

Gallery VIII

Arts and Letters



Before the advent of emails, text messages, and other forms of digital correspondence, the letter was the primary form of written communication distinguished not only though words but also in a unique personal writing style. Bringing together a diverse group of objects from the Morse's collection, *Arts and Letters* explores the art of writing and the ways in which Americans of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries used the written word for both communication and creative expression.

Wish You Were Here

In the nineteenth century, letter writing was an essential social practice. For Charles Hosmer Morse (1833–1921) and his family, who spent time in Chicago, New York, and Winter Park, written communication provided a way to keep in touch and share important information. Though separated by great distance, three generations of the Morse family stayed up to date on family developments and even celebrated significant milestones through letters and postcards. The examples shown here, written by Charles, his daughter Elizabeth Morse Genius (1872–1928), and granddaughter Jeannette Genius McKean (1909–89) née Jeannette Morse Genius, provide a glimpse into their lives and illustrate the importance of written correspondence during the period.



3834 CALVERWOOD AVENUE
CHICAGO.

My very dear Reed,
I have been thinking
of you all this afternoon
following you along as
the train speeds along
with you and Dick.
You don't know how
how clear you are and
always have been to me
and it is my greatest
wish that you may
always be as happy as you
were last evening—

Left: Jeannette Morse Genius with Richard M. Genius [father] and Elizabeth Morse Genius [mother].
Right: Jeannette's mother and brother [Richard M. Genius].

1. The Letter, c. 1910

Oil on canvas
William McGregor Paxton,
American, 1869–1941
Signed, lower right: *Paxton*
Museum acquisition in
recognition of Laurence J.
Ruggiero's distinguished
service as Director of the
Morse Museum from
1995 to 2023.
(2024-003)

2. Top, left to right:

Letter, October 1905
From Charles Hosmer
Morse to his daughter
Elizabeth, written the day
after her wedding to
Richard M. Genius
Ink on paper
(14036)

Letter, February 24, c. 1925
From Louis C. Tiffany to
Julia Munson Sherman
Ink on paper
Gift of Mrs. Frederic
Fairchild Sherman (also
known as Julia Munson)
(1999-032)

Letter, March 5, 1916
From Charles Hosmer
Morse to his daughter
Elizabeth Morse Genius
Ink on printed paper, stamp
(24018)

Letter, October 8, 1925
From Richard M. Genius
to his daughter Jeannette
Morse Genius
Ink on printed paper
(24014)

Letter, February 8, 1921
From Jeannette Morse
Genius to her brother
Richard M. Genius
Ink on printed paper
(24015)

Bottom, left to right:

Dip pen, late 19th century
Metal, steel
Joseph Gillott and Sons, Ltd.,
Birmingham, England,
1827–1961
Marks, nib: *No 13-EF /*
JOSEPH GILLOTT'S /
HOLLOW POINT / PEN /
ENGLAND
(2012-029:3)

Silver seal and
red wax, c. 1900

Silver, wax

Unknown maker, American

Marks: *STERLING / STERLING*

Monogram: A

Gift of Dr. J. Peter Kincaid
and Mrs. Calliopi "Poppy"

Deliyanni Kincaid

(2011-112:07A, B)



Pocket calendar, 1931

Leather, gilding,

printed paper, pencil

Tiffany & Co., New York City,
founded 1837

Gift of Mrs. Peter Hill

(2011-002)

Pens, clockwise from top left:

Pen-pencil,
c. 1876

Hard black
rubber, gold

MacKinnon Pen Company,
Brooklyn, New York,
c. 1878–84

Marks, barrel: *D. MACKINNON,
PAT. MAR 21 '76.*

Gift of Dr. J. Peter Kincaid
and Mrs. Calliopi "Poppy"

Deliyanni Kincaid

(2011-062A,B)



