

**Letters to
John Smith,
art dealer**

**Reference:
MS138**

Letters to John Smith, art dealer

MS138

Letters to John Smith, art dealer

1837-[mid-19th
century]

Letters to John Smith [art dealer] of 'Mister Smith and Son', London, from various people including his son William. Letters relate to business and a legal dispute relating to the sale of a picture which the purchaser believed was from the collection of Sir Joshua Reynolds but was thought to be a copy.

Administrative history: John Smith (1781-1855) was an art dealer based in London. For around seventy years John Smith's firm acted as a leading London dealer. His customers included the Prince Regent (later George IV), the Duke of Wellington, Lords Bute, Lansdowne and Northwick, Sir Robert Peel, Sir Charles Bagot, Ralph Bernal and William Beckford, as well as members of the Baring, Hope and Rothschild banking families, and the firm dealt in works by such artists as Rembrandt, Vermeer and Rubens. Internal evidence indicates that Smith's home address was Turnham Green.

Sources: letters to John Smith, art dealer; Dutch and Flemish Art in Museums Worldwide website accessed 27 November 2014 from: <http://www.codart.nl/news/953/>

5 items

Access: Open

Access conditions: Access to all registered researchers.

Copyright: Permission to make any published use of any material from the collection must be sought in advance in writing from the Director of Special Collections. Identification of copyright holders of unpublished material is often difficult. Special Collections will assist where possible with identifying copyright owners, but responsibility for ensuring copyright clearance rests with the user of

Letters to John Smith, art dealer

the material.

Language: English

Creator name: Smith, John (1781-1855),
art dealer

Custodial history: Found in Barber Fine
Art Library, Apr 1998. The original
provenance of this deposit is unknown

Archival notes: Papers arranged and
described by Margaret Roper, November
2014, in compliance with General
International Standard Archival
Description (ISAD(G), second edition,
2000; and in-house cataloguing
guidelines.

MS138/1	Letter from William M. Smith to John Smith	1837
---------	---	------

Letter written from Paris, dated 13 June
1837. Letter to his father informing him of
the poor state of business and that he will
have 'little or nothing coming to his share'
for the last 12 months work. Includes a list
of the buyers for their goods and prices
paid for various lots.

1 item

Access: Open

MS138/2	Letter from R. Fletcher to John Smith	1838
---------	---------------------------------------	------

Letter dated 5 July 1838. Requests
advise on a legal matter. Fletcher bought
a picture believing it was part of the
collection of Sir Joshua [Reynolds] and
has since discovered that it is not but is a
copy and now objects to paying the for it.
He includes a sketch of the picture he
bought and details of how it differs from
the original. He requests advice from
John Smith on a lawyer he could
recommend.

1 item

Access: Open

Letters to John Smith, art dealer

- | | | |
|---------|---|--------------------|
| MS138/3 | Letter from [unknown] to John Smith | [mid-19th century] |
| | Fragment of draft of a letter undated. Legal advice on a dispute over the fee for the sale of a picture that was believed to be from the collection of Sir Joshua Reynolds but the buyer suspects that it was not part of Sir Joshua's collection. The writer advises that proof be sought on its provenance. The paper the letter is written on is a reused letter to Rev Mr Newbury of Finsbury Square from Sarah Hurney. | |
| | 1 item | |
| | Access: Open | |
| MS138/4 | Letter from T. Brind to John Smith | 1838 |
| | Letter dated 6 July 1838. List of wine which has been delivered to John Smith. | |
| | 1 item | |
| | Access: Open | |
| MS138/5 | Letter from Robert Hume to John Smith | 1844 |
| | Letter written from Bath, dated 14 May 1844. Writes to tell Smith that he will not visit as his father has died and the Duke and Duchess [likely to be the 10th Duke of Hamilton] have asked him to go through his father's papers. He was left no land in the will and his father is being buried near Bath. Hopes to see Smith if he goes to Holland. | |
| | 1 item | |
| | Access: Open | |