

# **Finding aid for the Gabriel Mourey letters received 1887-1913, bulk 1898-1906 900251**

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Description is in English

## Special Collections

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## Summary Information

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- Repository:** Special Collections
- Collector:** Mourey, Gabriel, 1865-1943
- Title:** Gabriel Mourey letters received
- ID:** 900251
- Dates:** 1887-1913 (bulk 1898-1906)
- Extent:** 51 items
- Request Materials:** Request access to the physical materials described in this inventory through the [catalog record](#) for this collection. Click here for the [access policy](#).
- Language:** French .
- Abstract:** The collection comprises 31 letters and postcards sent to the French art critic Gabriel Mourey by 9 correspondents, most of them Belgian artists. An additional 20 letters are from Emile Gallé.

### Preferred Citation

Gabriel Mourey letters received, 1887-1913, bulk 1898-1906, Research Library, The Getty Research Institute, Accession no. 900251.

<http://hdl.handle.net/10020/cifa900251>

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## Biographical/Historical Note

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French art critic, editor and prolific author in various genres, including prose, poetry and plays.

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## Scope and Content of Collection

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The collection comprises 31 letters and postcards sent to Gabriel Mourey by 9 correspondents, most of them Belgian artists. The topics include their work in progress, participation in exhibitions, professional organizations and events, autobiographic information, and grateful thoughts for Mourey's help or appreciation. The correspondents are Louis Abel-Truchet, Albert Baertsoen, Emile Claus, Maurice Denis, Henry de Groux, J.-K. Huysmans, Fernand Khnopff, and Theo van Rysselberghe. Another group of 20 letters from Emile Galle concern his artistic credo, his struggle to save the recently created Ecole de Nancy, and his activities during the last years of his life.

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## Arrangement note

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Arranged in two series: Series I. Letters received from various artists; Series II. Letters from Emile Gallé.

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## Administrative Information

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### Access

Open for use by qualified researchers.

### Publication Rights

Contact [Library Rights and Reproductions](#).

### Acquisition Information

Most of this collection was received in 1990. The Gallé letters were received in a separate acquisition in 1990; the Huysmans letter was received in 2000.

### Processing History

Processed by Onica Busuioceanu.

## Alternate Form Available

Photocopies of Emile Gallé's letters are available in repository.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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### Contributor(s)

- Abel-Truchet, Louis, 1857-1918
- Baertsoen, Albert, 1866-1922
- Claus, Emile, 1849-1924
- Denis, Maurice, 1870-1943
- Gallé, Emile, 1846-1904
- Groux, Henri de, 1867-1930
- Huysmans, J.-K. (Joris-Karl), 1848-1907
- Khnopff, Fernand, 1858-1921
- Rysselberghe, Théo van

### Subjects - Topics

- France -- Intellectual life -- 19th century
- Painters -- Belgium -- Correspondence
- Painters -- France -- Correspondence

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## Collection Inventory

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### Series I. Letters received from various artists, 1900-1951 31 items

*Scope and Contents note:*

Letters from artists to Mourey telling him about their work, exhibitions and other plans, and discussing writings about art. Some letters thank Mourey for his favorable reviews.

Title/Description	Containers	
Abel-Truchet, Louis, undated 2 letters	Box 1	Folder 1
<p><i>Scope and Contents note:</i>                      Thanks Mourey for his words of appreciation. Writes a sharp criticism of a Miss Beveridge who thinks that "beauty" is an American product.</p>		
Baertsoen, Albert, 1904, undated 3 letters	Box 1	Folder 1

*Scope and Contents note:*

Sends subscription money for Mourey's review *Les arts de la vie* [1904]. Thanks Mourey for Fierens-Gevaert's article about him and its excellent illustrations [190?]. Explains anxieties which made him withdraw his painting from the Libre esthétique exhibition (undated).