Fountain pen, c. 1893–1900

Waterman's Ideal

Hard rubber, various metals

L.E. Waterman Pen Company,

New York City, founded 1884

Marks, nib: *WATERMAN'S /
IDEAL / NEW YORK / 3*

Gift of Montfort A. Johnsen
(2013-004:2)

Ladies hanging
pen, c. 1925

Lucky Curve

Gold filled,

hard rubber

The Parker Pen Company,
Janesville, Wisconsin,

founded 1892

Monogram, barrel: *BFS*

Marks, barrel: *PARKER*

FOUNTAIN PEN / PAT 6-30-

91 1-3-05.; marks, nib:

*PARKER / LUCKY CURVE /
PEN*

Gift of Dr. J. Peter Kincaid
and Mrs. Calliopi "Poppy"

Deliyanni Kincaid

(2011-054:A, B)



Fountain pen, c. 1920

14K gold, hard rubber
Edison Fountain Pen Co.,
Petersburg, Virginia,
1913–28

Marks, cap: *Edison Pen Co.*;
marks, barrel: *EDISON*
FOUNTAIN PEN /
PETERSBURG, VA. / EDISON;
marks, nib: *EDISON /*
FOUNTAIN / PEN

Gift of Dr. J. Peter Kincaid
and Mrs. Calliopi “Poppy”
Deliyanni Kincaid
(2011-112:36)

3. Lady at Writing Desk,
early 1890s

Oil on wood panel
Walter M. Gay, American,
1856–1937
Signed, lower left:
WALTER GAY
(P-014-87)

4. Letter holder,
c. 1895

Glazed
earthenware
Maker: Fayencerie de Nancy,
Nancy, France, 1877–1931
Designer: Emile Gallé,
French, 1846–1904
Marks: *E. Galle / à Nancy /*
[EG logo] / Nancy / Déposés
(PO-020-68)



Lady's writing desk, c. 1903
Aux Ombelles

Fruitwood, maple
Designer: Emile Gallé,
French, 1846–1904
Inscribed: *Gallé*
(FURN-073-68)

5. *Top to bottom, left to right:*

*A Few Suggestions of Desk
Set Articles...*

Corona, New York:
Louis C. Tiffany Furnaces,
Inc., c. 1925
(69-030:09)

*Tiffany
Desk Sets*

New York:

Tiffany Studios, c. 1925

Gift of Elizabeth Fullagar

Shipley

(2007-027:10)

*Tiffany Desk Sets and
Useful Articles*

New York: Tiffany Studios,

c. 1920

Gift of Elizabeth Fullagar

Shipley

(2007-027:11)

*Women at
Tiffany Studios,
c. 1905*

Silver gelatin

print on mount

Tiffany Studios, New York City,
1902–32

[Pictured left to right:
Mary Voorhis Schofield
Williams (1871–1936),
unidentified individual,
Anne Boylan Wright
(1878–1954)]

Gift of Mrs. James

(79-547)



*Tiffany Desk Sets and
Useful Articles*

New York: Tiffany Studios,

c. 1925

Gift of Elizabeth Fullagar

Shipley

(2007-027:12)

Statement, January 6, 1894

From Charles T. Wills to

Louis C. Tiffany

Ink on paper

(1999-027)

*6. In case, top to bottom,
left to right:*

*Unless otherwise noted,
objects were designed by
Tiffany Studios,
New York City, 1902–32.*

*Paper rack,
c. 1913–24*

No. 1625, 9th

Century design

Gilt bronze, glass cabochons

Marks: *TIFFANY STUDIOS /
NEW YORK / 1625*

Gift of Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence
G. Knowles Jr.

