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Archives of American Art

Charles Henry Hart autograph collection, 1731-1912

Extracted on Mar-28-2024 11:43:33

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1729 Mt. Vernon St
Sept 13 /1912.

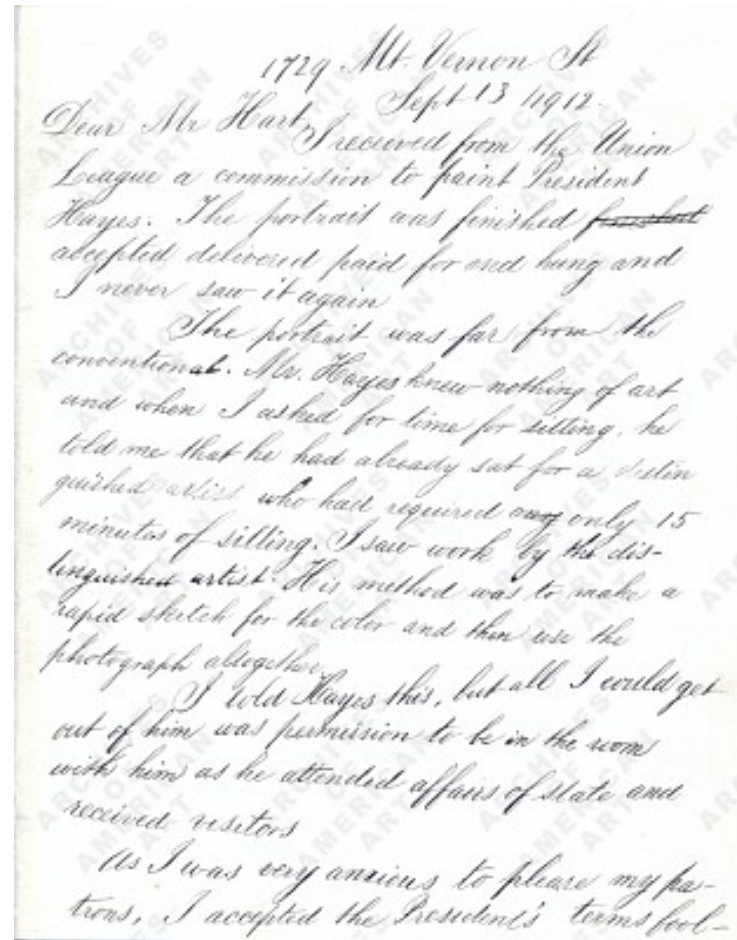
Dear Mr Hart,

I received from the Union League a commission to paint President Hayes. The portrait was finished ~~finished~~ accepted delivered paid for and hung and I never saw it again

The portrait was far from the conventional. Mr. Hayes knew nothing of art and when I asked for time for sitting, he told me that he had already sat for a distinguished artist who had required only ~~my~~ 15 minutes of sitting. I saw work by the distinguished artist. His method was to make a rapid sketch for the color and then use the photograph altogether

I told Hayes this, but all I could get out of him was permission to be in the room with him as he attended affairs of state and received visitors

As I was very anxious to please my patrons, I accepted the President's terms fool-



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