queen Victoria, noting that the Royal Academy banquet has been cancelled due to national mourning, and mentions the new King. He writes about his wife's state of health, concerns about her eyes, and disappointment at not being able to paint and exhibit.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/75      Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel      1900

Written from 47 via Lombardia, Rome, dated 15 April. Alma-Tadema declines an opportunity to buy a book. He was delighted to hear about the success of the Henschels' tour. He mentions friends also staying in Rome and the bad weather they have had.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/76      Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George      ?1880

## Letters of Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema

Henschel

Written from Townshend House, North Gate, Regents Park, N.W., dated 31 September.

1 item

Access: Open

**Language:** German

ATL/77 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1900

Written from 17 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W., dated 18 August. Alma-Tadema thanks Henschel for sending congratulations on his success in Paris. He cannot join his wife and daughter Anna in Yorkshire as he has to finish the holly hocks and oleanders in his paintings. He writes that Laurence has hurt her hand in a guillotine window. He comments: 'Pictures as difficult as ever. Weather beautiful so no excuse for not painting well'.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/78 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1901

Written from 17 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W., dated 18 February. Alma-Tadema sends birthday greetings. He sends condolences on the death of Henschel's mother, and writes that they think of the Henschels often and hope all is going well in America. He writes that they stayed at Frank Millet's but had to hurry home as his wife was unwell. His wife hopes to paint a picture for the Royal Academy and Anna is painting good work. He describes the weather and tells Henschel that the service for Queen Wilhelmina was china not silver. With a short message of condolence from Laura Alma-Tadema.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/79 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George 1902



## Letters of Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema

Henschel

Written from 17 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W., dated 16 January. Alma-Tadema regrets that he cannot meet Henschel because he has a cold.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/80 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1903

Written from 34 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W., dated 25 August. Alma-Tadema regrets that he cannot visit the Henschels because he will be busy painting in September and 'on duty' at the Royal Academy in October. In addition his wife will be returning next Monday and will want time at home to work on her painting, and his daughters and a guest are expected to arrive soon. He will therefore 'be deprived of the happiness of making the acquaintance of the Eldorado'.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/81 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel ?1884

Written from Townshend House, North Gate, Regents Park, N.W., dated 26 August. Alma-Tadema is sorry he did not write but had no idea that Henschel was in Europe. He writes that he is overworked, especially as he is planning extensions to his new house and trying to save his decorations from the old house. He asks about the Henschels travels and work. He doesn't know any landscape painters in London who would be willing to take on a pupil and recommends that the pupil look for a tutor outside England.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/82 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1904

Written from Royal Pavilion Hotel, Folkestone, dated 7 October. Alma-Tadema expresses his

## Letters of Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema

disappointment at being in Folkestone rather than visiting the Henschels. He describes his recovery from illness, writing that he wishes to paint but is not able to work yet. He continues the letter on the 15 October, writing that his trip to Allt-na-Criche has been deferred to next autumn. He is busy 'obeying wife & daughter & Doctors' and is sorry he has not written sooner. His daughter Anna has visited. He describes the weather and scenery and regrets that he is not allowed to paint. He complains about 'second rate little orchestras' in hotels.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/83 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel ?1885

Written from 10 Park Street, Windsor, dated 9 October. Alma-Tadema writes that his only attempt to varnish a picture was a 'failure' so he dare not try again. He cannot send the Borgese sketch because it is stored at Tilbury's.