(2013-019:4)



Rocker blotter, c. 1905–20

No. 1628, 9th Century design

Gilt bronze, glass

cabochons, wood

Marks: *TIFFANY STUDIOS /*

NEW YORK / 1628

Gift of Harold Krasner

(86-004:2)

Blotter ends,

c. 1905–20

No. 1623,

9th Century

design

Gilt bronze, glass cabochons

Marks (on both): *TIFFANY
STUDIOS / NEW YORK / 1623*

Gift of Harold Krasner

(86-004:5)

Calendar, c. 1905–20

No. 1618, 9th Century design,
small

Gilt bronze, glass cabochons

Marks: *TIFFANY STUDIOS /*

NEW YORK / 1618

(81-010)



Pen tray, c. 1905–20

No. 1626, 9th Century design

Gilt bronze, glass cabochons

Marks: *TIFFANY STUDIOS /*

NEW YORK / 1626

Gift of Harold Krasner

(86-004:4)

Inkstand,

c. 1905–20

No. 1621,

9th Century

design

Gilt bronze, glass cabochons

Marks: *TIFFANY STUDIOS /
NEW YORK / 1621*

(84-007)



Pen brush, c. 1905–20

No. 1629, 9th Century design

Gilt bronze, glass

cabochons, hair bristle

Marks: *TIFFANY STUDIOS /
NEW YORK / 1629*

Gift of Harold Krasner

(86-004:3)

7. The Postcard, c. 1910

Oil on panel

Fritz Müller, German, 1879–1957

Signed, upper left:

Fritz Müller / München

Bequest of Susan C. Robinson
(15014)



The Golden Age of Postcards

The popularity of letter writing in the late nineteenth century produced a number of lucrative business opportunities including postcard production. Postcards, patented in 1861, quickly became a popular and easy way to send images and share travels through the mail. By the turn of the century, the postcard craze had created a global distribution network connecting photographers and printers across the world. The desire for postcards declined after World War I as the use of the telephone became more common, but they remain important documentation of both visual and written communication.

Top: Postcard written by Louis Comfort Tiffany (67-036).

8. Postcards:

Arlington Hotel, Santa Barbara, California, c. 1921

From Richard M. Genius to his sister Jeannette Morse Genius

Photomechanical print, ink
(24016)

**Rigi Kulm and Lake Zug, Switzerland,
September 2, 1911**

From Charles Hosmer Morse to his daughter Elizabeth Morse Genius

Chromolithograph
(2014-015:40)

**Marlborough-Blenheim Hotel, Atlantic City, New Jersey,
August 29, 1910**



From Charles Hosmer Morse to his daughter Elizabeth Morse Genius

Letterpress halftone
(2014-015:55)

**Château Frontenac,
Quebec City, Canada,
*September 4, 1910***

From Charles Hosmer Morse
to his daughter Elizabeth
Morse Genius
Letterpress halftone
(2014-015:49)

**Palm tree,
undated**

From Louis
Comfort Tiffany
to Annie Philips
Letterpress halftone
Gift of Mrs. Benjamin H.
Hosking
(67-036)



**Broadway at Night,
Los Angeles, California,
undated**

Note about the scene by
Helen Hart Piffard Morse
Letterpress halftone
(2014-015:06)

**Santa Maria della Salute,
Venice, Italy,
*August 30, 1912***

From Helen Hart Piffard
Morse to her stepdaughter
Elizabeth Morse Genius
Chromolithograph
(2014-015:50)

**Ostriches
Fighting,
*December 1914***

From Helen Hart
Piffard Morse to her
step-granddaughter
Jeannette Genius
Letterpress halftone
(2014-015:01)



Air Mail, June 13, 1953

From Hugh F. McKean
to his wife Jeannette Genius
McKean
Ink on printed paper, stamps
(24017)

Niagara Falls,
July 8, before
1912



From Helen Hart
Piffard Morse to her
step-grandchildren
Jeannette and Richard M.
Genius
Chromolithograph
(2014-015:10)

9. *Top to bottom, left to right:*

Advertisement,
1906



Waterman's Ideal
Fountain Pen
Printed paper
L.E. Waterman Pen
Company, New York City,
founded 1884
Gift of Dr. J. Peter Kincaid
and Mrs. Calliopi "Poppy"
Deliyanni Kincaid
(2012-004:02)