Claus, Emile, 1899, 1906 2 letters	Box 1	Folder 1
<p><i>Scope and Contents note:</i> Praises the "nouvelle société" and its elected president (1899 Mar. 25). Reminisces about people he met at the Salon, and the visit to Mourey's house "Le Verger" in St. Cloud (1906 May 14).</p>		
Denis Maurice, 1903, 1913, 1939, undated 9 items	Box 1	Folder 1
<p><i>Scope and Contents note:</i> 5 short letters related to the publication of Denis's work about two chapels in Vésinet arranged by Mourey (July- Aug. 1903). Busy after his trip to Italy, promises to write a short article (undated). Postcard with congratulations from Perros-Guirec (1913). 2 short letters arranging meetings with Mourey (undated). Clipping advertising Denis' book <i>Histoire de l'art</i> (Flammarion, 1939).</p>		
Groux, Henry de, 1893, 1904, 1951 6 items	Box 1	Folder 1
<p><i>Scope and Contents note:</i> Thanks Mourey for the "noble lines" he wrote about his painting "La tribu prophétique" [Les Bohémiens] (Paris, 1893 June 19). 4 letters from Marseille, where he lives in hiding after escaping from a madhouse near Florence, explaining the treacherous plot of his vengeful lover who put him there (Aug. 1904). Clipping with article of Louis Piérard: "Sur la tombe d'Henry de Groux" (<i>Le Monde</i>, 1951 Sep. 4).</p>		
Huysmans, J.-K, circa 1887 1 letters	Box 1	Folder 1
<p><i>Scope and Contents note:</i> Postpones a meeting because of Zola's close departure from Paris, and the last proofs of his book <i>En rade</i>, to be published by Stock next week [Apr. 1887?].</p>		
Khnopff, Fernand, 1898, undated 3 letters	Box 1	Folder 1
<p><i>Scope and Contents note:</i> Delighted with Mourey's appreciation of his works exhibited at the New Gallery in London (Bruxelles, 1898 June 7). Confirms the excellent reception by the Belgian public of Mourey's recent round of lectures (<i>Les arts de la vie et le règne de la laideur</i>, Bruxelles, 1898 Dec. 21). E.R. Menard has a big success at the Société des Beaux-Arts exhibition. He has nothing prepared for the London exhibitions (undated).</p>		
Rysselberghe, Theo van, 1900 2 letters	Box 1	Folder 1
<p><i>Scope and Contents note:</i> 2 short letters about his quest for an apartment with studio in St. Cloud (Paris, 1900 Dec. 14, and soon after). He inquires after subscriptions to the Rodin banquet (Paris, circa 1900 May 15).</p>		

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)**Series II. Letters received from Emile Gallé, 1901-1904 20 items***Scope and Contents note:*

Gallé, a French artist who worked in glass, was an influential proponent of French art nouveau. Letters document his social activism, including his efforts to organize evening schools for the working class. He thanks Mourey for his articles and reviews, discusses his work and his health.

Title/Description	Containers	
1901-1902  <i>Scope and Contents note:</i> 8 letters are related to G. Mourey's visit to the Ecole de Nancy, meant to win its official recognition and financial help. Gallé arranges Mourey's lecture with transparency projections, and informs him about the goals and principles of his newly created school of arts and crafts. The 4-page letter of Dec 21 contains Gallé's artistic credo (1901 Nov 21 to 1902 Jan 31).	Box 1	Folder 2
1902  <i>Scope and Contents note:</i> Thanks Mourey for the article published after his visit, which, he hopes, will bring the subsidies needed for the exhibition of his school in Turin (1902 Feb 6).	Box 1	Folder 2
1902  <i>Scope and Contents note:</i> Deeply distressed and sick after the administration's refusal of subsidies for the Turin exhibition (1902 Mar 24).	Box 1	Folder 2
1902  <i>Scope and Contents note:</i> Thanks Mourey for presenting his works to the Director of the London review <i>Studio</i> . He has exhibited some furniture at the Salon, and made several pieces of glassware and furniture to be taken as gifts by the French President to Russia (1902 May 28).	Box 1	Folder 2
1902  <i>Scope and Contents note:</i> Exhaustion and an ensuing nervous breakdown have forced Gallé to retreat to a spa in the Vosges (Bussang). He expresses his fear that the Bohemian craftsmen may steal his glass processes, as they have done in the past with Tiffany's and his own (1902 July 1 and July 6).	Box 1	Folder 2
1902  <i>Scope and Contents note:</i> Recounting spa gossip from friends met at Bussang and Plombiers (1902 July 12).	Box 1	Folder 2

1903	Box 1	Folder 2
<p><i>Scope and Contents note:</i>                  Upset about the loss of the work by Victor Prouvé, which had been promised to Mourey for his visit to Nancy (1903 Mar 7).</p>		
1903	Box 1	Folder 2
<p><i>Scope and Contents note:</i>                  Sends two pages of gardening tips for Mourey's plants (1903 June 8).</p>		
1903	Box 1	Folder 2
<p><i>Scope and Contents note:</i>                  Reminds Mourey about the difficulties he will meet in his new project of creating a true journal about art. He himself is too sick for writing (1903 Sep 29).</p>		
1903	Box 1	Folder 2
<p><i>Scope and Contents note:</i>                  From a Luxembourg clinic, Gallé writes 4 pages of hope in the creation of an "Alliance provinciale," that would resuscitate the old craft centers like Limoges, Rouen, Bordeaux. He believes that a general renaissance of French crafts is possible, introducing new ways in education (1903 Nov 16).</p>		
1904	Box 1	Folder 2
<p><i>Scope and Contents note:</i>                  Enthusiastic congratulations to Mourey and his collaborators for the first issue of his review based on clear thinking and free speech. He wishes to recuperate his strength to join the team (1904 Jan 5).</p>		
1904	Box 1	Folder 2
<p><i>Scope and Contents note:</i>                  Congratulations for Mourey's article in the review. Despite his pains, Gallé keeps experimenting with new materials and shapes. He is organizing, along with the Nancy masters, an exhibition for autumn (1904 Mar. 6).</p>		

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