The letter appears to be dated 1885 but the paper handlist states 1905

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/84 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to the Henschels 1908

Written from 34 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W. dated 15 January. He thanks the Henschels for sending birthday greetings and writes about his birthday meal. He recalls happy times with the Henschels.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/85 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1909

Written from 34 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W. dated 16 May. Alma-Tadema encloses information about an unspecified group which

## Letters of Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema

Henschel might join.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/86 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1909

Written from 34 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W. dated 17 May. Sending an enclosure previously forgotten.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/87 Mourning card from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1909

Printed mourning card from 'Sir Lawrence and the Misses Alma-Tadema' sent from 34 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W. dated 21 August. With handwritten note thanking Henschel for his visit following the death of his wife, Laura.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/88 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to the Henschels 1909

Written from 34 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W. dated 2 September. Alma-Tadema thanks the Henschels for sending a wreath to decorate his wife's portrait. He writes about his family's grief and the difficult task of sorting his wife's things.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/89 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to the Henschels 1910

Written from 34 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W. dated 10 February. Alma-Tadema writes that he cannot come to lunch next Sunday as he will be spending the afternoon with Anna. He is unable to accept an invitation to dinner as he is attending a dinner of the Japanese British Exhibition

## Letters of Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema

Committee. He also has appointments with the St John's Wood Arts Club and the staff and students of the Royal College of Art and suggests meeting on Henschel's birthday.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/90 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1910

Written from 34 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W. dated 8 April. Alma-Tadema invites Henschel to tea to meet the Viottas of the Hague, who have a business proposal.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/91 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1910

Written from 34 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W. dated 18 April. Alma-Tadema asks to borrow a painting by Laura Alma-Tadema which is in Henschel's possession. He sends brief details of exhibition [memorial exhibition of Laura Alma-Tadema's work, May 1910, at the Fine Art Society, London].

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/92 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1910

Written from 34 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W. dated 27 April. Alma-Tadema arranges to send Henschel a ticket through the Royal Academy.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/93 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1910

Written from 34 Grove End Road, St John's Wood,

## Letters of Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema

N.W. dated 22 April. Alma-Tadema thanks Henschel for sending paintings including 'the birthday'.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/94 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1910

Written from 34 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W. dated 6 June. Alma-Tadema thanks Henschel for lending paintings to the Laura Alma-Tadema memorial exhibition. He reports that the exhibition was a success and he sold £800 worth of sketches for the benefit of the Artists' General Benevolent Institution. He writes that the tree in his picture is not an almond tree but a Judas tree which grew in the villa Borghese. He and Anna enjoyed Wolfram's show and he intends to sit for him.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/95 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to the Henschels 1909

Written from 34 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W. dated 24 December. Alma-Tadema thanks the Henschels for their letter and writes that Anna is getting better.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/96 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1910

Written from 34 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W. dated 28 October. Alma-Tadema invites Henschel to lunch or dinner.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/97 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George 1911

## Letters of Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema

Henschel

Written from 34 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W. dated 18 February. Alma-Tadema sends Henschel a glass from the late Laura Alma-Tadema's studio as a birthday present. With message from Anna Alma-Tadema on the reverse, in which she joins her father in sending the gift with best wishes, and adds: 'We are so pleased about Wolfram's order!'

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/98 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1911

Written from 34 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W. dated 2 April. Alma-Tadema encloses a telegraph which he could not send as the office was closed, referring to a night spent at home due to illness. With enclosure

2 items

Access: Open

ATL/99 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1911

Written from 34 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W. dated 2 April. Alma-Tadema regrets that he cannot come to dinner due to illness.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/100 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1911

Written from 34 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W. dated 19 July. Alma-Tadema hopes that Henschel will not object to his having had a photograph taken of the Orchardson bust at 62 Acacia Road, to appear on a circular asking for donations towards a memorial to Sir William.

1 item

## Letters of Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema

Access: Open

ATL/101 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1911

Written from 34 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W. dated 30 November. Alma-Tadema is pleased that Henschel has visited his birthplace, Dronrijp, and describes what he remembers of it. He is glad to hear of Henschel's success despite a 'very trying time' and writes about a visit from Henschel's wife. He hopes to be able to work again soon, writing that he has not been able to paint for three months.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/102 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1911

Written from 34 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W. dated 1 December. Alma-Tadema thanks Henschel 'for the dear concert you gave me this afternoon'.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/103 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1911