Fountain pen, *1908*

Ideal Clip-Cap

Hard rubber, sterling silver,
14K gold

L. E. Waterman Pen
Company, New York City,
founded 1884

Marks, clip: *CLIP-CAP /*
STERLING / IDEAL [in globe
logo] / *PAT. / SEP. 26.05;*
monogram, barrel: *JMD /*
1908; marks, barrel:

WATERMAN'S IDEAL
FOUNTAIN PEN /

STERLING.; marks, nib:

WATERMAN'S / IDEAL / 14 KT

Gift of Dr. J. Peter Kincaid
and Mrs. Calliopi "Poppy"

Deliyanni Kincaid
(2011-112:13A, B)

Fountain pen, c. 1920s

Ideal Clip-Cap

Hard rubber, gold filled

L. E. Waterman Pen

Company, New York City,

founded 1884

Marks, cap: *CLIP-CAP*

IDEAL [in globe logo]; marks,

lever: *IDEAL* [in globe logo];

marks, barrel: *WATERMAN'S /*

REG. U.S. IDEAL [in globe

logo] *PAT. OFF. / FOUNTAIN*

PEN; marks, nib:

WATERMAN'S / REG. U.S. /

PAT. OFF.

Gift of Dr. J. Peter Kincaid

and Mrs. Calliopi "Poppy"

Deliyanni Kincaid

(2011-112:39)

Fountain pen,

c. 1905

Waterman's Ideal

Hard rubber,

gold, metal

L. E. Waterman Pen

Company, New York City,

founded 1884

Monogram, barrel: *W.C.M.*

Marks, nib: *WATERMAN'S /*

IDEAL / 14-KT

Gift of Mauro C. Rigante

(2012-027:1)



Mechanical pencil, c. 1920s

Hard rubber, 9K gold

L. E. Waterman Pen

Company, New York City,

New York, founded 1884

Marks, clip: *WATERMAN'S*;

marks, cap: *WATERMAN'S*

PAT. No. 226746 / PAT APL'D

FOR MADE IN U.S.A.; marks,

trim ring: *9 / 375*

Gift of Dr. J. Peter Kincaid

and Mrs. Calliopi "Poppy"

Deliyanni Kincaid

(2011-112:12)

Ink, after 1930

Skrip Writing Fluid, #42

washable, blue

Glass, ink, metal, paper

Sheaffer Pen Corporation,

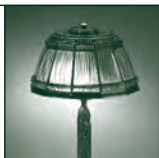
Fort Madison, Iowa,

founded 1913

(2012-027:3)

10. Reading lamp,
c. 1915

Shade No. 1928,
10 in. Favrite-
Fabrique glass, Abalone
Standard No. 604,
inlaid abalone, gold finish
Molded glass, gilt bronze,
abalone shell
Tiffany Studios, New York
City, 1902–32
Marks, shade: *TIFFANY*
STUDIOS / NEW YORK / 1928
Marks, base: *TIFFANY*
STUDIOS / NEW YORK / 604
(68-003:17)



11. *Plan and elevation of
reception room mantle*

[sic], c. 1903
Laurelton Hall, Long Island,
New York, 1902–57
Linen, black ink, pencil
Architect: Robert Pryor,
American, 1879–1964
(77-021)

12. Dining room
chair design,
c. 1895

B. M. Shanley Esq., Newark,
New Jersey
Ink on paper
Tiffany Glass and
Decorating Company,
New York City, 1892–1902
Marks: #7 / *SPECIAL* °
DESIGN of CHAIR ° — / *for.*
DINING ° *ROOM* ° — / *RES*
of Mr. B°M°SHANLEY ° /
NEWARK ° / — ° *N.J* ° — /
FROM ° — / *TIFFANY* °
STUDIOS ° — / — *N.Y.C* — / —
° *SKETCH No 5657* ° —
(2007-005:08)



13. Writing desk,
c. 1905

Oak, metal
Stickley
Brothers Company,
Binghamton, New York,
1883–92
Label: *STICKLEY BROS. CO. /*
GRAND RAPIDS
(FURN-038-88)



*On desk, top to bottom,
left to right:*

*Unless otherwise noted,
objects were designed by
Tiffany Studios,
New York City, 1902–32.*

Letter rack, c. 1910–29
No. 1151, Abalone design
Gilt bronze, abalone shell
Marks: *TIFFANY STUDIOS /
NEW YORK / 1151*
(68-003:01)



Pen brush, c. 1910–29
No. 1160,
Abalone design
Gilt bronze, abalone shell,
hair bristle
Marks: *TIFFANY STUDIOS /
NEW YORK / 1160*
(68-003:06)

Letter scale, c. 1910–29
No. 1170, Abalone design
Gilt bronze, abalone shell
Marks: *TIFFANY STUDIOS /
NEW YORK / 1170*
(68-003:13)

Inkwell, c. 1900
Bronze, mosaic glass
Tiffany Glass and
Decorating Company,
New York City, 1892–1902
Marks: 23908
Gift of the Estate of
Savina Micalizio
(2024-022)

Rocker blotter, c. 1910–29
No. 1164,
Abalone design
Gilt bronze, abalone shell,
wood
Marks: *TIFFANY STUDIOS /
NEW YORK / 1164*
(68-003:08)



Paperweight, c. 1924
Tiger
Gilt bronze
Marks: *TIFFANY STUDIOS /
NEW YORK / 932*
(U-009)

Calendar, c. 1910–29
No. 1166, Abalone design
Gilt bronze, abalone shell
Marks, plate: *TIFFANY
STUDIOS / NEW YORK /
1166*
(68-003:10)

Pen tray, c. 1910–29

No. 1159, Abalone design

Gilt bronze, abalone shell

Marks: *TIFFANY STUDIOS /
NEW YORK / 1159*

(68-003:05)

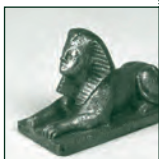
**Paperweight,
c. 1924**

Sphinx

Gilt bronze

Marks: *TIFFANY STVDIOS /
NEW YORK / 931*

(78-0007)



Letter clip, c. 1910–29

No. 1165, Abalone design

Gilt bronze, abalone shell

Marks: *TIFFANY STVDIOS /
NEW YORK / 1165*

Gift of Charles and

Donna Laycock

(2025-001:6)

**Stamp box,
c. 1910–29**

No. 1158,

Abalone design

Gilt bronze, abalone shell

Marks, box: *TIFFANY
STUDIOS / NEW YORK /*

1158

(68-003:04)



Paperweight, c. 1913

No. 1162, Abalone design

Gilt bronze, abalone shell

Marks: *TIFFANY STUDIOS /
NEW YORK / 1162*

(77-015)

**Inkstand,
c. 1910–29**

No. 1157,

Abalone design

Gilt bronze, abalone shell

Marks: *TIFFANY STUDIOS /
NEW YORK / 1157*

(68-003:03)



Pen rack, c. 1905

No. 1155, Abalone design

Gilt bronze, abalone shell

Marks: *TIFFANY STUDIOS /
NEW YORK / 1155*

(77-037)

Paper knife, c. 1910–29

No. 1163, Abalone design

Gilt bronze, abalone shell

Marks: *TIFFANY STUDIOS /
NEW YORK / 1163*

Gift of Charles and

Donna Laycock

(2025-001:8)

14. Bill of sale, *July 26, 1892*

Fireplace accoutrements
for the Charles Hosmer
Morse house,
4804 Greenwood Ave.,
Chicago, Illinois
Ink on paper
Wm. H. Jackson & Co.,
Chicago, Illinois,
founded 1827
(2008-017:02)



THE CHARLES HOSMER
MORSE MUSEUM
of American Art

445 NORTH PARK AVENUE, WINTER PARK, FLORIDA 32789 | 407-645-5311 MORSEMUSEUM.ORG