Written from 34 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W. dated 17 December. Alma-Tadema is sorry to have missed Henschel's visit. Referring to his illness, he writes: 'I am more than ever convinced that the whole of it is nerves and I am sure I am heartily sick of it'. He is glad to be allowed the occasional cigar and adds that Anna has sung to him to cheer him up. He mentions a visit from Mr and Mrs Paderewski, who brought grapes and greetings from his daughter Laurence, who has left for ?Warshaw. He closes with a riddle about Lloyd George.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/104 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to the 1911

## Letters of Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema

Henschels

Written from 34 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W. dated 24 December. Alma-Tadema regrets that he is unable to come out, and sends Christmas greetings.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/105 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1912

Written from 34 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W. dated 27 February. Alma-Tadema thanks Henschel for a gift. He is sorry to hear about Henschel's bad throat. He writes: 'The weather has been so fine & as we wanted some news about our dear sister who left us & who was buried this morning at 10.30 in ?Mentone we went Hampstead way basking in the sunshine & enjoyed it mightily [...]'. He writes about a visit from 'Mrs Georgina'.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/106 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1912

Written from 34 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W. dated 6 March. Alma-Tadema is sorry to hear that Henschel is unwell and urges him to take care. He writes that he is working very hard to finish a painting for the Royal Academy but promises to visit soon.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/107 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1912

Written from 34 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W. dated 10 May. Alma-Tadema writes that he has agreed to be a patron to ?Haste's farewell concert. He adds that he is going to the country next week on doctor's advice.



## Letters of Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema

- 1 item
- Access: Open
- ATL/108 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1912
- Written from Wiesbaden, dated 4 June. Alma-Tadema writes about his health: '[...] I am if anything worse since I followed the doctors advice to leave my house and comfort - nevermind I suppose I better be patient only one likes to profit by sacrifices'. He writes about attending a Brahms concert with his friend Lustner and Mrs Edward Speyer, at which his cousin Messchaert sang. He is glad to hear of Henschel's success and writes that he would love to visit but dare not make plans.
- 1 item
- Access: Open
- ATL/109 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema and family to [?] [Late 19th century]
- Undated letter written from Townshend House, North Gate, Regents Park, N.W., sending best wishes for the new year.
- 1 item
- Access: Open
- Language:** German
- ATL/110 Letter from [?Laura Alma-Tadema] to [?] [Late 19th-early 20th century]
- Undated letter written from Il bosco di San Giovanni, regretting that they cannot come this evening.
- 1 item
- Access: Open
- Language:** Italian
- ATL/111 Letter from Laura Alma-Tadema to [George Henschel] 1891
- Written from Redfold Farm, Pulborough, Sussex, dated 24 April. Alma-Tadema sends greetings to

## Letters of Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema

Henschel, his wife Lillian June and daughter Helen, and regrets that she is not in London to see them.

1 item

Access: Open

**Language:** German

ATL/112 Letter from Laura Alma-Tadema to George Henschel 1890

Written from Russell House, Broadway, Worcestershire, dated 27 December. Alma-Tadema thanks Henschel for dedicating his 'superlatively beautiful' book of songs to her and asks to hear the songs when they are all home again.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/113 Admission ticket to Lawrence Alma-Tadema's funeral 1912

St. Paul's Cathedral, 5 July 1912: 'Admit bearer to seat under dome'.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/114 Signed photograph of Lawrence and Laura Alma-Tadema [Early 20th century]

With handwritten message 'Welcome and best wishes for Xmas & the new year'. Signed by Lawrence and Laura Alma-Tadema.

Photograph by Lena Connell, 50 Grove End Road, N.W.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/115 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to [George] Boughton 1874

Written from Townshend House, North Gate, Regents Park, N.W., dated 8 March. Alma-Tadema

## Letters of Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema

invites Boughton [1833-1905, painter and illustrator] to the annual dinner of the Artists' General Benevolent Institution.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/116 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to [George] Boughton 1882

Written from Raby Castle, dated 20 September. Alma-Tadema sends condolences on the Boughtons' recent bereavement.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/117 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to [George] Boughton 1882

Written from Townshend House, North Gate, Regents Park, N.W., dated 9 October. Alma-Tadema invites Boughton [1833-1905, painter and illustrator] to visit and writes: 'Thanks for troubling about my Exh. that is just like you again always a good thought for another'.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/118 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to [George] Boughton 1883

Written from Townshend House, North Gate, Regents Park, N.W., dated 21 December. Alma-Tadema encloses letters and asks Boughton [1833-1905, painter and illustrator] to loan a picture for Newcastle.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/119 Letter from Laura Alma-Tadema to Mrs [Katherine] Boughton 1888

Written from 17 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W. dated 20 April. Alma-Tadema accepts an invitation to a party. She writes that she has been

## Letters of Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema

working. She hopes the Boughtons will come to see the Heckmann quartet next week.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/120 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to [George] Boughton 1888

Written from 17 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W. dated 18 December. Alma-Tadema invites Boughton [1833-1905, painter and illustrator] to dinner to meet Mr Schell [Francis Schell, 1834-1909, illustrator and lithographer] an artist from Philadelphia whom he describes as a great find of Abbey's.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/121 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to [George] Boughton 1888

Written from 17 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W. dated 20 December. Alma-Tadema is glad that Boughton [1833-1905, painter and illustrator] will come to meet Mr Schell [Francis Schell, 1834-1909, illustrator and lithographer] and makes arrangements for the dinner.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/122 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to [George] Boughton 1889

Written from 17 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W. dated 11 January. Alma-Tadema thanks Boughton [1833-1905, painter and illustrator] for forwarding books.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/123 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to Mrs [Katherine] Boughton 1894

Written from 17 Grove End Road, St John's Wood,

## Letters of Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema

N.W. dated 9 June. Alma-Tadema apologises for having missed the private view of [George] Boughton's work at the Fine Art Society.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/124 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to Mrs [Katherine] Boughton 1896

Written from 17 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W. dated 26 March. Alma-Tadema sends congratulations on her husband's [George Boughton, 1833-1905, painter and illustrator] election to the Royal Academy, writing: 'I know you will appreciate our choice at least as much as we do [...]'.  
The paper handlist gives the date 1898, but George Boughton became a member of the Royal Academy in 1896.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/125 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to [George] Boughton 1898

Written from 17 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W. dated 1 August. Alma-Tadema asks Boughton [1833-1905, painter and illustrator] to lend a picture for an exhibition.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/126 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to [George] Boughton 1898

Written from 17 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W. dated 4 July. Alma-Tadema regrets that Boughton [1833-1905, painter and illustrator] cannot attend a dinner in honour of Eaton.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/127 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to [George] Boughton 1899

## Letters of Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema

Boughton

Written from 17 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W. dated 6 June. Alma-Tadema thanks Boughton [1833-1905, painter and illustrator] for sending congratulations on his new honour [his knighthood].

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/128 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to [George] Boughton 1901

Written from 17 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, N.W. dated 19 January. Alma-Tadema asks Boughton [1833-1905, painter and illustrator] to employ Mrs Mottlaw as a sitter in the Royal Academy schools.

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/129 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to A. J. Hipkins 1879

Written from Townshend House, North Gate, Regents Park, N.W. dated 21 June. Alma-Tadema thanks Hipkins [1826-1903, writer on musical instruments] for sending congratulations on his election as an R.A. He looks forward to seeing Professor Kraus tomorrow and Hipkins next week for the Henschel set. With envelope

1 item

Access: Open

ATL/130 Letter from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to A. J. Hipkins 1876

Written from 107 Corso, 3o Piano, Rome, dated 27 January. Alma-Tadema thanks Hipkins [1826-1903, writer on musical instruments] for sending congratulations on his election as an A.R.A. He writes: 'I consider this step of the RAs a great event in my life. I feel officialy [sic] employed as an Englishman and am proud of it'.

## Letters of Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema

1 item

Access: Open